

Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society Newsletter

Number 06-3

September 2006

The Woodstown Waterworks

Information for this article is from the files of the Pilesgrove-Woodstown Historical Society and the 1907 Almanac and Yearbook of the First National Bank of Woodstown. The photographs are from the E.W. Humphrey's collection at the historical society.



The Woodstown Water Works were constructed in 1892 during the administration of Mayor Charles H. Richman and Councilmen Frank Wright, Frank Davis, Joshua Moore, Joseph E. Ballinger, John C. Nensteal and Preston Wriggins.

A special election was held on June 7, 1892 to vote on the selling of \$30,000 of bond notes for the construction of the Water Works. The bond issue was approved by the residents of Woodstown by a vote of 141 to 102. In

the same election, Isaac Cassin was approved as project engineer with a salary of \$900.

To provide financing for the project, the First National Bank of Woodstown negotiated for the Borough of Woodstown, without commission, an issue of bonds in the amount of \$30,000, at 4 1/2 % interest for a term of twenty years. The bonds were sold to the New Jersey Safe Deposit Trust Company of Camden.

The supply of water was obtained from six artesian wells that were located in the meadow in the southern part of town. These wells were 100 to 125 feet deep and were cased to a depth of 30 feet. Located adjacent to the wells was a pumping station and reservoir with a capacity of 100,000 gallons. There is a 12 foot diameter, 100 feet high, steel standpipe located at the north end of town.

About 30,000 gallons of water per day were required to supply the borough during ten months of the year. During canning season, when the factories used to operate, 180,000 gallons were required.

Connected to the system are 59 fire hydrants, through which the standpipe pressure is sixty pounds per square inch, sufficient to throw a stream of water over any building within the borough limits. With the additional thirty pounds pressure from the steam pump a stream is thrown much higher.



The water works steam pumps used to consume about 50 tons of soft-coal per year. Benjamin Stevenson was the first superintendent and was then succeeded by Clifford Richman in 1906.

On July 25, 1892, a contract for the construction of the waterworks was awarded to Keen and Frazier and to Joseph Haines for the installation of the pipe, hydrants and standpipe.

On November 28, 1892 the work was completed and the system was turned over to Borough Council by the engineer I.S. Cassin.

On October 20, 1892, an Ordinance was adopted that set water rates for homeowner at \$3.50 per faucet and \$6.00 per faucet for businesses. Stables were charged at the rate of \$0.50 for each horse or cow.

WANTED any information or photographs concerning the Borton, Finlaw or Tozer Families please contact Ginger Campbell at 4525 Mormon Road, Burlington, WI 53105, Phone 262-763-2976.

Museum

Persons or families that may have antiques or interesting articles that they might be willing to have on display, either as a loan or gift, may call Elizabeth Myers at 856-358-7853. The Society is also interested in any historical records or books pertaining to Pilesgrove or Woodstown.

Recent Acquisitions

From Doris Williams, a collection of local newspaper clippings.
From Frank Stubbins, a Xerox copy of a "Humphreys Witch Hazel" label.
From David Ewart, copies of The Salem County Handbook, Bicentennial History of Public Education, an Almanac and Yearbook, Scrapbooks of newspaper articles from Joseph Ewart (former director of athletics at Woodstown High School), a collection of high school and eighth grade graduation exercise programs and a World War II booklet.
From Vivian Estes, a photograph from the senior class trip to Mt Vernon from May 1929, a copy of the Woodstown High School Yearbook from 1942, copies of five newspapers articles "History Review" from 1971 to 1973.
From Forrest Eichman, a copy of a souvenir booklet "Declaration of Independence" from 1928

Membership

New Family Memberships

Gary W. Munch, Woodstown, Anna G Rockey, Woodstown, Ron Gioia, Pilesgrove

New Lifetime Membership

Susan McCloskey, Woodstown

We would like to gratefully acknowledge our Sponsors.

Friends Village of Woodstown
Junior Women's Club of Woodstown
Franklin Savings Bank
Harvest Community Bank
Ross Fogg & Son Oil Company
Joseph E. Colson and Gosweiler Agency
Gerald Montaigne, Jr.
Timothy Baker
Perez and Salley Collins
Liz Smith

In Memoriam

Frances K. Morrison, a member since 1976.
Mr. Andio Braile

Calendar of Society Programs and Events

**Tuesday, September 12, 2006 at the Reliance Fire Company Hall
Business Meeting 7:30 pm, Program 8:00 pm**



Amateur archeologist and antique bottle collector Joe Butewicz will relate his experiences and some of the things he has found while investigating colonial era privies in the Frankford and Fishtown Neighborhoods of Philadelphia in the 1970's. Hosts and Hostesses: Ann Tatnall, Sue Allen and Chick Harrison

**Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at the St. Luke' Episcopal Church Hall at 37 East
Grant Street in Woodstown, Business Meeting 7:30 pm, Program 8:00 pm**

The parishioners of St. Luke's Episcopal Church will present tonight's program on the history of the church in Woodstown. Hosts and Hostesses: Janet Turin, Deb Tierno, Howard Reigel and Bill Aldrich

Sunday, October 1, 2006, 4:00 PM at the Rushes Restaurant in Pilesgrove

30th Anniversary Dinner Party for members and guests of the Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society.

December 1, 2006 Woodstown by Candlelight

Sunday, December 10, 2006, 1:30 PM in the auditorium of the New Friends Home in Woodstown. A special program entitled "Nineteenth Century New Jersey Photographers" (with an emphasis on Salem County photographers) will be presented by Mr. Saretzky from the Speakers Bureau of NJ Cultural and Heritage Department. The program is being co-sponsored by the Salem County Historical Society and the Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society

42 North Main Street
Woodstown, New Jersey 08098
Phone 856-769-4588

Museum Hours: Saturday 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Officers for 2006

President	William Aldrich
Vice President	Frank Stubbins
Recording Secretary	Janet Turin
Corresponding Secretary	Marie Haaf
Membership	Sue Allen
Treasurer	Deb Tierno

Trustees

Howard Riegel	2006
Robert Brooks	2006
Charles Harrison	2006
Elizabeth Myers	2007
Cheryl Valente	2007
Phyllis Sauler	2007
Marian Aldrich	2008
Connie Rosenberger	2008
Ann Tatnall	2008

Membership

Annual Dues	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$25.00
Individual Life Membership	\$200.00
Sponsor	\$50.00

Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society

42 North Main Street
Woodstown, New Jersey 08098