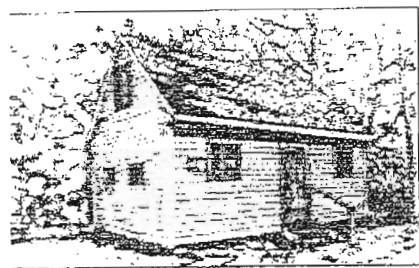
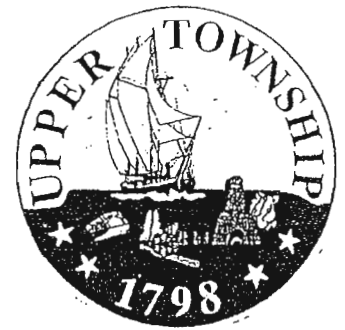


# S.H.O.U.T.

SAFEKEEPING THE HERITAGE  
OF UPPER TOWNSHIP

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE  
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
OF UPPER TOWNSHIP



Friendship School - Circa 1830

*Rooted in the Past - Enjoyed in the Present - Preserved for the Future*

Volume 16 No. 1

Fall 2008

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## APPLEFEST 2008

The date for this year's event is Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar NOW! As you can see by the "flyer" in the center of this newsletter, there are lots of activities planned which, of course, means a lot of help is needed.

Here is YOUR opportunity to volunteer to help in any way that you can: food server, docent, gift shop person, selling apples and caramel apples, fall produce, apple bake shop, well sweep and windmill watchers, children's shopkeeper, children's games supervisor, 'take a chance' table tender or all around 'go-fer.'

Lots of options! If you are unable to attend, please consider a cash donation – be a real supporter of the Society. We also need fresh baked apple goods. Any recipe with apples is greatly appreciated as the apple bake table sells out quickly. All baked items can be dropped off at the Farmstead on Saturday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> or early Sunday morning. As always, we will need help in set-up on Saturday and Sunday and tear-down on Sunday.

Submitted by: Carol Williams



Rec'd  
15 Aug 08

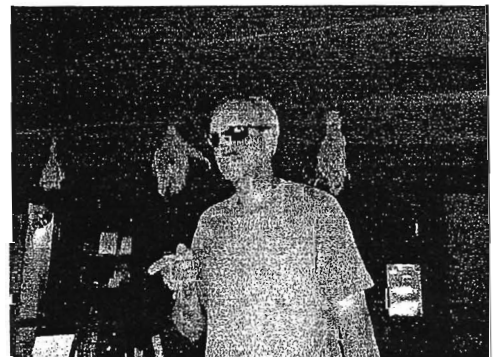
## Calendar of Events

- August 20 - Our program entitled "The Main Dish at the Gandy Farmstead" will be presented Wednesday, August 20, at 6 pm starting at the Upper Library. See the President's Memo Paragraph 5. This event is in association with the Cape May County Library System's Adult Education Program series.
- August 25 - A **summer board meeting** for all officers, chairs and stewards will be held at Carol Williams home at 10 am.
- September 9 - Gregory Gregory will be talking to us about the **Estuaries of South Jersey**, with particular emphasis on Cape May and Atlantic counties at our next regularly scheduled meeting. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Upper Cape Library. Refreshments at 7:00 pm. Meeting starts at 7:30.
- September 27 - The **Fall Ramble** to historic Greenwich, Cumberland County is on Saturday, September 27. For details check Sonia's article on the last page of this issue.
- October 4 - Saturday will be the **set-up for the AppleFest** at the Gandy Farmstead.
- October 5 - The **Eighth Annual AppleFest** will be held on Sunday, October 5. Lynn Houdart is chairing this year's event.
- October 14 - Maria Bohle, director and principal of the British Institute of Homeopathy, USA division, will be discussing **homeopathic medicine** at the regularly scheduled meeting held at the Upper Cape Library. Refreshments at 7:00 pm. Meeting starts at 7:30.
- November 11 - Our **regular scheduled meeting** for November will be held on Tuesday, November 11, Veteran's Day. The program to be presented by Michael Conley is entitled "Post Card of Dennisville".
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## PHOTOGRAPHER

Glen Stewart is responsible for all the really good pictures found in our color inserts. He emails them to me. I snapped this one of him in the Gandy House. Thanks Glen!

Submitted by: Marj Bixby, Editor





## PRESIDENT'S MEMO

The indolent days of summer are upon us! Jersey fresh produce, soft warm breezes and chilling surf temperatures laced with the sight of out-of-town visitors and the smells of barbecue fill our days. Frog Hollow is open for business...what could be better! I hope you are all having an enjoyable summer.

You should know that your Historical Preservation Society has been working all summer long.

Sonia Forry and Olive Pisani have been busy cataloguing our newest acquisitions. They inform me that processing all the artifacts and data is time consuming but rewarding! Help is always needed in our office organizing files and helping with the acquisitions. Please contact Sonia if you can give us a hand. An hour or two of your time will be well spent on this effort.

Thanks to Ebbie Unsworth, Sonia Forry and Olive Pisani, new brochures have been designed and are at the printers as you read this. They feature our three sites and are attractive, informative and pleasing to the eye!

Sonia Forry, Jim Siegrist, Lew Albrecht and I are working together to plan a presentation as part of the Smithsonian's Traveling Exhibit entitled "Key Ingredients." Our program entitled "The Main Dish at the Gandy Farmstead" will include a brief history of the farmstead, followed by a tour of the farmstead's grounds. Docents will be on hand to guide the program's participants as they move from the library to the Gandy Farmstead grounds. Mark your calendars: Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6p.m. at the Upper Township Library.

Lynn Houdart, our AppleFest chair, has had several meetings as the planning process begins for our Eighth Annual AppleFest. She informs me that volunteers are still needed, so please give her a call and give us an hour or two of your time. The camaraderie can't be beat! Mark your calendars: October 5th at the Gandy Farmstead!

I also need to thank Anne Snyder for the wonderful work she did to ensure our Strawberry Festival's success. She and her crew of dedicated workers all helped to make the day a real treat!

Dan Clark is also hard at working getting our fall line-up of speakers ready and establishing telephone service to the train station and our offices.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

At the Board level, we are considering looking at the history of Seaville and the great houses and historic sites that still exist there today and also at our Maritime history. We are also interested in cataloguing our historic heritage trees. Keep these in mind, if you would like to get involved in either of these efforts. We will be reaching out to the schools, to make sure that our fourth grade students know about the rich history of their own township! Marj Bixby and I would like to work on a series of lessons that can be presented at the Farmstead and we would love to hear your ideas.

I had the opportunity to attend a full day workshop sponsored by the NJ Cultural and Heritage Commission on Best Practices for Nonprofit History Organizations in Philadelphia on July 30th. I will share the information and ideas with all at our next board meeting.

Finally, I wish to thank my board of directors, officers and trustees, who have made my first year as president a smooth one. I appreciate your kindness, charity and dedication.

As you can see, every year there is something new to look forward to and we all want you to get as involved as you possibly can. See you in September! Remember to check out our website (Thanks, Ralph!) to see what's happening @ [www.uppertwphistory.org](http://www.uppertwphistory.org)

Reminder: There will be a summer board meeting for all officers, chairs and stewards at my home on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.; bring your binders and be prepared to roll up your sleeves. Summer vacation will be over!

Sincerely,  
Carol Williams, President



## HISTORIAN'S UPDATE

The summer months have been very busy for this writer. For openers, I can report that the display case in the Friendship School has been cleaned inside and outside and ultraviolet filtering film applied to prevent sunlight from fading and deteriorating the objects on exhibit.

In addition, the collection has been rearranged on each of the glass shelves for better viewing. Please stop by to see the finished result. Also, several books from our school textbook collection will be repaired, as needed, by Myriam's Dream Bookbindery, located in Atlantic City. Funding for this project is underwritten by the Township of Upper.

At our office on the second floor at the Tuckahoe Railroad Station, our volunteers are in the process of taking inventory of several donated railroad collections which include objects and memorabilia. And likewise the extensive Dr. Marcia V. Smith collection which contains genealogy, early Petersburg postcards, vintage clothing, certificates and 18<sup>th</sup> century deeds and indentures of early settlers of the Beesley's Point area.

Hours and hours of work continue to be dedicated to these projects by members Olive Pisani and Doug Longenecker. Please contact me if you would like to assist us in completing these tasks. Phone number: 628-3041

Submitted by: Sonia L. Forry, Historian

## Architectural Committee Report

**Gandy Farmstead:** Removal of terribly deteriorated paint on the granary, priming and painting is underway. Despite regular spraying of the orchard, there won't be any peaches due to brown rot. The pears, apples & grapes are okay. Marj and Bix have picked grapes for making jelly. Marj may also make apple jelly and buy peaches for jam. The upholstery man, after much prodding, has promised to finish the carriage.

**Railroad Station:** The Township has offered a site for the speeder building on Township owned land on Mill road adjoining the railroad right-away. Paul Dietrich, Steve Martinelli, Tony Macrie and I will meet soon to define the location. The plan is to construct a smaller version of the Hammonton speeder building. I checked on the restoration of the speeder cab and noted some progress. Doug is trying to get John Tatum to remove the old speeder parts car from the Farmstead. Pete Harp brought a large antique railroad station lantern to the Strawberry Festival and donated it to the Society. (See color insert.)

**Friendship School:** Sonia is arranging restoration work on some antique school books. (See the Historian's Report elsewhere in this issue.)

**Other:** Carol, other members of the Board and I have discussed hiring Joan Berkey to do work on a Seaville Historic District nomination. Joan and I toured the 1.2 mile section of Route 9, South of Corson Tavern Road and counted about 30 worthy houses. Joan will work up a proposal. Funds would come from the Township allowance budget and/or County grant money.

**County Open Space Amendment Update:** On 3/10/08 this Society sent letters to the Cape May County Freeholders with copies to Barbara Ernst, and Terry Karchner (see the summer 2008 S.H.O.U.T., vol. 15, No. 4) formally requesting that the open Space charter be amended to include funds for Historical Preservation. We have received **NO** replies to our letter. I phoned freeholder Bakely on July 31, 2008, and he said he will check with Freeholder Director, Dan Beyel.

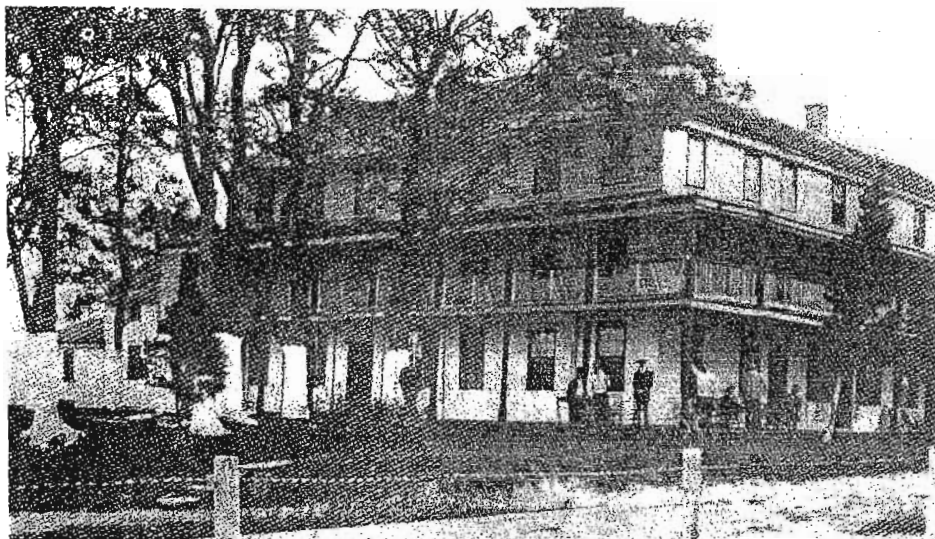
Submitted by Lew Albrecht, Architectural committee Chairman

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At the Upper Township Middle School Awards Night Carol Williams and Marjorie Bixby presented Matthew Caulfield with this year's award from the Historical Preservation Society.

Submitted by: Marj Bixby, editor



*Beesley's Point Hotel, Beesley's Point, N.J.*

The original Beesley's Point Hotel was built by Richard Stites in 1849. Later it was rechristened the Great Egg Harbor Inn. The hotel was dismantled when the present Tuckahoe Inn was built. The first Inn was across the street, known as the Chattin House built in 1750. In 1693, a ferry plied across the bay to Somers Point, the cost being 1 shilling for passengers or a single cattle, 2 penny a bushel for grain, 4 petty each sheep or hog.

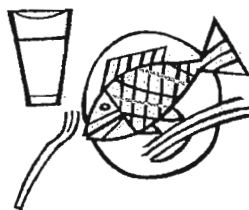
The original pier of Beesley's Point Hotel, a favorite vacation spot for city folks before Atlantic City and other shore resorts. Fishing parties and crabbing were the outings featured as well as hunting trips for ducks, shorebirds and waterfowl of all kinds in season. Also, moonlight sailing parties which fostered many a romantic marriage. Music and dancing topped off an evening.

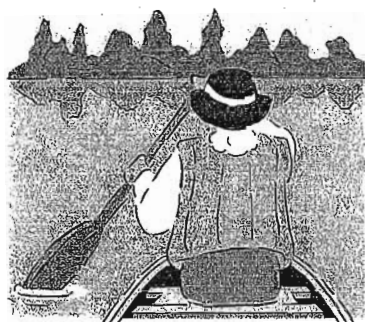
The Beesley's Point Inn featured beautiful dining room, a finished cellar complete with bars and pool tables, one bathroom to every 4 bedrooms and the usual pitcher and basin for "Quickie Washes". The cooking was superb seafood caught fresh daily – they would cook your catch to order. Late night crab crackin parties washed down by beer and of course the popular bating beach and dock. Local gals and men furnished the cooks, cleaners and chambermaids, and waitresses. Cattle, fowl, and pork were used soon after slaughter because of the lack or scarcity of ice.

Ice was cut in winter from ponds and stored in a big ice house and lasted into the summer. They made sure ice for the bar NEVER ran out!

(From a collection in our archives of the writings of the late Horace Steele, a society member)

Submitted by: Sonia Forry





In July I accompanied Jerry Bailey when he escorted the South Jersey Outdoor Club on an excursion to California Mills. The first time I was there was by horseback with Jerry's brothers and my sister in the 1950s. Then I returned by automobile and foot with George Caldwell, my parents, Mr. Hartman and my two little girls in the 1970s. Today the only public way to get to the mill site is by canoe or kayak. We started from the base of the bridge over the Cedar Swamp Creek at Route 50 and paddled upstream past the forks and the tidal area into the fresh water source. Most of the area we kayaked through is now owned by the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. The primary purpose of this trip was to view nature. And nature has really taken over this area. We saw a pair of bald eagles feeding young in a nest. The group only spent a brief period at the mill site as it is greatly overgrown and most of us were dressed for boating not tramping through the briars. However, I could still see the impoundments that held back the waters to make the mill pond, and some of the bricks from either a mill worker's house or the mill. Below is an article my mother wrote for S.H.O.U.T. about our trip in the seventies.

Submitted by: Marjorie Bixby

#### CALIFORNIA MILLS

Deep in the forests of Petersburg in the 19th century there was a busy milling establishment called California, located on the Riggs branch of the Cedar Swamp Creek and on the old stage coach road which ran from Millville to Cape May Court House. It was a thriving business venture for Thomas Van Gilder, who had commissioned Peter Hoff to build the mills. The saw mill was built first in 1846 and was run by an overshot and flutter wheel. The grist mill was built the following year and received its power from the saw mill by means of a belt. Still later three small houses were erected for the employees. Joseph Camp was the first sawyer engaged and his successor was Leaming Stephenson. In 1895 a raging forest fire burned all five buildings to the ground.

This was about all the available information in print in the 1970's and I was amazed that so little was to be found written about the terrible fire that had destroyed the mills which were a fact of life in Petersburg for half a century.

However, by fortunate chance my work in the Millville Public Library had allowed me to meet Mr. Charles S. Hartman, well known authority on South Jersey mills. Thus my husband and I were able to introduce our friend and neighbor George Caldwell (grandson of Peter Hoff) to Mr. Hartman who was most eager to study the old mill site. George was equally eager to lead the way. So in March 1976, after parking our car on Route 610 near Wescott's, Hartman, Bob and I, and our two little granddaughters followed George on foot down the old overgrown stage coach road. On the long trek in, George entertained us with stories he had heard from old timers of his day: of the forest fire, started from hot coals from the railroad and fanned by high winds, and how the mill workers had to flee, with horses galloping for miles before they could turn to safety. We found the mill site peaceful and serene, as pictured on the photographs taken that day. I imagine it is still there, the old concrete dam still forming the pond and creating an idyllic scene, hidden from the busy life of the development, SOUTHWOODS, by a thick fringe of the forest that once upon a time covered the whole area.

Submitted by

*Alvin D. Bailey*





## Fall Ramble

We're off to historic Greenwich in Cumberland County on Saturday, September 27, 2008. The Cumberland County Historical Society weekend celebration recognizes the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famous Tea Burning incident at Market Square. Also scheduled is the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Artisan Faire at the Gibbon house and the re-enactment of the tea being loaded off "Meerwald" a sailing ship located at the end of Ye Great Street. Plus there are many more events.

We will gather at the Tuckahoe Railroad Station leaving via car pool at 9:00 am. Lunch is on your own. The dinner stop is planned at Country Rose Restaurant in Dutch Neck Village, Bridgeton. A sign-up sheet will be available at the September meeting, or contact Sonia by telephone: #628-3041.

Submitted by: Sonia Forry

