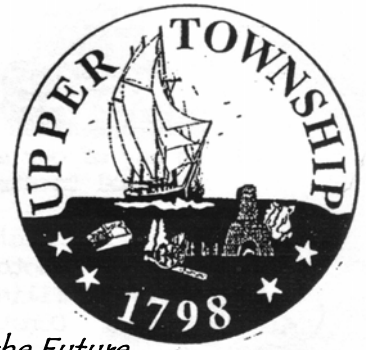


# S.H.O.U.T.

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. 4**

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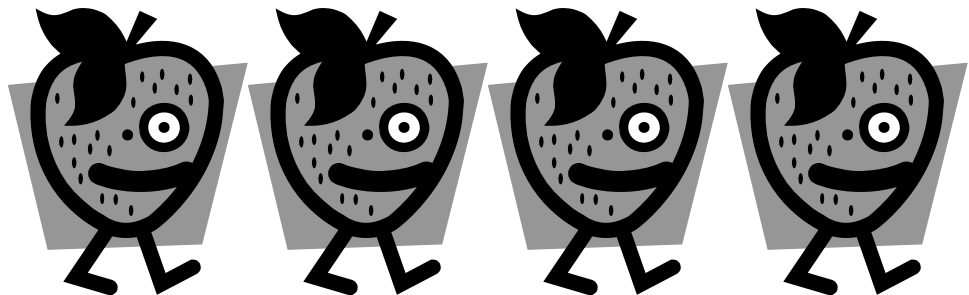
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# STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL DATE CHANGED TO SATURDAY MAY 30





## President's Memo

Due to family health issues Carol was unable to write a memo for this issue. Carol, our thoughts are with you!



## 2009 Spirit of the Jersey State History Fair

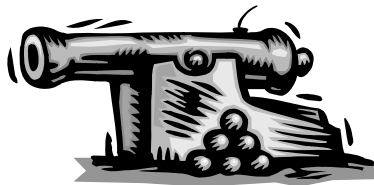
On Saturday, May 2, our Society participated in this all-day event, located at Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville, New Jersey. A morning rain accompanied the two vehicles transporting equipment and materials needed for our assigned exhibit space.

When the sun appeared, so did the visitors – a steady number stopped by our site to purchase merchandise, ask questions, or take advantage of various handouts and brochures.

There are 101 reasons for attending the History Fair: military reenact ions, impersonators of historical personalities, educational history exhibits and talks, a Revolutionary War collections museum, canal boat rides, demonstrations of cannon firing, period music and dress, 19<sup>th</sup> century baseball games, and **much more**.

Thanks are extended to Olive Pisani, Dan Clark, and Sonia Forry for representing our organization. This event is a huge success every year – the diversity of activities reaches all ages and interests – so, plan to be there next year to witness a historical festival than spans four centuries with participation of 150 organizations.

Submitted by Sonia Forry, historian



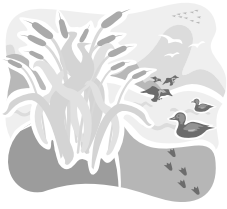
## Our Collections

Rachael has completed inventorying, accessioning and cataloging the Friendship School, Gandy House and Tuckahoe Railroad Station collections (objects, photographs and documents). The information entered into the PastPerfect museum cataloging software includes detailed descriptions, dimensions, sources and “home locations”. One can search for items by keyword, object name, and subject – just to name a few ways!

In addition, Rachel has marked and/or tagged items with accession/identification numbers that correspond with the records in PastPerfect. Rachel will next accession and cataloged the collections stored in the Society office.

Submitted by Sonia Forry, historian



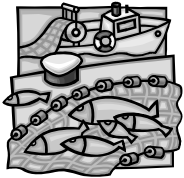


## We Remember Those Places

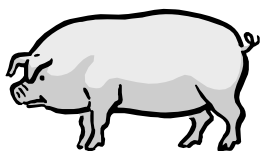
During the 1800's and early 1900's in Upper Township and the surrounding areas the back bays and tidal creeks were more than a transportation system. Families depended upon them for food and income. Fish, clams, and water fowl filled the table. Trapping muskrat, mink and otter brought in needed money. Marinas and ship building facilities provided jobs. The tidal flats produced salt hay, and many bridges crossed the little creeks so that the horses could move across the meadows to cut and cart the hay.



World War I brought change to this area of our Township. Large parts were confiscated for a munitions dump. See the The History of Upper Township, Middletown and Tuckahoe. After the war came the Great Depression. The property became the McNamara Game Preserve and a CCC Camp was established on the site. Building impoundments across the salt hay meadows provided work for unemployed young men, but it flooded out parts of the land and changed the topography drastically. The remaining bridges and the sluice which kept the salt water out of the inland parts of the Cedar Swamp Creek flood plain fell into disrepair. And yet the bays and creeks still helped to support the local residents.



Those of us in our seventies learned from our fathers and grandfathers. We fished, clammed, hunted and trapped with them; heard their tales; and learned the names of each stream and tributary, island and creek. It wasn't practical to tell your sons that the fish were biting 3.5 miles south of the boat dock. You had no way to measure the distance. Instead many of the bends and twists of the streams had their own place names. Much as you would know where to go if I told you the Acme has a sale on flounder, we knew where to go if we were told stripers were caught at the Brothers, or there's good duck hunting at Carcass. If you don't know where the Acme is, I can tell you it is the first right north of the intersection of Routes 9 and 50. In the same way more specific directions to fishing holes could be given. As the distance between two bends in the creek was called a reach, more specific directions could be, "Two reaches downstream from the mouth of Sluice Creek."



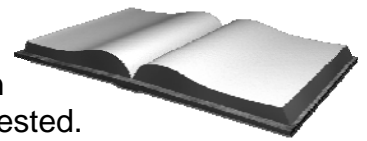
The sharp bends in the creeks had names like Sow's Back and Zeke's Nose. Of the long straight stretches between bends called reaches at least one had its own name, Broad Reach. Often the bigger creeks had natural connections, which saved time when moving about. For instance Blue Bent joins the Otter Roads to Narrows Creek. One 'Going Through' connects the Tuckahoe River to Middle River, while another 'Going Through' connects Middle River to the Egg Harbor River. Where natural connections did not occur, hand dug canals (easily recognizable because they are straight) served the same purpose.

(Continued on the back)



The little high wooded areas in the marshes are called islands and one lower swampier place was appropriately named Mirey Gut. Shell piles and artifacts show that the Leni-Lenape camped on the islands. We also use the islands. Caper Tune is a landmark for hiking across the tidal flats. Pete's Island, Gandy's Island, Corson's Island, and Bailey's Island are found in the upper reaches of the Cedar Swamp. Bailey's Island had a hunting cabin on it for years. During prohibition at least one island near the bay, had a still on it. Brewing corn whiskey was a common way to make extra money. In fact at low tide down one of the small creeks off the Tuckahoe the remains of a powerful boat are visible possibly scuttled by the rum runners when the revenuers were on their tail.

In looking over The History of Upper Township we find little mention and no mapping of our tidal waterways. After a bit of internet searching we found that we could obtain USGS maps. The maps with this article include parts of the USGS maps with hand written additions of specific place names. Jerry Bailey is largely responsible for the map of Cedar Swamp Creek and its tributaries; he and Stoddard Bixby for the map of the lower end of the Tuckahoe River. If any of you can add to our mapping please do. The maps will be kept at the Society's office in the Tuckahoe Train Station. In future articles we will explain how the bounty of the tidal waters was harvested.



Submitted by: Jerry Bailey, Marjorie Bailey Bixby, & Stoddard Bixby



## Strawberry Festival - Help Needed

We need volunteers to make Strawberry Bread. It is one of our most popular items and very easy to make. The recipe is below. Remember it makes 2 loaves. If you need bread pans call Anne Snyder at 390-8485. She will deliver! The recipe is below:



### **STRAWBERRY BREAD RECIPE**

- |  |                    |              |
|--|--------------------|--------------|
| 2 (10 ounce) packages frozen strawberries thawed |                    | 4 eggs       |
| 1 1/4 cups salad oil                             | 3 cups flour       | 2 cups sugar |
| 3 tsp. cinnamon                                  | 1 tsp. baking soda | 1 tsp. salt  |

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour two 9x5 loaf pans.

In bowl combine strawberries, eggs and oil. In separate bowl, combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, baking soda and salt. Add strawberry mixture to dry ingredients and stir until blended. Pour into pans. Bake one hour or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Please leave in the foil pans! The loaves may be frozen.

Please bring the Strawberry Bread with you on the morning of the Strawberry Festival.

## Recent Events

We have been very busy since the last issue of SHOUT was printed.



On February 24 we hosted our annual Kindergarten Day. Our active members treated the children to glimpses of school as it used to be in 1830.

In March we held our annual covered dish supper. Good food and the interesting items brought to 'show and tell' highlight this event.



Joan Berkey substituted for the scheduled speaker in April. She is the architectural historian who is assisting us to gain recognition for the proposed Seaville historic district. Her book Early Architecture of Cape May County, New Jersey contains a great deal of information about houses in Upper Township.



Figure 13-27: Seaville Friends Meeting House, built in 1727, photographed in 1936.

Our recent speaker was Susan Coyle Dowling who is a volunteer at the Cape May County Historical & Genealogical Society. Her lively talk about Victorian women emerging 'out of the cocoon' and into causes toward independency showed why in 2001 she received an award from Philadelphia University for Teacher Excellence.



## Calendar of Events



- May 30** - Our **annual Strawberry Festival** will be held on Saturday May 30. Please help if you can and at least come and bring your friends. It will be a fun time!!
- June, July, & August** - There are no regular meetings during the summer months. However the society remains busy and you are invited to join in the activities.
- June 1** - There will be a Board of Trustees meeting concerning grants.
- July 11** - Nominating committee meeting.
- July 19** - Gandy Farmstead Open House / Plein Air Art Show.
- August 16** - Friendship School Open House
- August 31** - Board of Trustees Meeting