

# Historical Society of Stillwater Township Newsletter May/June 2009 www.historicstillwater.org

#### From the President's Desk

Dennis Pegg, Acting President

We are now well into 2009 and the Historical Society of Stillwater Township's activities are coming together. We have had several meetings and, as this newsletter illustrates, we have already accomplished a great deal.

In the January letter, the board reported on the need for more active participation from the membership and for additional volunteers. Thankfully, some of our members have answered the call. This has enabled us to take part in the activities reported below and to publish this newsletter. My thanks to those members who have given so generously of their time to HSST.

It is important to keep the momentum going and we encourage all our members to become more active. If you are able to devote some time to HSST, we would welcome any assistance you can offer. Please come to the next meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Museum and/or contact the committee chairperson for your area of interest. With your involvement, no matter how small, HSST can continue to be a valuable resource to Stillwater and to our area at large in preserving and honoring our history.

As encouragement to all, I'd like to remind the membership of our mission statement:

#### Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Historical Society of Stillwater Township to foster and promote an interest in Stillwater area history through education and preservation of family information, cemetery records, artifacts, sites, and structures and maintain an historical and genealogical library and museum.

For 2009, our goals include increasing membership, encouraging active participation by our members and improving communications with the membership

I believe these goals support each other and are fundamental to successfully fulfilling our mission.

#### **Board of Directors for 2009**

Acting President / Vice President	Dennis Pegg	973-383-1057
Treasurer	Bob Grabowsky	973-903-3244
Recording Secretaries	Edie Lambert	973-383-7553
	Maureen Block	973-948-5789
Corresponding Secretary / Sunshine	Lynn Rosenkrans Meyer	973-702-8369

#### **Committee Chairpersons for 2009**

Communications:	Betty English	973-383-5714
Publicity:	Tina Keppler	973-579-2098
Museum Inventory / Cataloging:	Louise Saal	973-383-8487
	Nan Horsfield	908-362-9462
Library / Genealogy:	Sadie Gass	973-786-5906
	Louise Saal	973-383-8487
	Nan Horsfield	908-362-9462
Oral History:	Rob Jacoby	973-579-7245
Museum House & Grounds:	Bob Grabowsky	973-903-3244
Special Events:	Carolyn Celli	973-383-3094
	Edie Lambert	973-383-7553
Fall Festival:	Deborah Drumm	973-300-3327
	Chris Petrullo	973-383-2977
Docent Coordinator:	Carolyn Celli	973-383-3094
Grist Mill Committee:	Lou Sylvester	973-579-6402
	Bob Grabowsky	973-903-3244
	Dennis Pegg	973-383-1057

#### **Welcome to New Members**

Ed & Lois Chammings, Stillwater Betty English, Stillwater

#### **Recent Acquisitions**

**Documents:** HSST would like to thank Alexander McCord for donating financial records from the Grist Mill dating from the 1930s. Alexander's mother, Jane McCord, was the owner of the Grist Mill at that time. The collection includes invoices and other business records from the Mill. Studying the records gives us a valuable view into life in Stillwater about 75 years ago.

**Native American Artifacts:** Carl Roof, Sr. had previously given a collection of locally-found Native American artifacts to Dennis Pegg, our Acting President/Vice President. Dennis has graciously donated the collection to HSST in Memory of Carl Roof, Sr. We offer our thanks to Dennis for this impressive acquisition in Mr. Roof's memory.

Attached are photos of some of the documents and artifacts but, please, stop by the Museum to see both collections in their entirety. We would also appreciate similar donations from anyone having documents or other items of historical interest. If you check your attic, you may find something!

#### Thank you to Meadowbrook Landscaping

We have received a wonderful donation from Meadowbrook Landscaping. Meadowbrook has agreed to donate lawn-cutting services for the Museum for the entire year. Our sincere thanks to Meadowbrook for their generosity. Meadowbrook is located at 915 Aspen Drive in Stillwater (973-579-6493).

#### **Membership Drive**

We are launching a membership drive with a new tri-fold brochure created by Beth Harpell. You can see the brochure and download a copy of it on our website at www.historicstillwater.org.

We will be mailing the brochure shortly to all Stillwater residents, plus we will be placing brochures in several locations throughout the area. If you would like some brochures to place or distribute, you can pick them up from the outdoor holder mounted on the Museum or you can contact Bob Grabowsky at 973-903-3244. Special thanks go to Beth for her work on this important project.

#### A Visit by the Scouts

Over the winter, Treasurer Bob Grabowsky welcomed Cub Scouts from Stillwater Troop 83 to our Museum. He gave them a tour and they were especially interested in the tree in front of the Museum. Bob explained that the tree is believed to date from the time of the Lincoln Presidency.

Some of the parents who attended the tour said they were not aware of the Museum, though they pass it often. Let's all try to talk it up with our neighbors! A visit would certainly be of interest to many in our community. Plus, it would help us build awareness of the HSST and our work.

#### Strawberry Festival – June 14, 2009

Please join us on June 14<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 4 pm, rain or shine, for HSST's annual Strawberry Festival. Of course, we will have strawberry shortcake made with locally-grown strawberries. Plus, there will be live music and a bake sale. This year, the Festival will coincide with Stillwater Day, so there will be plenty of activities. It will be a day the entire family is sure to enjoy!

#### **Activity Briefs**

**Oral History:** As part of our on-going preservation efforts, Rob Jacoby had our oral history recordings completely digitized. Rob is continuing to conduct oral history interviews and we will keep you updated on his progress.

**Museum & Grounds:** Bob Grabowsky has re-opened the Museum for the season and we held our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting there. He is also investigating a new security system for the Museum. This will enable us to improve protection of our holdings.

**Museum Inventory / Library / Genealogy:** Louise Saal, Nan Horsfield and Sadie Gass have intensified their efforts to organize the records of the Museum's collection as well as our genealogy records. Any help other members can offer would be appreciated.

**Communications:** Betty English has taken on responsibility for the newsletter. Feel free to advise Betty of any topics you think would be of interest to the membership. Also, beginning with this issue, we will post a copy of each newsletter on our website at www.historicstillwater.org.

**Stillwater Clean-up Day:** HSST proudly participated in Stillwater Township's clean-up day on April 10. Our assignment was Millbrook Road and we completed the entire road by mid-morning. Not only did we help make Stillwater more beautiful, but we earned \$300 for the Society! Many thanks to all who joined in this effort.

**Sponsorship:** Recently, the Historical Society was pleased to sponsor the Stillwater Stampede. The event was held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Your membership made this possible. We even had our name on the participants' t-shirts!

#### **Improving Communication through E-Mails**

One of our goals is to keep our membership better updated on events and on the accomplishments of the Society. With postage rates constantly increasing this has become a challenge.

One way to communicate more effectively would be to send the newsletter and other important notices via e-mail. Not only will this save on printing and postage costs, but we will be able to send less formal correspondence as needed. Don't worry, we promise not to overwhelm you, but we do think it will be a worthwhile improvement on communications.

For those of you with an e-mail address, please send it to Maureen Block at waymaur@embarqmail.com. Of course, we will continue to send the newsletter and important correspondence via U.S. Mail to those who do not supply an e-mail address.

#### **Summer Schedule**

Following is the schedule for the summer of 2009. The complete schedule for the remainder of the year can be seen at www.historicstillwater.org.

June 11 - Membership Meeting, Thursday at 7:30 pm at the Museum

June 14 - Strawberry Festival – 1 pm to 4 pm at Museum (2nd Sunday)

July 9 - Membership Meeting, Thursday at 7:30 pm at the Museum

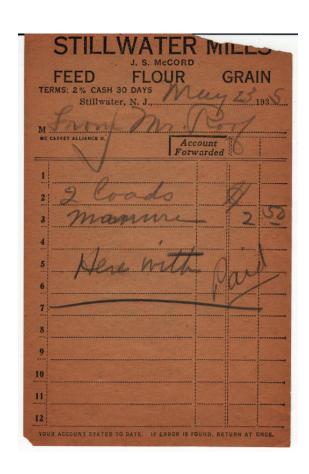
August 13 - Membership Meeting, Thursday at 7:30 pm, at the Museum

August 16 - Peach Festival – 1 pm to 4 pm at Museum (3rd Sunday)

In addition, beginning on June  $6^{th}$  and through the end of August, the Museum will be open from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Do make it a point to stop by and visit. Our collection is always changing, so you're likely to learn something new. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to do likewise.

### **Dues Remittance / Donation Form**

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				E-mail Address: _
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		\$30	Family	
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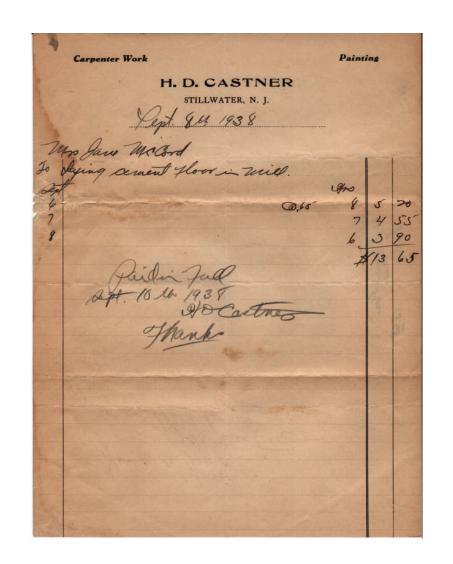
Mrs Jane McBord

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Historical Society of Stillwater Township PO Box 238 Stillwater, New Jersey 07875