



Inside the Brick Academy

Newsletter of The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills

May, 2006

Three Somerset Hills Recipients Are Honored By Cultural & Heritage Group

By June Kennedy

On May 22, Somerset County's Cultural and Heritage Commission recognized eleven nominations and presented Historic Preservation and History Awards at the annual ceremony held in the County's Historic Courthouse. The three recipients from the Somerset Hills area honored were:

*** The Annin-Smalley House, owned by Warren and Lorraine Passmore at 3219 Valley Road, Basking Ridge. The eight-room farmhouse was built around 1750 and enlarged in the 1820s. One of the Township's earliest buildings, it served as a parsonage for the Millington Baptist Church from 1868 to 1884. The house is listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of 1936. In 1975 this dwelling was cited for possible inclusion on the NJ and National Registers of Historic Places because of its historic importance in the municipality. It was featured in the December 2005 Holiday House Tour of the Historical Society. The Passmores have preserved a bit of Bernards Township history for future generations to appreciate.

*** The Ulrich Eberhardt house, owned by Peter and Mary Kellogg at 36 Olcott Avenue, Bernardsville. Built in 1905, this 14-room shingle style three-story house originally was a summer home for an industrialist who lived in it until 1956. The Kellogg's have the original blue prints and project specifications. At the property's entrance is a stone arch *porte cochere* which originally went to the carriage house--now a private home. The attic has finished servants' quarters with speaking tubes. Almost all of the home's original fixtures remain. The Kellogg's have preserved and restored this house to its original condition, making it an asset to the neighborhood.

*** The Education Award was given to the Somerset County Park Commission's Environmental Education Center for displaying excellence in increasing public awareness and knowledge about the County's history in the colonial period through the "Lord Stirling 1770s Festival", an annual program for 30 years held on the original Lord Stirling manor site in Basking Ridge. Drawing hundreds of people each fall including many schoolchildren, the event brings history to life through living historians, skilled craftsmen and in many cases an interactive environment displaying the challenges of 18th Century life.

Marcella Miccolis Replaces June Campbell As Chairman Of THSSH Board Of Trustees

June Campbell retired as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills in February after a distinguished term of 11 years. Her successor chosen by the Board is Trustee Marcella Miccolis. Both women are Basking Ridge residents.

Campbell, a Mount Holyoke alumna, formerly was a member of the technical staff in product testing at Bell Telephone Laboratories. She has been an antiques dealer for 38 years and has supervised book sorting for the annual AAUW book sale.

Miccolis, with degrees from Ohio University and Baruch College, manages a marketing consulting firm and has held executive marketing positions with international corporations. She currently is enrolled in the Historic Preservation program at Drew University. The Miccolis residence, an 18th Century farmhouse, was featured on the society's Holiday House Tour in December.

Marcella Miccolis (Cont'd)

Miccolis has stated:

" I am honored to chair the board of the Historical Society and help further its worthy mission to cultivate interest in local history, encouraging the preservation of our historic resources. The Society and community are grateful for June Campbell's leadership in community outreach programs, lecture series, preservation initiatives, restoration of the Brick Academy and deep dedication and outstanding service during the past decade."

Remembering the Battle of Monmouth: June 28, 1778 and General Charles Lee

Second-in-command to General George Washington, General Charles Lee was given command of an advance force of 4,240 Continental soldiers and 1,200 Jersey militia, which was to catch up to British General Henry Clinton. Washington, with the remaining 7,500 Continentals, followed behind. On the morning of June 28, 1778, Lee clashed with the enemy near Monmouth Court House. When Washington arrived at Monmouth a few hours later, he saw soldiers of Lee's command streaming to the rear in apparent disorder.

In one of the most dramatic incidents of the war, Washington angrily confronted Lee in the midst of the battle and berated him for his retreat. After an angry exchange of letters following the battle, Lee was court martialled for disobeying his orders to attack, for conducting an "unnecessary disorderly and shameful" retreat and for disrespect to his commander.

Lord Stirling presided at the court martial hearing. Lee was found guilty and cashiered from the army. After a futile effort to have Congress overturn the verdict, he died in disgrace in Philadelphia.

Lee supporters say that he was a talented officer who, outnumbered by the enemy, was performing a skillful strategic withdrawal to a better position when he was interrupted by Washington. Lee's enemies say that Lee was an arrogant, incompetent and cowardly officer who was jealous of Washington and sought to replace him as commander-in-chief. His severest critics charge that Lee was a traitor, secretly allied with the British.

(Material for this article was obtained from Encyclopedia of New Jersey, edited by Maxine N. Lurie and Marc Mappen, Rutgers University Press, 2004.)

General Charles Lee (1732-1782) was the man responsible for putting Basking Ridge into the history books, following his capture at the widow White's Tavern on December 13, 1776.

The First Train

(This unsigned letter, dated Basking Ridge, January 29, 1872, was discovered in the archives of The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills. It was originally handwritten in a notebook, "History--Local and Travel 1870-1889", page 18.)

Mr. Editor:

Perhaps you heard a noise from the direction this morning and wondered what it was--Well, it was our locomotive whistle. The long looked for, much talked of railroad is here at last--in fact, the road has been here some time, but the cars are more recent. Old men with their hair silvered by age, who are passing to the sunset of life, remember how, long years ago, when they were young, this railroad was the absorbing theme at husking bees and apple cuts, how the more sanguine would assert with an art of assurance that it would "run by the 20th" and how the less confident would shake their heads and say, "We've heard that ever since we were children."

Often, have we ourselves stood by our grandsire's knee and listen to him tell what a good road it would be, wondering how anything could be good that had a switch connected with it. But childish fancies soon wore off, one by one the old people passed away, disappointed, and we commenced to regard the West Line, as the hunter's deer which won't be and then again it wouldn't!

We had perfect confidence that it was all right--for didn't the directors tell us so--and that was enough, we had no doubt as to the stockholders, in fact we knew much of the stock was well held, for the sheriff had it, and then you need not be afraid to ride over it, it was perfectly safe, it has been so often in straightened circumstances that there were no curves. But still, notwithstanding, its many excellences it wouldn't work. People grumbled, travelers muttered, and stage drivers chuckled. But today the change came. People were cheerful, families joyful and stage drivers decidedly blue.

Addenda

by Ruth Hill Thomson

This article for the May 2006 Newsletter, "Inside The Brick Academy", will be an addendum to previous articles: "An Historic Building in Gladstone" (October, 2005) and Banking in Peapack and Gladstone. (February, 2005)

The new owner, Tom Carlin, of the old Gladstone Hotel, (later "Chatfields") is well started on renovations of this building to bring it "up to code." It will be reopened in the near future under the name "Gladstone Tavern."

Addenda (Cont'd)

The old ice house of the Gladstone Hotel, a small blue building and leaning with age has been completely bulldozed, including the cement foundation which served as a root cellar over the years.

The Peapack -Gladstone bank, started on September 21, 1921, will be celebrating its 85th anniversary this year. The bank continues to grow from its original small quarters with 3 employees and original capitalization of \$30,000 to 20 branches serving Central New Jersey with present assets exceeding a billion dollars.

Chairman and Chief Executive, Frank Kissel, wrote in the bank's annual report this year: "We feel confident that our business role of outstanding customer service, backed by first-rate products and the most committed employees in our market, translates well in the modern world of financial services."

Somerset Hills Historic Preservation Awards Announced

On May 18, The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills honored six area historic preservation projects. And, for the first time, an individual achievement award was made.

In the category of preservation, three Basking Ridge projects were selected that show the important impacts that modestly scaled projects can have. At 82 North Finley Avenue, new owners carefully replicated the character-defining front porch of this mid-19th century vernacular Italianate house, even including new brick piers. The owner of 130 South Maple Avenue removed old asphalt shingles to reveal original clapboard on this c. 1830 East Jersey Cottage, which was able to be repaired and preserved, an effort that contributes significantly to the streetscape. And, at 201 Madisonville Road, long time owners have continued to maintain their c. 1820 home, which includes an East Jersey Cottage section and another section that may have originally been a shop or store in the small hamlet of Madisonville.

Downtown Bernardsville has benefited from the recent work done by the owners of Door Decor on their building at 67 Minebrook Road. Previously used as an auto showroom, and perhaps originally constructed to build and repair horse-drawn carriages, the building has now been sensitively adapted to become a showcase for an interior-decorating store. The distinctive polychrome brick details and early stone construction have been retained, successfully preserving this familiar Bernardsville landmark.

The Arts and Crafts inspired house at 26 Olcott Avenue

in Bernardsville might be less ornate in style than some of the other houses on the street, but its owners recognized the strength in its simplicity, a hallmark of Arts and Crafts style. Not only did they undertake a careful project to preserve and maintain the exterior, they also added an addition; discreetly located at the rear, which is compatible to the architectural style and unobtrusive to the historic streetscape.

Justifiably proud of their new addition to the Pluckemin Historic District, the Bedminster Historic Commission nominated the Pluckemin Inn on Rt. 202/206 in the category of compatible new construction. The owners of the Inn worked to make sure their new building would have an aura of an early tavern that would add to the streetscape. The architect designed a building reminiscent of a colonial tavern style, and placed the building close to the road, in keeping with the historic buildings in the district.

This year, the Historical Society introduced an award to recognize personal effort and achievement over time. Bea Dreesen of Bernardsville, a long time passionate advocate of historic preservation (as well as past chairman of the historical society) is the first recipient of this award.

Congratulations to Bea and to all the award winners!

Museum Notes

We're looking for someone to be building manager for the Brick Academy! We've promised Ken Salvo, who valiantly agreed to temporarily fill in when Bob Blacklidge left for North Carolina, that we'd recruit a permanent manager to look after our beautiful building with tender loving care. In a nutshell, the job description is to monitor and react to the building's needs! If you're interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Marcella Miccolis at 908-340-4149.

Under the leadership of Dan Lincoln, the third floor restoration project, which is being funded by a Somerset County grant, is moving forward. Historical Society member Doug Hiscano has agreed to handle day-to-day management of the project. Bernardsville architect Mark Hewitt has been selected to prepare the design development documents. Meanwhile, Cynthia Hinson, of Historic Preservation & Illumination, has completed a paint analysis that will be used as a basis for final color selection. In one interesting finding, the analysis revealed that the gray paint covering 19th century carved graffiti on the third floor is itself over one hundred years old.

The main museum floor will be closed during July and August. Society members interested in volunteering as

Museum Notes (Cont'd)

museum docents next fall should call docent coordinator Robin Marion at 766-7145.

The lower floor Research Room at the Brick Academy, accessed via the side door, will continue to be open every first and third Wednesday, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, or by appointment.

Website Planned

Now that we're pretty sure the Internet is not just another passing fancy, several members are working on designs for a website for the historical society. The initial goal for 2006 is to activate a simple website to provide general information, news, and event announcements. The ultimate goal will be to make photos and other research materials from the Brick Academy archives available online.

Some of you may have noticed that the latest membership renewal form now has space for your email address. More progress - we are moving at the speed of light! If you missed that first opportunity to supply your email address, you may send it anytime to brickacademy@aol.com and we'll put you on the list to receive occasional messages.

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 712 Earns Special Silver Award: History Camp Held At Academy

Ten members of Cadette Girl Scout Troop 712 of Basking Ridge, Service Unit 8 of the Rolling Hills Girl Scout Council recently received their Silver Award. The girls are eighth grade students from William Annin Middle School, St. James School and Villa Walsh Academy.

Their Silver Award project was organizing and running a History Camp for Girl Scouts in Grades 3-6, which was conducted February 22nd and 23rd at the Brick Academy. Campers learned about the history of their town, beginning with Native Americans, the theme of the first day and continuing with colonial times, the second day theme.

The Cadettes taught the campers historical facts about Native Americans and colonists and used crafts based on these themes to enhance the lessons, which included buckskin shirts, moccasins, dream catcher ornaments, tin-punched candle lanterns, family crests, stenciling and marble game pouches.

The Cadettes had also completed preliminary requirements for the award including organizing a Career Workshop, fulfilling Leadership Projects, earning the Cadette Challenge and completing three Interest Project patches.

Recipients of the Silver Award are Lauren Altonji,

Jennifer Baulier, Claire Bohrer, Katherine Chapin, Marissa Chapin, Pamella Giangreco, Christine Greco, Maureen O'Connor, Tara Ryan and Lauren Vaccarello. The troop leader, Jane O'Connor, was assisted during the camp by Renee Baulier, Sharon Greco, Karen Ryan and Mary Vaccarello.

Serving as advisor of the history camp project was June Kennedy, THSSH trustee and Bernards Township Historian. Troop 712 was very appreciative of the use of the Brick Academy, granted by The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills Board of Trustees.

The French Are Coming! The French Are Coming!

Save the Date September 16-17, 2006:

To commemorate the 225th anniversary of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route through nine states from Providence, Rhode Island to Yorktown, VA, where General Cornwallis and the British forces were defeated in the decisive battle of the Revolutionary War, W3R-NJ(Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route-New Jersey) is hosting a reenactment of the French Troops' encampment at Bullion's Tavern, 1781, now the English farm at Liberty Corner.

Various activities are being planned, in addition to the encampment, including an address by the noted historian Dr. Robert Selig, who was commissioned by the NJ Historic Trust to conduct a survey of the routes taken by the French and Continental forces during the march in 1781.

The public is invited to hear Dr. Selig's presentation of "The Day France Invaded Liberty Corner, New Jersey." Further details about the date, place, and time will be announced shortly. For further information, contact (908) 231-7000, Ext. 7246 or www.w3r-nj.com.

On Sunday, September 17, dedication of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Basking Ridge and Beacon Chapters, monument commemorating the 228th anniversary of the encampment will take place in Liberty Corner.

Reserve the date!

New Jersey Rehabilitation Subcode

Most states have building codes designed only for new construction. These regulations can force people who are rehabilitating older buildings into undertaking costly and unnecessary work, especially in mixed-use buildings. The State of New Jersey has helped alleviate this problem by passing the first subcode in the country dealing

Subcode (Cont'd)

specifically with rehabilitation. Called the "Rehab Code" for short, the 1999 New Jersey Rehabilitation Subcode requires structural and safety regulations that work with the existing building's height, area, construction type, fire resistance ratings, zoning, and fixed dimensions, rather than demanding alterations that are costly in older buildings.

The Rehab Code is based on three basic premises intended to make sure buildings built to this code are safe, yet can be rehabilitated in a reasonable and fair manner:

Maintaining building safety - Work performed should leave the building no less safe than it was when the work began.

Predictability- The Rehab Code establishes a clear set of requirements in a clear, cookbook approach.

Proportionality - The Rehab Code does not impose requirements that would significantly extend the owner's scope of work. The requirements are in proportion to the work planned. The time to impose additional code requirements is NOT when a building owner has decided to make an improvement.

For example: New building code requires a minimum width for staircases. The Rehab Code allows for flexibility in width for existing stairways that allows builders to keep existing safe stairways and preserve their character.

All code inspectors have been trained in the new code.

Academy's Flag Tells Early History Of Our Nation

By June Kennedy

Have you noticed the American flag in the Brick Academy? It is located on the far left side of the meeting room and has 15 stars and 15 stripes and was custom made. In observance of Flag Day, June 14, what better time to mention that the 15/15 combination was used as the Nation's flag beginning in 1795.

The flag of 1777 was used until 1795. Then, on the admission of Vermont and Kentucky into the Union, Congress passed and President Washington signed an act that after May 1, 1795, the flag should have 15 stripes, alternating red and white and 15 white stars on a blue field.

When new states were admitted, it became evident that the flag would become burdened with stripes. Congress then ordered that after July 4, 1818 the flag should have 13 stripes, symbolizing the 13 Original States, that the Union have 20 stars and that whenever a new state was admitted, a new star should be added on the July 4

following admission.

No law designates the permanent arrangement of the stars. Since 1912, when a new state has been admitted, the new design has been announced by executive order. No star is specifically identified with any state.

Below is a listing of the States' entry into the Union:

1. Delaware, Dec. 7, 1787	26. Michigan, Jan.26, 1837
2. Pennsylvania, Dec. 12, 1787	27. Florida, Mar.3, 1845
3. New Jersey, Dec. 18, 1787	28. Texas, Dec.29, 1845
4. Georgia, Jan. 2, 1788	29. Iowa, Dec. 28, 1846
5. Connecticut, Jan. 9, 1788	30. Wisconsin, May 29, 1848
6. Massachusetts, Feb. 6, 1788	31. California, Sept.9, 1850
7. Maryland, April 28, 1788	32. Minnesota, May 11, 1858
8. South Carolina, May 23, 1788	33. Oregon, Feb. 14, 1859
9. New Hampshire, June 21, 1788	34. Kansas, Jan. 29, 1861
10. Virginia, June 25. 1788	35. West Virginia, June 20,1863
11. New York, July 26, 1788	36. Nevada, Oct. 31, 1864
12. North Carolina, Nov. 21, 1789	37. Nebraska, Mar. 1, 1867
13. Rhode Island, May 29, 1790	38. Colorado, Aug. 1, 1876
14. Vermont, May 4, 1791	39. North Dakota, Nov.2, 1889
15. Kentucky, June 1, 1792	40. South Dakota, Nov.2, 1889
16. Tennessee, June 1, 1796	41. Montana, Nov. 6, 1889
17. Ohio, Mar. 1, 1803	42. Washington; Nov 11, 1889
18. Louisiana, April 30, 1812	43. Idaho, July 3, 1890
19. Indiana, Dec. 11, 1816	44. Wyoming, July 10, 1890
20. Mississippi, Dec.10, 1817	45. Utah, Jan. 4, 1896
21. Illinois, Dec. 3, 1818	46. Oklahoma, Nov. 16, 1907
22. Alabama, Dec. 14, 1819	47. New Mexico, Jan. 6, 1912
23. Maine, Mar. 15, 1820	48. Arizona, Feb. 14, 1912
24. Missouri, Aug.10, 1821	49. Alaska, Jan. 3, 1959
25. Arkansas, June 15, 1836	50. Hawaii, August 21, 1959

The American flag flown outside the Academy on "Open House" Sundays and other occasions is a 50-star flag.

On Tuesday, July 4, 2006, Remember New Jersey's Signers - They Pledged For Us July 4, 1776

It took courage for those 56 members of the Second Continental Congress to sign the Declaration of Independence. They pledged their lives, their fortunes

Remember (Cont'd)

and their sacred honor. Most of them were men of education, substantial property and influence in their states. Here is how the New Jersey signers fared.

RICHARD STOCKTON, age 45, a lawyer and Associate Justice of the NJ Supreme Court. Stockton, upon his return, was pulled from bed, brutally beaten by British soldiers, thrown into jail and nearly starved. After his health was ruined, he was released, an invalid. Returning home to "Morven", his estate had been looted, possessions stolen or burned. His library, one of the best in America, was destroyed. He died before the Revolution ended, his family forced to live off charity. His home for many years was the official residence of the Governor of New Jersey.

DR. JOHN WITHERSPOON, 53, President of what is now Princeton University, was a Presbyterian minister and leader among Presbyterians in America. While British troops occupied Nassau Hall in Princeton, they burned his fine library, most of which had come from Scotland.

FRANCIS HOPKINSON, 38, a lawyer, was elected Associate Justice of the NJ Supreme Court, but declined the honor. He was an early American secular song writer and was practicing law in Bordenton. The British sent a party to his home there and looted it.

JOHN HART, 68, a prominent State legislator, Hunterdon County Court Judge and member of the First Continental Congress. He risked traveling from Trenton to Hopewell to the bedside of his dying wife. He was betrayed and Hessian soldiers rode after him; he and his 13 children fled for their lives. For over a year he lived in forests and caves. Upon returning his home was wrecked, his fields burned, his wife was buried and his children vanished. He died soon after without having found his children.

ABRAHAM CLARK, 50, had studied law and was an active NJ State Legislator, three times a member of the Continental Congress. He had two sons in the Continental Army who were captured and sent to the British prison ship "Jersey" where 11,000 American captives died. Clark's sons were treated with special brutality. The British offered to spare their lives if he would recant and declare himself for the King. Patriot Clark's suffering can only be imaged as he refused.

These signers had security, but they valued liberty more. These determined men who pledged themselves for a free America on that first July 4, should not be forgotten.

New Acquisitions

THSSH is pleased to announce with thanks the following acquisitions for the library at the Brick Academy.

"Frontier Farmer: Autobiography and Family History of Aaron A. Boylan-1827-1923" by Katherine Lytle Sharp	Donated by: Manning Lee
"Bernards High School-100 Years of Excellence-1905-2005"	Donated by: Peter and Kathy Palmer

HEADS UP ON UPCOMING TALKS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

All talks start at 7.30 pm:

Sept. 21 st	David Cowell – "Turn Your Plate Over and Have a Good Read!"
Oct. 18 th	Dr Hugh Evans - "The President is Dead- Politics and Medicine in Wartime"
Nov. 16 th	Laurie MacDonnell-Gaulke – "Doughnuts for Doughboys – A Salvation Army Lassie on WW1 Battlefields "

Programs subject to change. Call Sonia Heijne on (908) 766-4591 for details.

Inside the Brick Academy

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P. O. Box 136, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

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