



Medford Historical Society
circa 1966
Newsletter

Mill Phone: 609-654-7767

www.MedfordHistory.org

Kirby's Mill, 275 Church Road, PO Box 362, Medford, New Jersey 08055
Dr. Still Education Center, 211 Church Road, Medford, New Jersey 08055
Cross keys One-Room Schoolhouse, 55 Mill Street, Medford, New Jersey 08055

March 2022

MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Celebrating Our Annual Lasagna Dinner
for our members

Thursday, March 3, 2022 6:30 p.m.

Medford Friends Meeting, 14 Union Street, Medford, NJ

*Lasagna and Rolls will be provided by
L.G. Roselli's Food Specialties*

*Please bring your favorite Salad or Dessert to share.
Medford Historical Society will provide the beverages.*

***Make your reservations today by calling:
Jeanne Woodford at 856-983-1617***

Medford Historical Society Officers 2020 - 2021 Fiscal Year

PRESIDENT
Richard Bucko
609-315-6266

rbucko@comcast.com

1st VICE PRESIDENT
Theresa Freedman
856-625-2256

Tfreedman42@gmail.com

SECRETARY
Kelly Maguire
609-654-8483

maguirefamily1@verizon.net

TREASURER
David Vaughn
609-969-3838

dvcv@me.com

TRUSTEES

EXPIRES 2023 Kelly Maguire, Libby Zimbleman, Kyle Mason, Carol Douglas, Dave Vaughn

EXPIRES 2021: Edmund Gager, Sam Still, John Hines, Theresa Freedman, Bernadette Longo

EXPIRES 2022: Pat Alvino, William Pflug, William Frederick (Rick) Young, Carol Milich, Richard Bucko

Taunton Forge and Iron Works, Medford, NJ

By Kyle Mason

At the intersection of Breakneck and Hopewell Roads in the southern part of Medford Township sits a large white home/mansion circa 1830 with a distinctive white cupola. This home and nearby ice house are all that remain of the Taunton Furnace and Forge.



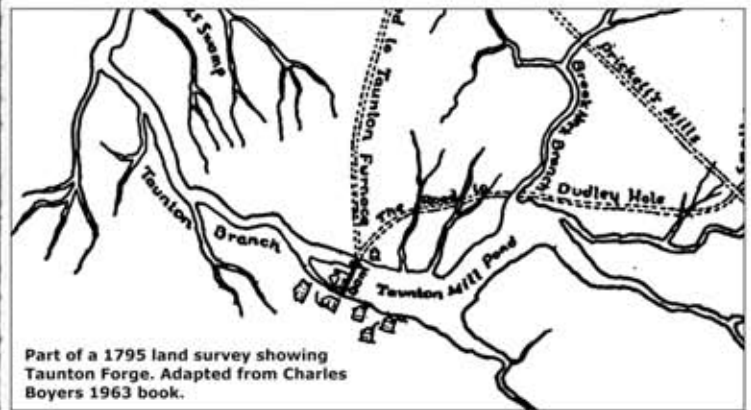
In 1765 Charles Read purchased the land from David Oliphant. Read, who would sell the forge only 8 years later in 1773, had furnaces and forges at Taunton, Etna (Medford Lakes), Atsion and Batsto. Taunton made pig iron, hollow ware, and during the revolution cannons and cannon shot.

A subsequent owner, Thomas Maybery, advertised Taunton Iron-Works for sale in the New Jersey Gazette on May 2nd, 1785. The ad provides an interesting description of the iron works.

A 1795 survey shows Taunton and the surrounding area. The dam, mill pond (present day Taunton lake) and at least seven different buildings are shown.

To be Sold, at Publick Vendue,
On the premises, the 5th of May next, at 12 o'clock
of the same day,
Taunton Iron-Works,
SITUATED in the township of Evesham, county of
Burlington, West-Jersey, distant seventeen miles
from Philadelphia, consisting of the following tene-
ments and buildings,
1. A furnace now in blast, lately built, lying on a
never failing stream, erected on a plan so as to cast 80
tons of pig-iron per month: There is a large quantity
of ore so near the works, that a team may haul three
loads per day. The metal is known to equal, if not
excel, any on the continent for making hollow ware,
pig-iron, and especially cannon, of which sufficient
proof may be had. There is a large quantity of wood-
land so contiguous to the above-mentioned works, that
a team may haul six loads of coal a day. The con-
veying the said iron to Philadelphia costs but 12 shil-
lings per ton, it being so near a navigable creek.
2. A forge with three fires, adjoining the furnace,
lately repaired, and now in complete working order.
3. Contiguous to said works is a good mansion-house,
together with several houses for workmen.
4. One-eighth part of Prickett's saw-mill.
Likewise the times of a number of indentured Irish
servants to be disposed of.
N. B. If the works are not sold the day above-men-
tioned, they will then be rented for a term of years, by
THOMAS MAYBERY.
Mount-Holly, April 15, 1785. 2W

Taunton Forge Survey circa 1795



Part of a 1795 land survey showing
Taunton Forge. Adapted from Charles
Boyers 1963 book.

In 1838 Taunton was sold to the Taunton Manufacturing Company. They produced axes and other iron and steel instruments. The 1840 Franklin Journal (associated with the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia) highlighted their axes with a certificate of honorable mention. Unfortunately, the venture only lasted a few years as the property was subject to a sheriff's sale in 1842.

In the nineteenth century it became difficult for the bog iron industry to compete. From a once thriving iron works as seen on the 1795 survey, Taunton became a ghost town. Most of the buildings were torn down or destroyed by fires.

In 1851 Charles Collins and William Braddock purchased Taunton. It was probably under Collin's ownership that cranberry cultivation first began. In 1867 Joseph Hinchman purchased Taunton. During his 30 years of ownership Hinchman became one of the largest cranberry growers in the state.

An 1869 newspaper article gave a detailed description of Taunton. In part it read

“At this old mill, although the buildings fell into ruin, the cog-wheel and other machinery may still be seen lying in the swamp...A hotel was subsequently erected, with a ten-pin alley, ball-room, and the place served as a summer resort...Mr. Hinchman...converted [the pond] into a cranberry plantation, and altered the hotel into a depot for his cranberries. But Mr. Hinchman still allows the farmers from the vicinity of Medford to have their usual picnic parties in the delightful groves along the banks of the creek.”

Excerpt from “On The Edge Of The Pines”, published August 7, 1869 in the North American and US Gazette.

Hinchman died in 1897 and in the 1920's the land was sold to a Philadelphia businessman. Present day Medford developments such as Lake Pine, Centennial Lake, Tamarac, and others were once part of Taunton's 1500 acres. In the woods behind Cranberry Pines School on Fairview road you can still see the outlines of the old cranberry bogs.

For more detailed information, several references exist including the books Medford Pioneering Township, by the Medford Historical Society, 1975, Iron in the Pines, by Arthur Pierce, 1957, Early forges & Furnaces in New Jersey, by Charles S Boyer, 1963, and the neighborhood web sites for Taunton & Centennial Lakes, and Lake Pine.

AT THE MILL

By John Hines

The milling demonstration at Kirby's Mill will resume the 2nd Saturday of April (April 9) from 1 – 4pm. If you have not seen the grinding process in operation, it is a good time to see what all the hard work over the years accomplished.

Country Day at Kirby's mill is planned for Saturday, May 14th from 12-4 pm. Any member or friend of the society who would like to demonstrate their hobby craft please contact John Hines at 609-531-1825. We need volunteers to assist with visitors and help with demonstrations of various items on display at the mill.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022

Thursday, April 7, 7pm General Meeting, Medford Friends Meeting House on Union Street

Thursday, May 5, 7pm General Meeting, Medford Friends Meeting House on Union Street

Saturday, May 14 Medford Country Day, Kirby's Mill, 275 Church Road

Sat. & Sun., June 4th & June 5th Annual Quilt Show, 10am - 4pm, Kirby's Mill, 275 Church Road

Saturday, September 17, 8am - 1pm Annual Flea Market, Kirby's Mill, 275 Church Road

Saturday, October 8, 9am - 4pm Annual Apple Festival, Kirby's Mill, 275 Church Road

Milling Days April - November, 2nd Saturday, 1-3 pm, Kirby's Mill, 275 Church Road

Membership Application for 2022

Donations/Sponsor Levels to Preserve History.

Of course if you have already paid, Thank You for your promptness.
Lifetime Membership may also disregard this notice.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Please make checks payable to the
Medford Historical Society, PO Box 362, Medford, NJ 08055

MEMBERSHIP

_____ Individual/Family Membership - \$20 per year
Members receive a Quarterly Newsletter

SPONSOR/DONOR LEVELS

History Partner - \$100
Archival Partner - \$250
Patron - \$500
Benefactor - \$1000
Donation of your choice - \$ _____

Donors are supporting the mission of the Medford Historical Society to research, record, preserve, maintain and promote the general history of Medford and Medford Historical Society holdings, making them available to the community, schools, and other organizations.

These donor levels will be acknowledged on our website
Donor levels will have the option of donating anonymously

The Medford Historical Society is a non-profit corporation in the State of New Jersey and is registered as a charity SIC #5006-04935. Our Federal Tax Exempt Number is 22-1911164. We are exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code dated 12/7/71. Donors may deduct contributions to the Medford Historical Society as provided in Section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers or gifts to the Medford Historical Society are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes under Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.