

October 1st General Meeting

We will again meet on the lawn in front of the Sawyer House
The meeting will begin at 7pm
General Meeting with a showing of "Medford Remembered"
Followed by a question and answer session
with local historian Ed Gager!



Medford Remembers - the **Video**

For 54 years the Medford Historical Society (MHS) has helped to maintain and share the rich history of Medford. An important way that we have shared our history is the creation of a video entitled *Medford Remembers*. This was professionally made in 1996 and is now available in two ways: 1. You may buy the video for \$10 at one of our events or 2. You may see it at our October 1 meeting when Ed Gager, who narrated the original, will be present to tell how the video was made and answer your questions.

We are fortunate to have capable volunteers and encourage others to join MHS. You make Medford history come alive.



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

September 2020

Cross keys One-Room Schoolhouse, 55 Mill Street, Medford, New Jersey 08055

September 3rd General Meeting - Change of Location

**Our meeting will take place outside on the grounds of the Sawyer House
The Sawyer House is located directly behind our very own
Kirby's Mill, 275 Church Road, Medford**

Parking will be behind the Sawyer House in the field

**Please bring a lawn chair, masks are required when you are moving about the grounds, we will be practicing social distancing sitting apart from one another
During Covid no refreshments will be served, feel free to bring your own beverage
Restrooms will be available in the Mill**

Please check the MHS website for cancellation notices due to weather

General Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Election of Officers Program will begin at 7 p.m.

MEET TEDDY ROOSEVELT



Enter the days of the 26th President of the United States as he shares the appearance and experience of this truly unique leader in American history. President Roosevelt was also a conservationist, naturalist and writer who served from 1901-1909. He is often ranked by historians as one of the five best American presidents. Major aspects of his life include his "outdoorsman" image, his "Square Deal" agenda, his service with the Rough Riders and steps to create several National Parks.

"Teddy" Roosevelt was born October 27, 1858, and for his six decades of life, he truly lived. With debilitating asthma and poor eyesight in his youth, he still worked to overcome such challenges, channeling the words of his father: "you must make your body," and "get action; be somebody." Following graduation from Harvard, he declared his intentions "to be one of the governing class," and proceeded to involve himself in public service throughout his life.

Professional actor and historian, Peyton Dixon is a member of the American Historical Theatre.

Medford Historical Society Officers 2019 - 2020 Fiscal Year

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TRUSTEES

EXPIRES 2020 Kelly Maguire, Libby Zimbleman, Coles Roberts, 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

The Garden State

This article is dedicated to the farmers throughout this nation who have experienced great loss during this pandemic.

Here is an excerpt from a poem written in the 1870's by Samuel Thackara, a member of the Gager family, known as the "Bard of Medford,"



*New Jersey state cannot be beat
In anything not even wheat.
It really beats all creation
In variety of vegetation.
We have five feet wheat and six feet rye.
And corn has grown so very high
That hucksters are entertaining fear
They will not be able to reach the ears.*

Is there anyone in Medford who does not look forward to eating Jersey corn, tomatoes, blueberries, strawberries, and cranberries? Once these fabulous fruits and vegetables were grown in Medford. Now these crops are mainly grown in Shamong, Southampton, and Tabernacle townships. Blueberries and cranberries are shipped all over the world. At one time all the lakes in Medford were cranberry bogs and Joe Hinchman employed three hundred and fifty to five hundred scoopers and packers.

Also, there were a lot of strawberry patches in Medford. My great uncle Bert, who had a booming voice, would go up and down the streets of Medford yelling, "STR-A-W-BERRIES," and the housewives would rush out with their containers. The price was a quarter for three quarts. Uncle Bert never yelled anything but "STR-A-W-BERRIES" even in the wintertime when he was huckstering other fruits and vegetables. He was quite a character but so am I. I think it runs in the family.

Today, most of the farms in Medford grow soybeans and corn. Ninety percent of these crops are sent to the Purdue farm in Delaware. Mr. Purdue mixes his own chicken feed which consists of soybeans, corn, and marigolds. This feed is shipped to farmers in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia who in turn raise over a million chickens at any given time. These chickens become Purdue poultry products.

Enjoy your Jersey corn and tomatoes! Edmund R. Gager and



UNCLE BERT MILLER

Cross Keys Schoolhouse Update



With the closure of the Medford Township Public Schools due to the Covid 19 virus, the schoolmarms and docents of the Medford Historical Society were unable to offer their One Room Schoolhouse Living History Program to the Township's 3rd graders. Over 300 students from both public and catholic schools annually visit the Cross Keys One-Room Schoolhouse on Mill Street each spring. This year was the first time in 10

years that the program was not offered. For those volunteers who donate their time and energy to provide a meaningful experience, these students were definitely missed.

Despite the lack of students, the schoolhouse was not empty. A lone Historical Society volunteer, Bill Pflug, worked to repair and update the building. Bill worked to replace the glass inserts in the inner door with plexiglass. Completing this project addressed an issue which was a safety hazard for the children. In addition, rotted windowsills were restored and painted. Bill also tried to outsmart the carpenter bees by plugging their numerous holes in the front door. All of us associated with schoolhouse are so thankful for Bill's fine efforts.

2020 Calendar Update

Masks are required when visiting the Mill

Milling Days & Museum Visits

2nd Saturday of the month, now through October, 1-4pm

Museum Visits

Every Sunday through the end of August, 1-4pm

September General Meeting - see front page

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The Medford Apple Festival

10/10/2020

The uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the cancellation of this year's Apple Festival. Ensuring the health and safety of the community is of the utmost importance at this time.

November General Meeting

Cancelled

December Annual Charlie Zahm Concert

Cancelled