



# Medford Historical Society circa 1966 Newsletter

Mill Phone: 609-654-7767

[www.MedfordHistory.org](http://www.MedfordHistory.org)

Kirby's Mill, 275 Church Road, PO Box 362, Medford, New Jersey 08055  
Cross keys One-Room Schoolhouse, 55 Mill Street, Medford, New Jersey 08055

May 2023

## COUNTRY DAY AT THE MILL

Saturday, May 13th, Noon - 4pm (Rain or Shine)

Location - Kirby's Mill, 275 Church Road

Sponsored by the Medford Historical Society

[www.MedfordHistory.org](http://www.MedfordHistory.org)



The water wheel will be turning the millstones making cornmeal. Visitors can tour historic Kirby's Mill housing the Society's museum collection. The Blacksmith Shop will be open with Rick Young at the forge.

The Barn will be open for viewing the farm museum exhibits. The Society's collection of wagons and buggies will be on display in the Wagon Shed. Historic crafters at work include basketmaker, Gretchen Birdsall along with others. Antique machines will be on display and working. Members of the SJ Guild of Spinners and Weavers will apply their craft on an antique loom. Other demonstrations include the big wheel lathe in the cabinet Shop. Young people can be an "apprentice" turning the big wheel or working the morticing machine in the Carpenter Shop. Black powder rifle demonstrations and presentation of Civil War camp life will be featured by members of the 12th NJ Volunteer infantry. Local musicians will be playing folk & pineland style music to complete the afternoon events at Kirby's Mill.

Bring the family and step back in time...Admission is free. Light refreshments will be available.

\*\*\* Next month the MHS Annual Quilt Show & Sale on June 3rd & 4th.

Contact them to participate as a quilt owner or quilter!!

### *Medford Historical Society Officers 2022 - 2023 Fiscal Year*

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TRUSTEES	EXPIRES 2024	Edmund Gager, Tom Gerber, John Hines, Douglas Donor, Jeanne Woodford		
	EXPIRES 2023	Kelly Maguire, Libby Zimbleman, Dennis McDonald, Carol Douglas, Michael Gallagher		
	EXPIRES 2022	Pat Alvino, Carol Milich, Richard Bucko, William Pflug, Rick Young		

April 29, 2023

**Good Day Historians** (we are all historians, in one way or another)

As we all enjoy the beauty of Spring, there is no better way than to get out and see what Medford has to offer. **Country Day, is May 13 at Kirby's Mill** from noon to 4 p.m. with a variety of vendors and vintage farm equipment on display. The Mill will be open to observe mill operation and for museum tours on the second Saturday (1:00-4:00) of each month. You can observe a grist mill at work just as it was 150 years ago. And you may see a blacksmith shaping white hot metal on his anvil.

The annual Quilt Show hosted by Libby Zimbleman will be on June 3 & 4. It is a wonderful display of quilts – new and old. There are also vendors selling quilting and sewing supplies. The **Living History Presentations** at the Cross Keys School House on Mill Street demonstrate what school was like when the old school was built in Medford. All of Medford's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are able to have this experience. Pat Alvino and her school marms always keep the students in order.

Electrical repairs at the Mill are near completion after a car drove through the pole supporting the wires going into the Mill in December. That has been a long ordeal, now in the hands of PSE&G. Repairs to the bottom of the Mill sluice, that runs from the race to the water wheel, will be supported by concrete instead of wood. John Hines and Bill Pflug continue to monitor those projects and do general enhancements at the Mill. We look forward to painting of the Mill exterior by Re-vive Painting in mid-June.

MHS Trustees and Medford Township are in conversation concerning MHS taking possession of the Haines/Tomlinson House that is on Union Street in front of the Township Administration Building. If an agreement is signed, it will be an invigorating opportunity, and a serious responsibility that will require the effort and enthusiasm of the Medford Community. If completed, it would be the "Historic Anchor of Medford Village" that will bring the Historic Society presence to the heart of the town. We have committees ready to move forward. If members or friends would like to join a committee relating to project support, let one of our officers know and we will make it happen.

*Knowing our History gives us perspective on our present and future*



## In the Museum by John Hines

Three new exhibits were completed this past Winter and are now installed in the Museum.

- \*A profile of Dr. James Still and his use of herbs.
- \*Pictures and background info on Medford's one-room schoolhouses.
- \*Quaker Meetinghouses found in Burlington County built by the early Quaker settlers.

Thanks goes to Dennis McDonald for providing photographs for the displays and Phyllis Cloyd for the pharmacy scale for the Dr. Still exhibit.

Linda Abrams-Raymond gifted a mill area baseball team "Lake Cotoxen Hawks" shirt belonging to her father, Harvey Abrams from 60 -70 years ago. The shirt is on display in the Mill.

The Sawyer House main room now has a roll-top desk and chairs courtesy of Kathy Moyer.

An extensive library of local history books and historic craft books related to the Museum's collections was provided by a Society member. The membership is welcome to peruse the growing library.



**Brace Road School**

(Picture on the Left)

**Cross Keys School**

(Picture on the right)



**Kirby's Mill School**

(Picture on the right)

**Chairville School**

(Picture on the far right)





## Cross Keys Schoolhouse

**Flag Pole Restored** by Pat Alvino

On a dreary Sunday Morning in March, four members of the Medford Historical Society met on Mill Street to restore the flagpole to its former location in front of the Cross Keys One-Room Schoolhouse.

Removed the year before, the flagpole laid undisturbed behind the schoolhouse until it was rescued by Mike Gallagher who sanded and repainted it. But now with the approach of spring and the visits of Medford's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students drawing near, it was important to get the flagpole upright. With the expertise of Bill Pflug and the help of Mike Gallagher, Kyle Mason and Dalton Fowler, the flagpole was transported to the schoolhouse, raised, and cemented in place with support ropes to keep it plumb.

On weekdays, when the students are visiting the schoolhouse, passersby can spot Old Glory flying freely thanks to the efforts of four volunteers of the Medford Historical Society.



**Bill Pflug Measures Twice**



**Flag Raising**



**Flag Pole Restorers**



# A League of Their Own: Remembering Baseball in Medford



**Wool Baseball Jerseys Donated by Linda Abrams Raymond**

A recent donation to the Medford Historical Society (MHS) brought up the topic of baseball in Medford. Two wonderful wool baseball jerseys were donated by Linda Abrams Raymond that belonged to her father Harvey Abrams. The jerseys are from the Lake Cotoxen Hawks. Lake Cotoxen is the name of the lake at Kirby's Mill. The back of the jerseys have the name of local sponsors (in this case Kirby Brothers Inc and Bill Garon).

When I think of local baseball the Medford Youth Athletic Association and the local high school teams come to mind. However from the late 1800's through the 1950's Medford had its own semi pro baseball team. The earliest evidence located for a Medford baseball club was a team photograph dated 1885. In 1899 the Burlington County Baseball League (BCBL) was formed. Towns fielding teams included Burlington, Bordentown, Riverside, Roebling, Maple Shade, Beverly, Palmyra, and Delanco, although the towns varied over the years. Medford joined several years later as evidenced by a 1944 newspaper article congratulating Medford on winning its 7th championship since joining the league in 1914. In the early 1950's the league merged with the Rancocas Valley League.

Besides the BCBL, many communities and organizations fielded teams in a variety of local leagues. I would imagine it is analogous to little league teams found in various communities today with colorful team names and sponsors. The Lake Cotoxen Hawks appear to be an example of one of those local teams.



**Medford Baseball Team Circa 1885**

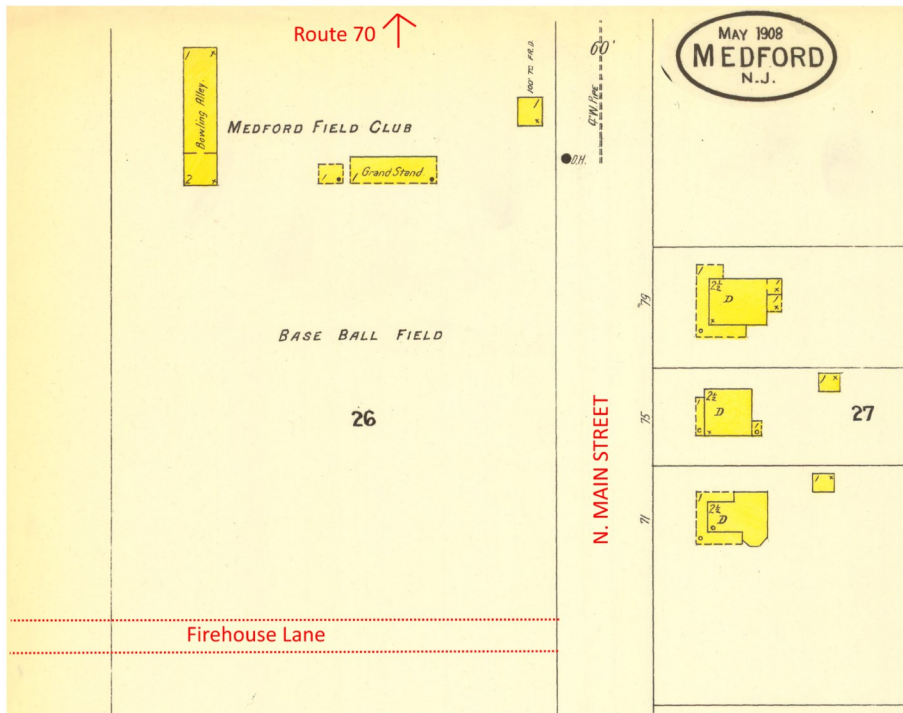


Another example of a local club is the Medford YMCA, which fielded a team in the early 1900's.



**Medford YMCA Baseball Team (Date Unknown)**

One of the first “official” baseball fields in Medford was located on North Main street. On a 1908 map of Medford you can see an area designated as the “Base Ball Field”. The field included present day 76 to 86 North Main Street.



**1908 Map of Medford**

In an article written for the Medford Historical Society, long time Medford resident Beverly Mickle wrote “At times as many as 14 trains a day carried eager fans to the baseball games in the ball-park across the street from the station on North Main Street.”

Around 1915 the field was moved to its current location on Mill Street. It is now known as Bunning field having been named after Harry Bunning, the long time baseball team manager. In a 1995 newspaper article John C Branin of Medford remembered most of the town showing up to watch the baseball games at Bunning Field with admission costing a quarter. Hopefully the game will continue to be played here in Medford for another 100 plus years.

— Kyle Mason