



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

February 2024

Medford Township Origins

The first annual town meeting of the newly formed Medford Township was held in this building on February 4, 1847 at the Cross Roads section (Church Road and Route 541) of town. This building was the former Town Hall of Evesham Township.

During the first meeting Benjamin Shreve was chosen Moderator and Edwin Lippincott was elected Township Clerk.

The first thing on the agenda was the amount of dog taxes. It was inadequate to cover the bills for claims against sheep that were injured or killed by dogs in the past year. "Each and every person owning or harboring a dog or dogs, shall be assessed and be required to pay for the first dog: one dollar, for the second dog: two dollars, and each female of the canine species roaming at large: five dollars".

They also named an Assessor, a Collector of Taxes, Commissioners of Appeals, two Freeholders (at the time each town appointed two freeholders to the county board), a Judge of Elections, two Overseers of the Poor, five Township Committee Members, a School Superintendent, a Constable, and a Pound Keeper.

Eventually the town hall was moved to the center of Medford Village and the building sat idle for many years. In 1868 Dr. James Still bought the property and the building for \$280. According to his autobiography "In May eighteen hundred and seventy-two, I commenced to remodel and build to the Town Hall to make of it tenement-houses...I had the old roof taken off, a Mansard one substituted therefor...when completed there were two snug dwelling-houses of seven rooms each".

This information came from The History of Burlington County by Major E. M. Woodford published in 1883, Medford; Pioneering Township published in 1975, and Early Recollections and Life of Dr. James Still published in 1877. *By Dennis McDonald*



Medford Historical Society Officers 2024 - 2026 Fiscal Year

President	Tomlinson/Haines House	Kirby's Village	Secretary/Apple Festival	Cross Keys School-House	Newsletter
Richard Bucko 609-315-6266 rbucko@comcast.net	Michael Gallagher 856-296-4060 mgalla48@gmail.com	John Hines 609-531-1825 jxhines15@gmail.com	Kelly Maguire 609-654-8483 maguirefamily1@verizon.net	Pat Alvino 609-410-6950 talvino12@comcast.net	Dennis McDonald 609-353-7502 medfordhistory@gmail.com

TRUSTEES EXPIRES 2024 Edmund Gager, Tom Gerber, John Hines, Douglas Donor, Jeanne Woodord
EXPIRES 2025 Rick Young, Patricia Alvino, William Pflug, Carol Milich, Dennis McDonald
EXPIRES 2026 Kelly Maguire, Libby Zimbleman, Carol Douglas, Michael Gallagher, Peter Perno

Presidents Message:

We ended 2023 with a busy December. There was an Open House at the Cross Keys School House on Mill Street, the first public use of the Haines-Tomlinson House at 51 Union Street, and a fine seasonal concert in at the Friends Meeting. In 2024 expect to see the Medford Historical Society continue to be an active part of enriching life in your community. The schedule of events for 2024 is in this newsletter.

The acquisition in August of the Haines Tomlinson House was a big step for MHS. We are in the process of cleaning the building and assessing priority needs for preservation. This 1760 property will be the historic anchor to Medford Village and will be a visible presence for Medford Historical Society in the heart of Medford. Mike Gallagher is the project leader for the Haines-Tomlinson House and looking for volunteers to assist with renovation.

John Hines and Bill Pflug continue to do fine work in the Mill. They are curating and enhancing displays that will improve the educational mission of the Mill. Kirby's Mill contains Medford's amazing and only history museum.

As we look to the year ahead, we will continue evaluate and refine our activities. MHS is a solid organization that provides a valuable service to the community of Medford through the preservation of historic sites and sharing the history of the community. If you want to learn more, or participate, please contact one of the officers listed on the front page.

Efforts to raise funds for historic preservation are IMPORTANT. Since MHS is an all-volunteer organization, our needs are ongoing. Our profit-making events such as the Apple Festival and Country Day are not enough to make the advances needed to maintaining the historic properties under our care for the people of Medford. Therefore, we need your support.

Best Wishes for an Historic 2024, Richard

To **DONATE** visit our website www.medfordhistory.org

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 14 Annual Members Lasagna Dinner

April 4 General Meeting

April 13 Milling Day

May 2 General Meeting

May 11 Country Day & Milling Day

June 1 & 2 Annual Quilt Show

June 8 Milling Day - July 13 Milling Day

Aug.10 Milling Day

Summer Open Houses – Mill

July 7, 14, 21, 28

August 4, 11, 18, 25

Summer Open Houses – School House

July 14, August 11 & September 8

September 14 Flea Market & Milling Day

October 3 General Meeting

October 12 Apple Festival & Milling Day

November 2 General Meeting

November 9 Milling Day

December Annual Concert

Tomlinson House – Open Houses

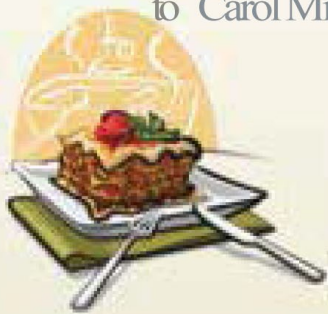
Memorial Day – May 27th & June 9th

Announcing The Historic Society Members Annual Lasagna Dinner

Friends Meeting House
14 Union Street, Medford NJ

March 14, 2024

Music begins 6:00pm - Dinner - 6:30pm



MEMBERS PLEASE RSVP
to Carol Milich call (no texting) [609-654-4416](tel:609-654-4416)

Lasagna - meat & cheese and Rolls
and beverages provided by MHS

Please bring your favorite Salad or
Dessert to share

“Santa at the Schoolhouse”

This year more than 140 visitors and one elf stopped by to meet Santa at the Cross Keys Schoolhouse and enjoy some cookies and hot apple cider. It seems that elves are just as busy as Santa during the holiday season and need a break. Our visiting elf, also known as Gary Boguski, has been a well-respected attorney in South Jersey for over 40 years. Contributing his time to the New Jersey Bar Association Public Benefits Committee this Christmas, he wrapped up a busy day by joining Santa and the schoolmarms at the Cross Key One-Room Schoolhouse. *by Pat Alvino*



Revisiting the Hicksite Quaker one-room Schoolhouse

By Mike Gallagher

On the north side of South Street across from where Griscom's plant business once was once located, lies the Hicksite Sect Quaker Meeting house, built in the 1842. Those who attended this new meeting split from the Orthodox Quakers due to a theological dispute that began in 1823 and instead followed the views of Elias Hicks. The two sects of friends rejoined in 1955 at the Union Street Meeting. As a result fewer people have traveled on South Street. And even fewer have noticed the small house tucked behind the Hicksville Meeting that once served as the sects one room schoolhouse. However, before his passing Norman White, whose family lived on South Street since at least the 1860s, recalled this to Mike Branin also of South Street. Although the exact date of this schoolhouse's construction is unknown, it seems likely that it slightly predates the Cross Keys Schoolhouse which was erected circa 1857. Many of the Griscom family are buried in the Hicksite burial ground to the north of the meetinghouse, and one can only surmise that they would have been some of the schoolhouse's attendees. Today the Hicksite Schoolhouse serves as a residence but if you look carefully you envision its former life as a place of education.



A LOOK BACK

By: Tom Rende

With the Medford Historical Society moving forward it is time to look back. Where did we come from?

The Medford Historical Society has been going through several positive additions over the last few years thanks to the members guided by the leadership of president Richard Bucko. The most recent is acquiring the Haines/ Tomlinson House from the township. With all these changes I feel it is a good time to look back and familiarize all the members with the origin of the Medford Historical Society.

The Medford Tercentenary Committee was founded in 1964 by Robert L. Harrison, Jr. who at the time, was a Medford Township Committee member. At the close of the tercentenary year and the disbandment of the New Jersey Tercentenary Committee, the Medford Historical Society (MHS) was created. At that the time Mr. Harrison assembled eight individuals to form a historical society. They met during the summer of 1965 at Harrison's home in Lake Pine, and it was at this meeting that the fabric for the future Medford Historical Society was formulated.

A formal meeting was called on December 8, 1965, at the Medford Community Center at which Mr. Harrison presided as temporary president. At that meeting, MHS was officially created, and Mr. Harrison was elected president. On March 1, 1966, the first general meeting of the MHS was held with 30 members present, and the purpose and meeting format was determined. The first Tuesday of each month was selected as the meeting night with the first Tuesday in May set aside for the annual meeting. Two MHS projects were established at this meeting: building a replica of the original Union Company Fire House on or close to the original site (Union Street next to the Quaker Meeting House); and restoring the Community Center Library.

On April 1, 1969, a certificate of incorporation was issued by the Secretary of State, and an amendment was adopted. The amendment anticipated purchase of Kirby's Mill and made provision for disposal of the property to the Medford Township Park System upon dissolution of MHS. The amendment called for distribution of any remaining assets to a non-profit organization as determined by the Board of Trustees of MHS. The registered address on the certificate of incorporation was 40 North Main Street, Medford.

September 30, 1969, was the date for settlement listed for MHS to acquire Kirby's Mill from the Kirby family. A price of \$ 12,000 was set and by October 5, 1969 the property became a part of MHS in cooperation with the Medford Township Park System.

MHS was declared a charitable organization on June 4, 1971. On July 1, 1976 the state of New Jersey issued a tax exemption certificate which released the Society from sales tax payments.

Authorization for the MHS to reproduce an 1877 autobiography of James Still, the "Black Doctor" of Medford Township, entitled "Doctor" was signed on July 19, 1971. Over 1000 copies of the 288-page publication was sold within the first two months.

By 1975 "Medford Pioneering Township", a book describing the history and character of early inhabitants of the township, was completed by MHS. The book compiled the work of several local authors and describes the development of the township.

During this very productive time of writing, publishing and distribution of these two publications, MHS members continued meeting each month, holding field trips, house tours, mill restoration activities, and quilt shows. Members also undertook projects to develop items such as reproductions of plates, plaques and linen towels to commemorate Medford's rich history.

The restoration of Kirby's Mill has been MHS's main project and was funded by a grant from the state of New Jersey, individual donations and donations from organizations. During this same time, the Medford Township "Village Area" was declared a historic village. MHS was instrumental in supplying information applicable to this declaration.

In 1971 The Kirby's Mill Complex was placed on "The National Register of Historic Places". A great deal of the application process was completed and submitted by Betty Trumbower.

In the years that followed several events were established to provide funding for the continuation of mill restoration and to familiarize the Medford community of its rich historic history. The Apple Festival became the primary fund raiser while the Christmas house tour, country day, and the mill open house on summer week ends provide the citizens with activities associated with the mill and Medford's historic history.

A portion of the historical data was researched by Edward J. Penberthy, 1977.