

# Membership Application for 2019 and/or donations to preserve history.

Of course if you have already paid, Thank You for your promptness. Many of you have taken advantage of a MHS Lifetime Membership and may also disregard this notice.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the

**Medford Historical Society, PO Box 362, Medford, NJ 08055**

For more information call Holly Doyle, Membership Chair at 609-670-2822

- Please check**
- Individual Membership \$ 12.00
  - Family Membership \$ 20.00
  - Lifetime Membership \$125.00
  - Donation to the Dr. Still Center \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Donation for Kirby's Mill \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**Interested in:**  Attending Meetings  Setup Refreshments at Meetings

**Volunteering:**

- Quilt Show  Country Day  Art Show & Sale
- Flea Market  Apple Festival  Santa Mill Street School
- Dr. Still Center  School House  Mill

Donation of time & skills, such as: plumbing, electrical, carpentry, etc.

Please indicate area of skill/s \_\_\_\_\_



## 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

OCTOBER 2018

# The Medford Historical Society

## Thursday, October 4th, at 7:30 p.m.

Friends Meeting Building, 14 Union Street, Medford

### Author Presentation by Ali LaVecchia

Ali LaVecchia was born and raised in Burlington County. She highlights our landmarks and people in her successful Booger and Beans mystery series for Middle Grade and

Young Adults. Ali's passion for writing began in elementary school and has never waned. Ali taught in the middle school and high school English classroom for thirty-two years and served as Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Currently, she teaches and mentors new teachers at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Ali directed over sixty high school plays and musicals and has worked as a actor, earning Best Supporting Actor in two festival films in 2009 and 2011. Ali keeps busy hosting her official website alilavecchia.com and offers seminars and workshops on her books and writing. She is currently writing a nonfiction children's book that features our native son, Dr. James Still.

*Light refreshments will be served. Admission is FREE.*

### Medford Historical Society Officers 2018 - 2019 Fiscal Year

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Bill Stauts 609-654-5382 stautspnt@aol.com	<b>1st VICE PRESIDENT</b> (Programs) Rich Bucko 609-315-6266 rlbucko@comcast.com	<b>2nd VICE PRESIDENT</b> (Programs) Donna Eshelman 609-410-5068 donna500x@gmail.com	<b>SECRETARY</b> Kelly Maguire 609-654-8483 maguirefamily1@verizon.net	<b>TREASURER</b> David Vaughn 609-969-3838 dcv@me.com
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**TRUSTEES**  
**EXPIRES 2019:** Pat Alvino, William Pflug, William Frederick (Rick) Young, Carol Milich, Richard Bucko  
**EXPIRES 2020:** Kelly Maguire, Libby Zimbleman, Coles Roberts, Doshia Melroy, Dave Vaughn  
**EXPIRES 2021:** Edmund Gager, Janet Jackson Gould, John Hines, Theresa Freedman, Donna Eshelman

*40<sup>th</sup>*  
**Annual Apple Festival**  
**Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**9 am - 4 pm**

at Kirby's Mill, 275 Church Road (at Fostertown Road) Medford

NO ADMISSION CHARGE

*100+ Crafters   Live Music   Food*

*Bounce for Children*  
provided by Columbia Bank

*Free Parking and Shuttle Service*  
*from remote parking*

*Apple Cider Donuts - Made on Premises,  
Apple Ice Cream, Vanilla Ice Cream  
Medford Historical Society Apple Butter Spread,  
Sandwiches - Made on Premises, Hot Dogs, Funnel Cakes,  
Apples, Cider, Drinks, Fresh Baked Goods*

For further information call:

Dave Vaughn at 609-969-3838 or email at [dav@me.com](mailto:dav@me.com)

New volunteers needed

along with those we depend on for this important event.

Kelly Maguire and her team bring us the most qualified crafters. For more info. 609-654-8483 or [maquirefamily1@verizon.net](mailto:maquirefamily1@verizon.net)

Visit our web site at: [MedfordHistory.org](http://MedfordHistory.org)

## Former Medford Leas Resident Gains a New Life

By Jim Alexander

She was first spotted standing alone under a tree behind Medford's historic Kirby's Mill. Badly aged and weathered, unspeaking, no apparent reason for her being there, her only identification being the numbers 5 and 1. Why was she there? Turns out that she had a story to tell.

Decades earlier, she was found lying on the ground on the Mickle farm property that had been acquired by Medford Leas, near where the old Mt. Holly, Lumberton and Medford Railroad had run, close to Wilkins Station Road. Nobody was quite sure how long she'd lain there, but local historians came upon her, and with the help of Medford Leas maintenance workers, got her up into a truck where she could be taken to safety. Safety turned out to be a storage room in Kirby's Mill, about half a mile down Church Road.

The old gal was a Pennsylvania Railroad milepost. Cast iron, exactly as shown on standard Pennsy plans. The Pennsy had operated the local line under lease, and eventually owned it before it was abandoned in 1976, followed by removal of the tracks. Somehow, she lingered behind – in a sense perhaps becoming one of Medford Leas' first residents — until taking up residence in the Mill while Medford Historical Society volunteers were focusing on developing that historic site.

They had been interested in setting up a railroad caboose out back of the Mill as an added attraction, and when one was removed from Medford's Tomlinson Park in 1988, it found a new home at the Mill, on a short section of tracks installed for the purpose. Soon, local Scouts, looking for a project, were enlisted to set up the milepost next to the caboose. They did a good job, planting it into the ground on a concrete base.

However, anybody who knows anything about old cabooses knows that they are money pits to restore and maintain, so after some years, the caboose left for a new home, leaving old 5 – 1 behind. And anybody who knows about railroads knows that mileposts were erected a mile apart along most rights of way. They served several purposes. First, as location markers for maintenance and reference. Second, since early steam locomotives lacked speedometers, engineers could use their watches to measure the time between mileposts to determine speed.

Of course, life is never that simple, and mileposts weren't always exactly a mile apart. If topographical features or roads intervened, for instance, or if the tracks were rerouted, the mileposts might not be exactly a mile apart. Which got us to the question – what was its exact former location?

The railroad was just about six miles long, so 5 – 1 would place it a mile above the Medford terminus, and five miles south of Mt. Holly. Without going into technical details about how different railroad documents showed mileage, this would have placed the milepost near Wilkins Station Road. The Wilkins family had been a major presence in the area, and for several decades, a small railroad station was just above the current intersection of Wilkins Station and Church roads.

The only fitting thing to do was to give aid to this fine but worn lady, so this summer, under the Medford Historical Society's auspices, she was cleaned and given new garb of paint. She now stands, still quietly alone, but glistening and proud of her heritage and her connection with Medford Leas and the greater Medford area history.

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