



Newsletter

Kirby's Mill
275 Church Road
PO Box 362
Medford, NJ 08055

**Cross Keys One-Room
Schoolhouse**
55 Mill Street
Medford, NJ 08055

Haines-Tomlinson House
51 Union Street
Medford, NJ 08055

Mill Phone: 609-654-7767

www.MedfordHistory.org

August 2026

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF
YMCA OF THE PINES

120 YEARS OF IMPACT AND STILL GROWING - By Eliana Koenigsberg, Camp Ockanickon Director

YMCA of the Pines is proud to celebrate its 120th anniversary this year, marking more than a century of serving children, families, and communities across southern New Jersey and the greater mid-Atlantic region through camp, youth development, outdoor education, and community programs.

What is now a vibrant, 800-acre campus in Medford, New Jersey, began in 1766 supplying timber/fuel to Charles Read's Aetna Furnace, the sawmill continued later under the direction of Jabez Buzby and the dammed streams later became home to a cranberry operation. The camp is tucked deep within a forest of pine, oak, cedar, and laurel.

In 1906, the YMCAs of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Monmouth counties established what was then known as YMCA Camp Ockanickon as a place for young men to spend their summers building character, confidence, and lifelong friendships.

Before settling permanently in Medford in 1926, the camp operated at several locations, including sites along the Delaware River and in New Egypt, New Jersey. The camp's name honors Chief Ockanickon of the Mantas Lenape tribe, an early Native American leader and friend to settlers in Burlington County. The camp's original property, consisting of 400 acres, was acquired through the efforts of Henry Stockwell, a prominent Moorestown attorney, whose name now lives on through Lake Stockwell and Lake Stockwell Day Camp.

In 1937, the organization expanded to open Camp Matollionequay, an overnight camp for girls, named for Princess Matollionequay, Chief Ockanickon's wife. As surrounding communities grew in the mid-20th century, YMCA of the Pines expanded its year-round programming, outdoor education, and community offerings. Lake Stockwell Day Camp launched in 1990, and additional land acquisitions — including Green Acres preservation and the purchase of more than 200 acres in 2011 — helped protect and expand the campus for future generations.



In the spring of 1929 volunteers built a rustic arch across the entranceway from Stokes Road (Courtesy of the YMCA of the Pines)



On June 27, 1926 Camp Ockanickon in Medford was officially dedicated with over 1,800 people in attendance. (Courtesy of the Medford Historical Society)

Medford Historical Society Officers 2026 - 2028 Fiscal Year

Co-Presidents
Tom Gerber Michael Gallagher
609-828-4681 856-296-4060
tgerber60@verizon.net mgalla48@gmail.com

**Haines/Tomlinson
House**
Kathy Mathis Gerber
609-668-2361
kgerber17@gmail.com

Kirby's Village
John Hines
609-531-1825
jxhines15@gmail.com

**Apple Festival
MHS Staff**
609-654-7767
medfordhistorynj@gmail.com

**Cross Keys
School-House**
Pat Alvino
609-410-6950
talvino12@comcast.net

Secretary
Ambriel Gerber
609-828-5163
ambriel.gerber@gmail.com

Newsletter
Dennis McDonald
609-353-7502
medfordhistory@gmail.com

TRUSTEES

EXPIRES 2026
EXPIRES 2027
EXPIRES 2028

Libby Zimbleman, Dan Gaehring, Andy Middleton, one vacancy
Edmund Gager, Leslie Jones, John Hines, Ambriel Gerber, Mike Yekenchik
Patricia Alvino, Carol Millich, Dennis McDonald, Clark Perks, one vacancy

TRUSTEE EMERITUS - Jeanne Woodford

(continued from page 1)

Today, YMCA of the Pines serves over 20,000 people each year through a diverse and growing portfolio of programs, including Camp Ockanickon, a boy's overnight camp; Camp Matollionequay, a girl's overnight camp; Lake Stockwell Day Camp, a co-ed day camp; a thriving Outdoor & Retreat Center; and Preschool based on the Medford campus. School's Out programs and the Gloucester County YMCA branch. Both branches offer membership for individuals and the whole family.

In 2021, YMCA of the Pines expanded its impact further by acquiring the Gloucester County YMCA located in Woodbury, NJ strengthening its reach and deepening its commitment to meeting evolving community needs.

"For 120 years, YMCA of the Pines has strengthened our community by helping people explore, grow, and thrive, while creating opportunities that change lives for generations," said Mark Dibble, CEO of YMCA of the Pines. "As we celebrate this milestone, I'm energized by the future we are building together through expanded programs, stronger facilities, and an even deeper impact on the families and communities we serve." The organization's 120th anniversary will be celebrated with our signature anniversary event over Labor Day Weekend, September 4, through September 7 at the Medford location. All are welcome. The YMCA Camps are looking forward to bringing together generations of campers, alumni, families, staff, and community members. Registration is now open at ycamp.org/register, all are encouraged to join in this milestone celebration. From its humble beginnings in the early 1900s to its role today as a regional leader in camping, outdoor education, and youth development, YMCA of the Pines remains committed to its mission as an interfaith, charitable organization dedicated to helping children, teens, and families explore, grow, thrive, and ultimately become the best version of themselves.



Campers & counselors pose for a photograph at Camp Matollionequay in 1938



Each cabin at Camp Matollionequay could hold seven campers and a counselor. (Courtesy of the YMCA of the Pines)



In 1926 a group photograph was taken of the first campers at Camp Ockanickon's new Medford location. (Courtesy of the YMCA of the Pines)



A Boy with a bow and a girl with a tennis racket pose in this 1940 photograph displaying the various activities available at the camps. (Courtesy of the YMCA of the Pines)

President's Corner

We hope you're all having a wonderful summer and finding time to enjoy it despite our ever-changing weather!

It's been a busy and rewarding year for the Medford Historical Society, and we'd like to thank everyone who has supported our events, visited our historic sites, volunteered, or helped further our mission. As we head into the second half of the year, we'd like to share a few highlights and what's still to come.

This spring, we welcomed many visitors during our Sunday Open Houses at Kirby's Mill Village and the Cross Keys Schoolhouse. **Country Day**, the **Car & Craft Show**, and our **Annual Quilt Show** were all tremendous successes. A special thank you goes to **Libby Zimbleman** for her outstanding work organizing the Quilt Show alongside the Berry Basket Quilters.

If you haven't already, be sure to visit our **newly redesigned website**! It's now easier than ever to learn about our events, explore our historic properties, renew your membership, make a donation, volunteer, and stay up to date with everything happening at the Society. Thank you Ambriel, our Secretary, for your hard work on this!

This summer also brought a change in leadership. After two years as President, **Bill Pflug** stepped down to spend more hands-on time at the Mill. Bill has been instrumental in strengthening the Historical Society, helping launch the Car & Craft Show and supporting the continued success of the Apple Festival. We sincerely thank him for his dedication and are grateful he'll continue volunteering with us.

Mike Gallagher and Tom Gerber are honored to serve as your new Co-Presidents. We look forward to building on the Society's strong foundation and working together to preserve Medford's history for generations to come.

Looking ahead, preparations are underway for our **September 12 Flea Market**, followed by our signature event, the **47th Annual Medford Apple Festival** on **October 10**. With more than 120 talented artisans, expanded food offerings, live music, demonstrations, tours, and family-friendly activities, we're excited for another memorable year.

None of these events would be possible without our volunteers. Whether you can volunteer for an event, help with a project, or simply lend a hand, your support truly makes a difference.

Mike and Tom look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and serving the Historical Society in the years ahead.

Tom Gerber & Michael Gallagher, Co-Presidents

In The Museum

The displays “Medford and the Revolution” and “British Are Coming” were installed in time for Country Day at Kirby’s Mill in May to start the America 250 celebration. Thanks go to Leslie Jones for the computer work. Additional thanks go to Claudia Teal for the art work used in the “Medford and the Revolution” display. Thanks also to Marisa Mannion of the Pinelands Art Center for life-size images of a local militiaman and a British Redcoat.

This summer numerous display cases were given a fresh coat of paint, giving the museum a brighter look.

John Hines—Museum Director



Molten Iron – Its History and Progress

Presented by Bill Pflug

The coarse and rudimentary combination of flame, fuel, various iron-bearing raw materials and enhancers provided early America with strong, tough iron implements to help build and protect the new nation. We will explore how the parts of this puzzle were first assembled and look at the incredible ingenuity of those challenged with the rapidly growing demands succeeded and flourished.

Bill spent his career working for Inductotherm Corp. in Rancocas, NJ. He was responsible for design and development of large electric melting and holding furnaces for various metals and alloys. Product Management and ultimately Global Manager for automated molten metal pouring systems is where he closed out his 40 years of employment. Bill holds a number of patents related to molten metal processes and equipment.

Medford Speaker Series

October 1, 2026

Meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Quaker Meeting House—Union Street

Observations from an Intern -by Hope Polimeni

As a college student living in Haddonfield, majoring in my passions of history and art history, I have been grateful for the many opportunities for experience presented to me by the Medford Historical Society. In the future, I hope to pursue a career in the museum studies field and have volunteered thus far at historical sites such as the Haines-Tomlinson House and the Cross-Keys One-Room Schoolhouse. By doing so, this will ultimately prepare me for an occupation in which I can make connections with peers and visitors. This will also be an exciting opportunity for a firsthand experience with historical information, artifacts, and immersive learning.

From a young age, history always intrigued me. As a pastime, I enjoy learning these facts and have since developed a strong interest in the events, the figures, and the culture of different nations over different centuries. Other interests of mine include art, which I not only enjoy studying and admiring but also making. I love classical music and the composers behind the masterpieces, taking this inspiration and applying it to my practice of piano. Classical literature and poetry are also favorite areas of literature of mine, and I particularly love the works of Shakespeare, Marlowe, Austen, and Dickens. But it is because of this appreciation in history that I began to feel motivated to inspire others to appreciate it in the same way I have.

Before attending Rutgers University in Camden, I began working at a nearby historical site in Cherry Hill known as the Barclay Farmstead. As a docent, I wear period Quaker clothing and take visitors on an informative, engaging tour of the home. I highlight the importance of preservation and remembering the two families that occupied the home long ago. I most enjoy working with children who attend tours as students on field trips. I am most satisfied when I make children feel welcomed. I have met many children that appreciate the interactive qualities of the tour and my enthusiasm for them to develop an interest in the study of history. I feel that I can then apply all of my experiences and skills while volunteering at the historical sites located in Medford.

I was very impressed with the quaint little schoolhouse when I first visited, and I enjoyed the interesting facts attributed to it, which were shared with me by Mrs. Pat Alvino and Mrs. Leslie Jones. Both of whom gave me a very warm welcome. In the future, I am excited to begin helping with tasks around the schoolhouse. I will soon be starting to help showcase the skilled penmanship within the antique books on display that are in their possession. As I have done in my current job, I hope that I may develop a strong bond with visiting students by helping them to develop a strong interest in history. In the future, I will seek to make this experience for them enjoyable, informative, and interactive. I would even be satisfied if these students left our tours feeling a closer connection with children of the past, who were once students like them, and an appreciation for local history.

One of the most effective ways that I may do this aside from conducting tours is to create a children's book. My hope is that this children's book will be portable so that students may read it at their leisure and are free to take it to school or back home after their tour. The children's book will center on the life of a student around the year 1857, when the schoolhouse was built. I strive to make this story engaging and sweet while also introducing key vocabulary terms in relation to school houses. It will also feature historical facts on the town of Medford. I am inspired by the beautiful engraved pictures from the Victorian period, and I hope to model most of my own illustrations after this style. As someone who published two children's books in elementary school through their own publication system, I greatly look forward to making an entirely new book. The most enjoyable aspect of this process is to consider that my book may and hopefully will be cherished by visiting students.

To conclude, I will strive to incorporate all of my passions and talents in my future career. I have been very fortunate to have these opportunities that I found through the Medford Historical Society to better prepare me. Additionally, I feel very grateful to learn the history of a town I have always loved while becoming a part of helping preserve it.

Medford Historical Society intern Hope Polimeni, left, discusses her internship with Cross Keys Schoolhouse Director Patricia Alvino



**18th Annual Flea
Market
At Kirby's Mill**

Proceeds benefit the
Medford Historical Society

**Saturday, 9/12/2026
8 am to 2 pm**

275 Church Road
Medford

Have unwanted items
you want to sell?
Spaces (approx. 10' x 10')
are available for a
donation of \$25.00
Registration is due no later
than 9/5/2026
All items brought to
Kirby's Mill on 9/12/2026
MUST be removed
if not sold.
Set up between 7-8am
Tents permitted.
Rain or Shine!
Food available for purchase

Bring your own tables. Vehicles must be moved to parking area after
unloading prior to 8 am & will not be permitted again until 2 pm.

Sorry we are not able to store or
transport large items. For more
information or to volunteer to help out
that day, contact

Chair Libby Zimbleman 609-801-2342
Or Libby1555@aol.com



NAME _____ # OF SPACES NEEDED _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL _____

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MEDFORDHISTORY.ORG
Please include \$25 for each space and mail to/or pay online:
PO Box 362, Medford, New Jersey 08055

JOIN US FOR THE 47TH ANNUAL

APPLE Festival

— AT —

KIRBY'S MILL

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 10
9AM - 4PM



APPLE CIDER GOODS



HISTORIC
DEMONSTRATIONS



LIVE MUSIC



120+ HANDMADE
CRAFTERS & VENDORS



SHOP LOCAL. EAT LOCAL. CELEBRATE LOCAL HISTORY
WWW.MEDFORDHISTORY.ORG



Membership Application
Donations/Sponsor Levels to Preserve History
Of course if you have already paid, Thank you for your promptness.
Lifetime members may 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 - \$40 per year
Members receive a Quarterly Newsletter

Sponsor/Donor Levels

History Partner - \$100

Archival Partner - \$250

Patron - \$500

Lifetime - \$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 © (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.

Preserve History - Give the Gift of Membership
Time to Renew or Become a Member of the Medford Historical Society.

Your contribution helps support 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.

We need your help. 10% of our members renew annually but we would love to double that number. Memberships are for 1 year. We do not automatically renew memberships but will invite you to renew each February. As a member you will receive our newsletter that contains articles about Medford history, MHS news, and upcoming events. You'll also learn about volunteer opportunities and have the satisfaction of knowing that you've helped preserve Medford's history for generations to come!

Memberships for Individual/Families are \$40, or choose from one of our many membership levels.

Please visit the form on our website MedfordHistory.org or copy and paste this link in your address bar:
medfordhistory.wufoo.com/forms/qqgalje1xon9f6/