



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

April 2026

## Haines/Tomlinson House Improvements

This winter has been an opportunity to begin making new repairs to preserve and improve the Haines-Tomlinson House. The preservation includes replacing the basement entry doors outside the kitchen (Magnolia Properties, LLC), repointing the basement stonework (Andrew Fleming), and scraping paint and replacing broken light fixtures inside (volunteers Kathy and John Gerber). In addition, Kathy and John Gerber have been hard at work decorating the house as the picture of the living room illustrates. Up next, we have some plumbing repairs, attic window replacements, and interior painting projects that we're looking forward to. We thank our donors and volunteers who have made these projects possible.



### Medford Historical Society Officers 2026 - 2028 Fiscal Year

<b>President</b> Bill Pflug 856-235-2543 plugfixes@gmail.com	<b>Haines/Tomlinson House</b> Michael Gallagher 856-296-4060 mgalla48@gmail.com	<b>Kirby's Village</b> John Hines 609-531-1825 jxhines15@gmail.com	<b>Apple Festival</b> MHS Staff 609-654-7767 medfordhistorynj@gmail.com	<b>Cross Keys School-House</b> Pat Alvino 609-410-6950 talvino12@comcast.net	<b>Secretary</b> Ambriel Gerber 609-828-5163 ambriel.gerber@gmail.com	<b>Newsletter</b> Dennis McDonald 609-352-7502 medfordhistory@gmail.com
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**TRUSTEES** EXPIRES 2026 Libby Zimbleman, Michael Gallagher, Dan Gaehring, Andy Middleton, one vacancy  
 EXPIRES 2027 Edmund Gager, Tom Gerber, John Hines, Ambriel Gerber, Mike Yekenchik  
 EXPIRES 2028 Patricia Alvino, Carol Milich, Dennis McDonald, Clark Perks, one vacancy  
**TRUSTEE EMERITUS** - Jeanne Woodford

## Presidents Corner

I suspect everyone is getting out and about, following what many will call the "Winter of '26". Let's hope the old adage of a bountiful harvest following a rough winter will hold for us. Regardless of the weather, many of us have kept mighty busy. Here is an update of the goings on:

What's happening at Kirby's Mill Village? John Hines, I am sure, has a head full of ideas for our museums as he is always producing new projects; this time working to complete our Revolutionary War display on the second floor of the Mill. A map will adorn the back wall opposite the stairs, with a newly refurbished case for holding information and artifacts of the era. New lighting will help to highlight this worthy addition. John is also developing two life-size standees of Revolutionary soldiers in uniform for the 250 year Birthday.

Future Projects for which Kirby's fundraising is needed:

The Mill's stone and brick foundation require repointing, and another egress from the second floor of the Mill needs to be purchased. Steps leading to lower Mill pond require replacement. The Barn Museum erosion abatement project, the exterior siding repairs and paint, and Cresota sign refreshing were quoted previously and all await funding. Partial siding on the Blacksmith Shop is needed. Meant to enlighten and not to shock, the rough sum of resources needed to accomplish these needed repairs is on the order of \$85,000.

The landscape near Kirby's Mill is about to begin to change forever. We are all aware of the State mandated affordable housing. Currently two of the three proposed properties will have some form of impact at our Kirby's Mill Village. One is on Fostertown Road, across from the baseball field where we currently park during our events. The other location is at the corner of Church and Eayrestown Roads, formerly Rick's Auto body. More details of the proposed developments are on display on the first floor of the Township Building. As long as the builder is within their legal rights, this is a reality. I have heard from good sources that the State hasn't lost in implementing the required housing. There is an opportunity to "negotiate" with the builder our concerns of how this growth may impact us. Contact would not be with developer, but through Medford Township.

We see activity at the Haines/Tomlinson House--- the basement walls have been fully parged and finalized, hopefully to last another one hundred years or so. Damaged window replacement has begun with the first of many now being fitted with new glass. Just for interest sake, there are 42 total windows at "51" of various shapes and sizes.

The wonderful interior decoration and new furniture additions at the hands of Kathy Gerber (see the associated article) have certainly given this house a homey sense. Kathy and her friend Gina Lindell have also undertaken a new refit of the upstairs bathroom to bring it back in time. A big thank you to both!

The Cross Keys Schoolhouse has had two visits by a journalist and a photographer representing Donnelly Media. Their drive is to prepare a group of articles for a new local magazine entitled "08055". Pat Alvino, Leslie Jones and Ed Gager were on hand both days to answer questions on the full history of the schoolhouse. The photographer had a "picture perfect" day for his work. This should be a great kick off for future Historical society pieces.

Six new shutters are presently being built to replace those that had seen better days. They will be painted and installed with the present hardware. Any sills or dilapidated siding will also be repaired or replaced and we are looking forward to a future fresh coat of paint.

Bunting will adorn the Schoolhouse for America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday for a festive look. Thanks to the great work of Pat, Leslie and the Schoolmarms.

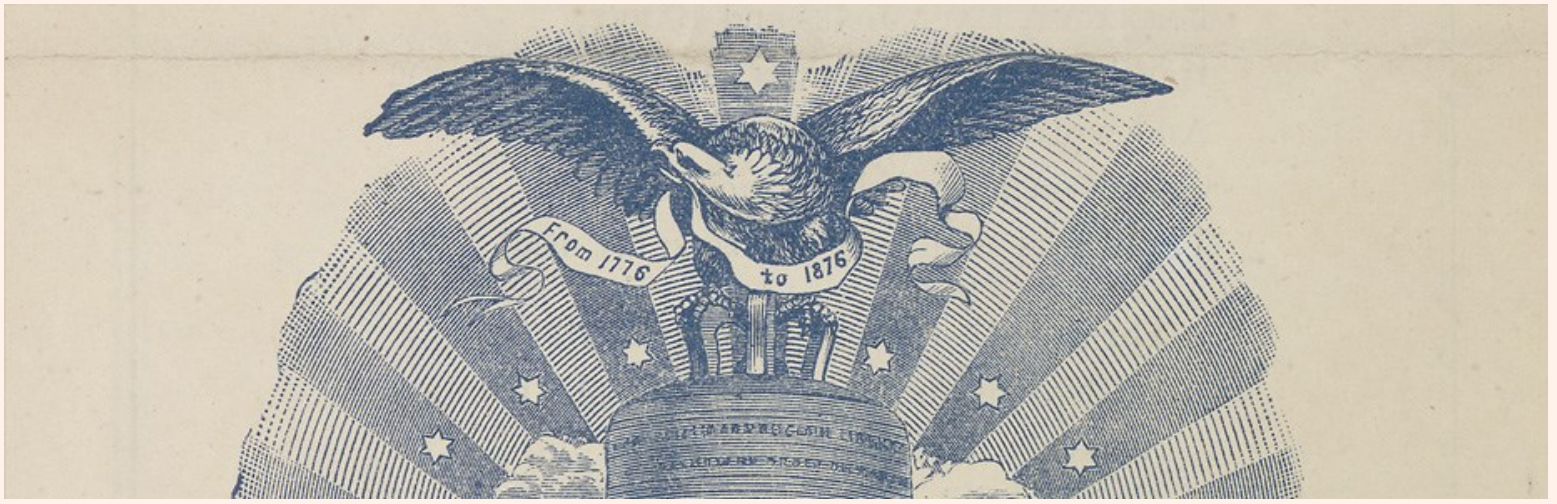
Rich Bucko keeps the level up with the Revolutionary times Speaker Series. We enjoyed Eric Orange once again, with more details of how our area played a vital role in the preamble to our birth. The next session is May 7<sup>th</sup>. Preceding the guest speaker, the annual membership meeting will be held, and we will vote on the Officers of the MHS. The Speaker Series is well worth an hour of your time to see these professionals speak.

Please check our website for the upcoming events and Open House activities within the organization.

Our second drive for Fundraising will occur this month. We anticipate letters will be going out shortly. We also anticipate an equally good response to this year's request.

Dennis McDonald has the other upcoming events covered within the Newsletter, all look to be exciting for us. You might ask yourself, "How can I help my organization out during these events"? We know you're interested, that's why there is a Volunteer section on our website. Very simple, fill it out and the fun begins!

I hope you all have a safe and pleasant Summer. I think you can turn the heat down now...



### **Burlington County's Experience during the 1876 Centennial** by John Hines

One hundred and fifty years ago, the nation celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. In Burlington County, the Centennial was celebrated with as much spirit as could be mustered. The local newspapers; the Mount Holly Herald, the New Jersey Mirror and others, led the way by carrying many references to the Centennial in articles and advertisements. They also did their part to promote local history through articles on Burlington County in the Colonial and Revolutionary period. The *Historical Atlas of Burlington County*, found a ready market as residents eagerly sought objects and books that noted this nation's and region's progress and prominence.

In February of 1876, the Centennial observations began with "Tea Parties" held in Mount Holly, Burlington and other towns. Many of the "Teas", sponsored by local Lyceums and civic organizations were elegant and successful affairs. A "Tea" was not complete without displays of historical artifacts, period costumes, music, and food.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in 1876, as now, was the high point of the year. But what may be remembered most about that summer was the weather - it was just plain hot! From June 24 to July 18, the temperature climbed into the 90's with several days reaching 100 degrees. However, the heat did not deter the true patriots from celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> to the fullest. Many of the county's towns had parades, music, and fireworks.

In the quiet village of Medford, the celebration began a minute after midnight with the ringing of bells, firing of guns, exploding of fire crackers, and playing of martial music. The commotion lasted until 3 a.m. over the objections of many who were unceremoniously awakened hours earlier. The celebration continued after daylight with a flag raising ceremony, more music, private parties and later in the evening a fireworks display.

Mount Holly did not escape the noise. A group of boys, dressed as Native Americans "made the night hideous from 11 p.m. till 3 a.m. by parading the streets with drums, horns, and accompanied by a small cannon, which being discharged did not fail to shatter panes of glass in sundry windows".

Burlington City residents out-did the rest of the county when they began their celebration on the morning of July 3 with 13 rounds fired from the Young America Fire Company cannon. The same salute was fired from Oneida's Boat House, "awaking almost, if not all the people in Burlington." The City fire companies spent the day decorating their buildings with banners and flags, preparing for the grand parade in the evening with political leaders, bands, and local citizens marching in various units. The evening ended with individual fire company band concerts. Midnight brought more cannon firing to bring in the 4<sup>th</sup>.

To commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup>, Philadelphians sponsored military, civic, and religious observances. The principal feature of the day was a grand military parade with marching groups from the Army and Navy and military organizations. At Independence Hall Square a large ceremony was held in which the original manuscript of the Declaration of Independence was read by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. Burlington Countians attended these events and others during the summer. Members of the H.B. Smith Military Band had the privilege of escorting the Fifth Division, O.U.O.M. from Camden to Philadelphia for the ceremonies.

Although the 4<sup>th</sup> was the high point of the Centennial celebration in 1876, the focus of the Centennial year was the Centennial Exposition held in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. One of the well-known attendees to the Exposition was Medford's own Dr. James Still. He speaks of his impressions of his visit to the exhibition in his book *Early Recollections and Life of Dr. James Still*.

## Honors Students Trace the "Crossroads of the Revolution"

Throughout our unit on the American Revolution, students in my 10th-grade Honors US History class at Shawnee High School took a deep dive into our state's pivotal role in the fight for independence. New Jersey is often hailed as the "Crossroads of the Revolution," serving as the site of more battles and skirmishes than any other future state. To truly grasp this legacy, some students worked in pairs to research specific local events, figures, and strategic locations where the war's impact was most felt. This project challenged them to move beyond the textbook and connect national history to the very ground they walk on every day. The centerpiece of this initiative was the creation of custom historical markers. After conducting research, each student worked in pairs to design a marker that distilled complex historical narratives into concise, public-facing commemorations. The process was rigorous; students presented initial designs to their peers for a round of peer editing, ensuring historical accuracy and clarity. This collaborative phase allowed students to act as both historians and curators, refining their arguments and professionalizing their writing before producing their final drafts. The project culminated in a series of formal group presentations, where students "unveiled" their markers to the class. This assignment was more than just a history lesson; it was a direct application of the Lenape Regional School District's departmental goals. By synthesizing research, honing their persuasive writing, and practicing public speaking, these students developed the essential skills required of modern citizens. Seeing them take such pride in New Jersey's revolutionary heritage was a testament to the importance of keeping local history alive for the next generation.


Story by: **Zachary Baer** Shawnee High School-Social Studies Teacher

The Indian King Tavern Marker is accredited to:

**Paige Andes**

### The Indian King Tavern

233 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield NJ, 08033




#### What was the Indian King Tavern? Why was it important?

The Indian King Tavern, located in Haddonfield NJ, was a center for political discussion and activity during the American Revolutionary War. The war forced New Jersey's legislators to seek a new, safer meeting spot. They came to the Indian King Tavern so the General Assembly could meet. At the Indian King Tavern, the Declaration of Independence was officially recorded in NJ's minute notes, NJ's Great Seal was adopted, and the constitution was amended. It was also where NJ made its official transition from colony to state. The tavern was visited by everyone from commoners, to influential and prominent figures such as Marquis de Lafayette himself.

**BACKGROUND**  
Built in 1730, but not opened until 1777, the Indian King Tavern was a crucial meeting point for New Jersey's legislators during the American Revolution.


Overall, the Indian King Tavern was important in the lawmaking and governing of New Jersey during and post the American Revolution. Without it, important events in New Jersey's history might not have occurred. Taverns overall were very important during Revolutionary times, as they acted as vital hubs of politics for individual states.



Dr. Bodo Otto Marker is Accredited to: **Elana Farwell & Sophie Keller**


## "HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON" CAREER:

**INTRO:**  
Dr. Bodo Otto was born in 1711 in Hanover Germany and died on June 12, 1787 in Reading, PA. He started studying medicine at 13 and eventually opened a practice in Luneberg. He immigrated in 1755 with his family to Philadelphia. He supported the Patriot cause and was 65 when he enlisted as a surgeon. His 3 sons also worked as physicians for the continental army.



**CAREER:**  
Bodo Otto served as a Continental Army Surgeon. He worked with soldiers involved with the Battles of Long Island, Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, and Germantown. He was appointed by the Second Continental Congress to establish a smallpox hospital in Trenton. He also helped create flying camps, which were medical units that could pack up and move easily as the state of the battles changed. He eventually retired on February 1, 1782.

**FUN FACTS:**  
Bodo Otto crossed the Delaware River with Washington. During the Battle of Trenton, he even helped treat wounded Hessians on the other side.



**DR. BODO OTTO**  
1711- 1787  
OLD BARRACKS, TRENTON

**CONTRIBUTION:**  
Bodo Otto was a Senior General Surgeon that served till he was 70 years old in the Revolutionary War. He opened hospitals, served in high positions, and was involved in critical battles that led to the colonists victory.

# Hessian occupation of Mount Holly & The Battle of Iron Works Hill

-Mount Holly, NJ, 1776-

## Introduction

At the time of this battle General Howe, a Commander-in-Chief of the British forces, established outposts for his troops to occupy during the winter months. The furthest two were Trenton, manned by 1,500 Hessians under the command of Johann Rall, and Bordentown, manned by 2,000 Hessians under the command of Colonel Carl von Donop with the British 42nd Regiment contingents nearby. Colonists would however frequently attack these soldiers always without warning, keeping them always on alert.

## Explanation

A colonel militia force under Samuel Griffin arose, with some Virginia artillerymen, Pennsylvania infantry, and New Jersey militia, and numbered five to six hundred.

On the evening of December 22nd 1776, Joseph Reed (Washington's adjutant) went to meet Griffin, to do a divergent attack before the battle of Trenton, in hopes of drawing Hessian attention away from the Delaware for more freedom in future attacks. However Griffin's men were poorly equipped, and sick. On December 23rd, Von Donop arrived with his troops; outnumbering Griffin's troops. This resulted in minor skirmishes known as the battle of Iron Works Hill. Finally, Griffin and his troops retreated to Mount Holly where his men scattered, firing few rounds of artillery before going to a hill and firing from a longer, less effective range.



## Conclusion

On December 23rd, Von Donop and his troops spent the night in Mount Holly. While there, they broke into alcohol stores, as well as breaking in and spending the night in different colonist's houses. On December 24th, the British tried to move the militia, but Griffin and his troops had already moved to Moorestown. This battle resulted in a British tactical victory, but an American strategic victory. This was because instead of trying to provide aid in Trenton Von Donop spent the night in Mount Holly.



**MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# CAR & CRAFT SHOW

Classic Cars • Local Crafters  
• Food Vendors • Free Admission

**KIRBY'S MILL VILLAGE OPEN**

May 17th, 2026 • 11am to 2pm



The Medford Historical Society would like to acknowledge the contributions made by Kathleen Mathis Gerber acting in the capacity of Curator of the Haines/Tomlinson property located at 51 Union Street. She has eagerly engaged in the task of cleaning, procuring appropriate furnishings, and utilizing her decorating talents in an effort to restore the building as it might have appeared at some point in its rich history.

Kathleen was given an early introduction and appreciation for history through the guidance of her father the late Arthur Mathis, with whom she would accompany to various museums and historical landmarks during her childhood.

Throughout his lifetime their travels would take them to both domestic and foreign destinations while increasing and broadening their knowledge and respect for other's heritage.

Later Kathy would operate the family business, Mathis Funeral Home, in addition to spending 40 plus years in the medical field including a stint as Medical Examiner. Over the years she has restored older homes in Medford, projects at the Jersey shore (LBI and Tuckerton), and vacation properties in Vermont.

She has also served on the Board of Trustees at the Medford Memorial Community Center where her talents at fundraising were a valuable asset.

250<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
1776-2026

MEMORIAL DAY  
REMEMBER AND HONOR



The Annual Medford Memorial Day Parade will take place at 11AM on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. It will begin at Allen Ave and Main Street. Members will proceed up Main Street and make a left on Union, stopping at the memorial on South Main Street for a brief ceremony. The parade will then continue to Freedom Park. There, at the War Memorial and First Responders Monument in Freedom Park, closing ceremonies will be held. In addition, there will also be a new monument unveiled celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Medford Sunrise Rotary will display the Field of Honor beginning 5/16 through to 5/30.

Larry Godfrey—pictured to the (Right) with his **WW2** Donation to the Medford Historical Society






MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# COUNTRY DAY

Live Demonstrations • Historic Crafters  
• Local Musicians • Family Fun

**HISTORIC KIRBY'S MILL**  
275 Church Road, Medford

May 3rd, 2026 • 12pm to 4pm




## Experience history in action at Country Day!

- Working water wheel & millstones making cornmeal
- Blacksmith demonstrations at the forge
- Historic crafts & antique machines in action
- Civil War camp life & black powder rifle demonstrations
- Sheep-to-shawl wool carding, spinning & weaving
- Local folk & Pinelands musicians



# Medford Historical Society Quilt Show at Kirby's Mill

Saturday & Sunday June 6th & 7th 2026

10 am - 4 pm

Free parking & free admission

A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT



A display of handmade quilts &  
other works of art.

Do you have a quilt for sale?

Reach out to Libby & find out how to sell them at our show.

Also joining us this year will be  
Cappy's Complete Sharpening Service.

Get your scissors, knives &  
more, sharpened while you wait.

Berry Basket Quilters will be joining us again with lots of boutique items,  
quilts, small quilts, table runners & more.

For further information, contact Libby at 609-801-2342 or  
at [libby1555@aol.com](mailto:libby1555@aol.com). Give us a call to arrange your participation in the  
Quilt Show by displaying your beautiful works of art.  
Nothing is too big or too small.

## 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](http://MedfordHistory.org) or copy and paste this link in your address bar:  
[medfordhistory.wufoo.com/forms/qqqalje1xon9f6/](http://medfordhistory.wufoo.com/forms/qqqalje1xon9f6/)