



# 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

December 2022

## *Historical Spotlight on Medford Business Owners*

### *Edward Prickett Warner, Store Owner*

by Kyle Mason

Edward Prickett Warner or "E.P. Warner" was born in 1877 in Tabernacle, NJ the son of Samuel Warner and Anne Broom. The Warner's were descendant of one of the early Quaker families. His father Samuel appears to have been a farm laborer, carpenter, and farmer per the old census records. E.P. is first seen living in Shamong with his parents on the 1880 census. In the 1900 census record E.P. is listed as a hardware salesman and resides in Medford at the home of William B. Cooper, himself a hardware dealer. In 1910 he married Emily Dobbs Robinson and they had 4 children.

At some point E. P. established his own hardware store/general store and a photographer captured his storefront in 1909. The signage lists in part "Plows", "Automobile Supplies, Gasoline, Motor Oil & Repairs" and "Hardware, Stoves & Ranges". Over the years E.P.'s store is described as hardware, automotive, radio repair, etc. store. I don't think he changed professions so much as the store he ran sold and serviced a variety of odds and the census takers, photographers, or newspaper advertisements highlighted different aspects of his business.

Pictured here is a sign from E.P. Warner's store highlighting early automotive history in Medford. The sign is apart of the historical collections housed at the Medford Historical Society Kirby's Mill Museum.



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## *Medford Historical Society Officers 2021 - 2022 Fiscal Year*

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### TRUSTEES

EXPIRES 2024 Edmund Gager, Sam Still, John Hines, Douglas Donor, Jeanne Woodford

EXPIRES 2023: Kelly Maguire, Libby Zimbleman, Kyle Mason, Carol Douglas, Michael Gallagher

EXPIRES 2022: Rick Young, Pat Alvino, Carol Milich, Richard Bucko, William Pflug

## **Dynamics of Grain Milling,** by Bill and Mary Lou Pflug

Our historical site at Kirby's Mill has a unique feature, we have an active grain processing system. The resident Millers have selected corn as the medium for our operation due to reasonable cost and ease of handling. We surmise this to be the simplest grain to crush for demonstration purposes. Our process utilizes the weight of water alone to supply the energy needed to rotate the running stone which shears and crushes the dried corn kernels. It would initially appear that the corn is fed from the top of the mill, runs through the moving stone and exits from a trough at the front of the housing.

That is an oversimplification of what goes into grinding corn. There is a large water wheel that provides energy, with individual buckets around the perimeter of the wheel. A series of gears in the Mill cellar convert the horizontal rotation of the water wheel to the vertical rotation needed for the mill stone. The ratio of these gears also supply the required speed for successful milling. The buckets on the water wheel hold a sufficient volume to cause the stone to rotate, enabling the kernels to be ground.

It is no secret that the geographical location of the mill does not afford great changes in water elevation, a definite requirement for water wheel powered operations. In our specific case it dictated the style of wheel we needed to utilize and what would be our maximum capacity. The power of the wheel is controlled by raising and lowering a wooden gate which feeds water onto the wheel. This is adjusted with a large hand wheel at the mill deck and gearing from beneath.

There are different grades of milled product. What is interesting to us are the requirements that develop each of the grades. The distance between the running stone on the top from the stationary bed stone on the bottom determines whether cracked corn, rough meal or fine corn flour are produced. Closing the stone gap requires more energy to crush a larger mass of corn thus requiring more water being fed to the wheel. Just a few variables to take into account wouldn't you say?

Consider for a moment what those who came before us had to encounter . . . droughts and flooding, both causing issues for Millers along with freezing temperatures (water does not flow well when it is a solid). Talk about supply chain problems. Repairing the mill mechanism was not a simple task. Big box stores were not available to purchase cast iron gears or mill stones. Many inventions came as a result. If you happen to observe the workings in the cellar of the Mill you may have noticed one large drive gear is sans metal teeth . . . they are wooden. This may well have been developed during an oops moment, something jams, gears brake and you are likely out of business until you can get a replacement. The wooden teeth were a necessity as they could easily be replaced when damaged.

Those involved in the Mill renovation, many no longer here to enjoy the fruits of their labor, are to be applauded for their tireless efforts. They well understood the need to preserve not only the historical aspect, but also the ingenuity of individuals who designed, built and operated this facility allowing Kirby's Mill to exist into the future.



**Milling Corn at Kirby's Mill**

## President's Message

This past year was an opportunity to breakout of the Covid malaise and fully experience our growing potential. Our season opening was celebrated by a lasagna dinner hosted for all MHS members. Our regular meetings and speaker series were held four times in the spring and fall. We have tried to use our wonderful local talent to enhance the focus on local history and issues. Please keep that in mind if you, or someone you know, has a topic they can share.

The major events at Kirby Village and the Cross Keys School House began in the spring and saw class visits to the school on Mill Street hosted by Pat Alvino. Country Day and the Quilt Show were well attended and demonstrated the skill and crafts of years gone by.

Milling Days, which demonstrate the Mill in operation were presented by John Hines and Bill Pflug on the second Saturday of each month from April through November. The Museum was open on many Sundays in July and August.

The very popular Flea Market was held in September under the guidance of Libby Zimbleman. This allowed many locals to clean out their attics and allow others to find treasures.

Of course the BIG Apple Festival was in October under the capable hands of Kelly Maguire and her committee. Thousands attended and got their fill of apple butter and cider, etc. This is the primary fund raiser for our historical buildings in Medford and the support of the community is greatly appreciated.

*Our gift to the community, will be held on December 15 at the Friends Meeting.* This concert is in appreciation for all that the community of Medford has done to recognize its historical heritage. The year 2023 promises more opportunities to recognize the wonderful history of Medford.

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## In The Museum by John Hines

The bog iron furnace exhibit - "IRON IN THE PINES" - is now ready for viewing. The two local 18th century iron furnaces - Aetna & Taunton - produced much needed iron products starting from 1768, although Aetna only lasted a few years. Both furnaces also made decorative firebacks or stoves that greatly improved heating in the home.

Along with the history and operation background of the furnaces and ingredients needed, the display includes items found at the two furnace sites. Thanks go to Claudia Teal for the furnace artwork and Kelly Maguire for producing exhibit labels and printed copy.



# Apple Festival Highlights

The Apple Festival was held on a wonderful fall day in October. Thousands of visitors, over 100 vendors, Kirby's Mill in all its glory and the museums were open to all. This is one of many events operated by the Medford Historical Society each year. The festival is the primary source of income for the maintenance and preservation of the historical treasure found in Medford. The support from our greater Medford community is always appreciated and is used to preserve the heritage that we share. Special thanks to Shoprite of Medford and our many other local sponsors.



and THE ZALLIE  
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FOUNDATION



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

*Proud Supporters of the Community*

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By the 1920 E.P., his wife Emily, and 3 children are living on 5 Friends Avenue in Medford and his occupation is listed as hardware merchant. Later in 1940 EP is shown living at 24 Bank Street with his wife and 2 youngest children with his profession as proprietor of a radio repair store. In 1950 the census records show him at 2 Friends Avenue with occupation as salesman at a retail-ice-feed-seed store. He was a Mason and is listed as the 1917 Grandmaster of the Medford Mason's lodge No. 178. EP died 16 Dec 1953 and is buried in Park View Cemetery in Medford



Shown above is a 1909 photograph described as E.P. Warner - Hardware on 20 South Main Street in Medford, NJ. To the left from Google maps is present day South Main Street. With E.P. Warner's store appearing to be located at 18 South Main Street.

## Flea Market at Kirby's Mill

Treasure hunters were in abundance on a beautiful sunny day surrounding Kirby Village. Thank you to all who donated items to be sold at the Society table. Funds were raised, fun was had and friends were made. We look forward to another Flea Market in 2023!



# Upcoming Events

The Medford Historical Society Welcomes  
Everyone Naughty or Nice!

## Santa at the Schoolhouse

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> Noon-3:00PM

*Stop by before the Dickens Festival*

PICTURE THIS! A cozy, warm potbellied stove, the schoolhouse adorned with 19<sup>th</sup> century holiday decorations and, of course, a visit with Santa. FREE admission.

*Take your own photos*



*Santa's Waiting!*

Historic Cross Keys Schoolhouse • 55 Mill Street, Medford, NJ  
(next to entrance to Memorial Middle School)

**the celtic  
Christmas**  
CONCERT!  
CHARLIE ZAHM

HOSTED BY  
THE MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
7:00 PM, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>  
THE FRIENDS MEETING,  
14 UNION ST., MEDFORD

Folk songs new and old, plus beautiful  
songs of the season---brought to life as  
only Charlie can. All our welcome!