

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

March 2023

MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Celebrating Our Annual Lasagna Dinner

for our members

Thursday, March 9, 2023
6:30 pm

MEDFORD FRIENDS MEETING, 14 UNION STREET, MEDFORD, NJ

Lasagna and Rolls will be provided by
L.E. Roselli's Food Specialties

Please bring your favorite Salad or Dessert to share.
Medford Historical Society will provide the beverages.

Make your reservations today by calling:
Jeanne Woodford at 856-983-1617

Medford Historical Society Officers 2022 - 2023 Fiscal Year

PRESIDENT
Richard Bucko
609-315-6266
rbucko@comcast.net

SECRETARY
Michael Gallagher
856-296-4060
mgalla48@gmail.com

KIRBY'S VILLAGE
John Hines
609-531-1825

APPLE FESTIVAL
Kelly Maguire
609-654-8483
maguirefamily1@verizon.net

NEWSLETTER
Kyle Mason
609-980-0845
kylemason44@gmail.com

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

February 2023

Dear Medford Historical Society Member,

On behalf of the Medford Historic Society, the Trustees would like to thank you for your contributions that have made this year yet another success at preserving and teaching Medford's rich history. In addition to Milling Days, our Event Series, our Speaker Series, and Open Houses at the Cross Keys Schoolhouse, the historical society also made many improvements in 2022 to the buildings and displays it maintains. At Kirby's Mill, new displays were added on the Railroads of Medford and Bog Iron in Medford, a new sign was created and installed above the print-shop, and much rehab was done on the mill's windows. Across the street at the barn/agriculture museum and blacksmith shop failing footings were replaced and an improved the curb was installed to improve drainage and help preserve the buildings. Behind the mill at the Sawyer House, walls and ceilings were painted, the library was reorganized with many new donations, and the archive was reorganized. Down the mill raceway fallen trees and branches were cleared to improve flow for the mill's water wheel. Around town you'll notice many "blue signs" have been replaced or added, in partnership with Medford Township, describing the historic significance of buildings and locations around town. We also produced four newsletters with interesting articles on Medford history.

We're ambitious to accomplish other improvements and maintenance in 2023 that will require resources and member involvement. For instance, the paint on the mill is worn and is arranged to be prepped and repainted and we plan to do some mild restoration work to the Cross Keys Schoolhouse exterior. We also have many exciting events planned which we hope you'll join us for (see <https://www.medfordhistory.org/events-calendar>).

The efforts and financial support of Medford Historical Society members enable the continued preservation and education of Medford's rich history. Thank you for your support through your annual membership renewal! We look forward to seeing at the mill and our events over the course of 2023!

Sincerely,
MHS Trustees

Please take a moment to renew your annual MHS membership:

Membership can be renewed and donations can be going to
link: <https://medfordhistory.wufoo.com/forms/qqqaljexor>

OR



Scan the QR Code to the right to go directly to the membership renewal page. To do this, start your smart-phone's camera and focus on the QR Code. Brackets should appear around the code when your camera recognizes it, and at this point you can tap the code on your screen, which will redirect you to the membership page.

Santa Visits the Cross Keys Schoolhouse

The days before Christmas were busy indeed,
Getting ready for Santa with due diligent speed.
The school must be ready to greet such a guest!
The school must look perfect and at its best!
Our schoolmarms like elves were up to the task,
They got right to work without being asked.
Joyce donned her face mask to clean out the shed,
While Betty swept each corner of the classroom instead.
Michelle polished the desks till they sparkled, so it seemed,
And Marilyn dusted the shelves till they gleamed.
When Carol came in with a bounty of greenery,
Her skill with a pruning scissor improved the scenery.
As Pat looked over the work that was done,
She knew in her heart that it was ready for Santa to come.

Thanks to the work of the Schoolhouse elves, the Cross Keys One-room Schoolhouse hosted 130 visitors on a cold, rainy Saturday in early December. Schoolhouse volunteers included: Joyce Schreiner, Betty Timmermeyer, Michelle DeFiore, Marilyn Crawford, Carol Milich and Patricia Alvino. Our Santa was Rick Young, village blacksmith and Trustee of the Medford Historical Society.



In The Museum

It once was possible to get to and from Medford by train. A display panel with photos of local train stations is now mounted in the Museum. The panel includes a history of the two railroads that had tracks to Medford and the services they provided.

My Grandmother would reminisce as a young woman working in Philadelphia she commuted to and from Marlton by train. At the end of her work day she would run down Market Street to the ferry to Camden to catch the train home. The conductor, a family friend, would hold the train if the ferry was late so she would get home safely. I can remember in the 1970's being stopped on Rt. 70 near Medford Leas as a locomotive and freight car crossed the road on its way to Kirby Bros. The railroad tracks and stations were once part of the local landscape.

Special thanks to Dennis McDonald for providing printed photos for this display.

TRAIN TO MEDFORD

MT HOLLY TO MEDFORD

The first railroad to Medford was from Mt Holly and in operation by December 1865. Track construction was financed by local residents with locomotive and cars provided by the Camden & Amboy RR. Later the Pennsylvania RR took over the operation on the tracks.

Stops along the line were at Lumberton, Brown (Bridge Rd), Reeve (Fostertown Rd), Wilkins (Church Rd) and Medford (Branch St). Besides passenger service, freight was shipped to and from local businesses, the glass works and farms, as well as seasonal shipment of the cranberry harvest. Bulk mail was hauled from the local mail hole at Reeve. Passenger service ended in 1926. The last freight service was in 1976 to Kirby's Bros. on Main St.


On display behind Kirby's Mill next to the Wagon Shed is a RR mile marker from the track line that went thru the Medford Leas property.

HADDONFIELD TO MEDFORD


A second railroad to Medford from Haddonfield was in operation by October 1881. Built by Camden & Atlantic RR, the line was later taken over by the Pennsylvania RR. There were several stops in the Camden County area with local stops at Cropwell, Marlton, Elmerston, Melrose (Evesboro Rd) and Medford (Main St). The line allowed for transportation to Camden and the ferry to Philadelphia. The railroad line was eventually connected to the Mt Holly line.

Besides passenger service, the railroad provided shipment of general freight, building material, coal, feed and mail (bug train Marlton). Transportation of milk from local farms to Camden processing plants was a major part of the train service. Due to the decline in passengers and freight, the railroad closed in 1932.

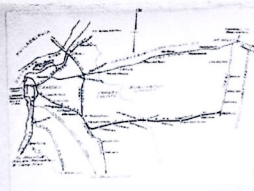
Modern Rt 70 from Marlton to Medford was built on the railroad right-of-way.




Medford station - Main St c. 1905




Afternoon train at the Medford station returning empty milk cans c. 1910



Map of regional rail lines



Train schedule for 1927



Cropwell station c. 1910



Marlton station c. 1920



Lumberton station c. 1900

Medford station photographs courtesy of Dennis McDonald from his collection. Medford Inquirer.

Medford Historical Society Quilt Show at Kirby's Mill



Saturday & Sunday, June 3rd & 4th, 2023

10 am to 4 pm

Free parking off of Fostertown Rd.

Free admission – donations accepted

Berry Baskets Boutique will be open in the Mill.

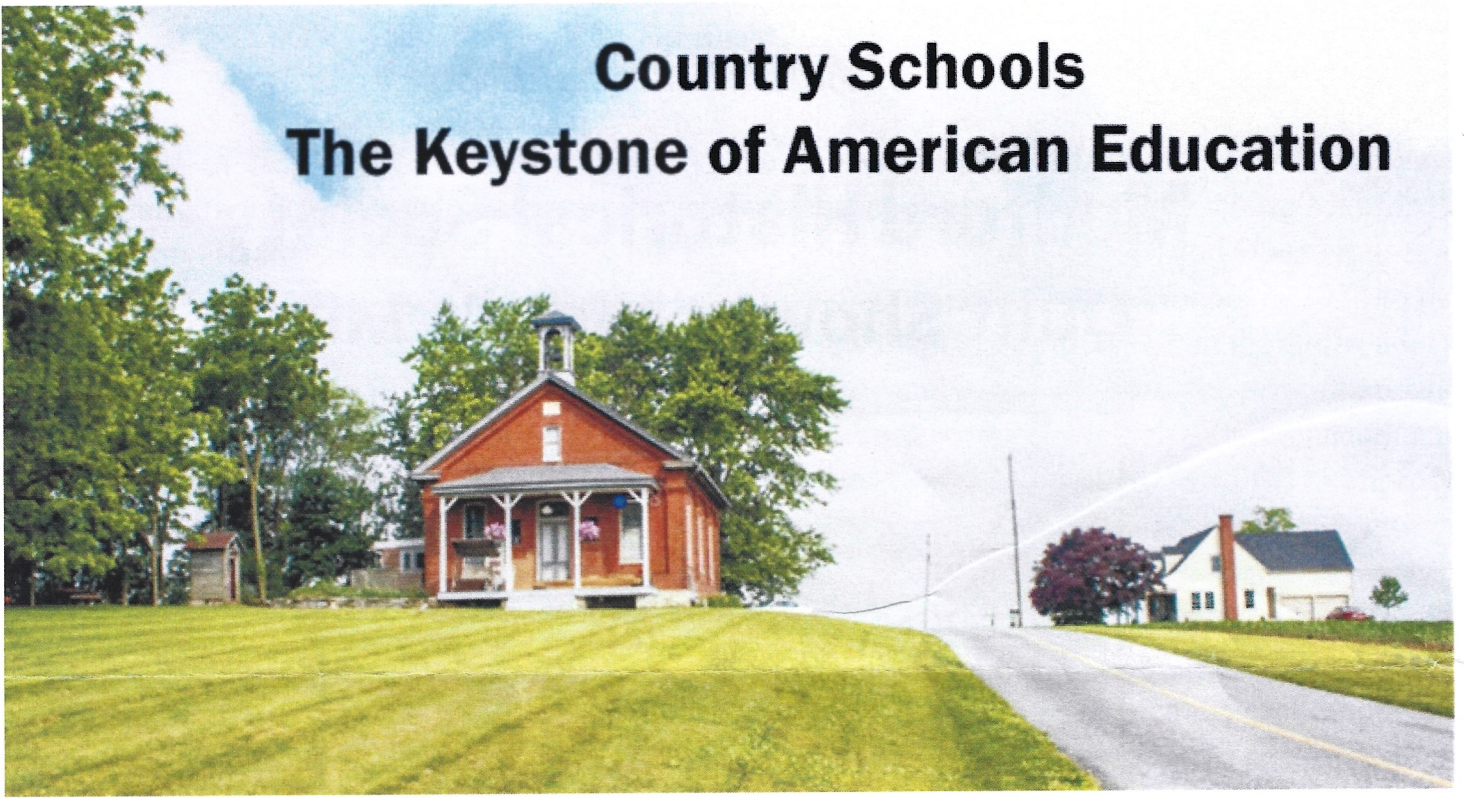
For further information or to participate, Contact Libby Zimbeman
at 609-535-5603 or at libby1555@aol.com.

Call Libby to schedule your participation in the Quilt Show by displaying a
quilt you have made yourself or a quilt that was given to you.

The workmanship is appreciated by all of us.

This is a rain or shine event.

Country Schools The Keystone of American Education



22nd Annual CSAA Conference

June 11-14, 2023

Millersville University

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

www.countryschoolassociation.org