



"The Pluckemin Archeological Dig"

Excavation of a Revolutionary War Site

The Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society's annual meeting was held at the Millburn Public Library on Wednesday, May 17th. John L. Seidel, professor of anthropology at Rutgers University, spoke to members and guests about the Pluckemin archeological dig.

For the past eight years, Dr. Seidel and a group of volunteers have been excavating a Revolutionary War military complex at the foot of the Watchung Mountains in Bedminster. They have unearthed a treasure trove of 200-year-old military hardware and uncovered the foundations of a line of barracks, a military academy and a forge. One of the most interesting finds was that of a small brass plate engraved with the first known portrayal of the American flag.

The historical society is pleased to continue to provide similarly significant programs throughout the year and it is hoped that all members will take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about the "foundations" of our town and our state.

On the Back of the Second Mountain

This section of Millburn Township is one of our oldest settlements. It includes White Oak Ridge Road, Canoe Brook Road and Parsonage Hill Road.

Great Hills Road was a continuation of a lane that started as Cherry Lane (now part of the county reservation) and runs over the mountain to what is now Old Short Hills Road. All other roads are the result of the development since World War II.

Hobart Gap Road became White Oak Ridge Road; it was named after Bishop Hobart of New York City and former rector of Trinity Church. He had a summer residence on the top of Hobart Hill on the Essex County side of the turnpike (Rte. 24). Hobart Gap Road was also known as Featherbed Lane due to the original rocks pushing up through the top surface.

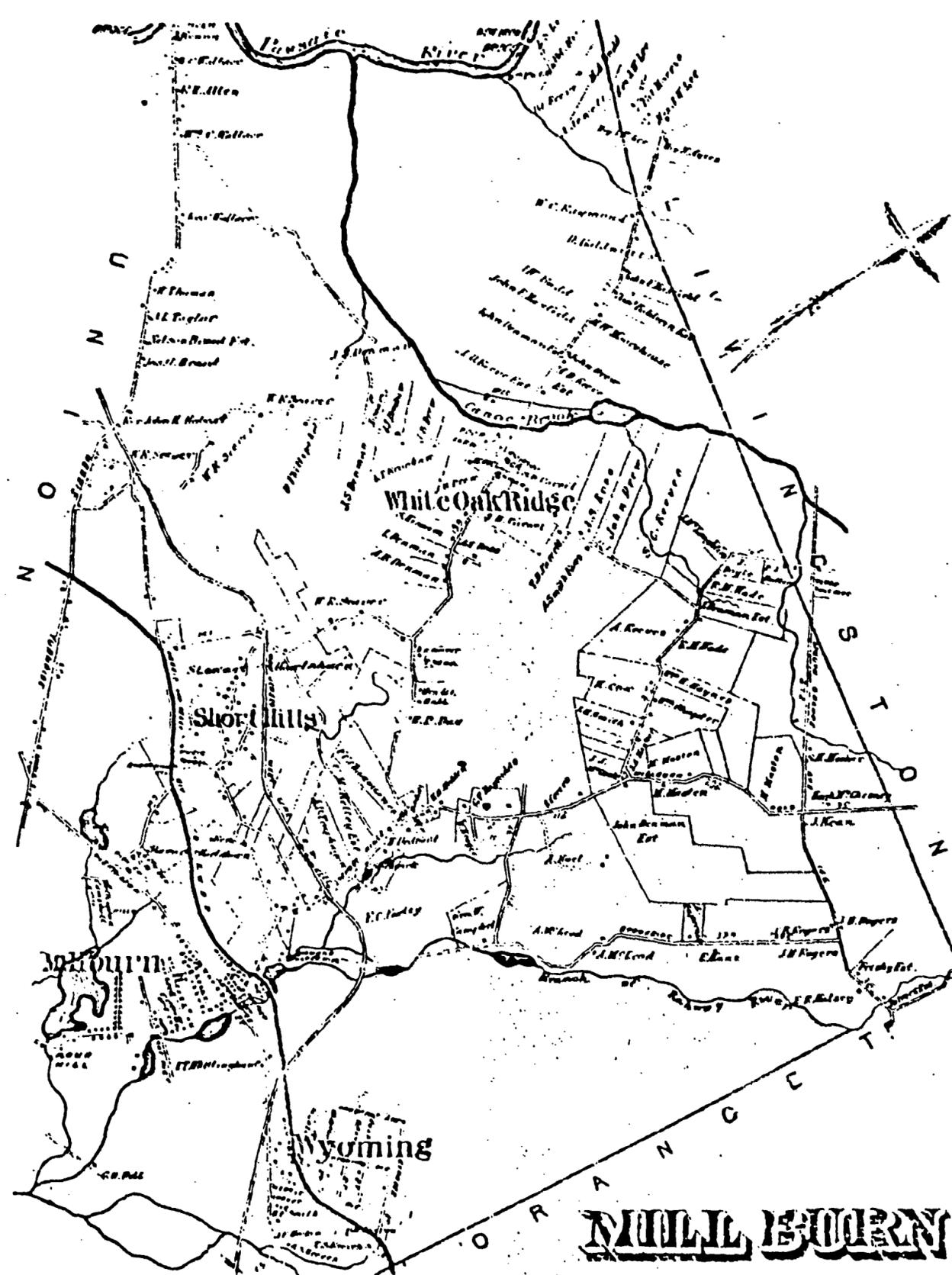
Parsonage Hill Road has kept its original name, derived from the donation of property to the Springfield Presbyterian Church before the Revolutionary War; the road ran through the property.

All these roads mentioned are on the Thomas Ball map drawn in 1764.

This Millburn area was included in the Springfield settlement of the Borough of Elizabethtown, as was the Westfields, the Wood Bridge, Turkey, the Plains, and Canoe Brook. Turkey is now Summit and New Providence. Canoe Brook is Livingston and Northfield. White Oak Ridge is mentioned in several records and books before 1800. Some mention it as on the back of the second mountain and on the Short Hills.

Some of the old houses on the Ridge are still standing and occupied. The two original Parsil homes on White Oak Ridge Road have been renovated from their original form. The Samuel B. Parsil place (363) has been added to, but the original architecture is still there, and at the Thomas Parsil house (423). These homes were built on a land grant in the early 1700's.

Other old houses built in the early 1800's are the



The 1881 map of the township gives many names still represented by families within the township; shows the route of the once-proposed competing railway line, a site that would have brought it through the heart of the parklike residential section.

Baldwin house on Parsonage Hill Road, which is now the home of the supervisor of the Water Reservation and two homes just west of this house on the same side, which were part of the Baldwin family.

During the Revolutionary War, Captain Thomas Parsil of 423 White Oak Ridge Road was wounded at the Battle of Connecticut Farms (Union) on June 28, 1778 and died on July 4, 1778 in the shade of the large locust tree in the rear of the house; the tree still stands. His brother, Nicholas Parsil, was killed on June 18, 1780 in the Battle of Springfield. The two were buried in the family cemetery at the corner of Parsonage Hill Road and White Oak Ridge Road. This cemetery contains the remains of the two Parsil brothers, two Civil War veterans, Samuel B. Parsil and his brother-in-law, William Spriggs, and other family members. The last burial was that of Mrs. Samuel B. Parsil in 1932.

Two other cemeteries have been located from the Drew and Baldwin families. One was obliterated when a road was widened and the other is located off of Passaic Avenue now in Livingston territory.

The White Oak Ridge Road Sunday School Association was incorporated in 1831. It then became known as White Oak Ridge Road Community Chapel. This was the oldest religious organization in Millburn Township. In 1986, the chapel closed its doors and the building was given to the Covenant Presbyterian Church. Its congregation worships there now.

Before the Civil War, a one-room school had been established on White Oak Ridge Road, about 200 feet north of the No. 2 fire station. This served the Ridge until 1885, when it was hauled away on slides to the George Reeve farm at the foot of Sunday School Hill. A new building was erected. The teacher in 1880 was Miss Nellie Doremus (of the Denman family). She married Aaron Smith Ross, Jr. in 1882. She was on the Board of Education in the 1920's and was a driving force in the development of our fine school system. She was also the mother of William Ross, who compiled a history of White Oak Ridge Road. Most of

the facts in this article were taken from it.

From this section can be traced some of our oldest and still-established families, such as: Parsil, Denman, Reeve, Vreeland, Ross, Drew, Swain, and others.

This was an important part of our township. Its families were hard workers; they established businesses, were loyal residents, and their descendents are still living in the area.

Information taken from facts written by:
Mr. William Ross - deceased



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SOLICITATION OF NEW MEMBERS

This is the time of year when we solicit renewal of membership for our upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1st. Your dues support our programs and the ongoing projects of the society.

For your convenience, a membership envelope is enclosed. For those who would be interested in participating in the work of our organization, an interest survey tear-off response sheet can be found on the next to the last page.

Item Indexing

Historical society volunteers have been indexing back issues of the Millburn Item for the past several years. Microfilm records at the Millburn library begin in 1930 and our records now cover the period ending in 1942. While we are disappointed not to have earlier papers available, the existing microfilm has been fascinating. Each volunteer spends about an hour at a time covering an edition. We make a point to index all articles on the front page, all photos, special interest stories, weddings and obituaries. We would welcome more volunteers with this project; the samples on the previous page hint at why this is so interesting.

FIX A FLAT FOR A QUARTER?

Recently a local resident bought a secretary from a neighbor who was moving out-of-state. It had been purchased by the neighbor from an estate sale some years before that, when it belonged to the Drapkin family of Marion Avenue. The Drapkins had owned Drapkin's department store on Millburn Avenue in Millburn, in the same block as and on the same side of the street as Futter's. While the secretary does not seem to contain any hidden compartments, it did yield a few delightful surprises after the current owner fished around in some tight places inside of the desk.

When a piece of paper slid into a slot under the pigeonholes, an unbent paper clip retrieved it and, among other things, a yellowed receipt which is reproduced on the facing page. What a pleasure to reflect on the days when five gallons of gas AND one quart of oil cost eighty-nine cents and fixing a flat cost a quarter!



MILLBURN AUTO SUPPLY

GOODYEAR TIRES

WILLARD BATTERY SERVICE STATION

PHONE MILLBURN 6-0935

42 MAIN STREET

MILLBURN, N. J.

193-3

M. Drapkin Jan. 31

1	7 gal gas, 1 qt oil	1.17
2	5 " " " " "	.89
3	5 " " " " "	.89
4	5 " " " " "	.89
5	5 " " " " "	.89
6	5 " " " " "	.89
	Ref. tank light	.50
7	5 gal gas, 1 qt oil	.84
8	5 " " " " "	.64
9	5 " " " " "	.84
10	5 " " " " "	.84
11	1 21-121 Ants. 1 3 c. Oil	30
	5 gal gas, 1 qt oil	1.02
12	5 gal gas 1 " "	.82
13	7 " " " " "	1.18
14	5 " " " " "	.82
15	5 " " " " "	.82
16	5 " " " " "	.82
17	5 " " " " "	.82
	Fix flat	.25

Seems Like Only Yesterday

From the Millburn-Short Hills Item of April 4, 1941

Editor, The Item:

Do I read aright that Millburn High School is so crowded as to make shorter recitation periods necessary in order to use the class rooms?

The time was not so long ago that we all felt we had builded far into the future in this magnificent pile.

Why does not Brother Landa at once begin a new survey having to do with high school needs of the Township as of 1960 so that we may next plan and build with confidence.

A man who can count future noses as closely as he has in the past, might come within gunshot of the mark before the next bond issue takes form.

SCHOLASTIC

This week hear the story of Mr. O'Tool
Who invented his own winter underwear rule.
Regardless of days either heated or cool
He'd not shed his flannels 'til past April fool.

NEIGHBOR

Millburn's new tax rate of 3.61 shows pretty well what lies ahead in the matter of cost of government.

Local authorities will pare to the bone curtailing essentials and non-essentials, only to have their work nullified by great-er county, state and national levies.

Essex county this year has added ten points to the local rate and is estimated to be consuming \$30,000 more in local taxes than in 1935. Next year it will in all probability be the state biting into local school moneys to the tune of another \$30,000.

While this is going on municipalities are squabbling among themselves as to division of gross receipts taxes, railroad taxes are tied up and home owners are digging down to keep the wheels of government grinding.

To date Millburn has gotten off lightly by comparison with most nearby communities and for this it can thank its Town Fathers.

(Seems Like Only Yesterday continued)

HOMES FOR SALE

Millburn - 99 Linden street corner Sagamore Road - 8 rooms and bath - hot air heat - 2 car garage - plot 100x150 - \$9,000.

Short Hills - 58 Old Short Hills Road - 6 rooms and bath and 3 rooms and bath apartment - steam heat. Oil burner - 1 car garage - plot 87x170 - \$8,000.

Short Hills - Morris Avenue and Wayside - 7 rooms and 2 baths - sleeping porch - steam heat - 2 car garage - plot 203x100 - \$12,000.

1859  Celebrating our

81ST ANNIVERSARY  1940

Italian Cook Salad Oil	Gal.	69c
Campbell's Tomato Juice	3 14 oz. Cans	17c
Tomato Juice	3 24 oz. Cans	20c
Bartlett Pears	A&P Brand No. 2 1/2 Can	17c
Wet Shrimp	SULTANA Brand-Fancy 5 1/2 oz. Can	10c
Salad Dressing	ANN PAGE Our Best Seller Jar	25c
Lobster	Fancy Med Can	25c
Red Salmon	SUNNYBROOK Fresh from Alaska 1 lb. Can	23c
Mayonnaise	ENIGRE Creamy, Smooth Jar	19c
Swans Down Cake Flour	2 1/2 lb. Pkg	19c
Cake Flour	SUNNYFIELD Results Guaranteed 2 1/2 lb. Pkg	27c
Nectar Tea Balls	Orange-Pekoe of 30	13c
Evaporated Milk	WHITE HOUSE 4 Tall Cans	25c



DATED for Freshness
MARVEL BREAD
Thin-Baked
Eat today's bread today! Every loaf dated! And each loaf Thin-Baked! From crust to crust—each slice firm, yet tender! A real "bread" bread.
2 Large 16-oz. Loaves 15c
TODAY'S BREAD TODAY
ONLY PURE VEGETABLE SHORTENING USED

Green Giant Peas	2 17 oz. Cans	23c
Del Maiz Corn Niblets	12 oz. Can	9c
Tomatoes	New 1940 Pack Standard Quality Full Size No. 2 Can	5c
Campbell's Tomato Soup	3 Cans	20c
Tomato Soup	ANN PAGE Delicious Flavor 3 Cans	16c

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES - The Nominating Committee, composed of Margaret Coffey, Ted Brewer and Bernadette Wagner, presented a slate of officers for nomination at the annual meeting on May 17th. The elected slate of officers and trustees for 1989-90 follows:

OFFICERS

President Virginia Borzner
 1st Vice President Ted Brewer
 2nd Vice President Janet McDonnell
 Recording Secretary Mary McIntyre
 Corresponding Secretary Joan Holmes
 Treasurer Mary Doyle

TRUSTEES

Aline Coles Bailey	1990	Edel Livermore	1991
George Goffe	1990	Bernadette Wagner	1991
Robert M. Pyle, Jr.	1990	Peggy Denise	1992
Lynne Ranieri	1990	Millicent Denton	1992
Ted Brewer	1991	Patricia Maguire	1992
Roldah Cameron	1991	David Siegfried	1992

W. Dwen Lampe Past President, Ex-officio

ADVISORY (appointed) Howard Brahm

LAST YEAR'S OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES - Our appreciation and thanks go to last year's board members, Peggy Denise, Jenks Schachter, Pat Anderson and Evelyn Hurlbut, some of whom will continue to offer their guidance and help, although in different board positions.

Can You Help Us?

To help the Society serve the interests of its membership and to involve them in its activities as well, won't you please complete the following questionnaire and return it to: M-SH Historical Society, P.O. Box 243, Short Hills, NJ 07078

Volunteers are urgently needed to aid in the following activities of the Society:

- Membership - help with maintaining records and printing the handbook
- Archives - assisting in indexing archival materials
- Item Indexing - reading and indexing back issues of The Item
- Oral History - interviewing long-time or famous residents
- Slide Shows - presenting the four Society slide shows to schools and organ.
- Program - assisting in presenting quarterly programs for members and the public
- The Thistle - helping with writing, editing, typing, printing, or mailing

OR

Do you have a collection of historical items? Would you be willing to speak about your collection at a Society meeting?

 I would like to participate in the following activities:

_____ Membership _____ Archives _____ Item Indexing
 _____ Oral History _____ Slide Shows _____ Program _____ Thistle

I have a collection of _____
 which I'd be willing to display and/or speak about.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____



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Short Hills
NJ 07078
