

# THISTLE



Millburn~  
Short Hills  
Historical Society

---

Vol. I, No. 1

July 4, 1976

---

We could have been Millville, but a thistle entered the picture.

Samuel Campbell, a Scot, founded the first paper mill-on-the-burn, in this area, "burn" being the Scots' term for stream. He called his mill the "Thistle Mill" after the national emblem of his native land. In 1790, Mr. Campbell began printing some of the first U.S. Treasury notes and used the thistle as his watermark, thus our first contact with national finance.

When Union County was carved out of Essex County in 1857, improving the balance between urban and agrarian populations, our section was designated a separate township. What is now our town had been referred to by many names--Rum Brook (from smelly residue of applejack makings), Vauxhall, Squaw Hill, Riverhead, etc.--but "Millville" was best known and most often used. When application was made for a Millville Post Office, it was turned down, as there was already a New Jersey town of that name. Two of the leading citizens in the town, Israel Condit and Koming Eagleston, then owned the Campbell property, and remembering the "Thistle Mill", proposed "Millburn" as the name for the new town.

Just as the thistle has been a symbol in Millburn's history, we have adopted it as the symbol for the Historical Society. We hope that our newsletter, The Thistle, will be a valuable if not negotiable paper.

The Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society was formed to chronicle and assess our town's origins and development--before and after 1857. The future of the Society depends on the enthusiasm and cooperation of all Millburn Township residents. If you have not already done so, won't you please join us. If interested, contact Alicia Roman, 376-4545 or 376-1160.

MILLBURN-SHORT HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors  
1976-1977

President

Mrs. James N. Land

Vice President

Mrs. Carl Klemme

Recording Secretary

Mrs. Holmes Bailey

Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Paul Roman

Treasurer

Mr. W. Owen Lampe

Directors

Mr. Malcolm Warnock  
(3 years)

Mrs. S. Gilmer Towell  
(3 years)

Mr. Richard Chapman  
(2 years)

Mr. Harvey Kahn  
(2 years)

Mrs. Dickinson Debevoise  
(1 year)

Mrs. William Lawlor  
(1 year)



Nonprofit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 21  
Short Hills,  
N.J. 07078