

THISTLE



Millburn~
Short Hills
Historical Society

Vol. III, No. 1

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FROM THE PRESIDENT - As the new President, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all new members, and, on behalf of the Board of Directors, thank everyone who has renewed his membership. As you will read in the report from Jane Riedel, Membership Chairman, we have grown!

Committee chairmen or officers of the Society would be pleased to hear from you if you have suggestions or want to work on a specific project. Officers working with committees are: President, Adult Program and Public Relations; Vice-President, Bernice Bertrand, Public Policy; Recording Secretary, Liz Howe, Local History and Preservation; Corresponding Secretary, Juli Towell, Historic Structures Survey and Youth Program; Treasurer, Ashby Longwell, Membership and Fund Raising.

I look forward to a year of fine accomplishments by our large, dedicated membership.

Elizabeth Christopherson
President

AUTUMN MEETING October 25, 1978 - 8 pm

The autumn meeting of the Society will be held Wednesday, October 25, at 8 pm at the Millburn Public Library. Mrs. Harold Reintjes will give an illustrated talk on "The History of Short Hills", including a history of the Racquets Club and Christ Church. Members and their friends will also be interested in the slides and histories of specific homes in our town. Mrs. Reintjes' lecture is based on research she has done during her years as a township resident.

Pictures taken by Kay Gaisford at the members' annual "wine and cheese" party will be on display.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER (Cont.)

literally no limits on what an historical society can undertake, the Board needs your help in re-ordering priorities and suggesting other activities. The Architectural Survey will continue to be the largest commitment for the next year. There are, however, archives to be catalogued and made more accessible to the public; programs for young people to be developed; a bicentennial celebration of the Battle of Springfield to be organized; many oral histories to be tape-recorded; a publications program to be expanded. In short, a millenium of good works mandates community-wide participation.

The most eloquent testimonial to the Society's progress is the quality of the slate of officers that will be presented at the annual meeting. I urge you to support them with the enthusiasm and interest that you have given to the incumbents, and I thank you all for your kind co-operation and good will.

Frances Land

SOCIETY INCORPORATION - On April 12, 1978, the Board of Directors adopted resolutions making the Society a corporation under the laws of the State of New Jersey. This was done primarily to limit membership liability. Nonsubstantial changes have been made in the Constitution and Bylaws to conform with State nomenclature. The Advisory Board is no longer limited to five persons: the president may appoint as many as he (she) find appropriate.

MEETINGS ATTENDED - Members of the Society have attended many meetings throughout the year, viz.: National Trust, New Jersey League of Historical Societies, Essex County Cultural Commission, etc. Eileen McHugh attended the meeting on March 15 sponsored by the Essex-West Hudson Board Member Institute and reported: "Dr. Bloustein, President of Rutgers University defined "volunteerism birthright of democracy, a guarantee against the growth of a total central government. Volunteers reflect the views of the public."

PARTY TIME - The Millburn-Short Hills Society Members' Annual Gathering will be held Sunday, June 4, 1978, from 4 to 7 pm, on the lawns of Mr. and Mrs. James Land, 4 Hardwell Rd., and Mayor and Mrs. Alexander B. Lyon Jr., 20 Hardwell Rd., Short Hills. Music from an Americana folk record collection, some rare, will be featured. Wine, beer, and soft drinks will be served. Admission--\$2.50 per person.

RSVP - Mrs. James Adams, 376-7831.

Rain date, June 11.

REMINDER - Membership renewals are now due. You should have received an envelope in the mail recently. If by any chance you did not receive one, please contact Jane Riedel, Membership Chairman, at 467-3257.

HELP WANTED - On May 4, Elric J. Endersby, director and editor of the Princeton Recollector (Part of the Princeton History Project), gave a fascinating workshop about Oral History. The Society has a tape of this meeting which is available for anyone who wants to interview long-time residents. Transcribing oral-history tapes is, as Mr. Endersby says, "the rub." The Society needs volunteers to type the taped interviews-- a job that can be done at home. Please telephone Frances Land (379-3376) if you are interested in interviewing or transcribing.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY - Time is marching on for the historic structures survey--concentration is shifting to the Wyoming area of Millburn.

Much work still remains to be completed on the Short Hills area, in particular the Hartshorn houses--so-called because they were designed as part of Stewart Hartshorn's "ideal village."

The Wyoming Land and Development Company originally built what are loosely termed (wrongly, I think) "original Wyoming houses." These are distinguished by a square tower on the front or side of the house and are distinctive in the area today.

As you drive along Glen Ave. and approach the junction of Glen Avenue and Sagamore Rd., look straight ahead. Through the foliage and tasteful restoration is one of the remaining Wyoming houses. This house also sports an interesting contemporary sculpture.

Another of this group of houses is dark brown with light green trim and can be found on Chestnut St.

The original Wyoming School is a charming residence on Cypress St.

Riding or (better for your health!) walking on Sagamore Rd. provides an interesting and varied architectural experience, with Victorian and contemporary houses existing comfortably side by side.

Treat yourself to a walk in one of Millburn's most varied and interesting areas at this most beautiful time of the year.

Bernice Bertrand

ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR - The architectural walking tour this fall will be held at 2 pm, Sunday, October 22nd (with the 29th as a rain date). The tour will start in front of the Wyoming Presbyterian Church, located on Wyoming Ave. between Linden and Cedar Streets, and it is planned to cover an area of three blocks bound by Wyoming, Cedar, Sagamore and Glen. The walk is about one mile and the tour should last about two hours.

It should be of unusual interest due to the additional information recently obtained through the Historic Structures Survey. From the street about 35 houses will be described by Sandy Brown of Summit, leader of last year's successful tour in Short Hills. Mrs. Brown is a well known writer and lecturer on architectural heritage.

The public is invited and there is no charge.

MARIAN K. MEISNER CITATION - Marian K. Meisner was cited by both the Township and the Society at the May annual meeting for her extensive research and writing on local history. Her book, entitled Millburn, was published in 1957 in celebration of the town's centennial, and it, together with bibliographic notes, is available at the Library.

Dan Hussey, on behalf of the Society, said that "Mrs. Meisner's history owes its greatness to the charm of its style and to the collection of delightful stories through which her historical recital digresses and progresses." Mayor Alexander B. Lyon, Jr., presented Mrs. Meisner with a framed citation and expressed the town's appreciation for her interest in our history, which has "increased the pride our citizens have in the township of Millburn."

The Society will donate a special collection of books to the Library in recognition of Mrs. Meisner's contributions to Millburn history. Titles in the collection will be published in the next edition of the Thistle.

LIBRARY EXHIBITS - Gloria Patrizio, coordinator of the Society's library exhibits is pleased to announce that Mr. and Mrs. James Coles will display their pocket watch stand collection in the library showcase for the month of November.

Society members who wish to share their hobbies or collections by having them displayed in the library can call Gloria at 376-8711 or 376-9497.

MEMBERSHIP REACHES 554! - The Membership Committee would like to bid welcome to all of our new members and to say how much we appreciate all of our early members who have renewed their membership. We begin this year with a total of 554 individual members.

A new membership directory has been prepared by Bernice Bertrand and Emily Bower, with Sally Lepow volunteering to do the typing. Our thanks to them for a job well done. The new directory will be mailed in October.

If you have any questions about membership, please don't hesitate to call Jane Riedel, 467-3257.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORY PRIZE - The Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society offers two prizes in history at Millburn High School. One is for the best project by a student in the history of Millburn Township, and the other is for general excellence in the study of history.

This year the prize for general excellence was split between Alkey Glimis and William Fisher, two graduating Seniors. Presented by Mrs. Juli Towell, liaison between the High School and the Historical Society, the prize consisted of books, the American Heritage Dictionary and the Elements of Style by William Strunk and E. B. White.

We would like to thank Mr. Dana L. Stivers, Chairman, and the rest of the teachers in the Social Studies Department at Millburn High School for their cooperation, help and encouragement this year. They have welcomed us into their classrooms and made every effort to further our good relationship. We would also like to thank Mrs. Sandy Fittin for her initial work in talking with the High School and the Social Studies Department.

CONTRATULATIONS to Fran Land, our founding president, on her appointment to the Millburn Township Planning Board! Judging from the enthusiasm and knowledge that she brought to her job with the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society, we think Fran will make a fine contribution to the Planning Board.

SURVEY REPORT - Climbing laboriously up its mountain of accumulated information, the Historic Structures Survey Committee is struggling to shape its data into a meaningful whole.

Our project continues to make a history of its own. New Jersey recently gave us a time extension on our grant to February 1, 1979. As with many projects of this magnitude, everything seems to take longer and cost more than we originally estimated.

We have explained in previous issues of the Thistle that the survey is unique in its use of volunteers, both as managers and workers, and the computerization of data collected.

Status - always fluid! We are still surveying sites of historic architectural interest, but most of the ground has been covered. The committee will soon begin to review the data with knowledgeable town residents--people familiar with the neighborhoods in question--to check on facts or sites.

We will then begin to analyze the data and begin to define historic district lines to decide which areas are to be included in the submission for nomination to the State and National Register of Historic Places.

Fran Land has made an early start on writing the report on the town that will accompany the mountain of information mentioned at the top of this article. With Fran, there is always a good reason for what she does--and this is no exception. She is looking for gaps in the collected information.

That there will be gaps we have no doubt. We will be needing volunteers to undertake specific short term assignments to fill in these holes in our knowledge about Millburn. If you would like to help, please call project coordinator, Ann Klemme at 376-3970.

Bernice Bertrand

ORAL HISTORY - Over the summer, Oral History has begun to put its records in good order so that these precious remembrances of times and people past will be adequately preserved, and is ready to commence a new season of interviews. Volunteers are needed in the following categories:

A) One or two verbatim transcribers; typists who will be able to transcribe word for word from the taped interviews for those tapes the Society deems important enough to preserve in print in this manner.

B) Two or three summary transcribers; typists able to transcribe from a tape the flavor and important or interesting facts and description of taped interviews the Society feels would be best preserved in this manner.

C) Dispatcher; an appointment director who will make assignments and be responsible for seeing that they are completed.

D) Interviewers; requirements are a tape recorder, interest in the people and development of Millburn-Short Hills, time to give, and a willingness to come on October 19, at 9:30 am at Gero Park to take part in a workshop to share talents and experiences and sharpen interview skills. All former interviewers are encouraged (begged) to come, and all interested new volunteers are assured of a hearty welcome. Bring your recorder, microphone and blank tape. This will be a working session. If you intend to come, or wish more information about any of the tasks described or the working session, please call Eileen McHugh, 376-3792.

SLIDE SHOWS - Would you enjoy giving the Historical Society's slide shows 6 to 8 times a year? We are looking for people who would like to volunteer their time in this area.

The shows are Millburn through the Millennia, geared to adult and high school groups, and Roads to History, which is for elementary school children. Prepared scripts and coordinated slides make it easy to give either show, both of which last 30 to 40 minutes.

SLIDE SHOWS (Cont.)

Volunteers already involved with Roads to History are Bernice Bertrand, Aline Coles and Lillian Lyon. Blair Lawlor, Eileen McHugh and Lennard Fisk will be working with Millburn through the Millennia.

For further information about working with the shows, call Juli Towell, 467-0976.

We hope you will help us spread the word that the shows are available for schools and organizations in town. To schedule the shows call:

<u>Roads to History</u>	Lillian Lyon	379-4592
<u>Millburn through the Millennia</u>	Lennard Fisk	376-0988

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - The New Jersey Historical Society is an exciting place these days. It has a new director, Dr. Clifford Lord, a new commitment to bring the history of New Jersey to the residents of the State, and a new research program into the history of industry and the contributions of ethnic groups.

The collections of the Historical Society provide a superb basis for new ventures. The library's manuscript holdings include an original copy of the charter granted by Charles II to Lord Berkeley and Sir James Carteret. The newspaper collection ranges from before the Revolution up through the 1930's. Pictures, silver and china as well as household utensils all help researchers to learn a great deal about the people who lived in New Jersey. These collections are used to form exhibits which illustrate various aspects of our history. The building is open from 10:00 am to 4:15 pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

NJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Cont.)

The Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society has taken full advantage of this wealth of material many times in the last few years. From help with our slide shows two years ago to research facilities for the historic sites survey, the librarians and curators at the New Jersey Historical Society have been understanding and cooperative.

Right now the New Jersey Historical Society is starting a membership drive. We would like to invite you all to join the Society. Some of the benefits of membership are invitations to seminars and workshops, and subscriptions to the Society's publications.

If you are interested, contact the N. J. Historical Society at 230 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING and before we cook our proverbial goose, let us think about that friend who lives in Millburn-Short Hills, who used to live here, or knows the township well. What more appropriate a gift than a "Little History of Short Hills" (75¢), so convenient to mail, or a Millburn commemorative trivet (\$3.50), as a useful yet decorative souvenir. To order these or maps of the township dated 1859, 1881, or 1890, contact Judy Adams, 47 Highland Ave., 376-7831 or send her the order form with check or money order made out to the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society.

___ "Little Histories" @ 75¢ each.....

___ Trivets @ \$3.50 each.....

___ 1859 Maps, ___ 1881 Maps, ___ 1890 Maps @ \$2.00 each.....

Total amt. enclosed.....\$_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TRACING FAMILY HISTORY - The Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society and the Cora Hartshorn Arboretum will co-sponsor a course, to begin in January, on how to research and document your family history. Dr. Kenn Stryker-Rodda, one of the country's leading experts on genealogy, will teach the course. The first session will be devoted to a review of basic genealogical sources and methods that will orient beginners and refresh memories of experienced researchers. Succeeding topics will include the use of unusual sources and bibliographies useful to the advanced genealogist, and the opportunity for individuals to discuss research problems they have encountered.

For more information or to register, call Mrs. Frances Land, 379-3376.

To those of you who are receiving the Thistle for the first time, we would like to welcome you to the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society and say that we would be most happy to receive any suggestions you might have for future issues.

Co-editors: Aline Coles - 467-8894

Jeanne O'Donnell - 467-0368



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