

# THISTLE



Millburn -  
Short Hills  
Historical Society

Vol. IV, No. 3

April, 1980

## ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 14 - 8:00 p.m.

The annual meeting of the Society will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14 at the Millburn Public Library. After a short business meeting, Mr. Thomas Fleming will speak on "The Battle of Springfield". Mr. Fleming is the author of seven novels and many works of biography and American history, and his authoritative The Forgotten Victory received an award of merit from the American Association for State and Local History. On the eve of our local celebration of the Revolutionary War battle, we look forward to hearing Mr. Fleming whose awareness of the impact of the past on every level of life makes his writing consistently interesting and important.

FROM THE PRESIDENT - Five years ago twenty Township residents gathered to form the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society. Today we have over 500 members and a great number of accomplishments in which to take pride. It has been a privilege to work with so many dedicated and talented people. We have met year round since the Survey began in 1977, yet your enthusiasm and innovative ideas seem only to increase.

I thank each of you for your support and interest in the Society during the past two years. Our shared pride and concern for the past, present and future of our community indicates a bright future for the Society.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Christopherson, President

BATTLE OF SPRINGFIELD CELEBRATION - Observe the 200th anniversary of the battle of Springfield by participating in some or all of the events planned by the Committee representatives of the three towns of Millburn, Springfield and Union.

Saturday, June 7 - 9:30 a.m. Symposium on the Battle of Springfield at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, Union. Sponsored jointly by the Union County Cultural and Heritage Program Advisory Board and the N.J. Historical Commission, the morning symposium will be followed by luncheon and a guided tour of the area. Registration: Program \$4.00, Luncheon \$6.00. For further information, call 272-3140.

Thursday, June 19 - 7:30 p.m. Ft. Hamilton Army Band Concert at Taylor Park.

Friday, June 20 - 6:00 - 9:30 p.m. Battle Rallies in Taylor Park. Just as citizens rallied before the battle in 1780, neighborhood groups will gather round their community flags in 1980. Bring your "rations" in the form of a picnic supper and stay for music, drilling and a retreat ceremony.

Saturday, June 21 - 2:00 p.m. Battle of Springfield Parade. Co-grand marshals from the three communities will lead the march from Union through Millburn and Springfield. Look for the costumed Society participants who will ride in a 1930 touring car.

Saturday, June 21 - 8:30 p.m. Beacon Burning at Bryant Park will recall a Revolutionary War practice. Citizens were called together by shooting off a cannon or burning a fire on a mountaintop. This beacon will burn at the approximate point where the British advance was stopped by the American rebels.

Sunday, June 22 - 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. Battle Activities at Meisel Field, guided Bus Tours of Historic Millburn, and a Heritage Festival celebrating the ethnic heritage of our population will all take place on the final, fun-filled day of the anniversary observance. The Heritage Festival will be held at the Jonathan Dayton Regional High School. Watch the Item and the Independent for departure time and place of the Millburn bus tours.

Many of the anniversary events will be free and, therefore, the Battle of Springfield Committee, Inc. would appreciate contributions which may be sent to them at the Municipal Building, Springfield, N.J. 07081

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - Chairman Ann Klemme and committee members Roldah Cameron and Ashby Longwell will present the following slate of officers and trustees for election at the annual meeting on May 14. (\* Asterisk denotes officers and trustees to be voted on.) Nominations from the floor will be entertained.

OFFICERS

\*President . . . . . Elizabeth Howe  
Vice-President . . . . . Malcolm Warnock  
\*Recording Secretary . . . . . Frances Scuilli  
Corresponding Secretary . . . . . Janice Weisblatt  
Treasurer . . . . . Ashby Longwell

TRUSTEES

Richard Chapman . . . . . 1981	Juli Towell . . . . . 1982
Phyllis Gutman . . . . . 1981	*Howard Brahm . . . . . 1983
Barbara Cole Smith . . . . . 1981	*Natalie Furth . . . . . 1983
Ann Klemme . . . . . 1982	*Jane Riedel . . . . . 1983
Owen Lampe . . . . . 1982	
Elizabeth Christopherson . . . . .	Past President, Ex-officio

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MEMBERS' ANNUAL GATHERING - Invitations will be sent out in May for the members' annual gathering on June 1, so mark your calendar now. This will be a wine and cheese party held on the lawn of the White Oak Ridge Road home of Mr. Herbert Kimmerle from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Society sale items - notelets, trivets, and Little History's - will be available at this gathering.

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ATTENTION VICTORIAN HOME OWNERS - For homeowners who can't find - or can't afford to hire - a master carpenter able to reproduce Victorian ornaments and building materials, the New York Times assures us that there are many companies that sell these architectural antiques and make reproductions.

In case you missed the article in the Feb. 14 Times, this excerpt from it may be helpful - "Hundreds of companies that specialize in products and services for pre-1920 houses are listed in two invaluable source books: The Old House Journal's Annual Catalog, which costs \$8.95 and is available through its publishers, The Old House Journal Corporation,

69-A Seventh Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11211, 636-4514; and The Second Old House Catalogue, which costs \$7.95 at bookstores and is published by Universe Books, 381 Park Avenue South, N.Y.C., 689-0276.

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MEMBERSHIP - Spring is the time of year when we ask you to renew your membership, and we have enclosed with this issue of the Thistle a dues notice/envelope for your convenience. We depend on the continued support of our 533 members to assure the future of the Society. Remember that dues are tax deductible. If you have joined the Society since April 1, 1980, your dues are considered paid through the fiscal year July 1, 1980 to June 30, 1981. We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mrs. Stephen Black (Pat) 8 Taylor Road, Short Hills	467-2945
Mrs. Ronald Chattman (Arleen) 144 Hartshorn Drive, Short Hills	467-3328
Dr. and Mrs. William R. Chenitz (Deanne) 36 Tennyson Drive, Short Hills	379-9147
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dryer (Rhoda) 23 Harvey Drive, Short Hills	467-2976
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Graves (Jeanne) 80 Hemlock Road, Short Hills	467-1703
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jozsa (Dianne) 110 Farley Road, Short Hills	376-4046
Mrs. Genevieve Printon 27 Brooklawn Drive, Short Hills	379-1328
Mrs. Sheri Redeker Ruggieri 24 West Road, Short Hills	376-2225
Mrs. Carroll C. Stetson 329 Lupine Way, Short Hills	467-9086

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LIFE MEMBERS FETED - On April 27 a cocktail party honoring life members and officers of the Society and their spouses was held at a local home of historic interest. It is hoped that such a party will become an annual affair. The money from life memberships is set aside as an endowment fund.

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS - "Beginnings 1700-1800" is the name of a soon to be published booklet that details early times, people and architecture of Millburn. This booklet, the first of a series resulting from the Society's historic structures survey, will feature a 1764 map of the Township, exterior and interior photos of 18th century houses, and scenes and stories from Revolutionary War days. The second booklet in the Society series, about early Short Hills as developed by Stewart Hartshorn, is in the works.

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ILLUMINATING LECTURES - After five years of taking the show on the road, Trustees Owen Lampe and Juli Towell have turned over to Jane Riedel primary responsibility for the Society's slide shows. There are currently four shows offered - "Millburn Through the Millenia", "Roads to History", "Our Town", and "The Battle of Springfield" - and they continue to be one of the most successful means of communication between the Historical Society and the community at large. Owen and Juli have presented the slides with commentary in innumerable classrooms and at meetings of cultural, civic and fraternal organizations. A slide show may bring unexpected benefits. A member of the audience at a recent show later presented the Society with some old photographs of the town which are a welcome addition to our archives.

Now Jane is (wo)manning the slide projector before assorted groups, and she reports that on Sunday, May 18 "The Battle of Springfield" will be shown to the local alumnae club of Kappa Alpha Theta at 4:00 p.m. at the Millburn Public Library. The public is cordially invited. If you are interested in scheduling a slide show for any group, please contact Jane Riedel 467-3257.

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ALLONS ENFANTS - To commemorate the second Morristown encampment of the Continental army in 1779-80, the Morris County Bicentennial Committee and other organizations will sponsor a symposium on "The Role of the French in the American Revolution" at Fairleigh Dickinson University on May 9. Registration, including lunch - \$10.

On May 10 ceremonies will be held at the Ford Mansion, Morristown National Historical Park, to commemorate the arrival of the Marquis de Lafayette in 1780 with the news that France was sending men and supplies to aid the American cause. The public is invited.

For further information contact Morris County Heritage Commission, Court House, Morristown, 285-6198.

**Music Hall,  
SHORT HILLS.**

**One Night Only.  
FRIDAY, SEPT. 24, 1886.**

**ABBEY'S  
DOUBLE MAMMOTH**

**Uncle Tom's Cabin**

**COMPANY.**

**2 UNIFORMED BRASS BANDS 2  
WHITE and COLORED.**

**The Only Double Company in Existence.**

**A LAUGH for Every Minute. Smiles and Tears  
blended together. Two Funny Mirth-Provoking  
TOPSYS, Two Comical Ludicrous Musical  
MARKS. A Pack of Ferocious Man-Hunting  
Bloodhounds.**

**Engaged for the season. The Only Genuine South  
Carolina Jubilee Singers and Plantation Trouba-  
dours, 10 in number; the Aesthetic Trained  
Donkey, OSCAR; the smallest Shetland  
Pony in the world; Edison's Electric  
Parlor Light; Magnificent Scen-  
ery by Voegtlin; Elaborate  
Costumes by Dazien.**

**GRAND STREET PARADE.  
POPULAR PRICES OF ADMISSION.  
Reserved Seats for sale at Campbell's Drug Store**

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY - We are delighted to report that the Society has been notified by the New Jersey Office of Historic Preservation that the Short Hills and Wyoming Historic Districts have been listed on the State Register of Historic Places. The nominations have now been sent to Washington for National Register review.

As most of our readers know, the district nominations were a result of an architectural and historical survey of Millburn Township conducted by the Society between 1977 and 1979. A copy of the seven volume report of all the Survey's findings has been returned to the Millburn Public Library after being out for revisions and updating. Available from the Reference Librarian, it contains the texts of the nominations, brief descriptions of all 550 houses surveyed in the two historic districts, as well as maps and photographs.

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SUMMERTIME - and the livin' is easy, so why not use some of that welcome free time to read a good book? For your many moods of summer, here are a few suggestions in the historical vein:

Feeling local? Try The Forgotten Victory, Thomas Fleming's account of the battle of Springfield. It happened right in your own back yard!

Feeling active? Then you're ready for New Jersey's Historic Houses: A Guide to Homes Open to the Public by Sibyl Groff. Read it and get going.

Feeling scholarly? Read Land and People: A Cultural Geography of Pre-industrial New Jersey. Surprisingly good reading by Peter O. Wacker.

Feeling conspiratorial? The Benedict Arnold story is told compellingly in Carl Van Doren's Secret History of the American Revolution.

Feeling light? Get Liberty Tavern by Thomas Fleming. His fictional account of the American Revolution has a wealth of action and intrigue.

Feeling familial? Searching for Your Ancestors by Gilbert H. Doane is a classic introduction to genealogical research. Sure to inspire you to begin tracing your roots.

Feeling like a kid? Then suggest one of yours read Dickon Among the Lenapes by M.R. Harrington. Kids from 9-15 should like this tale of a lost English boy adopted by N.J. Indians.

The Millburn Public Library has all these books except Groff and Wacker which may be borrowed from the Society.

An 1886 broadside advertising a gala at the Music Hall,  
Courtesy of the Millburn Centennial Committee

## CALENDAR

- May 14 - Historical Society Annual Meeting. Speaker: Mr. Thomas Fleming on "The Battle of Springfield"
- May 18 - "The Battle of Springfield" slide show at Millburn Library
- May 29 - Millburn High School Awards Ceremony at which Society's history prize will be given
- June 1 - Annual Members' Gathering. Wine and cheese party
- June 7 - Battle of Springfield Symposium in Union
- June 19 - Ft. Hamilton Army Band Concert at Taylor Park
- June 20 - Battle Rallies and Picnic at Taylor Park
- June 21 - Battle of Springfield Parade through Union, Millburn and Springfield  
Beacon Burning at Bryant Park
- June 22 - Battle Activities at Meisel Field, Springfield  
Guided Bus Tours of Historic Millburn  
Heritage Festival at Jonathan Dayton Regional High School

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Editor: Roldah Cameron 376-6518



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