

# THISTLE



Millburn-  
Short Hills  
Historical Society

Vol. VI, No. 2

February, 1982

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, February 22, 1982 8:00 p.m.  
Millburn Public Library

The Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society will join with The Short Hills Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to hear Mrs. Harriet Stryker-Rodda of Maplewood speak on "Preserving Your Family Records."

One-half of a nationally known genealogist team, Mrs. Stryker-Rodda has written, lectured and taught extensively on genealogical research and local history sources. She is currently president of the Genealogy Club of the New Jersey Historical Society, and for eight years she has been editor of the newsletter of the New Jersey League of Historical Societies. Her topic on the 22nd has relevance for all of us.

Mrs. Stryker-Rodda and her husband, Kenn, gave us the benefit of their experience with historical societies by providing helpful advice at the time of our formation as a Society in 1975.

Socialize with fellow history lovers from the DAR over refreshments following the meeting. Society Trustee June Albaugh is Regent of The Short Hills Chapter of the DAR.

NEW MEMBERS - A hearty welcome to the following new members of the Historical Society:

Mrs. Charlotte Adler 21 Haran Circle, Millburn	467-9588
Mr. and Mrs. Emil Del Prete (Jean) 303 White Oak Ridge Road, S.H.	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Denise (Margaret) 1 Woodfield Drive, S.H.	376-1459
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Dunn (Anne) 151 Hobart Avenue, S.H.	467-5670
Arna Goldstein 165 Sagamore Road, Millburn	763-1109
Suanne Gross 42 Colonial Way, S.H.	379-5072
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hochberg (Faith) 36 Highland Avenue, S.H.	467-4308
* Mrs. Frank T. Kennedy (Corinne) 41 Woodfield Drive, S.H.	379-2999
Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Negrea (Sanda) 141 Forest Drive, S.H.	467-4614
Laurene Percario 17 Exeter Road, S.H.	376-8773
Peter H. Prowse 27 Farley Road, S.H.	
Dr. and Mrs. George Staehle (Alma) 83 Old Hollow Road, S.H.	376-2516
Mr. and Mrs. George B. Underwood (Claire) 86 Woodfield Drive, S. H.	379-3160
Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Wachs (Glorya) 459 Long Hill Drive, S.H.	467-0717
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weiler (Mary Jo) 30 Nottingham Road, S.H.	376-7174
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weiss (Amy) 55 Highland Avenue, S.H.	379-5335

NEW MEMBERS (con't.)

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Williams (Anne) 376-6946  
\* Life Member

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DUTCH FARMHOUSE TRIP - The Society will lead a caravan of interested members on a trip to the Hamilton Van Wagoner Dutch Farmhouse in Clifton, N.J. on Tuesday, March 16. We will meet at Christ Church parking lot on Highland Avenue at 9:15 a.m. From there we will travel by car to Clifton.

The curator of the Hamilton Van Wagoner Dutch Farmhouse will give us a private tour of the six room restoration, after which we will see a demonstration of open hearth cooking and a slide show. The entire program will take approximately an hour and one-half and will be free. The tour group will be limited to 20 persons.

Lunch at a nearby restaurant is optional. If you would like to join us, please call Shirley Sarpi, Society Program Chairman, at 379-6657 to reserve your place.

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250 CANDLES FOR GEORGE - Public commemoration of the 250th anniversary of George Washington's birth is to be on February 15, the official state holiday. Various historical and hereditary organizations have cooperated to organize the program commemorating our first president. Activities planned for the day include an ecumenical worship service at St. Peter's Church, Freehold where wounded soldiers were taken after the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. New Jerseyans have a special interest in George Washington because of his frequent visits to our state during the course of the American Revolution.

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FRAUNCES TAVERN - The Short Hills Chapter of the DAR invites you to join them on a bus trip to historic Fraunces Tavern in New York on Tuesday, April 20. The group will tour the Tavern, its museum and nearby St. Paul's Chapel. Luncheon will be at the Tavern. Limited space available. For details, call Marie Snoddy at 277-1310.

ORAL HISTORY - The Oral History Committee, chaired by Eileen McHugh, gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a transcript of a taped interview made for Congregation B'nai Israel on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Congregation. The transcript, made by Mrs. Ida (Max N.) Schachter, features Dr. Irving Alper as interviewer and includes David and Lillian Fern, Samuel Turner and Louis Silbersher. The Society thanks Mrs. Schachter for preserving this historical treasure which recalls the establishment of the synagogue in Millburn.

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HOW NOW HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY? - A year has passed since the results of the historic and architectural survey of the Township were presented to the community in two public meetings. The material, now compiled and available at the Millburn Public Library, consists of an eight-volume survey and the nominations of two historic districts to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The nominations have been approved by the N. J. Office of Historic Preservation and the State Review Board and presently await initialing by Preservation Commissioner Betty Wilson. This step will officially place the Short Hills Park and Wyoming Historic Districts on the N.J. Register of Historic Places.

The N.J. Office of Historic Preservation is responsible for sending the nominations of the two districts on to Washington where they will be reviewed for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We hope to be able to report to you by next fall on the outcome of these deliberations.

Ann Klemme, Project Coordinator

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PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE - Guided by map specialist Fran Sculli and writer Fran Land, the committee is progressing in its work on a pamphlet dealing with the early history of Millburn. Details of early homes, early settlers, and the town's part in the Battle of Springfield, will be among the topics covered. Subsequent booklets on Short Hills Park and the Wyoming section are also planned.

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N.J. HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP - For those of you who want to join the New Jersey Historical Society, the address is 230 Broadway, Newark, N. J. 07104. Memberships range from Individual (\$20) or family (\$35) to benefactor (\$500).

COMING CLOSER - 200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE BATTLE OF SPRINGFIELD - The Township Committee for the Battle of Springfield has spurred interest in the coming special event by encouraging each organization in the Township to have a colonial theme for one of their regular winter or spring meetings. The Couples Club of the Community Congregational Church did just that in January when they saw a film on the American Revolution and hosted a performance of the Morris County Junior Fife and Drum Corps.

A variety of celebrations of our colonial heritage are in store for members of clubs and civic organizations in the months leading up to the special public events planned by the Battle Committees themselves. The first of these are guided bus tours of historic Millburn on Sunday, June 8 followed on Thursday, June 19 by an evening band concert in Taylor Park. Saturday, June 21 is the date of the big Battle parade through Springfield, Millburn and Union, and on Sunday, June 22 battle activities will be held at Meisel Field in Springfield. If the 1976 Bicentennial events thrilled you, plan to join in the Battle of Springfield bicentennial celebration. Details will appear in future issues of the Thistle and in the Item.

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HISTORY PRIZES - Each year the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society offers two prizes in history at Millburn Senior High School. One is awarded to a history student considered outstanding by the school's history department, and the other is for the best research project on local history submitted to the Society by a student.

Judy Bailey and the Youth Program Committee compiled a list of possible projects ranging from "in-depth" research papers on a variety of topics to geodetic survey maps, dioramas, models of historic houses, oral history taping and photographic essays. Mr. Dana Stivers, chairman, and the entire history department at the high school, have given this program their enthusiastic support.

Last year the prize for general excellence in history went to senior James Brochin, and Brian Robbins, a sophomore, was awarded our first prize for his research on the Battle of Springfield. The Society again looks forward to receiving projects from senior high students and to conferring the prizes at the high school's awards ceremony in May.

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FLASH!! - Watch for March 13 National Trust film, "Main Street." See Item for details.

FOOTNOTES TO HISTORY - There is history even in the most current events. In his inaugural address on January 19, Governor Thomas Kean quoted his ancestor, William Livingston, the first governor of New Jersey. Kean cited a prayer offered by Livingston 200 years ago:

"Our Father, smile on the Governor; may he walk in uprightness and his ways please the Lord. Teach our legislators wisdom . . . so that justice may run as a mighty stream and righteousness as a river, and peace be within our borders and in our dwellings. Amen"

Kean's new home as 48th governor of our state was never occupied by his ancestor, however. Drumthwacket, built in 1833 by Charles Olden who was elected governor in 1859, was only acquired by the State in 1967. This elegant Greek revival mansion in Princeton will replace Morven as the official governor's residence because it will provide more spacious facilities for public use. The name Drumthwacket, which is a Celtic term meaning "wooded hill", was given to the house by its second owner who built additional wings on it. The New Jersey Historical Society is in charge of restoring both Drumthwacket and Morven. When work is completed on the former, Governor Kean and his family will move in and will allow the public to visit one day a week. Morven has been leased by the New Jersey Historical Society for use as a conference center and house museum.

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KUDOS - Since our last issue of the Thistle, the Society has received recognition for two of its publications from the New Jersey League of Historical Societies. Frances Sculli, editor of "Beginnings: 1700-1800", accepted a 1981 first place certificate of merit at the League's annual meeting on November 7. "Beginnings" traced the history of Millburn Township from Indian times through the Revolutionary War and included pictures of 18th century buildings still extant in the Township. The text was written by Frances Land.

A second place certificate of commendation was also presented to the Society for its newsletter, the Thistle. The issues submitted to the League for judging contained a two-part feature article written by Frances Land about Will Bradley, the famous illustrator and graphics designer who lived in Short Hills for many years. The newsletter was commended for providing informative articles and organizational materials.

SAVE APRIL 18 - By popular demand, the Society will present another architectural walk led by Sandy Brown, architectural historian. Our route on Sunday, April 18 will cover several blocks in the Wyoming section of Millburn. Society Trustee Howard Brahm is organizing this event. Time and place of meeting will be announced.

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N.J. REGISTER ADDITIONS - Two nearby sites are among those that have recently been added to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places. The Orange Free Public Library, the oldest library building in Essex County, was designed by the firm of McKim, Mead and White and is a fine example of classical revival architecture.

Another historic building added to the Register is the Caldwell Parsonage in Union Township. In 1780 the British Army burned the Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church and its parsonage, killing the Rev. James Caldwell's wife, Hannah. The present parsonage, built in 1782 on the site of the earlier structure, is a good local expression of 18th century building crafts.

The Register of Historic Places lists properties and areas worthy of preservation for historical, architectural, cultural or archeological significance. The listing gives a measure of protection from government-financed encroachments.



## CALENDAR

- Feb. 15 - 250th Anniversary of George Washington's birth
- Feb. 22 - MSHHS joint meeting with DAR. Speaker: Mrs. Harriet Stryker-Rodda on "Preserving Your Family Records" Millburn Public Library, 8:00 p.m.
- March 16 - MSHHS trip to Hamilton VanWagoner Dutch Farmhouse in Clifton. 9:15 a.m., Christ Church parking lot.
- April 18 - MSHHS walking tour of Wyoming section of Millburn led by Sandy Brown. Time to be announced.
- April 20 - Bus trip to Fraunces Tavern with DAR

Editor: Roldah Cameron      376-6518



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