

THISTLE



Millburn -
Short Hills
Historical Society

Vol. VI, No. 3

May, 1982

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 23, 1982 - 3:00 p.m.
Christ Church Parish Hall

The Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society will hold its annual meeting this year at Christ Church in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the founding of this Short Hills landmark. A two-part program will begin with a historical slide show developed for the Church centennial by Society Trustee Owen Lampe. The slides chronicle the changes in the building since its construction in the 1880's.

Following Mr. Lampe's presentation, Warren Hansen will speak on the history of the harpsichord and demonstrate the attributes of the instrument by playing a selection of French harpsichord music of the 17th and 18th century. Mr. Hansen knows the harpsichord "inside and out" as he has built one for himself. For this concert, however, he will play a double keyboard harpsichord built by William Hyman.

PORTRAIT GIFT TO SOCIETY - Saverio Gallitelli, a long-time resident of Millburn, has presented the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society with a portrait of his former employer, the late Edward S. Pettigrew. Mr. Gallitelli chose the Society as the recipient of the portrait because he knew of our interest in preserving the
(continued)

PORTRAIT GIFT (continued)

Township's past.

Mr. Pettigrew was a prominent businessman whose Hillside Avenue home was widely known for its landscaping. He was largely responsible for the fine plantings in Taylor Park, and local institutions which benefited from his philanthropic gifts included the Board of Education, Neighborhood Association, the Rotary Club, St. Stephen's Church and Cemetery, and Christ Church.

Mr. Gallitelli presented the portrait to the Society with the expectation that it be made available for display in this community and others as a means of honoring Mr. Pettigrew and his good works. The portrait, a 35" x 37" oil painting by Carlton Glidden, is currently on loan to the Millburn Public Library.

The Society Board wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Gallitelli for this significant gift. Thanks are due also to Richard Chapman for appraising the portrait.

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125 YEARS OLD - On March 20, 1857 by an act of the 81st Legislature of the State of New Jersey, a new township, Millburn, was created from a portion of Springfield Township.

According to Township Historian, Marian K. Meisner, author of Millburn 1857-1957 which was published for the Millburn centennial, a duly elected Township Committee agreed to accept funds totalling \$668.78, debts of \$74.59 and the care of 11 paupers. In April 1858 the Committee resolved to raise \$1000: \$2 for the education of each "public school scholar", \$600 for roads, and \$75 for miscellaneous expenses. A modest start for the municipality in which we now live! The Township budget for 1982-83 totals more than 37 million dollars and includes about \$4000 for each "public school scholar."

1857 was also the year when James Buchanan was inaugurated as our 15th president, William Howard Taft was born, Tom Brown's Schooldays was published, Tsar Alexander II began emancipating the Russian serfs, E.G. Otis installed the first "safety" elevator, and the trans-Atlantic cable was begun. O glorious age!

SOCIETY ELECTIONS - The Nominating Committee, composed of Elizabeth Christopherson, Frances Scuilli and Shirley Sarpi, will present a slate of officers and trustees for election at the annual meeting on May 23. At that time nominations from the floor will also be entertained. (*Asterisk indicates officers and trustees to be voted upon.)

OFFICERS

- *President Elizabeth Howe
- Vice-president Roldah Cameron
- *Recording Secretary To be announced
- Corresponding Secretary Celeste Penney
- Treasurer Nancy Heide

TRUSTEES

- Howard Brahm 1983
- Natalie Furth 1983
- *Colleen McCullough 1983
- June Albaugh 1984
- Richard McDonald 1984
- Elizabeth Christopherson Past President, Ex-officio
- Catherine Stryker 1984
- *Virginia Borzner 1985
- *George Clare 1985
- *Shirley Sarpi 1985

Sincere thanks and appreciation are due to retiring Board members Owen Lampe, Jane Riedel, Frances Scuilli and Juli Towell.

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VOLUNTEERS PRESERVE THE PAST - A group of Society volunteers led by Bernadette Wagner has begun the work of indexing back issues of The Item for the Millburn Public Library. The Library's collection of newspapers on tape begins with the 1930 issues of The Item. That is the year the paper reported the installation of the first phone at the Millburn Post Office (#123), a second annual horse show at the corner of Millburn Avenue and Lackawanna Place, and a \$90,000 fund raising campaign to build a new Wyoming Church. Volunteers are needed for this project during the summer months. Sign up and find out what Millburn was like before World War II.

Another group of members has been working on the Society's archives which consist of books, pamphlets, oral history tapes, newspaper and magazine clippings, maps, letters, photographs and even some complicated genealogical charts. If you are interested in helping with this project, call Fran Scuilli at 376-3423. The Society hopes to find a suitable location to permanently house its archives where members will have easy access to them.

DUTCH FARMHOUSE RECAP - The small group of Society members who visited the Hamilton-Van Wagoner Dutch Farmhouse in Clifton on March 16 report it was well worth the trip. A knowledgeable and enthusiastic costumed guide showed them through the house and gave a demonstration of open hearth cooking. Consider visiting this 18th century Dutch homestead on your own this summer. It is located at 971 Valley Road, Clifton, N.J. Phone: 744-5707

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LAZY DAYS - Instead of burying your head in the sand this summer, why not improve it by looking over or actually reading one or more of the following books?

Stanford White. Charles Baldwin's biography of the architect who has become a legend. If you are intrigued by White's murder at the hand of the scion of a prominent Florham Park family or are fascinated by his influence on house design amply illustrated in Millburn, try it. *

Small Town America. An engaging account of the rise and fall of small towns, weaving their stories on the larger framework of American history. An exemplary work of social history by Richard Lingeman. * #

The Gift of Christmas Past; A Return to Victorian Tradition by Sunny O'Neil. This is a handbook for those who want to know more about Victorian holiday customs or who want to get a head start on fashioning their Christmas decorations. *

Two books by Mark Girouard - The Victorian Country House and Life in the Victorian Country House - are witty, wise and beautifully illustrated. They combine architectural and social history for those who are curious about how the well-to-do lived in days gone by. * #

Grant, A Biography. William S. McFeely has written a sympathetic and accurate account of a man who was a success in war and a disaster in peace. One of this year's Pulitzer Prize winners. #

Funeral Games. Mary Renault takes the reader back to the 4th century B.C. when the heirs of Alexander the Great squabbled over his empire. #

You can go even farther back with Jean Auel in Clan of the Cave Bear. Would you believe a novel about Neanderthal man? A spirited heroine stars in an unusual story based on solid research. #

* Available from the Historical Society. (Call Fran Sculli 376-3423)

Available at the Millburn Public Library

MEMBERSHIP - Chairman Dianne Jozsa reports that the Society continues to grow. We welcome these additional members:

Mr. Richard A. Ayres 5620 3rd Avenue North St. Petersburg, Florida 33710	
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Croft (Alana) 79 Old Short Hills Road, S.H.	467-4561
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gordon (Linda) 38 Jefferson Avenue, S.H.	467-5165
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Mazzorana (Melanie) 37 Hobart Avenue, S.H.	376-5438
Vivian G. Memoly 136 Hobart Avenue, S.H.	376-1749
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Olson (Sandy) 6 Whitney Road, S.H.	376-1524
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Paccelle (Marie) 16 Fenton Drive, S.H.	376-0155
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Rabinowitz (Bethany) 88 Elm Street, Millburn	376-5249
Mary S. Ritter 26 South Beechcroft Road, S.H.	
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory W. Spurr, Jr. (Cynthia) 311 Forest Drive, S.H.	379-3728

Lest we lose YOU from our ranks, be on the lookout for your 1982-83 dues envelope which will be mailed to you soon. Your participation and comments are encouraged.

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PROGRESS ON HISTORIC DISTRICT ORDINANCE - William Slattery, Ann Klemme and Elizabeth Howe, members of an ad hoc committee studying historic district ordinances, appeared before the Planning Board in February to discuss some of the issues involved in developing an ordinance for the Township. The Planning Board was presented with a draft of a sample ordinance and it promised to consider the issues at a future meeting. The ad hoc committee was formed at the request of the Planning Board.

CALENDAR

- May 16 - Summit Historical Society architectural walking tour led by Sandy Brown. Meet at Christian Science Church, 292 Springfield Avenue, Summit at 2:00 p.m. Fee: \$2.00
Rain date May 23.
- May 23 - MSHHS Annual Meeting. "Christ Church Over 100 Years", a slide show by Owen Lampe plus lecture and harpsichord concert by Warren Hansen. Christ Church Parish Hall.
3:00 p.m.
- Thru May 25 - Summit Art Center exhibition: "Architectural Images".
Weekdays-12:00 to 4:00, weekends - 2:00 to 4:00
- June 13 - MSHHS Members' Wine and Cheese Party at home of Shirley and Paul Sarpi, 85 Stewart Road, Short Hills
- July 10-11 - Annual Old House Tour sponsored by Cape May County Art League. Call League office for details - 609-884-8628

Editor: Roldah Cameron 376-6518



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