

THISTLE



Vol. VIII, No. 2

March, 1984

ABBOTT FARM NATIONAL LANDMARK

Tuesday, April 3, 1984 8:00 p.m.
Millburn Public Library

Dr. John Hotopp of Louis Berger & Associates in East Orange is an outstanding archaeologist with a story for us of a "dig" in our own backyard. Abbott Farm National Landmark, southeast of Trenton, is the site of one of the largest archaeological excavations ever undertaken on the East Coast. Dr. Hotopp, who directs this project, will show us slides and elaborate on the methods used, materials found and interpretation of remains. Early American farmsteads at this site were preceded by prehistoric settlements; the long period of occupation distinguishes the site as a rich source of archaeological data and revelations of New Jersey's past

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COME ON ALONG - to Morven and beyond. The Society and the Short Hills chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are co-sponsoring a bus trip to Morven on Thursday, April 26. Morven was until very recently the residence of New Jersey's governors and is located on Stockton Street in Princeton. We will have a guided tour through the 18th century Georgian mansion which has furniture of the Revolutionary period. The fine gardens on the property should be in spring bloom.

Reservations for lunch at the Nassau Inn may be made through the Society or members may dine on their own in Princeton.

Following lunch our bus will take us to Washington Crossing State Park, northwest of Trenton, where we will tour the museum and browse in the quaint shops.

The bus will leave Christ Church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and return about 4:30 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$12 not including lunch. Be sure to reserve your place with Shirley Sarpi 379-6657 or send in the form before the April 16 deadline.

THE HOUSE AT 41 MAIN STREET - The Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society has long been aware that the main streets of a town are as important in establishing its character as are residential neighborhoods. The development last year of a shoppers' mall in the heart of the business district brought attention to the Township-owned property at 41 Main Street. The rear of the house overlooks the mall and its courtyard with fountain. The building currently has two shops on the main floor and residential apartments above.

When the Township Committee announced recently that it would probably put 41 Main Street up for sale, the Society decided to retain an architectural historian, Robert P. Guter of Morristown, to assess the building's architectural integrity and age and to comment on the building's value as part of the streetscape.

It was the conclusion of Mr. Guter that the house is "an unusual architectural survivor locally and contributes to an understanding of Millburn's cultural history." The basic form and many details survive despite numerous alterations. The rectangular shape of the house and gable roof, the 5-bay fenestration pattern, the narrow muntins and hand blown glass in the windows are among the features that indicate the house was constructed sometime between 1800 and 1833. The building was probably intended for residential use but could easily have served as both house and store from the beginning. A full length porch on the front and Italianate details were added in the mid-19th century, and further changes in the early 20th century brought the house to its existing appearance.

Mr. Guter stated that "exterior restoration of 41 Main Street could make it one of the most appealing buildings in the central business district, while helping to maintain the scale and appropriate sense of enclosure of the shoppers' mall behind it." Restoration could include removal of stucco shop wing and front dormer. New roof cladding, chimneys and porch could be added and the ground floor could again be given five fenestrations. Jane Riedel's drawing of the structure as it may have looked 100 years ago illustrates its Victorian charms.

Because the building is of local importance but not of architectural or historical importance, the renovation would be adapted to current needs and use. The restored structure could house a single

prestige business on the ground floor and continue to have rental apartments on the upper floors.

These suggestions were presented to the Township Committee by Elizabeth Howe, president of the Society. No attempt was made to estimate the cost of renovation or to pressure the Township Committee on the future of 41 Main Street. However, Liz Howe expressed the Society's opinion that the restoration of the house to its Victorian appearance

"would recall a period when industry and commerce flourished in Millburn. The restored structure could be one of several focal points in creating new excitement in the commercial district. We feel that its restoration would benefit the Downtown area and the entrance to the courtyard, and we hope someone will be inspired to come forward and make this a successful commercial project."



SOCIETY ARCHIVES - An earlier report in the Thistle informed our members that a room at the Millburn Public Library had been designated for Society use as a place to store and display our archival collection. Since that report, the room has been freshly painted, the filing and display cabinets put in place, and Fran Land has begun moving the material from her house to the Library. Some Society members have volunteered to assist in the accessioning - labeling, filing and arranging - of materials, but more volunteers are needed. Fran Land 376-3423 is the one to contact if you can help. Our aim is to have the archives open once a week by this spring.

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ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURES - After hearing Dr. Robert Bull of Drew University speak at our meeting last year, many of us discovered a new or re-newed interest in archaeology. Opportunities to learn more about activities in this fascinating field are available at Drew this spring.

Lectures open to the public:

- March 20 - John Seidel
"Current Research at Artillery Park, Pluckemin, NJ"
- April 17 - Dr. Marie Spiro, Associate Professor of Art at the University of Maryland
"The Role of the Mosaicist in Field Archaeology"

Lectures will be given at 8:15 pm in Room LC28 of the Learning Center. Entrance down ramp, side of Drew Library.

Courses:

- "Ancient Times in Southeast Asia"
Dr. Leedom Lefferts
Three Wednesdays - March 21 & 28, April 4 - at 8:00 pm in the Museum of Archaeology
\$2.00 registration fee, \$15.00 course fee
- "New Jersey Archaeological Digs"
Four Mondays - April 9, 16, 30 and May 7 at 8:00 pm in Room 104 of the Hall of Sciences
April 9 - Richard Hunter
April 16 - Dr. Edward Larrabee
April 30 - Dr. John Hotopp
May 7 - Dr. Robert Bull
\$2.00 registration fee, \$23.00 course fee

Call 377-3000, Ext. 305 for further information.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS - Membership Chairman Carol Webster reports that the Society continues to grow. We welcome these additional members who have joined in the past year:

- Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Blagden, Jr. (Pat)
58 Jefferson Avenue, S.H. 467-2921
- Arthur and Jacqueline Brody
42 Elmwood Place, S.H. 379-7493
- Arlene Carollo
69 Tennyson Drive, S.H. 376-5456
- Gary R. and Kerstin Codrington
45 Hilltop Road, S.H. 467-9661
- Donn and Toni Coffee
44 North Road, S.H. 476-5520
- Anne Dunne
151 Hobart Avenue, S.H. 376-7095
- Mrs. Charles B. Eddy, Jr. (Elizabeth)
238 Old Short Hills Road, S.H. 376-4076
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Failla (Ann)
86 Far Brook Drive, S.H. 376-4198
- Mr. C. Lloyd Fischbeck
27 Hobart Avenue, S.H. 376-2986
- Mr. Eugene Goss
131 Cypress Street, Millburn 763-1249
- Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Hanlon, Jr.
21 Audubon Court, S.H.
- Mr. and Mrs. James T. Howe (Juliana)
52 Cayuga Way, S.H. 467-9510
- Roberta Kopstein
5 Oswego Lane, S.H. 467-0699
- * Mr. and Mrs. Mark Lichtman (Odette)
303 Forest Drive South, S.H. 379-9363

*Life Member

NEW MEMBERS (continued)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marks
2 Sherwood Road, S.H. 376-9363

Mr. and Mrs. Philips W. Marshall (Sandra)
11 Winding Way, S.H. 376-1698

Mary A. McDonnell
397 Wyoming Avenue, Millburn 762-4607

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Noone (Mary Jane)
2 Oaklawn Road, S.H. 376-6804

Mrs. Donald Romano (Patricia)
8 Tulip Lane, S.H. 376-6364

Mark and Samantha Sandler
16 West Road, S.H. 376-9179

Mr. and Mrs. David Schowalter (Toni)
21 The Crescent, S.H. 467-8908

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tobin (Rita)
55 West Road, S.H. 379-2669

Karen A. Totams
349 Old Short Hills Road, S.H. 376-3409

Mrs. Cornelius C. Vermule (Catherine)
75 Coniston Road, S.H. 379-3818

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Vignolo (Nancy)
44 West Road, S.H. 467-8315

Dr. and Mrs. Alexander G. Vongries (Edie)
42 Woodfield Drive, S.H. 467-9099

Mr. and Mrs. Edus H. Warren, Jr. (Roberta)
100 Rotary Drive, Summit 522-1816

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MAYOR MEETS MSHHS - Millburn's Mayor Earl Cryer interviews Society president Elizabeth Howe and trustee Roldah Cameron on Cable TV3 Monday, March 19 at 8:30 pm. The program will be repeated on March 26, same channel, same time.

TOWNSHIP TATTLE - Early in 1942 a group of Millburn-Short Hills women who were members of the American Women's Voluntary Service (AWVS) began to publish a mimeographed monthly newsletter to send to Township residents who were away from home in the armed forces. Called The Township Tattle, it was a breezily written collection of news about the men themselves and about the home town they left behind.

The "Gossip Here and There" section included quotations from the servicemen's letters, "Bars, Stripes and Chevrons" recounted the latest promotions, "Small World" told of unexpected reunions of Millburn servicemen in far corners of the world, "Cupid's Corner" announced their weddings. Local sports news and messages of greeting and inspiration from local clergymen were regular features. When women began joining the WACS and WAVES, items about them appeared under the heading "In the Feminine Field".

The Township Tattle expanded its content and editorial staff as the war progressed, growing thicker and slicker but remaining cheerful and newsy to the end - August 1945. The original idea for the morale-boosting newsletter was that of Mrs. Carl Egner who helped with a similar paper in World War I. Mrs. Egner, Mrs. Walter Taylor, Mrs. G.W. Gilman and Mrs. R.F. Layton shared editorial responsibilities with help from other Township AWVS members, many of whom were wives of the servicemen for whom the newsletter was intended. The response from the men was overwhelmingly enthusiastic which kept the women hard at their task until war's end. The Society is now caretaker of a complete collection of The Township Tattle given to us by Mrs. Dominick Bufo of Willow Street who was a reporter during the entire life of the newsletter.

Reading through the issues, one is reminded of a critical time in our nation's history. Names still familiar in our community forty years later pop up from the pages e.g. Albaugh, Bufo, Bumsted, Eddy, Eisenberg, Formichella, Kane, Lichtenwalter, Marcketta, Ogden, Tansey, Wiss. By 1945 more than a thousand men and women from Millburn were in uniform and The Township Tattle reached almost all of them. Genealogists may someday search through the newsletter to learn of weddings, promotions, births and service awards, but the names of missing, wounded and dead will not be found there.

Of this wartime endeavour by Millburn's AWVS women, Mrs. Bufo writes: "We thought so much of the fellas and men. God bless them all."

CALENDAR

- March 19 & 26 - Mayor Earl Cryer interviews MSHHS officers,
Cable TV3, 8:30 pm
- March 20 & April 17 - Archaeology lectures at Drew University
- April 3 - MSHHS Membership Meeting. Speaker: Dr. John
Hotopp on the Abbott Farm National Landmark.
Millburn Public Library, 8:00 pm
- April 26 - Joint MSHHS and DAR bus trip to Morven and
Washington Crossing State Park. Leave 9:30 am,
return 4:30 pm

Membership Chairman: Carol Webster 467-0840

Editor: Roldah Cameron 273-0943



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Don't Get
Left Behind

THE MILLBURN-SHORT HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

and

THE SHORT HILLS CHAPTER DAR

are sponsoring a

Bus Trip

MORVEN - the New Jersey Historical Society's
Headquarters at Princeton

Visit the House and the
Antique Doll Collection

WASHINGTON'S CROSSING - Visit Museum,
the Quaint Town and the Shops

Lunch at Nassau Inn (optional)

GUESTS welcome!

Date: Thursday, April 26th

Time: 9:15 A.M. SHARP to 4:00 P.M.

Depart: Christ Church parking lot

Cost: \$12.00 (bus and admission)

Any questions? Mrs. Sarpi 379-6657

Reservations and checks
payable to Millburn -
Short Hills Historical
Society by April 19th

To: Mrs. Paul Sarpi
85 Stewart Road
Short Hills 07078

Name: _____ Phone _____

Guest(s) _____

Are you a member of New Jersey Historical Society? Yes _____; No _____

Do you wish a reservation for lunch at Nassau Inn? Yes _____; No _____

