
LACEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



126 South Main, PO Box 412, Forked River NJ 08731

Issue No. 57

October 2017

GENERAL MEETING

October 18th - 7 PM

Old Schoolhouse Museum

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PROGRAM

What Goes Bump in the Night



Leslie Lagani, a local medium and paranormal investigator will be giving a lecture on what goes *Bump in the Night in Lacey*. Come hear the spooky legends and lore that makes our area lush with history. Leslie will share her experiences and compelling evidence obtained during investigations conducted at local historic locations.

And not only will you get to hear and learn about the local spirits, Leslie will do a demonstration of evidential mediumship with the audience to bring the other side a little closer for healing messages.

There will also be a Q and A session where you can ask a real life ghost hunter and medium any questions you may have on ghosts and the paranormal.

From the President's Desk...

The twenty-fourth Apple Festival was held in conjunction with the town's Lacey Day event this year a new venture for the Historical Society. We didn't have our home-baked apple pies but a few of our other venues were presented.— a lot of people visited and we hope all enjoyed the day.

We extend special thanks to the Lacey Elks who sponsored us with a most generous contribution and to Lacey ShopRite for the store credit as well as use of their display window and to VanHolten's Homemade Chocolates, supplier of the Candy Apples for their contribution, to Strawberry Hill Apple Farm, to OCVT, Chef Jim and the Culinary Department in Waretown where we made the apple crisp. Not to forget all the volunteers who put so many hours into the preparations for this event, to Lacey Recreation Dept, Lacey DPW, Lacey Police Dept. and all the other employees who contributed their time - Thank You All!

The Lacey Historical Society is a 501c3 organization and the fund-raisers held by the Historical Society are used to support the upkeep of the museum, programs for the public, and the annual high school History Scholarship. Donna Moller, event chair has been working diligently on some future programs so keep your ears open for details. One is to be held at Community Hall on October 13th.....

Knocking on Heaven's Door

The Lacey Historical society will be hosting an evening with Spirit. Local Medium/Intuitive Leslie Lagani, will use

her spiritual abilities to open the veil to the other side. During this gallery style event, you will hear healing messages from loved ones and friends. Come open minded in expanding your current understanding of what happens when the physical body ceases, and the spiritual body is released into a realm of love and light. There will also be a Q and A where you can ask questions about Mediumship, the afterlife, Leslie's work or any other thoughts you may have.

Not everyone is guaranteed a connection, but Leslie's goal is to send you onward with the hope and understanding that there is life after life. This event will raise funds for the historical society, so please come and give your support.

and we are combining our efforts with the Lacey Recreation Department to offer family friendly enchanted museum tours with **Real Ghost Stories of the Area**. Costumed tour guides will be on hand to welcome the visitors. This event is planned for October 20 and October 27th. Reservations can be made by contacting the Recreation Department in October.

Eleanor f. Ditton, President

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DOCENTS

Many thanks to the docents who worked the museum open hours this past summer. Members please think about donating a couple of hours of your time next open season this is one way to contribute to the Society - be a much needed docent. Although our scheduled open hours have passed for this year, the museum is always open upon special appointments - we welcome tours and visitors to the museum. **To schedule or for information - Call 609-971-0467**

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Executive Board Meetings

1st Monday @ 7pm monthly-holidays-week later in the museum-all members welcome to attend

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July 3, 17

- Granny's Attic brought in \$536.25
- Program for July meeting-Storms NJ Shore
- Stressed need to sign-in & log vol. hours
- Discussion on AFest/Lacey Day event

Aug. 7, 17

- Options presented for the Charcoal History & basket grant - motion made by Liz McGrath to proceed with application - passed unanimously
- At July 31st meeting with Jim Wioland, Rec. Director, there was discussion of a Ghost Tour to be held and possibly could glean some funding for LHS.
- Ellen Brown offered to arrange a Christmas luncheon at Capt. Inn - motion passed
- Ongoing discussion on planning of AFest

Sept. 11, 17

- Oct. quarterly meeting program to be given by Leslie Lagani on paranormal investigations in Lacey.
- Ellen Brown announced date set for Christmas luncheon - Sun. Dec. 10th
- Charcoal Grant application filed with Ocean Co. Cultural & Heritage
- AFest plans ongoing - meeting Sept. 12 with Jim Wioland to finalize location

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WHO WAS CHARLES A. SMITH?

He was the benefactor who bequeathed \$15,000 in his will to the town of Forked River to build a community center. He also gave the churches \$5,000 each. The Community Hall has been the gathering place for all activities in Lacey for almost 100 years. Before it was built the main gathering place was the former Knights of the Golden Eagles

Lodge/ Forked River Fire Dept. building with a meeting hall on the second floor. It originally was located on the east side of Rt. 9 several lots north of Jones Rd., and moved to Station Dr.; possibly to be closer to the railroad station; It stands now as a private home.

Built in 1926-28 and the first floor added to in the mid 1970s, the Community Hall became a much used facility for many activities - assembly programs for the school, Christmas parties, weddings, club meetings, and all town activities and meetings needing space and is still in very active use today.

In 1967, then Mayor Walter Holm and the Township Committee proclaimed October 24th as Charles Arthur Smith Day.

So whenever you attend a function at the Community Hall, remember Charles A. Smith and the gift he gave to our community.

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***CASEY PARKER WILL RETIRE AS
HEAD OF LACEY'S DPW ON
SEPTEMBER 29TH. HE WILL BE
SOEELY MISSED BY ALL.
WE WISH CASEY GOOD LUCK AND
HAPPINESS IN HIS FUTURE YEARS!***

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Halloween?

When I first moved to Lanoka in 1944, it was this time of year and the kids I met up with said they were going out mischief night, the night before Halloween. I had no idea what that was but soon found out. You removed someone's fence gate and put it in another's yard or on a roof top, or wrapped toilet paper around trees, and one night an outhouse was moved to someone's front yard, however, the next day all the "mischief" had to be undone and nothing was ever damaged or destroyed. On Halloween we would go to Toms River for the parade and to view the

store windows along Main St.; the windows were painted by art students from the high school (it was also a contest) and was an impressive display of original Halloween scenes. In those days Lacey Twp. students attended Toms River High School. The parade has grown since then and has now become a large Halloween attraction.



Every year on Halloween, kids, accompanied by their parents, turn out in droves to canvass the neighborhoods for goodies. It's the trick-or-treating tradition that no kid can do without!

Where did this tradition come from?

The Ghosts Return!

Samhain (pronounced sow-in). was an ancient Celtic festival celebrated about 2,000 years ago. In fact, the history of Halloween itself is attributed to this holiday, and where trick-or-treating had its first origins. During Samhain, which was on October 31, it was thought that the ghosts of the dead returned to the world of the living, and in doing so, they could wreak havoc, ruining crops and cause trouble. So villagers dressed up in costumes, usually made of animal skins, to drive the ghosts away. They'd also often set out elaborate banquet tables — a feast served with the hope that the offering would help pacify malevolent spirits. This is where costuming came from, but the first door-to-door traditions were still many years away

Mumming in the Middle Ages

Approximately 500 years after the beginnings of Samhain, during the Middle Ages, the first traditions that resembled modern trick-

or-treating appeared. People were still dressing up in costumes for the holiday, but they dressed as ghosts, demons and other spooky creatures rather than animals. And, instead of laying out a feast to please angry spirits, these costumed people — the first trick-or-treaters, you could say — started putting on performances.

This new tradition was called *mumming*, and mummers (the costumed people putting on the performances) would go door to door, singing, dancing and enacting plays in exchange for food and drink. It is important to note that Samhain (and Halloween, later on) wasn't the only holiday that had mummers hitting the streets. As time went on, mumming became a tradition for Christmas, Easter and other holidays, too.

All Soul's Day

It was during the Middle Ages that Christianity came to England and Ireland. As it became more widespread in the region, its traditions started to blend with the Pagan traditions of the Celts, and in 1000 A.D., a new holiday was born. The Christian church created All Souls' Day, a holiday celebrated on November 2. This new holiday was meant to honor the dead, and it adopted some of the Celtic traditions of Samhain, including masquerades and bonfire celebrations.

In addition to these activities, All Souls' Day took trick-or-treating a step further. Instead of mumming, the tradition was for poor people to go door-to-door among the homes of wealthy families. Members of the wealthy families would give out soul cakes (small, sweet cakes spiced with cinnamon) and ask that the recipient pray for the souls of the family's deceased relatives. This new tradition was called *souling*, and as the years went on, it became an activity not for adults, but for children. Children who went out on All Souls' Day would go door-to-door asking for treats like money, food and drink

Trick-or-Treat?

Europeans — most likely the Scottish and Irish brought the traditions of

“guising” (disguising) and souling to North America as early as the late 19th Century. By this time, All Souls' Day had gone through a name change, becoming All-Hallows Eve, and finally, Halloween.

At first, the traditions of souling and guising in the United States were problematic. Youngsters used Halloween as an opportunity to prank people, and those pranks were often destructive, causing expensive property damage. It was right around the Great Depression that these activities became known as trick-or-treating.

While Halloween was known as a time when pranksters were rampant, it was also as a time for kids to collect treats. Kids would ask, “trick-or-treat?” when they called on homes, giving homeowners a choice. Since no one wanted to be pranked, candy and other sweet treats were handed out. Treats ranged from homemade goodies like popcorn balls and baked goods, to peppermints and lemon drops. From that time onwards, trick-or-treating spread all over the United States.

During World War II, trick-or-treating suffered a downturn due to sugar rationing — there just weren't many treats to give out. But after the War, the tradition came roaring back, and now it's impossible to imagine a Halloween without flocks of costumed kids going door-to-door looking for candy



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Members & Guests

SUNDAY DEC. 10, 2017

CAPTAIN'S INN - NOON

PAY OFF THE MENU

RESERVE BY DECEMBER 1st

CALL 609-971-0467