
Lacey Historical Society

PO Box 412, Forked River, NJ 08731



Issue No. 56

JULY 2017

GENERAL MEETING

JULY 19, 2017 - 7 PM
OLD SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM
Meeting and Program following

PROGRAM

**DOCUMENTARY - GREAT NEW
JERSEY COASTAL STORMS OF
THE 20TH CENTURY**

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETINGS

Meeting with program usually to follow

**7 pm on the third Wednesday in the Months of
January, April, July & October**

Open meetings - Visitors Welcome

MUSEUM SUMMER HOURS

JUNE 10TH TO LABOR DAY

Wednesday 1 - 3

Saturday 10 - 12 noon

From The President's Desk.....

At our April General Meeting the new slate of officers was elected for the forthcoming two year period - 2 trustees for three years. I'd like to thank those who have served for the past terms for your dedication to the Society.

The new slate is President, Eleanor Ditton, V.Pres. Eliz. McGrath, 2nd V.Pres: Rita Kakascik, Treas: Patricia Grant and Recording/Corresponding Secty: Ruth Dunscomb. The two new trustees are Ellen Brown and Eileen Tranz.

Apple Festival and alternate fund-raising programs were suggested. It was voted to not have the Festival this year due to administrative difficulties, lack of dedicated volunteers, and low net proceeds for the past couple of years

Over the past years it has been mentioned that the Apple Festival event is a big undertaking and many of our dedicated volunteers have moved, gotten burned out or gone on. The Festival has been our only money-maker for the upkeep of the museum and the high school history scholarship. The event is a big undertaking, requires much planning and requires many volunteer hours for which we are lacking at present. Due to this and the decrease in income, it was decided to put off the festival this year and look into other events to raise funds.

After hearing of the Apple Festival cancellation, Jim Wioland, Lacey Twp. recreational director attended the April executive board meeting with a proposal.

Lacey Day has been held in August - and the weather is very warm with last year's heat causing an early close down - It was thought that a later date in the year would be a better choice - and since the LHS was struggling with the AFest it was suggested that maybe a combo event could be worked out.

On May 2nd a meeting was held between Jim and the LHS committee, to discuss Lacey Day and events. Much was discussed, how could LHS make money for the running of the museum since it has been policy in past that no sales are permitted at Lacey Day. Concessions were made and suggestions presented. So as of now this is the plan for Sept. 30th 2017. LHS was asked to present three money-making venues and some others just to stay in keeping with the AFest theme. The pie baking and sales is a NO since we do not have the dedicated volunteer staff to continue this project - it was our biggest money-maker and biggest draw

however all good things must end, at least for the present.

We are hoping to enter into this new venture with success and we are open to any suggestions or comments - and of course volunteers are always welcome. Who knows what the future holds, the Apple Festival may be reborn if enough members and friends want to take on the administration of the Festival.

Eleanor F. Ditton, President

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Executive Board Meetings

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

January 2, 17

No meeting - inclement weather

February 6, 17

- Mary May, member and basket maker presented her interest in presenting a program on the charcoal industry native to NJ. and to apply for a grant for presentation of this program and to make a copy basket of the charcoal "sled" basket we have on display- one of only two in existence, and to display the replica in our museum when completed.
- Apple Festival and alternate fund-raising programs were suggested. It was voted to not have the Festival this year due to administrative difficulties, lack of dedicated volunteers, and low net proceeds for the past couple of years.

March 3, 17

- Budgets for 2017 - to vote on at April Gen'l meeting Scholarship \$1,000 - Museum operation \$4,000 and Events \$8,000
- Eleanor Ditton hosted a Cub scout tour in January and another is touring Wednesday
- New members Donna Moller and Diane Iapicco volunteered to be in charge of events and publicity - much discussion on possible events to hold

April 3, 17

- Donna Moller reported advertisement of April meeting and a Granny's Attic (flea market) to be held June 10th the Summer opening date of museum
- Jim Wioland, town recreation director attended and proposed a joint LaceyDay/AFest event on last Sat. in Sept. - committee formed to meet with Jim. Also mentioned having a "Ghost" tour in the fall.

May 1, 17

- Liz McGrath announced May 2nd meeting with Rec. Director to discuss Lacey Day/AFest event.

June 5, 17

- Discussion on opening day event - Granny's Attic - need twp. permit \$5.00
- Alternate program for July to replace talk on the State Marina - Documentary to be shown - NJ Coastal Storms

APPLE FESTIVAL REPORT - 2017

For almost 25 years this event has been our only fund-raiser for operating expenses and the History scholarship. We've run into operational difficulties and the past couple of years have not given us a substantial yield. In fact 2016 was close to a loss with the rainy day being against us also. Discussion has ensued on holding the event for a while and at the February executive board meeting it was voted to not hold a Festival this year and to look into other ways to continue the operation of the Old Schoolhouse Museum - we welcome support from all friends and members - the School House is a Gem in our Community and the source of our heritage.

DOCENT SIGN UP TIME

DOCENTS NEEDED - members or volunteers - persons to be in the museum during the summer visiting hours - Wed. 1 - 3 and Sat. 10 to noon. It is not difficult - two persons needed at a time. You can volunteer for two hours or all summer, any help is appreciated.

FOR INFORMATION

Please call Mary Jensen at 609-971-8289

AWARDS

Jonathan Miller received the Lacey Historical Society Scholarship award of \$1,000

Hunter Kerchner received the 8th Grade Salter History award

Our best wishes to both recipients

Cassandra Shank received a proclamation from the Lacey Twp. Committee for achieving Girl Scout Gold Award status and her website project for the Historical Society.

A little bit of History.....

In the mid-1960s John Stutski, a pharmacist from Toms River, built Lacey's first drug store - the building where Linda's Pizza is located next to Mrs. Walker's Ice Cream Parlor. When Stutski died, the business was bought by pharmacist Bernie Miller and remained there until Miller built a new drug store across Rt 9 where the Japan Restaurant is. Prior to Stutski's Drug Store, one had to travel to Beachwood, Toms River or Barnegat.

Township offices were located in people's homes until the 1950s/60s - then the old Cornelius house on the corner of Jones Rd. (torn down and replaced by the Worden house) was used for township offices and police . until the new Municipal Building was built in 1969 on Lacey Rd. The Worden House, now in that location was donated by the Hutler family, moved from the east side of Rt. 9, when they built a car wash on the site - now a an Asian restaurant

Township meetings were held on the second floor of the old firehouse on Station Drive until the 1950s/60s when meetings were moved to the Community Hall on Rt. 9 & Lacey Rd.

What is now the LMUA office was built by the Township as the new Forked River Post Office and tax collector's office and remained there until the present post office building was built on Lacey Road.

The town library, located in the "south" room of the old schoolhouse and opened on a part-time basis, was then moved into the building and remained there until 1991 when the new Ocean County Library was built on E. Lacey Rd.

School was held for first to eighth grades in the three "one-room" schoolhouses until 1944 when Bamber school was closed and consolidated with Forked River and Lanoka. Bamber's last schoolhouse was located where the firehouse is now, and Lanoka's on the west side of Rt. 9, across from Lanoka Farms Garden Center. Seventh and eighth grades joined the high school students and were bused to Toms River. (one bus) Years prior, Bamber high school students went to Pemberton by train and Forked River and Lanoka traveled by train to Toms River 'til the 1920s when a school bus was bought

In 1954 the Forked River Garden State Pky interchange opened and Bamber got electricity.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS - and historical facts

The first white settlers to come to the vicinity of the Forked River probably appeared about 1665 although the exact date is not known. They were here in very small numbers and from the friendly Lenape Indians. The first houses were patterned after the Indian houses; pole frames tied together and covered with strips of bark. In the early days a real log cabin was a domicile of some prestige and aspired to by all settlers.

Steel tools, mainly knives and axes gave the settlers a great advantage over the Indians in making agricultural and other implements and in boat building, so that in time a primitive commerce developed among the colonies sparsely scattered along the coast. The first innovation in transportation by land was the riding horse and here the white man's steel was put to work straightening and clearing trails to make room for horse and rider. With the coming of the horse came more effective clearing and plowing of the land and more productive farming. In 1740 John Eastwood built a saw mill on Cedar Creek and started a building boom. From then on sawn lumber was available for home and ship building and it became necessary to clear wagon roads to transport the lumber from the mill to deep water landings and home sites.

New people came into the area and in 1754 Samuel Worden started a salt works at Forked River. The salt works of that day were primitive but effective and filled a great need. Salt sea water was let into evaporation basins at high tide and held to evaporate in the sun to a rich brine. The brine was then reduced to salt in sun pans or boiled down in hugh kettles over a wood fire. This was a very profitable business and also avoided the King's tax collector (1).

Five years later John Holmes built a new saw and grist mill on Forked River. By this time there were ship yards in operation on both Forked River and Cedar Creek. Industry had been added to farming and seafaring as important occupations -- important to the community as well as to the individuals so employed. The nature and appearance of the community was changing. Newer houses were built of sawn lumber, farms were larger. A network of wagon ruts was growing from mills to deep water landings, from home to home and to other settlements. John Lacey purchased

vast acreage in what is now Bamber and built his iron works, he had Lacey Rd. built to transport his product to the Forked River docks for shipment to the cities for refinement.

Between Cedar Creek(2) and Forked River was the little settlement of Good Luck and the farm of Thomas Potter. Potter's home was always open to preachers of any denomination who were riding through. He would send word out to all the settlers when a preacher was there and all were welcome. In 1766 he built a meeting-house on his farm available to any preacher. In 1770 the brig HAND IN HAND out of England with the Reverend John Murray aboard grounded on the outer bar of Cranberry Inlet which was then an opening to the sea opposite Toms River. Going ashore with the crew for provisions, Murray happened to meet Thomas Potter. A warm friendship drew them together and Murray was persuaded to conduct a worship service in the Potter Church, the first Universalist Church service held in America. The Church, rebuilt in the mid-1880s is located in the Good Luck Cemetery.

1. **King's Tax Collector - the Colonies were under Britain's rule until the Revolutionary War** The Americans believed that they were entitled to the full democratic rights of Englishmen. The British believed that the American colonies were just colonies, to be used and exploited in whatever way best suited Great Britain. These two conflicting views made war inevitable.

The American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), also known as the **American War of Independence**, was a global war that began as conflict between Great Britain and her Thirteen Colonies which declared independence as the United States of America

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent Nation.

2. **Cedar Creek and Good Luck - now Lanoka Harbor - renamed in the 1920s**

CALLING ALL LOVERS OF LOCAL LORE

Do you have any stories, photos or memories of old times: Any recollections of times in our town from the 40s, 50s, and 60s (or before)?

Perhaps you would like to share your thoughts with the folks at a future General Meeting. If so let us know, we'd love to have you join in a program.

Our summer hours - Wed 1-3 & Sat 10-12 or call 609-971-0467 for any questions or special times to drop off any information you may have. No tale or photo is insignificant - all are part of our history and your input would be very much appreciated.

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Looking for a photo of the original Lacey Grade School building prior to any additions. built as a K-6 school (now the Forked River Grade School)

Does anyone have old copies of the Forked River Gazette containing the Historically Speaking column - we are missing many articles and would welcome your donation.

GRANNY'S ATTIC - our summer opening day event under the direction of Donna & Diane, was a great success. Thanks to all who helped and donated. We brought in over five-hundred dollars which helps greatly toward the upkeep of the museum and yearly projects.

THANK YOU!

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Forked River Pavilion- by Captains' Inn