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# LACEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

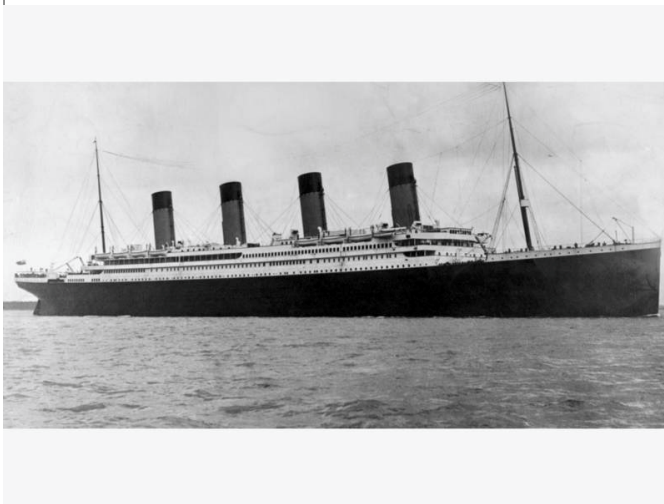
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## **GENERAL MEETING and PROGRAM**

**July 18, 2018 - 7 p.m.**



### **Old Schoolhouse Museum**

The Titanic and the Halifax Connection will be presented by Titanic historian Sandy Gray. The Titanic Disaster occurred in April of 1912. The city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, made a valiant effort to recover the bodies of Titanic victims after the devastating nautical disaster in April of 1912. Gray will discuss the retrieval process, personal stories, and other intriguing facts during the presentation. These are open presentations and all are welcome to attend.

## **From the President's Desk,**

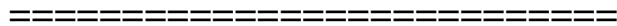
We are fifty-six years old, formed in 1962 and our mission is to preserve the history, artifacts, and lore of our local region. In that respect we have entered into the major project of doing an inventory, culling and deaccessioning items that are non-relative, and finally assessing all display items in the museum and entering them into the Past Perfect Museum software. An up-dated version we received from Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Comm. along with the new computer.

We have never completed an inventory of our artifacts. When the Society was first formed, attics were cleaned out with the thought that items pertaining to the town that were preservable, could be kept for the museum. Over the years people would drop off items they thought had some relativity to the area but the history was missing. Many items, although interesting, did not live up to our mission statement and have no relativity to the town, and we have many duplicates.

The museum itself is an "artifact" and display space is limited so we can only display so much at a time. In May in connection with a grant from OCCH some members met with Batja Bell,

a consultant who reviewed our museum and collection and made suggestions as to how to inventory, display, preserve, and maintain our artifacts for the future of Lacey Twp. Many suggestions were made and instructions as to how to inventory and catalogue our artifacts were made. It will take a lot of time to complete the process but in the end Lacey Twp. will benefit with an organized and complete Historical History.

Eleanor F. Ditton, President  
609-693-1610



**Event Committee Report**

The committee is working diligently on programs to bring in funds and to entertain the public.

**We will be holding the *Apple Festival* at Gille Park during Lacey Day again this year and hope that many come out to enjoy the event on Sept. 29th noon to 4 pm. Don't forget the pie contest with cash prizes.**

The Historical Society has been holding the *Apple Festival* - commemorating the apple - both as a symbol of school-time and the season. Most venues at our Apple Festival were apple related. It has been our only fundraiser for the upkeep of the museum for 25 years. During recent years, the event has grown, volunteers have diminished, and sufficient parking and space has become a challenge, and our return had lessened among other things. Last year the executive board decided not to hold the festival at the museum but to look into other ways for funding,

The Lacey Elks were very generous in donating \$1,000 to our cause, and Jim Wioland of the township recreation department becoming aware of our plight came to us with a proposition.

1- The town wanted a later date in the fall for Lacey Day when the weather was cooler and asked to use our reserved last Saturday in September date for Lacey Day and...

2- We were invited to hold our Apple Festival as a separate entity during Lacey Day at Gille Park and would be provided space in the Pavilion.

The Board considered this option and decided to accept the invite. Although all events could not be included it worked out well for both of us; the town had one of the biggest turnouts to Lacey Day in recent years, and the Society had many visitors. We feel we were a major draw to Lacey Day as well, since we have always had a large following.

When discussing the pros and cons of holding The *Apple Festival* at Gille Park during Lacey Day again this year it was a unanimous yes vote by the executive board.

However we want and need to keep our event name of *Apple Festival*.

Committeeman McDonald suggests a name change of Lacey Day to Lacey Fest which infringes on our event title and to which we have objected. At our executive board meeting with him in December we expressed our objections and reasons.

First, the event has been known as Lacey Day since its inception, started in the 1960s by Bill Sheppard, held at Hebrew Park, and has been

a Lacey event off and on for many years. Lacey Day is a fitting title since it is a day in Lacey when everyone, businesses, individuals, families, politicians, and clubs can participate to promote their entity. It is not a Festival per se. Lacey Fest infringes on the Society's title of the *Apple Festival* which is a separate entity altogether. We are a 501c3 organization and need to be clear on our purposes and actions to retain that status and our title.

So plan to come to the *Apple Festival* on Sept 29th during Lacey Day at Gille Park and visit all the other businesses and clubs as well for a great family day.

**Museum will open for the summer on June 23rd with an Appraisal Fair \$5.00 admission includes one appraisal, additional appraisals at \$5.00 per item**

The Society will be joining the Recreation Department again this October with the Ghost Tour. The Old Schoolhouse will be a stop with the telling of spooky and historical stories as well as other happenings. All advertisement can be picked up at the Rec. Dept. and those sponsored by the Historical Society are posted on the door of the museum and will be on our new sign.

**We are also contemplating having an evening opening, perhaps with historical stories and events for young people but all would be welcome; look for future announcements.**

### **PSYCHIC EVENT**

with Leslie Legani - October 6th, 2018 at Community Hall

**A new sign is being installed that will advertise our activities as well as indicate our**

**location - many people said they were unaware of our existence and location.**

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**THE MUSEUM IS OPEN FROM MID-JUNE TO LABOR DAY AND ALWAYS BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT**

**DOCENTS ARE NEEDED - MEMBERS PLEASE STEP UP TO VOLUNTEER A COUPLE OF HOURS TO MAN THE MUSEUM DURING OPEN HOURS - TWO DOCENTS ARE NEEDED PER SESSION**

**PLEASE CALL - 609-971-8289**

to volunteer, for information & instruction

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### **A Little Bit of History.....**

*Although fires in the New Jersey Pine Barrens are not as great a threat to residential areas as in the past due to modern firefighting equipment -forest fires are still a very dangerous happening destroying many acres every year.*

*Years ago villages were threatened with fires sweeping through sustaining loss of many homes. One such fire was reported in the June 12, 1896 issue of the New Jersey Courier.*

*Cedar Creek, (now Lanoka) was visited by a disastrous forest fire on Thursday afternoon last, burning to the ground the Oak Grove Hotel, (now Ocean Trophies) s/e corner of Bay Way and the homes of Charles F. Bunnell, Charles McCarthy (two big houses w/s Rt 9 opposite Bay Way) and George Ditton's/Applegate Hotel (just north of Lanoka fire house). In addition many acres of cranberry bogs were destroyed and much valuable timber*

*The fire is supposed to have started from the Central Railroad up freight, in the swamp just north of the Lanoka depot (at west end of Warren*

*Ave.) All conditions were ripe for a fire. The timber and underbrush was dry enough to burn like paper and a "living gale" was blowing from the west. As is usually the case on a pleasant day, there were but few men home in the village. These went to work to put out the forest fire at different points and were consequently scattered about when the roof of the old Applegate Hotel (Geo Ditton's) caught fire from flying cinders. Before anything could be done to save it this building was a mass of flames which soon communicated to the Bunnell and McCarthy houses adjacent to the north and in hardly half an hour from the first alarm all three of these dwellings were doomed.*

*Across the street to the eastward and directly to the leeward of these burning houses was M.F. Hungerferd's Oak Grove Hotel and the store of Freeholder Howard Jeffrey. The Hotel was first fired and with all its outbuildings was soon a heap of smoking smoldering ashes*

*So rapidly had all this occurred that the few men at hand had been able to accomplish nothing. Neither Jeffrey, Hungerferd, Bunnell or Ditton were at home and there had been no one to take command. Aid was telegraphed for and a special train loaded with laborers was sent down from Manchester. The men about the neighborhood and surrounding villages got the alarm and hastened to the conflagration, but they were too late to save any of the buildings directly in the fire's path except the Jeffrey store. No way was there any furniture worthy of the name gotten out of the four doomed houses.*

*Jeffrey's Store was on fire several times but with the unceasing use of a bucket brigade and some force pumps it was saved with only a bad scorching.*

*But the danger was not over on Thursday afternoon the fire had leaped the pike. Friday afternoon the village was again threatened but for seemingly providential changes in the wind at just the last minute several more houses would have gone. As it was, timber and bogs suffered*

*much. After the wind had changed to the East the fire came up on the north side of the Creek and again crossed the pike on the back track shutting off for a while travel on the main shore road. (now Rt.9)*

*Again a train load of hands were sent down from Manchester. The fire was under control Saturday morning and Sunday's drenching rain put a quietus on the remnants.*

