



Freehold Township Heritage Society

WINTER 2011

189B Wemrock Rd. Freehold, NJ 07728

ftheritage1686@yahoo.com

FREEHOLD

CELEBRATING OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY!

THINGS THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

Thank You to all for a very successful 10 years. We could not have done this without each and every one of you. The Historic Preservation Commission had a concept 10 years ago and it worked! We wanted to bring our communities historic fabric to life through our land marked structures. The brainchild of Nancy DuBois Wood, Cheryl Cook and Susan Winter to name a few has now become a reality with the Township having 3 museums that are now open to the public. The Oakley Farm Museum, located at the corner of Wemrock Rd. and Oakley Dr. has become our museum to Township Agricultural, Architectural and a history of life from 1686 to present day. The Georgia Road Schoolhouse is a museum to early education as well as the West Freehold Schoolhouse on Wemrock Rd. Both buildings will educate the public on what it was like to go to school in their respective timeframes.

We have had the help of many community organizations during our journey. The Boy Scout troops of the area

have been a wealth of help with the Eagle Scout Program. Also the local Girl Scout Council has helped us with Gold Award Scouts as well. We have reforested the Oakley Farm with a W.H.I.P. wild-life reinvestment program that has helped bring small animals and birds back to the area around the Oakley Farm after housing development was completed. The Master Gardener Program of Monmouth County has helped with getting our gardens back to the splendor they once were as well. Also community service projects by the local ROTC and National Honor Society of the High Schools have helped with projects as well.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the 3rd NJ Civil War Volunteers for coming on board with us. They have helped with all of our public programs and always are a grand addition to each of them.

Fundraising remains a monumental challenge. This year's April Gala was a huge success bringing in much

needed funds to help with restoration projects both inside and out at the Farmhouse. However, those funds are now gone and we are back at square one. We have lots of challenges ahead for 2012--approximately \$25,000.00 needs to be raised for exterior painting of the Farmhouse, repair and restoration of Yankee Gutter system on East Wing at the Farmhouse, restoration of the porch floor at West Freehold Schoolhouse, restoration of the foundation at Georgia Road Schoolhouse, just to name a few.

The Society is planning quite a few programs this year including our famous "Spring Tea" (April), Spring Festival (May), Open Houses (summer), Fall Festival and A Grand Holiday Gala (December).

We hope you will be able to stop by and see the house in all its glory sometime during the year. Once again, thank for your support.

Cheryl Cook

Make sure you stop by in 2012 and see all the changes that have happened in the last year. We have had the Oakley Museum interior repainted with period colors thanks to a generous donation from the Oakley Foundation.

Also thanks to Dorothy Petricek, Vice President of the Society we have found out lots of new historical facts about the house and how it grew from a log cabin in 1686 to what it is today. Dorothy has been working with a local ghost hunting group and also with several genealogical researchers including our own Sue Davison, a Girl Scout Gold Award participant Dana Stevens and Dorothy's own diligent research to come up with lots of new information. Starting in 2012 the house tours will reflect the new information. Come see what you missed the first time around.

We also hope to soon have the barn back from the School Board. The barn that parallels Wemrock Rd. has been used for storage for the past 10 years. They have promised us that they will clean it out so we can use it in 2012. We hope to set up a Crafter's Coop in one of the barns starting in Summer 2012--Pat Eise-mann and Cheryl Cook will be working on how this will come about--so stay tuned---keep checking the website if you wish to be included in the Coop let us know via email at

ftheritage1686@yahoo.com.

We hope to have the Coop open each weekend from May thru September.

That is all the news and info we have right now--will keep you posted via email and our website www.ftheritage.org.

2012 MEETING DATES 2012----!!!! IMPORTANT!!! OUR MEETING TIMES HAVE CHANGED

JAN THRU APRIL	MAY THRU SEPT	OCT THRU DEC
MEETINGS AT 1 PM	MEETINGS AT 7 PM	MEETINGS AT 1 PM
JAN 3 2012	MAY 2, 2012	OCT 3 2012
FEB 1 2012	JUNE 6, 2012	NOV 7 2012
MARCH 7 2012	JULY 11, 2012*	NO DEC MTG
APRIL 4 2012	AUG. 1, 2012	Meetings are held at
	SEPT 5, 2012	Oakley Farmhouse

*DENOTES DATE CHANGE FOR HOLIDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

"WELCOME SPRING" TEA
Saturday, April 14, 2012
"SPRING FESTIVAL"

WEEKEND IN OLD MONMOUTH
Sat., May 5 -10 AM to 5 PM
Sun., May 6 -Noon to 5 PM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sometimes, things come full circle. This is an example of one of those times.

Growing up in Freehold Township on an 80-acre farm, I was fortunate enough to learn about math, science, and a plethora of other facets of life just by being outdoors and experiencing nature. In those days, the complicated simplicity of seeing a single grain of field corn, a soybean or talk of whea9t was curiosity and beauty mixed into one, and part of daily life.

When I grew up and became a teacher, I tried to recreate those outdoor experiences for my students from my beginning in 1972. As time went by and students became more and more sedentary and engrossed in the digital world, this opportunity to experience nature became more and more important for me to provide.

Today, I am a Master Gardener and the Monmouth County Pomona Grange representative for the NJ Agriculture Convention as I remain embedded in the tradition of agriculture, even as our Garden State has more resembled the Asphalt State.

One of my 8th grade teachers was Mrs. Elizabeth Oakley. I knew she lived in the beautiful farmhouse on Wemrock Road, and I often drove by it. I imagined what it must be like inside.

Eventually, my parents, who had joined the Freehold Township Heritage Society, enticed me to check it out at a meeting. I did. At the very first meeting, I was amazed to see what the inside of the house actually was, and enjoyed the energy and history it represented.

As time evolved, I became more and more engaged and involved with this amazing variety of people interested in local history. Entering the leadership as Vice President, and now as President, I have really enjoyed being a part of this movement.

The intricacies of preserving history, fund-raising,, growing membership involvement, being part of festivals and other ways we communicate to the community fulfill a desire to bring the importance of our past to the present and to our future. It is so important to our community to steer our future.

Pat Eisemann, President

Wish List

- FTHS takes pride in promoting the preservation of the physical remnants of the past. Please consider donating any of the following items:
- Antique Furnishings (1750-1920s)
 - Vintage clothing and textiles(1750-1920s)
 - Period Appropriate Farm Implements
 - Period maps, books, letters, etc relating to our interpretation
 - Textile Equipment for spinning, weaving and processing wool & flax
 - Schoolhouse furnishings and books, maps, etc

MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE MAIL YOUR 2012 DUES NOW

FTHS RELIES ON DUES AND CONTRIBUTION IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH MUCH NEEDED REPAIRS AND FOR OUR GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET.

AS ALWAYS WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT—WE COULDN'T ACCOMPLISH ALL THAT WE DO WITHOUT YOU !!

WEBSITE NEWS

OUR ADDRESS IS STILL THE SAME--
www.ftheritage.org

However we now have a new look. Some of the links are still being worked on so if you click on something it might not have all of it's info. Please stay tuned and keep checking we will be working on the site for the next month to finish it. You will be able to view our latest newsletter soon and we will be working on adding things to the site throughout the year. Stay tuned!

FTHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TOWN _____
 PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____

DUES

_____ Individual	\$20.00
_____ Family	\$25.00
_____ Business	\$50.00
_____ Supporting	\$75.00
_____ Architects	\$150.00

\$_____ My donation to support the Society
 Make checks payable to: Freehold Township Heritage Society, Inc. and mail to:
 FREEHOLD TWP HERITAGE SOCIETY
 189B WEMROCK ROAD
 FREEHOLD, NEW JERSEY 07728

FTHS is a 501 (c) (3) non profit corporation and your payment is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

FARM PRINT AVAILABLE

The portrait of the farm which is now the background for most of the FTTHS web pages is a print that is available for sale at the farm. It was done by local artist Mary Caruso-Albert and the price for this beautiful print is \$125.00. Please drop us a line or call 732-577-9766 if you are interested in purchasing one of these prints.