



Freehold Township Heritage Society

Spring 2012

189B Wemrock Rd. Freehold, NJ 07728

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FREEHOLD

POTATO FARMING IN FREEHOLD

GIFT BASKETS NEEDED FOR TEA

Around the turn of the century (19th to 20th, that is) Freehold was known for its potato crop. On August 27, 1901, Edward Kemp, who had an office on Water St. in New York, sent a letter from Paris to an East Freehold resident, Benjamin Hays. Mr. Kemp had a large farm facing Rumson Road in Fair Haven and he had seen an article in the Red Bank Register mentioning that Mr. Hays, with the help of his neighbor, Charles Wyckoff, had dug an average of 100 barrels of potatoes per acre on the Hays farm.

Mr. Kemp, who was probably quite well-to-do, indicated that he had used every modern device that would enable him to obtain the best crops possible but had never come close to the amounts obtained from the Freehold farm. He wanted to know the particulars, i.e. soil type, fertilizers used, etc., so he could grow potatoes as

productively as were grown in Freehold.

He went on to mention that the French farmers, having the finest country roads in the world, gave proper care to the roads to allow for ease in getting crops to the markets. He indicated he would like to see the farmers of Monmouth County elect men who would be progressive, but not wasteful, in their desire to improve the roads.

We do not have the letter that Mr. Hays sent in answer to Mr. Kemp, but the latter had his secretary, George B. Gover (Gorer?), answer it. The reply stated that on the steamer returning him from Paris Mr. Kemp met a representative of Mapes & Co., manufacturers of fertilizers. The firm offered \$500 for the largest yield of potatoes on land of certain dimensions. The letter suggests that Mr. Hays may want to try for the

prize, but also requests him to send his formula for mixing phosphates and chemicals. Mr. Kemp's reply also suggested that Mr. Hays visit his superintendent, E.E. Carlile to compare notes. The tone of Mr. Kemp's letter suggested that perhaps he would like to win that prize!

We thank Marjory Hays for sharing this letter with us. It was written to her grandfather, one of many successful Freehold potato farmers. In talking with Marjory, she told me that when the potato crop was too plentiful, it was dumped along the railroad and dye poured over it!

Carolyn Heuser

The gift basket drawing is a highlight of the Spring Tea and donations of gift items are needed to fill those baskets! The proceeds amount to almost as much as our ticket sales so it is important we have enough baskets. FTHS would appreciate it if you could either put together some type of basket full of goodies or ask any local business you would like to give us either a product or gift certificate so we can make a basket around their donations.

A flier and tax-exempt letter is available for you to take with you to your favorite wine store, restaurant, hair salon, gift boutique, etc. Please make an effort to do this to help us out--if every member could get one basket or one or two items we know our event will be a success.

In the past services (holistic healing session, Mary Kay, Avon, Longaberger, or other consultants) that have been donated were most welcome. Be creative - a basket of handmade baby items and baby products would be ideal or try the stores Raceway Mall. Another idea is to donate lottery tickets or gift certificates/gift cards in lieu of a basket.

Whatever your ideas are, please let Cookie know what you will be doing and request the tax letter and flier by emailing her at ftheritage1686@yahoo.com.

This is a great way to participate in the activities of the Society. Our goal is at least 17 more baskets --please help!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

'HATS OFF TO SPRING TEA'
SAT APRIL 14 NOON - 3PM
TICKETS \$25.00
LIMITED SEATING
AVAILABLE
RESERVE ASAP!!
'WEEKEND IN OLD MONMOUTH'
SPRING FESTIVAL AT OAKLEY FARM
SAT. MAY 5, 2012
10AM - 4PM
SUN. MAY 6, 2012
NOON-4PM
WEST FREEHOLD & GEORGIA RD
SCHOOLHOUSES
OPEN AT SAME TIMES

2012 MEETING DATES 2012----!!!!

IMPORTANT!!!

OUR MEETING TIMES HAVE CHANGED

APRIL 4 2012	JUNE 6, 2012	OCT THRU DEC
MEETING AT 1 PM	JULY 11, 2012*	MEETINGS -1 PM
MAY THRU SEPT	AUG. 1, 2012	OCT 3 2012
MEETINGS -7 PM	SEPT , 2012	NOV 7 2012
MAY 2, 2012		NO DEC MTG

*DENOTES DATE CHANGE FOR HOLIDAY

Freehold Township Heritage Society is the First Participant in New Jersey Barn Quilt Program

GRAEME PRESTON FOUNDATION GIFT

Barn Quilts are colorful square plywood blocks mounted on barns or other buildings. The idea originated in Ohio by Donna Sue Groves who wanted to honor her mother, an avid quilter. A "Clothesline of Quilts" has since spread through counties in Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and New Jersey.

Several barn quilts have been mounted in key locations in New Jersey. We will soon have maps to pinpoint where you can find these beautiful quilt blocks. These 'scavenger hunts' can easily become day long, or season long, trips that will entertain the whole family while educating everyone about New Jersey's agricultural legacy, and promoting these locations.

Each barn will have a page listed as it is mounted and dedicated. New Jersey Barn Quilts website is <http://njbarnquilts.com/home.html>

Mission Statement

The mission of the Barn Quilt Association of New Jersey is to provide a sustainable heritage tourism attraction/ activity while preserving and celebrating the unique agriculture, history, and arts culture of our area through visual combinations of barns and quilt designs, to educate the public and showcase our Garden State.

The Freehold Township Heritage Society, in conjunction with Monmouth Pomona Grange #90 is in the final stages of completing a barn quilt they are calling Crossroads of the Revolution, in memory of our area's role as a the turning point of the Revolutionary War. The quilt will be mounted on the south end side of the barn that is parallel to Wemrock Road.

Eisenhower Middle School art teacher, Emily Ward, painted the geometrical background in red, white, and blue

complete with stitching marks. In the next few weeks, the five symbols chosen by the Grange and the Heritage Society will be added. These symbols represent Freehold's agriculture history. There will be an apple, a stalk of wheat, an old-fashioned hand plow, and a butter churn. In the center will be a star.

When it is complete, the Freehold Township Dept of Public of Works will tackle installing it on the barn. Our goal is to have it completed for "Weekend in Old Monmouth"

This project is designed to celebrate NJ's agricultural heritage, highlighting farms across the state with beautiful quilt blocks. These barn quilts will draw attention to the unique architecture and history of NJ Barns and other agriculture related buildings and promote the education of the general public about New Jersey's strong agriculture legacy.

FTHS is pleased to announce a very generous gift from the "Graeme Preston Foundation" was received on March 6, 2012. This gift will be used in part to fund children's programming in the coming year. Additionally this gift will allow FTHS to stock colonial style children's toys for resale at the gift shops at all of the sites to generate revenue to support the mission of the organization.

FARM HOUSE PRINT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

The portrait of the farm which is now the background for most of the FTHS 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.

FTHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TOWN _____
 PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

DUES

_____ Individual - \$20.00
 _____ Family - \$25.00
 _____ Business \$50.00

\$_____ My donation to support the Society

Make checks payable to:
 Freehold Twp. Heritage Society, Inc.
 and mail to:

Freehold Twp Heritage Society
 189B Wemrock Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728.

FTHS is a 501C3 non profit corporation and your payment is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

ARTIFACT OF THE SEASON

This is a poultry hook used to catch individual birds that have escaped, need to be relocated or need special attention.

Photos of the handle show an earlier Freehold. Roberson's was the only hardware store in the area, and was huge. The phone number and address are evidence of a much simpler time.

