

# CUMBERLAND PATRIOT

The Cumberland County Historical Society

Greenwich, New Jersey

Email: cchistsoc@verizon.net



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*Reenactment of the 1774 Tea burning on Saturday, September 26, 2008 by locals. Photo by Stan Bennett.*

## Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tea Burners' Monument

On September 27 and 28, 2008 the Society and Greenwich area community celebrated the rededication of the 1908 Monument honoring the Greenwich Tea Burners of December 22, 1774.

The Society was celebrating the Centennial of the Tea burners' Monument in Greenwich New Jersey. This state monument honors the Patriots who acted in defiance to the British Crown in 1774 in the last Tea Party of the colonies.

Many thanks to those who worked so hard to make this a "September to Remember". A special thanks to Louis Miller, Chairman who worked for more than two years on the celebration. Lou is the Grandson of Assemblyman Louis H. Miller of Millville who was instrumental in the original involvement of the state and the original celebration. Special recognition the Assemblyman Doug Fisher and Gary Simmerman who worked as Honorary Co- Chairs to see that the weekend was a success. We are grateful to the dozens of volunteers who worked on every part of the celebration and to the Greenwich Volunteer Fire Department who protected us 24/7 in preparation for any situation.

## "Tea Burning Monument Centennial 1908 - 2008"

In preparation for the 100th anniversary of the original dedication of the Tea burners' Monument, many things were planned and executed. The publication of "Tea Burning Monument Centennial 1908 - 2008" was the special project of Harry Deemer and Matthew Schooley. Their charge was to create and assemble as much material as could be located related to the event. Much was discovered in the Cumberland County Historical Society files. More was uncovered in individual collections. In a couple of cases we discovered the originals were lost and we only have copies to present. It is hoped that this will possibly bring out more images and identification of others that may be added to what is presented now before more becomes lost or forgotten.

It is with great pride that the Society thanks both Harry and Matt for their dedication and volunteer hours and we here present the beginning of the Book, "Tea Burning Monument Centennial 1908 - 2008".

The idea of erecting a monument is said to have been the result of a summer trip through New England in 1905 by Professor Warren W. Sheppard of Shiloh, N.J. There, he admired the various memorials that had been erected over the years to various revolutionary events. On his return home, he proposed the idea of Cumberland County should have one for its noted revolutionary event. It was greeted with mixed views. Some thought of the event as an act of vandalism, as was the case when it occurred, and did not deserve to be called a patriotic act. However, a larger number of people felt otherwise and the State was approached for funding assistance. Initially it was turned down as the request was from private citizens and not a public group. This then brought about the creation of the Cumberland County Historical Society. The request to the State was resubmitted as a joint resolution by Louis H. Miller, an Assemblyman from the County.

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# Tea Burner Centennial

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ELI E. ROGERS.

It was passed unanimously by both houses of the Legislature and promptly approved by the then Governor, Edward C. Stokes. On April 30, 1906 the State appropriated \$5000 for the project. The Governor and the Daughters of the Revolution would each appoint three persons to select a design, contract for, erect and finish the monument. Title of the property would be in the name of the State.

The Daughters of the Revolution, the Historical Society and others worked to gather additional funds by subscription.

The members of the Monument Commission were Mr. Eli E. Rogers, Mrs. C. Henry (Francis O.) Seeley, Mrs. B. Frank (Elizabeth B.) Hires, Mrs. Myron J. (Clara A.) Kimball, Mrs. George S. (Rebecca M.) Bacon, and Mrs. Fanny A. Sheppard.

Their first meeting took place in Bridgeton on August 20, 1907. Officers were elected, President – Mr. Rogers, Secretary – Mrs. Seeley, Treasurer – Mrs. Hires. They had already received 6 design proposals. Mrs. Sheppard was appointed to obtain from Mr. Charles Ewing an option on the land desired for the monument. Notices were placed in several Philadelphia and local newspapers for those who had subscribed funds to send their money before September 15. Professor Warren Sheppard was appointed Historian for the dedication.

On September 7, 1907 they met in Greenwich and selected a corner lot on Main St. and Market Lane containing about 1/8th acre.

The next two meetings, October 3 and December 3, were devoted to viewing the designs submitted. They accepted the one submitted by Mr. Scott Long of Pleasantville, N.J. and he was appointed Architect. He was to prepare the blueprints and specifications by December 10 and notices for bids to be placed in Bridgeton, Millville and Vineland newspapers the following day. Westerly blue granite was chosen for the monument. Subscribed funds received were \$561.27 and expenses to date were \$4.50. Mr. Ewing would sell the lot they chose for \$100.

At the December 20 meeting, they reviewed contract clauses many granite dealers complained about and changed several. No bids had been received and an error in not placing an ad in the Trenton paper was brought up.

January 11, 1908. It was announced that Mr. Frank Andrews of Vineland was preparing a book on the Tea burners. The second proposals for bids with changes were to be placed in the proper papers and due in by 2pm February 13. On that date they met again and had received three bids. The lowest was by O.J. Hammell of Pleasantville, N.J. at \$3,495. The full board was not present and the two missing members were contacted for their vote. Hammell's bid was accepted.

The next meeting on February 29, 1908 brought some unexpected news. It was discovered that the State appropriation of \$5000 had expired October 31, 1907. No one had known of the time limit placed on the funds use. They decided to pay for the lot immediately from the funds on hand. They wrote a petition to the Legislature, to be presented by Senator R.H. Minch, stating the story of the monument and requesting the lost appropriation be replaced. The legislature voted to replace it.

At the April 24, 1908 meeting they decided to change the size of the lettering on the monument. The date for the unveiling was approved Wednesday, September 30, 1908. They decided to meet with Mr. Long in Greenwich on June 4 to decide on the position of the monument. Mrs. Sheppard invited all to lunch that day and the trip arranged via New Jersey Central [Rail Road]. They met at Mrs. Sheppard's after viewing the site and decided the monument would be placed in the center facing Main St. The lot also needed to be filled and graded. Requests were sent to various political and social dignitaries for them to consider being a speaker. Mrs. Robert Ward, ex-Regent of the New Jersey Daughters of the Revolution who had appointed three of the commission members, was invited to unveil the monument. Mrs. Howard B. Hancock was appointed a matron of honor, Miss Lizzie Fithian and Miss Hannah Fithian of Greenwich as maids of honor and Mrs. Mary Ewing a matron of honor. The program order was established.

July 15. The lot was ready to be graded. Mr. Howard R. Hancock was to supply dirt to fill the lot at 10 cents a load and \$3 a day for each team doing the carting.

More to come in the Summer issue...

*This detailed account of the erection of the Tea burners' Monument along with many pictures, the narrative of the original event with antique photos of all the possible Tea Houses and what is thought to be the real story today; a biographical essay on some of the Tea burners and what they did with the rest of their lives are included in the Commemorative Book "Tea Burning Monument Centennial 1908 - 2008".*

Pre orders for this book for \$15.00 are being taken at the Gibbon House Museum (856-455-4055) and by email at Cchistsoc@verizon.net. Upon publication the price will be \$20.00. Those having already placed an order with funds will receive a refund for the SALE Price.



Chairman of A September to Remember, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tea Burners' Monument Judge Louis Miller with Honorary Co-Chairs Gary Simmerman and Assemblyman Doug Fisher.



# EARLY INDUSTRIAL SITES IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY



Proceeds from the May 17, 2008 Wine and Cheese Event at the Bridgeton home of Robert Dragotta were directed to the expansion of the CCHS WEB SITE which would identify early industrial locations in the county. There will be three categories of work sites discussed.

In the first the very beginning of water-powered manufacturing will be pointed up as the woolen mill which was built at East Lake in Bridgeton in 1811 and eventually developed into the four-story mill pictures. Much later, in 1854 Richard D. Wood would build a cotton mill in Millville using water power, at first, from the Union Mill Pond. Other textile mills were built and lasted a short time. In 1815 a woolen mill at Jericho and cotton mill at Cedarville which lasted from 1810 to 1825.

In 1814, just three years after the East Lake Woolen Mill was established, water power from Sunset Lake was used to power Cumberland Nail and Iron Works built along the Cohansey River in Bridgeton just above Commerce Street. David Cooper Wood built an iron furnace in Millville also in 1814 utilizing water power from the Union Mill Pond. Even earlier, in 1810, another iron furnace was built along the

Manumuskin Creek by Wesley Budd, called Cumberland Furnace.

In the second category we step back to the colonial era and discuss the water-powered crafts which were put in operation as soon as European settlers came into the area. Richard Hancock's saw mill of 1686 is perhaps the earliest. To the grist and saw mills existed at the same place frequently. Such mill existed at Union Mill Pond north of Millville by early in the eighteenth century. Grits mills existed at Bridge Town, Seeley, Jericho, Fairton and at Sheppard's Mill and Davis Mill. In at least two locations, Greenwich and Bridgeton there were Fulling Mills in colonial times.

The most important industry for Cumberland County was not powered by water. That was the glass industry which would begin modestly but then really flourish by Civil War time. Post Elizabeth had the first glass works established by James Lee in 1799. In 1806, James Lee built another glass works at Millville and by 1837 a second plant was established by Frederick Schetter. A glass factory known as Cohansey Glass was established at Bridgeton in 1836.

Along with the railroad which came in 1839, these industries would transform the county until by 1900 one half of the population was no longer involved in agriculture, but rather part of a factory force that produced textiles, iron products and glassware in large quantity.



*The Old Woolen Mill on the western side of East Lake at Commerce Street and East Avenue, Bridgeton. On this site was built one of the county's earliest industries formed in protest to English monopoly of textiles around the War of 1812.*

## Lasting Legacy

The most important gift that can be made to the Cumberland County Historical Society is one which assures its future. The guarantee of future funding is just as essential as current gift support. Consider a bequest to the Cumberland County Historical Society in your will. Your legacy to the Society is deductible for gift and estate tax purposes.

We suggest the following wording: *"I give and bequeath to the Cumberland County Historical Society, a not-for-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey, having its offices at the Gibbon House Museum, 960 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich, New Jersey 08323, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or % or a fractional share of my residuary estate, or the following described property, i.e. securities and other assets) to be used for its general purposes/or for a specific Historical Society Program."*

We now offer a memorial gift program. When considering gifts in memory of a friend or loved one send your contribution to the Society and we will send an acknowledgement of your gift to the family and a receipt to you for your gift. Remember the society as a perpetual way of giving.



## ACQUISITIONS – LUMMIS LIBRARY 2008-2009

**DONOR:** Paul J. Ritter, III, Esq. (**Bridgeton, NJ**) *Commercial Canning in New Jersey, History and Early Development, 1951, In Memory of Anthony "Tony" and Virginia Sorantino*: Memorabilia from The Southern New Jersey All Sports Museum and restoration of the Jim Hursey Memorial Stadium.

**DONOR:** Janet Dilks DuBono (**Bridgeton, NJ**) five newspaper articles 1905-1909 of the Dedication of the Tea Burning Monument; souvenir calendar of the Tea Burners' Monument, Greenwich, NJ 1908; *In Memory of D. Watson and Louisa Wright*.

**DONOR:** Penny Watson (**Greenwich, NJ**), Directory of the Class and Program, 1966, 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion of Ella Cook.

**DONOR:** Robert Costa (**Greenwich, NJ**) Photographs of the George and Martha Washington House, former Slave House, Sheppard's Mill Road, Greenwich, NJ.

**DONOR:** Robert Seibert (**Bridgeton, NJ**) Photograph E. M. Mulford/William Henry Berry House Greenwich, NJ; copy of a photograph of the Lowe Sail Loft with Mr. Lowe and helper Michael at the Greenwich Piers; Handbook of Elocution Public Schools of Cumberland County, 1905; *The Pastor of the Old Stone Church, 1858*; A Concise History of Colonial Bridgeton and Its early Environs; Booklet Greenwich Presbyterian Church.

**DONOR:** Fred L. Carman (**Nokomis, FL**) Carman, Lupton and Timberman Family Genealogies.

**DONOR:** Genealogy received: John Moncrief & Priscilla Holmes Genealogy, Greenwich, marriage, births and deaths

**DONOR:** Joe & Joan Hancock (**Greenwich, NJ**) Swedish Granary of CCHS Archive of Joseph G. Hancock

**DONOR:** Constance Schuchard (**Roadstown, NJ**) *Springtown New Jersey: Explorations In the History and Culture of a Black Rural Community* by Maria Boynton, A Dissertation in Folklore and Folk life.

**DONOR:** George H. Stanger, Jr. & Judith H. Stanger (**Stow Creek, NJ**) Nine hardbound courtroom diaries and notes of Judge Francis A. Stanger, Jr. covering his service on the bench of Cumberland County from November 26, 1929 to March 31, 1934; Files from the papers collected by Judge Francis A. Stanger, Jr. which includes the papers of Daniel Bishop and correspondence much in German to and from Daniel B. Ginenbeck of Bridgeton plus an assortment of deeds.

**DONOR:** Bruce Stanley (**Greenwich, NJ**) Tea burners' Monument, Greenwich, NJ 1774-1908, Commemorative Spoon.

## Library Looking to Return Family Bibles

The Lummis Library has a collection of Family Bibles that it would like to return to the families who originally owned them. The pages that pertain to Genealogical Research have been copied and filed appropriately. The 81 Bibles are occupying shelf space that could be better served. If you have family ties to one of the following bibles you may claim it on a first come first served basis at Lummis Library, 856-455-8580.

Allen	Dawson	Laning	Peirson	Ware
Applegate	DeLacours	Lanning	Pierson	Webster
Bacon	Ewing	Lund	Plates	Wescott
Baker	Fithian	Lundbeck	Pond	West
Bateman	Garrison	Maris	Powell	Williams
Boon	Garton	Marts	Quick	Winship
Brooks	Hall	Matlack	Robinson	Woodruff
Buck	Hand	McKee	Room	
Burroughs	Hartung	Miller	Shaw	
Camblos	Hawkins	Newell	Sheppard	
Carll	Headley	Newkirk	Sheppherd	
Chesney	Heiges	Ogden	Shull	
Coombs	Howell	Parson	Smith	
Cowan	Jerrell	Parvin	Tullis	
Dare	Johnson	Parvins	Veale	



# An Invitation to Membership

Dedicated to preserving and interpreting county history, the Society maintains the Lummis Research Library and the Gibbon House Museum, John Dubois Maritime Museum, the Prehistorical Museum, Potter's Tavern in Bridgeton, and Old Stone Church in Fairfield Township. The continued growth and development of the Historical Society depends on active participation of many people who share an interest in the rich heritage of Cumberland County. ***Please join today and help to give our past a future.***

Membership is open to anyone interested in Cumberland County history. The Society is a private nonprofit organization deriving its support from the communities it serves.

## Membership Privileges

- Free, unlimited admission to the museums and library.
- Subscription to the Cumberland County Patriot.
- Advance notices of programs, exhibits, workshops and special events
- Volunteer opportunities
- The opportunity to help support the preservation of the history of Cumberland County
- Membership to The Gibbon House Garden Society

## A Public Trust

The Society actively seeks materials about the county and welcomes donations of appropriate materials pertaining to Cumberland County. ***We will take care of your past.***



*Roy Davis and Cliff Jones, local volunteers re-enacting the Tea Burning of December 22, 1774 at the Anniversary of Monument.*

# Volunteer Opportunities

The Society is looking for volunteers who would like to make some meaningful contributions of time and energy in our efforts to educate and preserve the history of Cumberland County. Time and place are negotiable. Some of the areas that are open opportunities are:

## Administration

- Clerical
- Memorials and Thank yous
- Volunteer Management
- Web Management

## Museum behind the scenes

- Collection Research
- Collection Projects
- Exhibits
- House and Grounds Projects

## Education

- School Docent (Guide)
- Museum Docent (Guide)
- Gibbon House Museum
- Red Barn Museum
- Pre Historical Museum
- Maritime Museum
- Walking Tour and Bus Tour Guide
- Hearthside Cooking
- Spinning and Weaving

## Photo Archives

- Collection Projects
- Collection Research

**Special Projects:** As many possibilities as you can think of: promotions, technology, programs, publications, public relations, and your own ideas!

## Library

- Research
- County and Local History
- Genealogy
- Library Patron Assistance
- Collection Projects
- Data Entry



*Some of the volunteers at the Tea Burning, September 27, 2008.*

## Mission Statement

*The mission of the Cumberland County Historical Society is to preserve and promote the history and heritage of the county through acquisitions, collections, exhibits and research, educational programs and publications, for the benefit of current and future generations.*



## Board of Trustees

President: Chuck Griffiths  
 George Anderson  
 John Butterfield  
 Alan Carman  
 Steve Carnahan  
 Don Dulin  
 Ruth Ann Fox  
 Robert Francois  
 Charles Griffiths  
 Linda Jones  
 Ken Miller  
 Mimi Peterson  
 Matt Pisarski  
 Paul Ritter  
 Ted Ritter  
 Constance Schuchard  
 Judith Uber  
 Barbara Valente  
 Jonathan Wood

## Calendar for 2009

January through March – Winter Hours, Lummis Library and Prehistorical Museum open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.  
 April 1<sup>st</sup> – Gibbon House Opens and school tours begin.  
 April 26<sup>th</sup> – Farm Day for Children of all ages, Gibbon House Yard  
 May 16<sup>th</sup> – Wine and Cheese event  
 September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> – Annual Artisan Faire  
 October 30<sup>th</sup> – Annual Halloween Ghost Walk  
 November – Annual Meeting, date and place to be announced  
 December 12<sup>th</sup> – Pre Event tour  
 December 13<sup>th</sup> – Christmas in Greenwich, annual holiday open house tour.

### *In Memoriam*

*It is with sadness that we announce the passing of long time volunteer Lillian Ackley on February 18, 2009 at age 96. "Miss Lillian" in her quiet way was always willing to represent the Society on many occasions. She supported all the endeavors with hands, spirit and finances. We will miss her encouraging presence.*

### Return Service Requested

## The Cumberland County Historical Society

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