

# The Chester Historical Society's News & Views

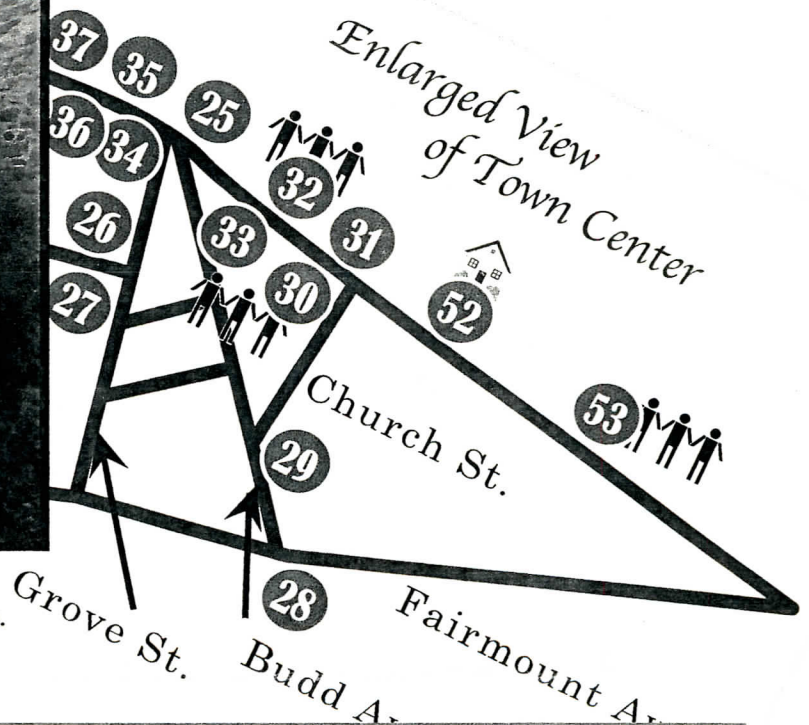
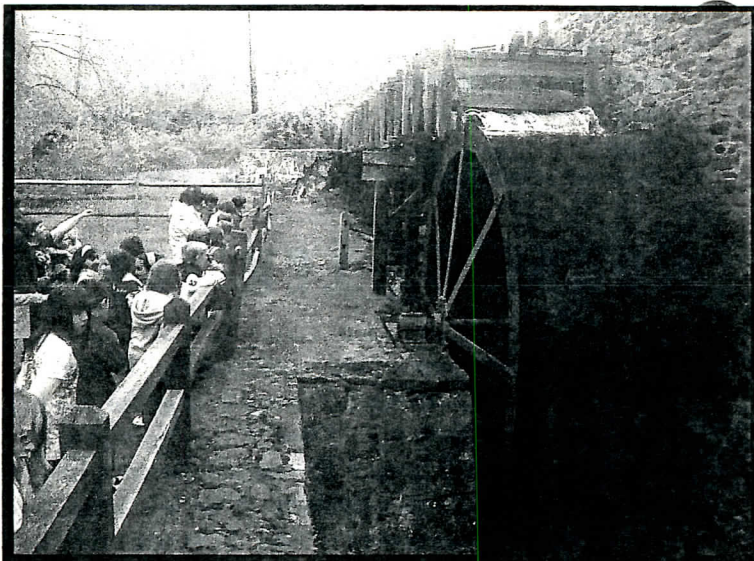


Winter/Spring 2010 ❄️ Newsletter

Chester Historical Society  
Website: [www.HistoricChesterNJ.com](http://www.HistoricChesterNJ.com)  
Phone: (908) 879-2761

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 376, Chester, NJ 07930  
Email: [HistoricChesterNJ@gmail.com](mailto:HistoricChesterNJ@gmail.com)  
...Visit our History Room in the Chester Library

## Chester History Finds a Home...



Above: Bragg students at Cooper Mill tour stop.  
Right: Sample portion of bus tour map.

**In the classroom and on the road with Bragg Elementary School students.** Third grade teacher Lauren Stephens reached out to the CHS last fall looking to incorporate local history into the curriculum. The CHS was eager to support this initiative of educating Chester's youth about its past and historic treasures. Lessons were created based on information from *The Scrapbook of History*. The response to the material led to the development of Historic Chester Bus Tours for the students. CHS Board members Len Taylor and Amanda Dean, were tour guides for the 150 third graders during their April 12th and 13th bus trips. The tours incorporated a map with points of interest, coloring book selections from *Color Me Chester*, and other visual aids, including Tippet bottles. One group of students was able to have a special stop at Cooper Mill with the help of Betty Mills and Ivins Smith. The tours were so well received that plans are already underway to run them again next year.

# Mark Your Calenders: 2010 Programs

✓ By Alison Dahl

We hope you'll join us for our monthly Historical Society programs which are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month, at 7 o'clock p.m., at the Chester Library, unless otherwise noted. Please invite your friends and family too -- the more the merrier! They're fun, they're free (except the Picnic), they're educational, and refreshments will be served.

Thursday, May 13th - Genealogy Part II at the Chester Library with Peggy Lake Oswald. Ms. Oswald returns to review the basics of genealogy and offer guidance in the best use of all types of resources. She will present a more in depth discussion of the "how to's" of studying one's ancestry and creating a family tree. Good for beginners and more seasoned anthropologists alike.

Thursday, June 10th - Chester Old Timers Get Together - Selections from the Chester Historical Society's archives are spotlighted, featuring many fascinating old photos that have been given to the Society for safe-keeping. We need your help to identify some of the people and places, too! Enjoy an interactive, casual discussion of how things used to be in Chester in the olden days...and if you have any old photos or Chester memorabilia you'd like to share for the evening, bring them along!

Thursday, July 8th - Exclusive CHS Tour of the Cooper Mill - Miller Ivins Smith, the Cooper Mill expert, will present his Cooper Mill's Greatest Facts. Refresh your knowledge and learn more about this major local landmark and historical gem, and how life in Chester was way back then.

Sunday, August 15th - Annual Summer Picnic at Willowood Arboretum - Noon to 4 p.m. Open to CHS members! Watch for your invitation and reservation form in the mail in

early July. Directions, details, instructions and a description of the activities and menu will be included. This is a hidden gem in Chester's backyard -- you won't want to miss it!

Thursday, September 9th - Celebrate New Jersey! Linda Barth (of Canal Society fame) returns to give us an armchair tour of our State's most interesting and intriguing sites, day trips, natural resources, festivals, special events, villages, attractions, museums, and some nooks and crannies you may not know about. Sit back, relax, and join us for an easy ride through our glorious Garden State! Bound to inspire wanderlust!

## Honoring Len Taylor

The Chester Historical Society Board would like to nominate Leonard Taylor for an Honorary Membership. One of the founding members of the Chester Historical Society in 1969, Len has been generous with his time, energy and enthusiasm for over 40 years.

Honorary members shall be elected by a three-fourths vote at a regular board meeting at least 30 days after members receive written notice of the nomination. This article will serve as that notice. If anyone has any objections, please contact the Chester Historical Society at 908-879-2761 or a P.O. Box 376, Chester, NJ 07930.

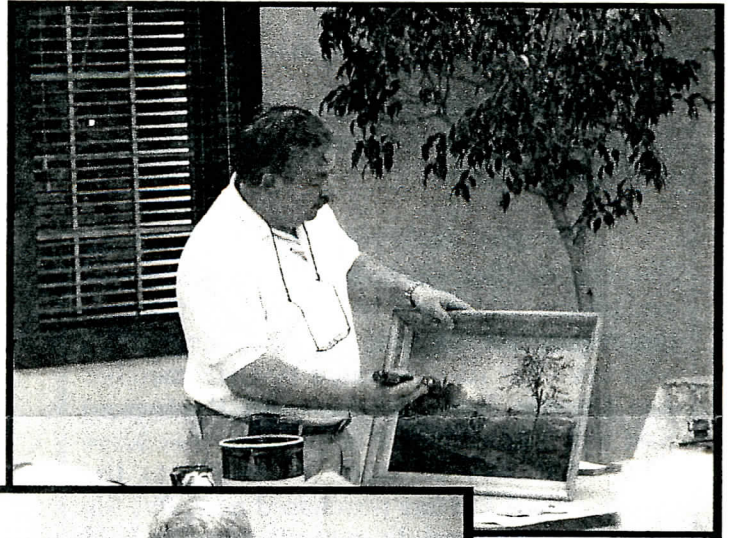
The date and time of the presentation will be announced at a later date. Len is unaware of this, so please do not mention it to him. *We would like to surprise him.*

Sincerely,  
Amanda Dean, President

# Antiques Show and Tell

*Photos and Report by Ed Ng*

The Chester Historical Society and the Chester Library co-hosted the latest installment of our local Antiques Show & Tell on April 8, 2010. Residents brought their "antique mysteries" for our guest experts, Bill Cogger, Karen Grossman, and Dan Silvershotz, to help solve. Over almost two hours they analyzed and assessed numerous items of jewelry, watches, paintings, fabric, pottery, kitchen tools, glassware, and furniture, defining their history and estimating their value. It was not only an entertaining evening, but an educational one, a mini-tutorial about the ups and downs of buying, selling, and appraising antiques.



*Top Right: Mayor Bill Cogger uses a UV light to analyze the brushwork on a painting.  
Center: Karen Grossman describes a soap saver.  
Left: Dan Silvershotz takes a very close look at a pendant.*

## Mr. Morristown's Museum:

### *W. Parsons Todd and 60 Years of Macculloch Hall*

A new exhibit at Macculloch Hall in Morristown, celebrates the sixtieth anniversary of the Museum. The exhibit explores how the gracious old home was transformed in 1950 by W. Parsons Todd into this vision of a historical museum serving the community. Todd a passionate collector of 18th and 19th century arts, acquired objects specifically for the Museum... The evolution of the Museum over sixty years of its history will be seen through photographs, documents, plans and objects from the Museum's collection. Exhibit runs through October 31, 2010.

# Archives Report

By Carol Zaikowski, Archives Chair

There have been changes both in the Library and at our archives storage/work area at Highland Ridge.

We have made room in the Library for file cabinets that will hold copies of documents and photos, which will be available to the serious researcher (as well as the curious). We also have flat files (donated by CHS member and Chester Boro Historian, Ed Hanington) that will hold copies of maps and other large items that will be made accessible to the public. The CHS has purchased new, flat file cases that are specially manufactured to hold and preserve archival material. We have many original documents that will be permanently stored in these cases at Highland Ridge.

The Chester Library and the CHS have joined resources to put the Observer Tribune into a digital format, thus eliminating the need to store old newspapers. The CHS has copies of the Observer Tribune dating back to the 1950's in storage, and patrons of the Chester Library who have visited the Carmen Smith History Room have surely noticed the HUGE, HEAVY binders that hold OT newspapers from the Chester Library's collection. It takes two people to get them off of the shelves and three to put them back!

The digital version is available now on the library computers and will be available in the History Room at a future time. We will keep you updated regarding the availability. Many thanks to Chester Library Director, Lesley Karczewski, for obtaining a grant and arranging the digitizing of the collection, and to our President, Amanda Dean, for acting as CHS liaison in this endeavor and helping to move this project along.

## Calling all Volunteers!

It is an immediate goal to have a computer in the Library History Room with a catalog of all the material that is on the shelves and in the files. In order to attain that goal, we need the help of our membership. A list of all of the books on the open shelves in the History Room needs to be made so that the data can be entered into a computer that will be used by library patrons when searching for information.

Please consider giving some of your time to help us get this done. You can set your own schedule, during regular Library hours. Call me (876-9599) and I will arrange a time to get you started.

When this task is finished, the collection will be assessed and those publications and books that are chosen to remain on the

## Genealogy: Part 1

By Ed Ng

Peggy Lake Oswald has accumulated quite a few real world lessons while assembling her family tree. Along the way she has amassed a people data base with more than 183,000 entries. She shared her motivation, experiences, organizational tips, and resources at the March 11, 2010 Chester Historical Society program, "Genealogy: Part 1". Peggy is also a fount of knowledge for families in our area. The accompanying picture shows her standing in front of the Phoenix family tree and history that she synthesized. "Genealogy: Part 2" will be presented on May 13, 2010 at the Chester Public Library. She will explain how access census, obituaries, military records, and other online databases.

# Archives Report cont.

shelves will be stamped, secured, and properly covered and labeled for easy identification and shelving.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

~ to John Tintle, who has picked up the pace in the History Room and is working on sorting boxes of material from the CHS collection. This is a time-consuming task, but is often interesting and I greatly appreciate his time and efforts toward achieving our goal of identifying and cataloging our collection. CHS Members are encouraged to help out (on your schedule, Library hours). If you are interested, please call me for an "Introduction to Archive Archaeology," and we can arrange to meet at the Library for a short, instructional session. We currently have an itemized listing for approximately 40 boxes of material that have been completely sorted.

~ also, to Len Taylor for his interesting contributions of material to our archives. We love it!! And THANK YOU to Matt Koppinger for contributing a computer for use in the Highland Ridge storage area. The computer is now up and running. Also THANKS Matt and Amanda for all of their help with the archives. This is a never-ending project, but is made easier when members are willing to give their time.

Finally, we need more members on our Archives Committee. CHS Members are encouraged to help us reach the CHS goal of providing access to Chester's history – and that can only be done through the work of many people. Please call me or the Chester Historical Society number (879-2761) and leave a message.

Thank you!

## \*\*\* FREE \*\*\* Observer Tribunes

*We got ya papers here...*

The CHS has Observer Tribunes from the late 1950's to the mid 1990's. Due to the digitalization project it is no longer necessary to keep the paper copies archived.

These issues come in handy with genealogy research, historic advertisements, community activities, property values, wedding and baby announcements, and much more.

If you would like to have one or more of these issues, please contact the CHS by May 25th to secure specific issues and arrange for pick-up.

## Calling All Members! *The Chester Food Pantry needs your HELP!!!*

Now more than ever donations are needed to help local families. Please help us to help those in need.

**The following items are much needed:**

paper towels, facial tissue and toilet paper.

**Reminder** - The Food Pantry's drop off areas are in the foyer of the Chester Library, in the exit area of Shop Rite, Xercise in the Chester Springs Shopping Center, GianAngelos Pizza on Route 24 East and at Plant Detectives on Route 206 North.

*Many Thanks,  
Lois Taylor*



Chester Historical Society  
P.O. Box 376  
Chester, NJ 07930

**Membership Application and Renewal Form**

*(Membership runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30)*

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renew \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Miss, Ms., Mr. First Name Last Name  
Mr. and Mrs.

Street Address/ P.O. Box Apt. No

Town State Zip Code

Age of Children under 18 if applying for Family Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Schedule of Annual Membership Dues**

Individual...\$8.00/person x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Individuals over 18 years old)

Associate ... \$5.00/person x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Individuals 18 and under, or full time students, or those individuals who are 62 or older)

Family Membership... \$16.00/family x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining Membership... \$35.00/each x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Business Membership... \$35.00/each x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Life Membership... \$200.00/person x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(under 62 years of age)

Life Membership... \$100.00/person x No. \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(62 years of age or older)

Additional Gift... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know if you are interested in serving on one of our committees. Thank you for your support!

Questions? Call Membership Chair Marla Jackson at 908-879-4382 or email [jackson07930@gmail.com](mailto:jackson07930@gmail.com).

*Chester Historical Society*

**Elected to the Board of Trustees**

- Amanda Dean.....President
- Alison Dahl.....Vice President
- Ed Ng.....Treasurer
- Lois Taylor.....Corresponding Secretary
- Elaine Hanington.....Recording Secretary
- Helen Jones.....Member-at-Large
- Alison Dahl.....Member-at-Large

**Appointed to the Board of Trustees**

- Matt Koppinger...Architectural Preservation
- Carol Zaikowski.....Archives
- Marla Jackson.....Membership
- Helen Jones.....Oral History
- Alison Dahl.....Programs
- Ed Hanington.....Borough Historian
- Len Taylor.....Township Historian

**2009 Holiday Party**

We were so lucky to enjoy the elegant home of Ricci and Stephanie Desiderio at Tranquillity Farm on Old Chester Road for our 2009 Holiday Celebration. The wonderful food provided by CHS members, along with musical performances by Rio Clemente and Elena Zabi-yako made for a lovely afternoon.

For those of you that have not had a chance to stop in our Carmen Smith History Room at the Chester Library, please don't wait any longer. There is a beautiful photo album on display that is a must see!!! Our treasurer, Ed Ng photographed the event... every detail from the music to the vast grounds is included in the album.