



The Chester Historical Society's



News & Views Winter 2011

Preservation ~ Information ~ Education www.HistoricChesterNJ.com

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2011 Goals

President Provide *overall direction* to and *support* of the Society's Mission and to achieve its goals as stated below.

- Find ways to encourage the community to become interested in local history and involved.
- Enable members to become willing and able to represent the Society as speakers on the topic of Chester's history.
- By year end, fill the currently vacant CHS Board positions of Vice President and Financial/Legal.

Treasurer Continue to manage and report the CHS budget and finances in a fiduciary manner. Improve the functionality of accessing information on the new *Observer Tribune* database in the Chester Library.

Corresponding Secretary Manage efficient and effective correspondence to and from the CHS.

Archives Preservation Continue to inventory the vast array of material in storage. All materials must be catalogued, assessed for condition, properly conserved, and stored.

Encourage more members to assist in the inventory process and assure the integrity of the process through implementation and practice of sound principles.

Architectural Preservation Lead the Architectural Merit Awards Committee and implement the annual awards process to identify and recognize noteworthy architectural activities in Chester Township and Borough.

Carmen Smith History Room Coordinate with the Chester Library to optimize the collection of books and materials in the History Room that best focus on local history.

Identify, stabilize, protect, and conserve those books and materials that need such treatment.

Membership Encourage membership growth, especially younger members of the community, through innovation and cooperative activities such as timely Facebook updates, and partnering with school and civic organizations.

Oral History Continue to capture oral histories of long-time Chester residents. Update the transcription and storage media of existing oral history data.

Programs Produce at least four programs that feature local history topics, including a review of Frances Greenidge's "Scrapbook of History". Organize the Annual Summer Picnic and Holiday Celebrations in August and December.

Publications and Publicity Produce the CHS Newsletter four times per year, widen its distribution, and link it to the CHS website.

Expand publicity outreach to local newspapers and magazines, the CHS membership, and interested agencies through press releases, Facebook updates, direct mailing, and the CHS website. Effectiveness will be measured by survey of participants following each program, asking how they heard of the program.

Keep the CHS web site up to date.

Historians Complete the documentation of the Hillside Presbyterian Church graveyard project.

Encourage greater participation in the CHS by younger members of the community through the March 2011 Girl Scout Project studying historic Chester families, and the Annual 3rd Grade Bus Tour of Historic Chester Landmarks.

Croft Award Revise the Award criteria to improve the quality of applicants, and manage the award process.



Charlotte Asdal's Girl Scout Silver Award: *Spelt Flour-The Healthy Alternative*



Charlotte created a set of recipe cards to attach to the bags of spelt flour milled locally at the Chester Gristmill. She compiled, tested, selected, and edited many recipes from individual research for use of those who use the Cooper Gristmill's flour. Now, a group of recipes and information about spelt flour is attached to every bag.

Did you know...?

- Spelt is the latest **healthy alternative** to white flour. Originally cultivated in Iran thousands of years ago, it made its first appearance in North America in the 1800s.
- Spelt has a **nuttier and sweeter flavor** than white flour. The tougher outer husk allows the flavor and nutrients to be preserved during milling.
- This flour is more **easily digested** and although not completely gluten-free, it is preferred by many with wheat sensitivities.
- Spelt flour can **replace whole wheat flour** or whole grain flour in recipes for breads and pasta. Spelt is often blended with wheat flour.
- The gluten in spelt flour is **more fragile** than wheat flour, therefore care must be taken to not overmix or over-knead this flour. Overmixing may result in a too crumbly texture.

These recipe cards were funded by the Chester Historical Society & are supported by the Historic Cooper Grist Mill.

Spelt Everything Crackers

makes one large cracker sheet

½ cup cold water 1/4 teaspoon salt

1 ½ cups white spelt flour, plus more for flouring surface

Coarse sea salt, poppy seeds and sesame seeds (or a combination of seeds of your choice)

Oven temperature: 350°

Dissolve the salt in the water and stir until combined. Knead the dough until a ball forms. Flour an overturned cookie sheet and roll out the dough on top of it, as thinly as possible. Use enough flour so the dough does not stick and cover the sheet from edge to edge.

Spray the dough with water to give it a glossy finish and prick the dough all over with a fork.

Score the crackers for easy breaking when they are done baking.

Sprinkle generously with the seeds.

Bake for 25-35 minutes or until the edges separate from the tray and the center is firm.

Do not under bake.

Tastes great with spinach dip or your favorite cheese!

(adapted from the *New York Times Magazine*, 11/28/08)



What Is This?

Hint: Think wood stove
(See answer page 6.)

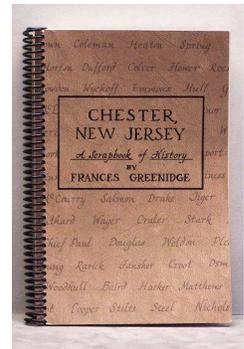
If you have a photo of an interesting object that you think may stump our readers, please send to: Marcia Asdal, 76 Route 24, Chester, NJ 07930 or marciaasdal@gmail.com.



"Chester, New Jersey -- a Scrapbook of History" Book Review and Discussion" Thursday, March 10th, 7:00 p.m.

Chester Historical Society's March program will feature a review and discussion of its premiere publication "Chester, New Jersey -- A Scrapbook of History" by Frances Greenidge, which is available for purchase.

This spiral bound book is a treasure trove of facts, anecdotes, folk lore, and snippets of fascinating information compiled by Ms. Greenidge in the late 1960s. It covers highlights of Chester's history from the early 1700s through 1968, with a myriad of bibliographic references. Many stories are recounted by some of Chester's elder statesmen of the time, and there is a wealth of genealogical data as well.



Copies of "Chester, New Jersey -- a Scrapbook of History" are available for \$15 each, plus postage if the book is to be mailed. Contact Alison Dahl at 908 879-7673 to make arrangements with Alison to pick up your copy at the Chester Library.

The library will not be distributing the book.

We look forward to a lively and informative discussion of the first 30 pages on Thursday, March 10th at 7 p.m. at the Chester Library. If significant interest is shown in continuing the review and discussion of the remaining chapters, additional dates will be scheduled. We may also undertake updating the book to record Chester's history from where Ms. Greenidge left off in the late 1960s to the present. A lot has changed in the past 50 years, as we all know!

We'd love to have your input!

Please call Alison Dahl at 879-7673 right away to get a copy of the book so you can start reading and learning in time for our first review on March 10th.

UPDATE: HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT

The New Jersey Senate voted unanimously last month to approve the **Historic Property Tax Credit Act (S-659)**, which now awaits the governor's signature. The measure is the result of years of work by *Preservation NJ* and others, and enjoys bipartisan support for its economic development potential. If the bill is signed into law by Governor Christie, New Jersey, will join 31 other states including neighbors New York and Delaware, which offer a historic preservation tax credit.



Crossroads School, North Road and Route 513.

A taxpayer would be allowed a credit against his/her personal income tax OR a business would be allowed a credit against its corporate business tax of 25% of the costs of a completed rehabilitation. Taxpayers not able to use the credit would be able to transfer it.

Qualifying properties would be required to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the New Jersey Register of Historic Places – either individually or as part of a historic district – or designated by the State Historic Preservation Office or other state or local organization as contributing to a district's historic significance.

Another tool that aids in the renovation of historic buildings is the **New Jersey Rehabilitation Subcode** adopted in January 1998. This is a "comprehensive set of technical requirements that enables the restoration and rehabilitation of buildings to be

safer, cheaper and easier. These innovative standards provide predictability for those undertaking the rehabilitation of existing buildings, and allow for flexibility in applying a variety of code sections." Since the adoption of this subcode rehabilitation work in New Jersey's 16 largest cities has increased 62.5 percent. Renovation accounts for 43 cents of every construction dollar for projects authorized with building permits in New Jersey.



Williamson School, Main St.



Questionnaire Results

By Marla Jackson, Membership Chairman

Almost 50 members took the time to answer some or all of the questions on the back of the membership renewal form. If you have a suggestion for a program, want to plan a trip or would like to help out, just let one of the Board members know! If you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter about Chester history, please let us know.

We welcome your input and would like to have more members involved in planning programs and events.

I would be more likely to attend CHS programs if they were held Sat. afternoon, Sun. afternoon.

Less frequently: 2

If they started later (7:30 or 8 pm)

Good as it is: 7

Comments: Would like more notice of upcoming programs.

I would like CHS to offer (programs, activities, day trips to, local tours of, speakers about, etc.)

Day trips 2

Local tours 5

Anything to do with Chester history 2

Like what is offered 3

Comments: No more genealogy, please; liked the appraisals of members' antiques; trips by bus, car, or car-pool to historical sites; NJ history; more genealogy

The best ways to communicate CHS information to me is (circle as many as desired):

CHS newsletter: 21

Email: 19

Postcard: 10

Observer-Tribune: 4

Black River News: 3

Daily Record: 2

Library announcement: 2

Would you be more likely to attend the Annual picnic if it was held in Sept. instead of August?

Yes: 8 No: 8 either: 7 Maybe: 1

Have you used the resources in the Carmen Smith History Room at the Chester Library?

Yes: 9 No: 16

Do you find our newsletter *News & Views* informative?

Yes: 26 Sometimes: 1

Comments: need more contributions from the general membership; extremely informative; would like to see detailed history of Chester's old houses with pictures

Have you visited the CHS website, www.historicchesternj.com?

Yes: 12 No: 12

Comments: More info on houses, places, people; more remembrances from long ago; pictures; "just more;" wish it was more current for upcoming events and program schedule; several commented that they don't have computer access.

IF YOU HAVE A LARGE FAMILY...

On the Taylor side of the family, there is a great-great-great grandfather, Meeds Townley Hulse, who fathered thirty-three children over forty-seven or so years. All of his three wives died in childbirth.

In the Hulse archives, we found this recipe for **Tomato Catsup**, which belonged to the second or third wife.

1 bushel tomatoes	2 oz. peppercorns
1/2 tablespoon allspice	1 tsp. whole cloves
pint of vinegar	1 pound granulated salt
2 dozen medium onions, skinned	
1 dozen cayenne peppers	



Chop tomatoes, onions and peppers real small and work them into the salt. Let the mixture stand for three or four days in an open crock. Put cheesecloth over the crock to keep out the bugs. Then add about 2 oz. of peppercorns, 1/2 tablespoon of allspice and a teaspoon of whole cloves.

Boil for about an hour, stirring often so it doesn't burn to the pot.

Force strain it through a fine colander or sturdy strainer. After it cools, add a pint of vinegar and mix. [Len's note: vinegar stops fermentation].

Jar it and cap it. Add a teaspoon of vinegar at the top of each jar. If you have enough bottles and corks, use them instead. You do not have to sterilize, but if you do, the catsup will keep for years.

Lois and Len Taylor (we never tried it!)

Answer to Mystery Photo Puzzle

Wood Stove Pipe Pot Warmer

1882 Rare

This is a cast iron wood stove chimney attachment for warming pots, an attachment that would mount on the chimney pipe that comes out of a wood stove.

It has 6 removable arms on which you can set 6 different pots, or as many as you would choose.

CHS member Bill Asdal found this at a local church auction and a knowledgeable neighbor identified it.





Summer Picnic at Willowwood Arboretum

submitted by Edward Ng

Our annual summer picnic and meeting was held on August 15th at the Willowwood Arboretum. Since it was a bit rainy that day we were lucky to have planned the meeting to be held inside the lovely Stone Barn. As usual, elections were held followed by a scrumptious lunch. We also acknowledged and thanked outgoing President, Amanda Dean. One of her last acts was to announce the awarding of an Honorary Life Membership to Len Taylor. The newly elected Board Members are President Alison Dahl, Corresponding Secretary Lois Taylor, and Members-at-Large Helen Jones and Meryl Carmel.

Congratulations to the newly elected Board.

Outgoing president **Amanda Dean** shares a chuckle with **George Gibb**.



Barbara Gibb (l) and Lois Taylor outside the Stone Barn.



After lunch **Carol Zaikowski, Chris Stadtmueller, Marla Jackson, and Alison Dahl** joined a Willowwood staff member on a tour of the wonderful gardens by the historic Tubbs House.



As President Elect **Alison Dahl** looks on from the back, **Lois Taylor** serves **Yolanda Thompson** with **Debbie Tintle** next in line.





Holiday Party at the Field House

submitted by Edward Ng

We enjoyed the inviting new space at the Borough Field House. Fun conversation, delightful libations, tasty lunch, and a welcome from President Alison Dahl filled the afternoon.



Alison Dahl, Marla Jackson, Ed Ng, and Lois Taylor ensured no one went hungry or thirsty.

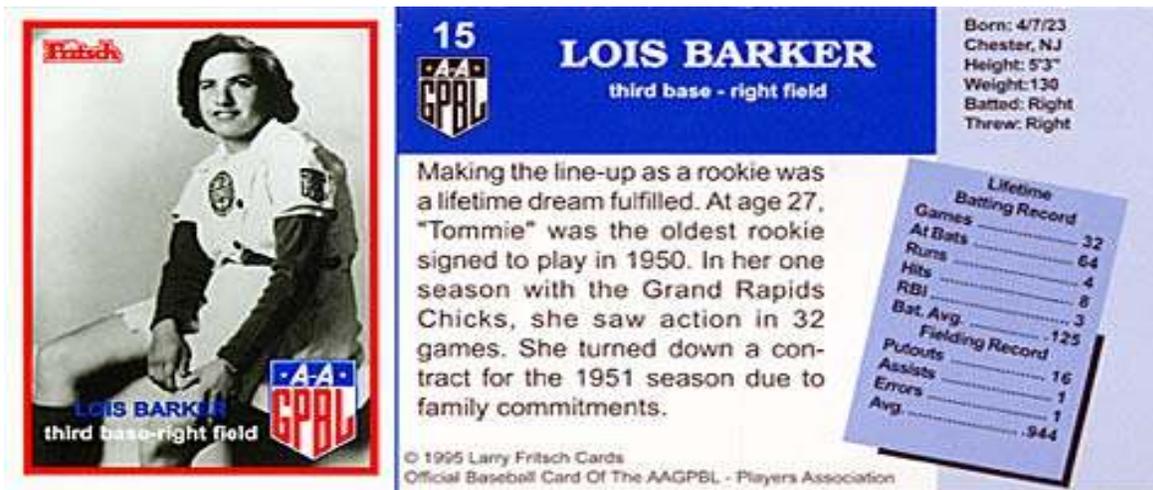
Elaine Hanington welcomes Borough Mayor **Bob Davis** and his wife **Mary** to the party.



The new **Field House** was warmed by a log fire in the impressive fireplace.



Matt Koppinger and **Len Taylor** mix the refreshing holiday punch.



Excerpts from the Oral History of longtime Chester resident Lois "Tommie" Barker

Recorded on February 9, 2009 with Helen Jones and Julia Robinson

Played in Women's Professional League—an "experience of a lifetime"!

- At tryouts in Irvington, told them she was 21, instead of her real age of 27.
- Paid \$55/week, which was a lot of money. Played every night, doubleheaders on Sunday, 125 games, Memorial Day through October.
- She was very homesick, telegraphed her father to wire \$ so she could come home. However, she was then moved to Michigan to a house where she lived with an elderly couple, more home-like. She was happier there, so wired her father to disregard the request for \$.
- One of the highlights of her play was an **unassisted triple play**—she caught a fly ball, stepped on a base and then tagged a runner out!
- Her team lost their first 21 games, but ended up in the playoffs. The check for her share of the playoff money was \$37.77. The Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY has a copy of the letter.
- Wm. Wrigley Co. was the sponsor of the League. Wrigley's wife designed their uniforms.
- She believes that headfirst sliding originated in this League.
- Recognized in Cooperstown's Baseball Hall of Fame 38 years after the League was disbanded. The whole League was inducted on 11/5/1988. The timing was good because many of the players were elderly and some had already passed on.
- Hollywood "discovered" the League after induction and made *A League of Their Own*, starring Madonna and Rosie O'Donnell.
- When Tommie came back after her year of playing, she had a hard time convincing people that she had really been away playing baseball...until the movie came out.
- Tommie played for one year, 1950, after which she came home to take care of her sick father.
- She believes the League had already reached its peak and was in decline due to a confluence of factors: Boys were back home from WWII, gas rationing was over, TV came into prominence.



Mark your calendars for the
Chester Library's
100th Anniversary Celebration,
August 27th.



Watch for announcements of events throughout the year.

Frances Tredway, Chester librarian

Frances Tredway, one of Chester Borough's first librarians, died Friday, Feb. 27, at the Glenlora Nursing Home in Chester Township. She was 98.

Miss Tredway was born in Chester and was a lifelong member of the community. She was a librarian for 59 years until retiring in 1969.

Miss Tredway leaves a niece, Eleanor Blank of Hershey, Pa., and a great-niece, Barbara Steinheuser of Chester.

Beth Ziegler, director of the Chester Library, remembered Miss Tredway as "a delightful lady. . . (with) quite a sense of humor" who "read several books a week right to the end."

Ziegler, who brings books to the nursing home every two weeks, said that Miss Tredway would recount

when she would go to Bamberger's store in Newark to buy books for the library.

"She loved books," said Ziegler. "She loved the library."

Steinheuser, who grew up in East Orange and Newark, said she would spend vacations with her great aunt. "The biggest treat for me was when Aunt Frances took me to the library."

Steinheuser and her husband live in the Church Street home that her great-grandfather built and where Frances Tredway lived.

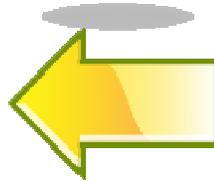
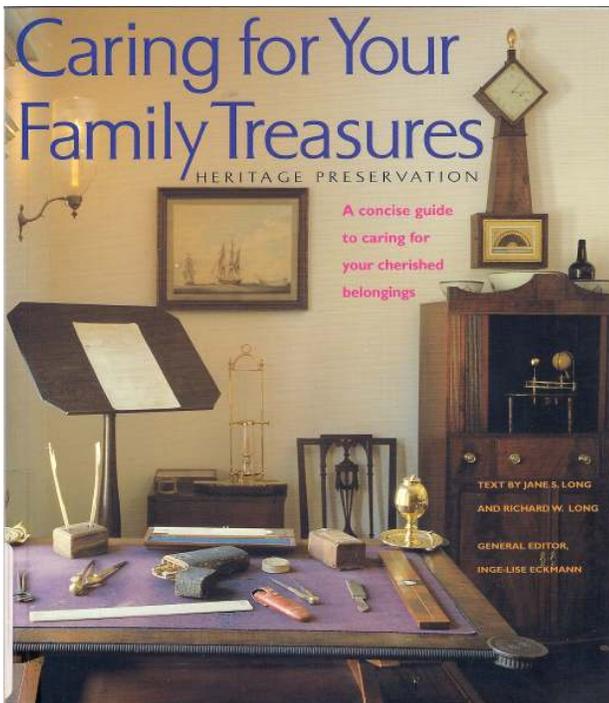
Memorial services were held Sunday at the Community Presbyterian Church.

Arrangements were by the Bailey Funeral Home Inc., 8 Hilltop Road, Mendham.



FRANCES TREDWAY

Observer Tribune, March 1987. Thanks to Peggy Oswald for sending this along.



Did You Know....?

This book can be found in the **Carmen Smith History Room** at the Chester Library and is available for checkout.

The authors discuss care and maintenance of objects for daily use as well as preservation of more fragile objects. The book also includes tips on locating genealogical info, and archival supplies.



Chester Fire Department (R). Next to it is the Rockefeller Center, since relocated to the Borough's Gazebo Park.



Does anyone know where this **barn** is/was? It is labeled "Milldale" in our archives. See more photos on our **Facebook** page. Search for *Chester, NJ Historical Society*.



Chester Historical Society

Elected to Board of Trustees

President: Alison Dahl
Treasurer: Ed Ng
Corresponding Secretary: Lois Taylor
Recording Secretary: Elaine Hanington
Members-at-Large: Helen Jones & Meryl Carmel

Appointed to Board of Trustees

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

Membership Application/Renewal (Membership runs Oct. 1 through Sept. 30)

P.O. Box 376 Chester, NJ 07930 www.historicchesternj.com



New _____ Renew _____ Today's Date _____

 Name (Miss, Ms., Mr. Mrs.) First Name Last Name

 Street Address/ PO Box /Apt. No Town State Zip

Age of Children under 18 if applying for Family Membership _____

Email Address _____

Schedule of Annual Membership Dues

Individual (over 18 years old)	\$8.00/person x No. _____ = \$ _____
Associate	\$5.00/person x No. _____ = \$ _____
<small>(Individuals 18 and under, or full-time students, or those individuals who are 62 or older.)</small>	
Family Membership	\$16.00/family x No. _____ = \$ _____
Sustaining Membership	\$35.00/ea. x No. _____ = \$ _____
Business Membership	\$35.00/ea. x No. _____ = \$ _____
Life Membership (under 62 years old)	\$200.00/person x No. _____ = \$ _____
Life Membership (62 yrs. +)	\$100.00/person x No. _____ = \$ _____
Additional Gift	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Are you interested in serving on a Committee? We would love your help!
 Please circle your choice and we will contact you: Archives, Oral History, Finance
 and Legal, Historic Sites, Membership, Publications, Programs, Publicity.

Do you have special skills or interests that you would like to share? Let us know
 by indicating your interest on the reverse side.

Questions? Contact: Marla Jackson, Membership Chair
 908-879-4382 or jackson07930@gmail.com