

News from the Historical Society of West Windsor

What's Happening-Spring 2006

Schenck House Events

Pot Luck Supper & Meeting

All local members should have received an invitation, by e-mail or regular mail, to our Pot Luck Supper and Meeting to take place on Monday, May 1st, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Schenck House.

If you have not already done so, please let Donna Munde (799-6775 or e-mail-dmunde@comcast.net) know if you are planning to attend, and what you would like to bring to share. Donna will be able to make suggestions on that if you wish.

We invited only local members, but if any out-of-town members are going to be in the neighborhood, we would love to have you attend. Just let Donna Munde know.

Programs-2006

After our January meeting, Judith Krall-Russo gave a most interesting talk on New Jersey's blueberries. We were able to sample blueberry juice and a variety of baked goods which naturally included blueberries.

Scott Parry's "The Story of Handbells" brought history and music together for our March after-meeting entertainment.

For our September 11th meeting, Donna Munde has arranged to have West Windsor resident Carolyn McGrath show her 52 minute film, "Contested Territory," a personal documentary about suburban spread, affordable housing and the environment. Carolyn interviewed many long-time residents of West Windsor and has included some of the interviews in her documentary film.

We have been very pleased with the good turnout at our programs. Hope more of you will consider joining us in the fall

Open Days

Attendance at our January 8th Schenck House Open Day was surprisingly good. Both long-time residents and new enjoyed seeing the house and our exhibits.

Because of the snowstorm which brought 11 inches of snow to our area, our February 12th Open Day had to be canceled.

Our March 12th Open House brought Edith Sprague with Doris Lamson of the Chesterfield Historical Society to talk with us about their newly donated historic house and how they might encourage donations to help furnish it. We were pleased to assist and to provide the names of other historic society headquarters houses they could visit for additional information.

Gifts to the Society

Generous donors have added the following to our collections:

- Monty and Peg Hagerly-dress form; chicken nesting box ; iron cooking pot with lid; large mallet hammer for driving fence posts, fixing wagon wheels, etc.
- Frank Kuhn-farm sled
- Ronald Everett-farm scale and small corn sheller.
- Gloria Ramsey-1970s dresses
- Kay & Clifford Reed-Wooden butter churn; small poultry trough feeder.

- Roberta Smith-Thank you for providing printed note cards featuring a photo of the Schenck House to be sold in our Gift Shop.

The following local businesses were very generous in lending/donating decorations for our Holiday Open House: Treasure Island; Wildflowers; Perna's; Major's Greenhouses and Boy Scout Troop #40.

Outbuildings

Barn & Schoolhouse

A Committee has been formed to work on placing the schoolhouse on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. Once the building is listed, we can apply for the grants needed to restore the building.

We were very pleased to learn that funds have been allocated by the West Windsor Township Committee to install custom-made doors and windows on the barn. Also, the metal shed located behind the barn will be replaced and have a new concrete foundation poured. The building will provide a wonderful setting for programs and to exhibit our growing collection of farming equipment.

Volunteer Opportunities

Every June, Second Graders from our local schools tour West Windsor to learn its history. One of the stops is the Schenck House and its out buildings.

We need volunteer guides to take school groups through the house and to tell them a little about its history. Tours will be held twice daily during June. Kay Reed-799-0331 will be coordinating the tours and guides. If you are available, please contact Kay. Your help is needed.

New Members:

We welcome the following new members:

Peggy Ellery
Victor Mount
Bobbie Konover
The Walter C. Hunter Family
Barbara and Gordon Riggs
Susan Roszel

Milestones

We regret to report the passing of Charter Member Esther Engelke. We send our condolences to her sister, Louise Connolly, also a Charter Member, as well as to Susan Connolly Parris and family, who are also members of the society.

Over the years, Esther and the Engelke family have provided many photographs, as well as articles written by Ida Engelke, (mother of Esther and Louise Connolly), which were the basis for three Broadside newsletters: The 1986 article, in two parts, gave the history of Aqueduct village, which included a map of the area hand drawn by Esther. The other newsletter in 1984 called "The Old Engelke Farm," gave us some history about the family and their farm.

Broadsides

Between 1983 and 2003, we produced 38 issues of our newsletter, Broadside. They cover the history of West Windsor's villages, neighborhoods, service organizations and include photographs.

Complete sets of Broadside are available punched into a looseleaf notebook, for \$20. The set is also available without the notebook for \$15. If you are interested in obtaining a set of Broadsides, please send your check (made out to The Historical Society of West Windsor) to: Kay Reed, Treasurer, The Historical Society of West Windsor, 534 Village Road West, Princeton Junction, New Jersey 08550