



The Society Scroll

Newsletter of
The Ocean County Historical Society
26 Hadley Avenue

Toms River, NJ 08753

Phone: 732 341-1880 FAX: 732 341-4372

“Telling The Stories Of Ocean County”

July 2007

President's Message

President Robert Garthwaite was inspired by a 1993 issue of the Scroll that he recently read. He sees the enthusiasm of that era as one he hopes to recapture in 2007-2008. He issues this challenge to present and future members:

Scroll, February, 1993

At this writing we are less than ten days into the new year. Already plans are tumbling over themselves! Plans for four “Open House Days”: Presidents’ Day, 15 February; a gala twentieth birthday, celebrating the years our Museum has served the public, 31 May; Founders’ Day, 12 June; our annual flea market, 4 September. These will be days to visit the museum. All sorts of demonstrations, music, movies, and activities can be enjoyed. These are also days when we need YOU. Please volunteer to answer the telephones, serve as receptionist, man the store, conduct tours, or help in any capacity as needed.

The Ways and Means Committee has planned six bus trips, two boat trips, a cocktail party, a special, super lecture, and other assorted activities. In every case, there is a dual purpose: fund raising and FELLOWSHIP. Participation is good for all of us!

Every department is also busy with its activity: Publications, Acquisitions, Research, Grounds, and our faithful Volunteers. All are dedicated to this museum and its purposes. All devote enormous amounts of time and energy, and we are grateful to them.

May we count on YOU to accept President Garthwaite’s challenge?

Meeting Reminder

OCHS Board Meetings will be held on Monday, August 6th, Monday, September 10th, and Monday, October 1st at 7:00 PM. Board members should call Donna at 732-341-1880 to confirm their attendance. All Society members are invited to attend!

Membership Special

Take advantage of this one-time offer:
INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ARE HALF-PRICE for the remainder of 2007!

Regularly \$30 and \$45 respectively, from July 1st to December 31st, 2007, an individual membership costs only \$15, and family membership (two people) is just \$22.50.

Membership forms are available at:

www.oceancountyhistory.org

or send your name, address, and check to Ocean County Historical Society, 26 Hadley Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753 and you will receive your form.

Members have access to the OCHS Research Center, special programs, and receive a 10% discount on Society merchandise and publications.

Curator's Corner By Patricia H. Burke

It all began with an e-mail from an antique dealer in Missouri at the end of June. She had purchased an antique quilt from the St. Louis, MO estate of a collector. It was a redwork embroidered signature quilt that was “Presented to Rev. James B. Dare by the Ladies of the Good Luck and Forked River M.E. Churches, Christmas 1888.” Were we interested in purchasing it?

I e-mailed back to her for more information and discovered that it was made of muslin comprised of thirty, thirteen by thirteen inch squares. It was in unused, unwashed condition and the muslin had its original polish. And there were 504 embroidered signatures on it from the Ocean County congregants of both churches.

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(Continued from page 1)

The Acquisition Committee was scheduled to meet on June 28th and when the quilt was discussed at their meeting, everyone agreed that we needed to bring it back home to Ocean County where it belonged. It was going to be auctioned on eBay and the dealer thought that it might sell for around \$1,000.00. We simply didn't have that kind of money.

Quickly, I e-mailed back to her saying that our executive board was meeting on July 2nd and perhaps we could find an "angel" who would donate the money needed to bid for this important piece of Ocean County history. The bidding started on July 1st and would end on July 8th. That gave us not quite a week to raise the money.

There was a nice turnout of members the night of the July 2nd board meeting. The business of the society was conducted on schedule and then it was the curator's turn to present her report. Everyone present was excited about the quilt, but how were we going to be able to raise so much money? The curator suggested that perhaps individual members could contribute \$100.00 or \$50.00 each. Then one of the trustees agreed to give \$100.00. Another suggested that a piece of paper be passed around and people could sign their names and pledge a certain amount.

When that paper was returned to the curator there were pledges that totaled \$1,570.00. We were almost there. Now all we had to do was outbid everyone on eBay.

The bidding started at \$300.00 and quickly jumped to \$500.00. Then \$520.00, \$550.00, \$570.00, \$590.00., \$610.00, \$630.00, \$650.00, \$670.00, \$690.00. We got in at \$701.00. Someone bid \$750.00, then \$800.00. Someone bid \$810.00 and we *finally got it* at the price of \$830.00.

A special quilt exhibition will open on October 14th when this very unique quilt will be on display with many of our other historic quilts and several from private collections. The exhibition will run for one week until October 20th. Admission for members is free and non-members will pay \$5.00. The hours are from 10-4 on October 14th and from 1-4 on October 15th-19th and 10-4 on October 20th.

Railroads of the Pinelands, a new exhibition, is scheduled to open this fall. Further details will follow in the next newsletter.



Thank YOU!!

We thank all of the faithful readers of *Echoes*, as well as the writers, the newsmakers, and those who contributed financially to make the publication and mailing of *Echoes* possible. Your support has led to a rebirth of camaraderie and spirit among members, volunteers, and staff and a re-emphasis on the Society's dissemination of the history of Ocean County.

Upcoming Events

Ocean County Historical Society will be participating in the **American Quilt Study Group Regional Quilt Study Day** on Saturday, **September 22**, at Burlington County Historical Society. Featuring quilts from various New Jersey historical societies, the Regional Quilt Study Day will give OCHS an opportunity to proudly display some of our best quilts for the perusal of quilting enthusiasts.

Be on the lookout for **OCHS-sponsored bus trips!** Four of our members are gathering information about interesting places to visit, outstanding places to eat, and costs involved. The camaraderie enjoyed by many of our members in the past will be possible again. You won't want to miss the opportunities to travel safely and inexpensively to exciting destinations!

Begin your Christmas planning by making reservations for the OCHS **Christmas Tea in the Victorian Tradition** on Thursday, **December 6th**. The admission price is \$18. and you may reserve a place at the 1:00 or 3:00 seating. Finger sandwiches, scones with strawberry preserves and cream, as well as lovely desserts promise to satisfy every devotee of elegant dining. Reservations from members are being accepted immediately, and from the general public beginning in September. Contact **OCHS, 26 Hadley Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753, 732-341-1880**

Christmas in July!!



If you've hoped to have individually designed Christmas tree ornaments, but felt that the prices were out of your budget range, now is your chance! All OCHS Christmas tree ornaments are being sold at half-price! Quantities are limited: Ornaments from 2001-2005, regularly \$10 each are now \$5.00 plus tax. Ornaments from 2006-2007, regularly \$15 each are now \$7.50 plus tax..

Chickaree in the Wall:
A Valuable Historical Resource
 By Barbara Reusch

Chickaree in the Wall, A History of One-Room Schools in Ocean County just completed its longest journey. New England was its latest destination as it was shared with interested members of the Country School Association of America at their Seventh Annual Country School Conference in Nashua, NH in June 2007. One of *Chickaree's* authors, Carolyn Campbell, told of the joys of research and the treasure bequeathed to the Ocean County Historical Society in the form of voluminous records, journals, and correspondence saved by former Ocean County Superintendent of Schools, Charles A. Morris. Carolyn also regaled conference participants with descriptions of some of the seventy-six one-room schools that were used by Ocean County students during the last two centuries.

Chickaree can trace its roots back to a single presentation in 1982. At that time, Carolyn Campbell and Peryl King, two experienced and successful educators themselves, encouraged former one-room school teachers Olga Clement (age 103 and residing at Medford Leas), Margaret Moore (age 99 and residing at Harrogate), and Myrtle Moore (deceased) to share their memories of teaching in Ocean County.

The dynamic duo of Carolyn and Peryl next undertook two bigger projects. Their research led to a slide/tape presentation entitled, "Dipper, Bell, and Slate", funded by the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Finally, by 1987, the two authors, with the research and writing assistance of friend Martha Smith, completed their book describing the seventy-six one-room schools in Ocean County. Two thousand copies were printed!

According to a review in the *New Jersey Historical Commission Newsletter* in June 1987, just twenty years ago, *Chickaree*

"...traces the development of the county schools from 1693, when New Jersey's first law regarding public education was passed, through 1943, when the county's last one-room school closed its doors....The book preserves the history of one-room schools in Ocean County and recalls a departed era when the school room might have '...the wind pouring up through the floor, the smoke oozing through cracks in the old stove and pipe, with now and then a chickaree (a variety of squirrel) looking down from his hole in the side of the building...'"

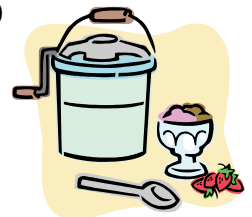
Having completed her one hundred forty-fifth program, Carolyn Campbell has touched the lives of countless children and adults, from elementary schools to colleges, from Rotary groups to historical societies, from libraries to retirement villages. Carolyn is still as enthusiastic today as she was when she began the research and writing process of this timeless book. "Telling the stories of Ocean County" comes easily to this octogenarian!



Carolyn Campbell at the Conference in Nashua, NH in June 2007.

Come One—Come All!

On Saturday, July 21, 2007, we will be participating in the Ice Cream Festival in downtown Toms River. The Festival runs from 11:30 AM until 5:00 PM. We will be preparing ice cream the "Old Fashioned Way" and will need volunteers to help churn and to work at the booth selling books, memberships, and other items.



O.C.H.S. Wish List

There are many small ways in which you, the members, can assist the day-to-day operation of the Society and our Museum. Your generous gifts to the Society might include:

- paper goods (paper towels, photo copy paper)
- postage stamps
- monetary donations for office supplies, computer tech support, and other necessities.

If you would care to offer your help, call the Museum at 732 341-1880.



Reminder

The next O.C.H.S. meeting will be Monday, August 6, 2007, at 7:00 PM at the Museum. We'd like to see you there!

**Elizabeth Sculthorp Force
Returns to Toms River
By James J. Roberts**

On May 23, 2007, about twenty-five people gathered at Riverside Cemetery in Toms River for the interment of the remains of Mrs. Elizabeth S. Force in the Sculthorp family plot. The group included family, friends from Mrs. Force's many years in New York's Greenwich Village, colleagues and former students from her distinguished teaching career in Toms River, and OCHS members.

In her one hundred-third year, Mrs. Force observed, "I feel my roots in Ocean County and Toms River. That's where I got my real education." Because of her foresight and firm leadership, Toms River High School also was where countless students of her courses in Social Behavior and Family Relations acquired a major portion of their real education.

Mrs. Force's teaching methods assured that her students would internalize the lessons: we played the roles of couples planning marriage and of married couples expecting children. We constantly tested our notions of what to do in these situations by subjecting them to peer review with Mrs. Force making certain that our debates were fair and respectful of each other's viewpoints. 'Respect' was the watchword, and we came to understand how important it was to respect others, even those we might not especially like. From this understanding it was an easy step to appreciating that displaying courtesy and respect to others led to the formation of a sense of self-respect.

In these days, self-respect was a hard-earned quality, not at all comparable to present-day concepts of 'self-esteem' or 'self-regard'. One earned self-respect by the way he or she treated others and by adhering to a self-imposed standard of behavior. We learned that we needed to admit our mistakes and that an apology was in order if we hurt someone (or their feelings). We understood that admitting mistakes was not a sign of

weakness and that an apology was a positive achievement, not an event which diminished us. I find myself devoutly wishing that Mrs. Force's invaluable lessons could be applied to today's public and political discourse....

Last June (2006), my high school class of 1956 held a reunion. I was gratified to find how many of my classmates, when they were reminded that Mrs. Force was still living (and learning!), expressed the same sentiment: that what she helped us to learn fifty years ago had become part of their personal identities and part of the fabric of their families.

Now that her long and productive life has ended and Mrs. Force has returned to Toms River, it is perhaps a fitting tribute to her unique vision that the human qualities that she identified as essential live on in so many individuals and families in Toms River and across the nation and throughout the world.

Save This Date

A bus trip to Duke Farms & Gardens, Doris Duke's NJ Estate is being planned for Thursday, October 4, 2007. More details will be forthcoming

Flower Power

The gardens and grounds around the OCHS Museum are slowly being reclaimed by Society members and their friends. Visit the Museum and see where your efforts at weeding, and your donations of flowers could restore the beauty of our once magnificent gardens.



Reminder

The OCHS Museum is open Tuesday and Thursday between the hours of 1 and 4 PM. Saturday visits may be arranged by appointment. The Library Research Center is also open. Call for available times. Phone: 732 341-1880

November 94
By Faith Roberts

No, it's not the number of a train nor a flight designation. It was the number assigned to Oscar Downs, my grandfather, as a grower for the Tru-Blue Blueberry Co-op based in Hammonton, New Jersey. The dark, sandy soil of his fields in Lakehurst was perfect for raising blueberries, and he began his business in the mid-forties to the best of my recollection.

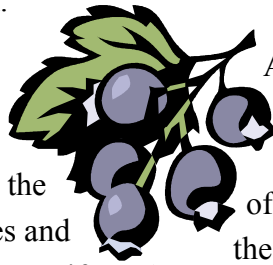
In those days, marketing blueberries demanded great attention to detail and to the standards set by the Co-op. Inspectors came to the packing house to check the quality of the berries and to examine the wooden crates already packed to see if they were correctly labeled.

The packing house was one of two buildings in the fields. It was a cedar-shingled structure open at one end for the pickers to leave their completed flats and for trucks coming to load the crates. The other smaller building served as a facility for anyone working in the fields with my grandfather and, also, as a home base for a farm hand who checked on the general needs of the workers.

I, so very much, admired the people who picked blueberries day after day in the July sun. Many were Lakehurst residents and, as I recall, most were women. They could finish picking a flat (12 pints) in no time! There is an "art" to being a good picker. One has a pail or small container secured around the waist or hung around the neck. As most of the berries are accessible at standing height and the berry boxes are on the ground, the container could be filled faster, both hands available, and easily poured into the empty boxes. In addition, one must learn to gather berries using thumb and forefinger for more efficient yield. The rule was: pick the bush clean. No stems or unripe berries tolerated. I remember being sent back to finish a bush as I hadn't been careful to find those last berries. It was hot work and I think that

I earned fourteen cents per pint.

Eventually, in my early teens, I graduated to packing berries which were hand-sorted and packaged into pint containers. I recall four major grades of berries. Crowns were the largest and grandest berries. Next came Harvest Moons. Green Leaf were even smaller and were followed by Stars, the smallest of the fruit. Crowns received the highest prices for the Co-op.



As blueberries became a cash crop, the industry developed additional strains of berries, each having its own distinctive flavor. Rancocas, one of the earliest bearing berries, were the favorites of the deer living in the woods nearby. Although the property was fenced, the deer were not to be denied a treat. Grandfather decided to plant a row of bushes just outside the fence. Not all of the deer were content with the arrangement, but more Rancocas berries managed to go to market.

There were other strains to ripen as the season progressed throughout July and early August. Weymouths had that really sweet blueberry flavor. Jerseys were good keepers and froze well. Pembertons and Cabots were other reliable strains.

Grandfather had his blueberry business well established as I was growing up. As a matter of course, the berry bushes were pruned and the fruit sprayed, at first by hand, and later by a crop duster aircraft. Bees were hired during flowering, and the whole field hummed. The bushes were watered and cultivated as the seasons demanded.

Never satisfied with the status quo, Grandfather, in cooperation with other growers and with Rutgers University Extension Services, developed more varieties of blueberries, some for show, some for lasting better when shipped distances, some for taste, and



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some for bearing longer during the growing season. He set aside a separate field for those experiments. One of the new plants yielded very large, light blue fruit on rather tall bushes. They were named Atlantics and became my favorites.

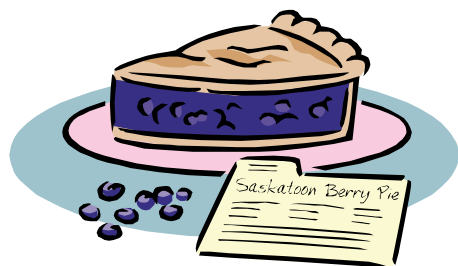
With advances in farming equipment, blueberry growers no longer depended on hand labor and most berries were harvested by machine. They were no longer sized, but small growers like my grandfather continued to package by hand. For a few summers, I packed his crop, picked by machine. My sister and I did that as long as he marketed berries. Then the fields were no longer yielding enough fruit to be commercially viable. Grandfather continued to maintain the experimental field for family use. We invited church groups to pick for use by a nursing home and for themselves as well. Many friends enjoyed picking berries with us.

One of Faith Roberts family's favorite blueberry recipes:

TRU-BLUE BLUEBERRY PIE

By Eleanor Abdellah given to the Oscar Downs Family

1 baked pie shell
4 C blueberries
¾ C sugar
¼ tsp. cinnamon
4 T cornstarch
½ C water
pinch salt
2 T butter
1 T lemon rind
1 T lemon juice



Combine sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, and salt. Stir in water and 2 C of blueberries. Cook on top of stove, low setting, stirring until thickened. Remove from heat. Add butter, lemon rind, and lemon juice. When cooled, fold in remaining 2 C fresh berries. Pour into pie shell. Serve with whipped cream.

Publications Available

The Bookstore at the OCHS Museum houses a wealth of information that will arouse the interest of Ocean County residents. All of the publications listed below, and many others, are available at our Bookstore. Visit us soon to enhance your library, or to purchase books as gifts for others interested in the rich history of Ocean County.

Chickaree In The Wall
Toms River Was In Flames
Disappearing Island: Tucker's Island
Jersey Pine Barrens Industries
Place Names Of Ocean County
Cranberry Cookery
Lenape - Delaware Indians
100 Memorable Moments
New Jersey Railroads
Blockhouse Fight Re-Enactment (DVD)



Visit our Bookstore soon!

Benefits of OCHS Membership

The OCHS has much to offer to its members. Our Museum is open to all members so that you may enjoy all of the permanent and traveling exhibits, and the beauty of a Victorian home. All members receive a 10% discount when purchasing books or merchandise at our Bookstore. Members are invited to participate in the many trips and activities that happen throughout the year here at OCHS. In addition, members receive each issue of *The Society Scroll*. If you have friends or relatives who are not members, bring them to the next meeting and introduce them to the many benefits of membership in the Ocean County Historical Society!

Reminder

Volunteers will be needed to help with the OCHS presence at the Tuckerton Decoy Show, September 28th and 29th, 2007, and at the Pinelands Jamboree, October 10th, 2007. Call 732 341-1880 to offer your help.

Way Back When...

This section features articles taken from the *Ocean Emblem* of December 10, 1852. The *Ocean Emblem* was published in Ocean County from 1852 until 1866. It was a descendent of the *Ocean Signal*, and later became the *New Jersey Courier and Ocean Emblem*. Copies of these newspapers can be found at the OCHS Library and Research Center.

“Follow The Crowd and Save Your
— MONEY. —”



MESSRS. IVINS & COWPERTHWAIT,
have this day commenced business at the
old stand of T. & A. Ivins, Junr.,
For the sale of

Dry Goods,
Hardware,
Crockery,
Iron & Steel,
Boots & Shoes,
Cedar Ware,
Looking Glasses,
—READY-MADE CLOTHING—

GROCERIES

---STOVES,---
Of Every Description,
AT UNPRECEDENTED LOW RATES
For CASH, or its equivalent ONLY
It is our intention to Make our Establishment
decidedly the

People's Store,
And we therefore earnestly invite the public to
call and examine our stock, and be satisfied of
the truth of what we say. We are well aware
that many persons on commencing business ad-
vertise, and hold out inducements which they
never intend to perform. All we ask is an ex-
amination of our stock; our prices will speak
for themselves. We matter ourselves after ma-
ny years experience in trade, that our selec-
tions will be superior

TO ANY OTHER IN THE MARKET,
and as we shall be constantly in receipt of
Goods from New York and Philadelphia, it will
be for the interest of all classes to give us their
patronage.

THOMAS W. IVINS.
GEORGE W. COWPERTHWAIT
Tom's River, Nov. 16, 1852. dec. 10-1y.

NOTICE

Is hereby given that application will be made to the next legislature to incorporate the town of Tom's River.

NOTICE

Is hereby given that application will be made to the legislature of the State of New Jersey, at its next session, for the alteration of the boundary line between the counties of Monmouth and Ocean, as follows, viz:—Beginning where the boundary line between the townships of Howell and Brick intersects the eastern line of the Jackson, and running thence south westerly to the easterly line of the county of Burlington, where Crosswicks Creek (in running from the county of Burlington into the county of Ocean) intersects the line between Burlington and Ocean.
November, 24, 1852.—6w

Officials Of The OCHS

The following officers of the OCHS were elected in April, 2007 by the membership.

President - Robert Garthwaite

Vice President - Tim Hart

Recording Secretary - John Rogers

Membership Secretary - Mary Frances Miske

Treasurer - Ferd Klebold

Members of the Board of Trustees are:

James Caldwell Carolyn Campbell

Rochelle Kamsar L. Manuel Hirshblond

Francis Kowalczyk Gregory Kavanagh

Jean Lacey Linda McPartlin

Howard Miske Ruth Parker

Barbara Reusch Richard Ribel

Charlotte Ross April Yezzi

Candace Lillie

Editor's Note

The OCHS is alive and well! Our goal is to return to *Telling The Stories Of Ocean County*. If you have articles to contribute to The Society Scroll, or wish to assist with the production of the newsletter, or if you can help defray the cost of production, we need to hear from you. Please call Barbara Reusch at 732 341-1880.

Ocean County Historical Society
26 Hahalep Avenue
Toms River, NJ 08753



There will be a **meeting** for all **educational tour volunteers**
On
Wednesday, August 1, 2007
At 9:30 AM
(Refreshments will be served)

We will discuss our need for volunteers,
And offer training to anyone who would like to be a tour guide.

IMPORTANT!!



We have been promised
57 third grade classes
From the Toms River Schools
For the 2007-2008 school year. We need tour guides!
Please be there. Bring a friend! We need your help!

Please call **Diane Lingsch** at **732 341-1880**