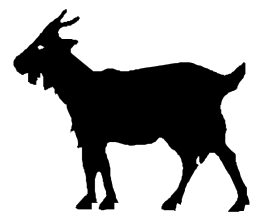


Nannygoats



Vol. 15, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society

Summer 2017

Historic Preservation Awards for Edison & Metuchen Projects

The Society is happy to share the news that two of the six recipients of this year's annual New Jersey Historic Preservation Awards were from our community.

Along with four other projects from around the state, Metuchen's Restoration of the Woodwild Park Fountain and Edison's Sarah B. Jordan Boarding House Commemoration project received these well-deserved honors at the NJ Historic Preservation Awards ceremony on May 11, 2017 at the Burlington County Olde Courthouse in Mount Holly.

Celebrating May as National Historic Preservation Month in New Jersey, the Department of Environmental Protection's Historic Preservation Office and the New Jersey Historic Sites Council presented the competitive awards honoring projects, groups, and individuals dedicated to preserving the State's architectural, archaeological, and cultural history. "These

Continued on Page 7

Metuchen's First Historic District Listed in NJ & National Registers

Several years in the making, the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District has finally been listed in the New Jersey Register of Historic Places (June 5, 2017). Listed in the National Register is expected soon.

On March 9, 2017, members of the Borough of Metuchen's Historic Preservation Committee presented the Nomination to the State Review Board in Trenton. The 87-page nomination document, which describes the significance and history of the 167 properties within the District, was unanimously recommended to the NJ DEP and National Park Service for listing in the Registers.

This, Metuchen's first historic district, joins Edison's recently recognized Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Copies of the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District nomination are on the Borough's and Society's websites.

Continued on Page 7

History in the Headlines!



Redcoats pursuing Revolutionaries in June! See story on Page 3.

Invaluable

Resource Now Available To All

Thanks to the efforts of the Metuchen Public Library staff and a grant from the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, NJ Historical Commission and Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage, nearly 70 years of our area's history is now at our fingertips!

All available issues of the *Metuchen Recorder*, dating from 1900 onwards, have been digitized and are available for free on the Metuchen Public Library's website. These issues are a goldmine of information about the issues of the day and their impact on our current society. Previously these issues were available to the public only on microfilm viewable during regular library hours. Now, they are *online* and *text searchable*, saving untold hours of research time and eye strain!

The construction of the Menlo Park Mall? Expansion of the Morris Stores? Ku Klux Klan crosses burned downtown? Miss Merry Christmas winners? New High School constructed? Who was elected, who held a garden party, and what teams won against whom. It's all there, the good and the bad – a chronicle of our times.

Continued on Page 7

Historic Homes on High Street Demolished

Not all history news is good news... Metuchen has recently lost one – and will soon be losing another – historic home on High Street.

This past spring, a Second Empire home at the corner of High and Thomas Streets was demolished to make way for new construction. Sadly, a letter from the Mayor of Metuchen to the property owners – urging them to consider the site's preservation – was unsuccessful.

Soon, the neighboring house to the east of will also come down. Set back much further and featuring a modern alteration to its front porch, this residence may have escaped many passersby. In the late 19th century, however, High Street was known for its impressive estate homes. These are the last visible from that era to fall.

Social media posts about the demolition sparked debates about the value of preservation, and led to discussions about other notable recent demolitions, such as Dr. Paterniti's "New Orleans" style house that formerly sat at the corner of Grove and Middlesex Avenues.

For more about these homes on High Street, go to the story on Page 2.

The Missing Thornall?
see story on
Pages 5-6!

The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society was founded in 1974 to promote an interest in and appreciation of the history of the Borough of Metuchen and of Edison Township.

Historic High Street Homes Gone, Not Forgotten

In the late 19th century, High Street was home to a number of large scale estates – and was often the subject of souvenir picture postcards. Soon, very little evidence of the residences from that time period will remain.

"The Towers," a substantial mansion likely built ca. 1868 for Benjamin C. Paddock, stood at the corner of Lake and High Street until it was destroyed by fire in 1970 (*see right*). Only Caretaker's Cottage remained, and was eventually subdivided off and enlarged, sitting set far back off Lake Avenue.



The A.L. Scott Residence, formerly known as 31 High Street (*see left*), featured a wealth of architectural details when photographed in the 1930s, prior to undergoing an extensive "colonial" renovation later in the century. In the late 1980s, the property was subdivided and Honey Court was built along with several new homes. The original house, with a greatly altered exterior, still exists but is not visible from High Street or recognizable as the original.

Prior to its recent demolition, the Society gathered a great deal of information about the ca. 1872 Bogert House on High Street (*see right*). This Second Empire house, formerly at 59 High Street, first appears on historic maps in 1876 as attributed to Reverend N.I.M. Bogert. Nicholas I. Mersellus Bogert was born in 1842 to William and Mary Onderdonk Bogert. William was an early Daguerreotypist, operating from a shop at 345 Bleecker Street in Manhattan. Reverend Bogert attended Rutgers Seminary and upon graduation in 1867 was called as the second minister to the Metuchen Reformed Church. In 1868 he married Mary Augusta Thomas, the daughter of David Thomas, a large property owner in the Metuchen area and the family for whom Thomas Street, Graham Avenue, and Thomas Pond were named. In 1870, due to ill health although only in his late 20s, Reverend Bogert resigned from his position.



The 1870 census lists Reverend Bogert and his wife living with the Thomas Family, likely on Graham Avenue in the David Graham Thomas house. By 1876, the Bogerts had a one-year old daughter, Julia Thomas Bogert, and are shown as living at the corner of High and Thomas Streets, in the location of the current #59 High Street. It is not known how long the Bogerts resided at 59 High Street, but by the turn of the century they lived nearby on Graham Avenue (at the corner of Franklyn Place). Miss Julia T. Bogert served as the head librarian for many years, and oversaw the construction of the current building within the historic district on Middlesex Avenue. She was also President of the Quiet Hour, and served in a variety of civic leadership positions. She notably donated her father's papers to Rutgers University, including his correspondence with Theodore Roosevelt.

The 1900 census, and succeeding censuses and directories, indicate the Watson Family followed the Bogerts. According to a former owner & resident, and long-time Director of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, the house was divided into three apartments in the 1940s. With the exception of the one-story garage addition added before 1959, little changed to the appearance of the home after that time. The house was demolished to make way for new construction in the Spring of 2017.

The next house slated to fall is 47 High Street (*see below*). It was likely constructed ca. 1865 and is shown as belonging to J.L. DeForest on the 1868 and 1876 maps of Metuchen. Later known as the "Priscoe" House after long-time residents, it will reportedly be demolished soon and the lot subdivided to make way for new homes.

All four residences – whether completely gone or currently unrecognizable – are shown on south side of the High Street the excerpt below of the 1876 Fulton Plan of Metuchen.



1901 City Directory, Column 7

Below is the seventh column of entries in the sections relevant to our area of the 1901 *Polk's New Brunswick City Directory*. The Society began reprinting the entirety of this directory in the Winter/Spring 2016 issue.

Green Joel, h Rose
 Grey Christopher, h Middlesex ave
 Grey Christopher, h Middlesex ave
 Griffin Alfred, h Maple
 Griffin Joseph, h Walnut
 Grimstead James, clerk, h Middlesex ave
 Grimstead Silas, lawyer New Brunswick, h Main
 N. J. h Main
 Guest Elias, mason, h Railroad ave
 Hahn George H. druggist, Main, h New
 Hahn William sr. bus. N. Y. h Home
 Hahn William jr. bus. N. Y. h Home
 Halsey J. Harvey, bus. N. Y. h Spring
 Hanhlon John C. bus. N. Y. h Woodbridge ave
 Hanhm Christian, tailor, h Main
 Harding Patrick, bartender, h Main
 Harper Charles, laborer, h Pearl
 Harper Frank, laborer, h Middlesex ave
 Hartman Charles, barber, h Main
 Hay Frank S. mechanical engineer, h Amboy ave
 Hennesy Thomas
 Heron Archibald, blacksmith, h Durham ave
 Higgins Daniel, laborer, h Sheridan
 Hishler Thomas, h Orchard
 Hoagland J. M. farmer, h Durham ave
 Hoagland J. W. milkman and farmer, h Durham ave
 Hoffman F. G. salesman, h Amboy ave
 Holcomb I. M. bus. N. Y. h Centre
 Holkin F. M. bus. N. Y. h Main
 Holkinson Fritz, laborer, h Main
 Hollis Charles, florist, h Clive
 Hollister Harry, emp P. R. R. h New Brunswick ave
 Horan Thomas, h Sheridan
 Horn Robert, h Rose
 Horne Robert W. engineer, h Rose
 Hubble Fred. painter, h Railroad ave
 Hubble Robert, painter, h Railroad ave
 Hughes E. J. farmer, h Plainfield ave
 Hulsizer Sidney, retired, h Durham ave
 Hunt A. C. physician, Holly, h do



The Grimstead Room at the Metuchen Public Library contains a wealth of local history information, including thousands of photographs, maps, oral histories, manuscript & subject files, postcards, and ephemera. If you have a specific interest in a particular area of Metuchen or Edison history, contact us at info@metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org with as many details as possible. Although our archives are not conducive to browsing, if we have any relevant information we will be pleased to arrange, by appointment, for one of our Board members to assist you with your search.



History in the Headlines

Oak Ridge Park, located in Clark and adjacent to the northern end of Edison Township, recently hosted a very special reenactment of the June 26th 1777 Battle of the Short Hills, also known as the Battle of Metuchen Meetinghouse. The park, a former golf course, features expansive rolling hills and a 1730s farmhouse: perfect for Redcoats and Revolutionaries to battle it out for history-lovers' viewing.

According to the *Crossroads of the American Revolution's* description, "Holding off a two-pronged attack, the fledgling New Jersey Brigade fought a gallant retreat, keeping the advancing redcoats at bay while the rest of the Continental Army marched to the safety of the Watchung Mountains. Though substantially outnumbered, the Americans' strategic move ensured the survival of the state as an American territory and forced the British to try a new approach to capturing Philadelphia."

An area of the battlefield, encompassing about 300 acres in Edison Township, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2014, thanks largely to the efforts of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society Directors and Members. Many thanks to Metuchen Resident Sue Cea for the stunning 1777 (er, 2017) photograph of the battle on the front page of this issue.

The Missing Thornall



Written and
contributed by
**Ray
Harriot**

I recently read with interest the article on the Thornall Collection which was highlighted in the Winter 2013 edition of the *Nannygoats*. Israel Thornall came to Woodbridge, New Jersey at the request of Carteret from Massachusetts along with the Pikes, Ayers, Fitz Randolphs, Bloomfields, and Rolphs in the late 1600s. Until around 1870 Metuchen was part of

Woodbridge Township.

Obadiah Ayers was married to Hannah Pike. He was one of the largest landowners in Metuchen having obtained 180 acres. Fifteen years after receiving it he gave the lower half to his son John and in 1693 he gave the other half to his son Samuel. I have always known that my Harriot family had Ayers roots as my 4ggf George Harriot of Woodbridge married Mary Ayers, daughter of Obadiah Ayers and his wife Mary Bloomfield, on December 24, 1750 in Woodbridge. This Obadiah Ayers was a grandson of the Metuchen settler.

It wasn't until recently, however, that we discovered there was a Thornall connection. This came about with the connection of Israel Harriot, a Revolutionary War Veteran from Westchester County, New York to George Harriot. According to his Revolutionary War pension application we know that Israel Harriot was born in 1748 in New Jersey and Y-Chromosome DNA analysis indicated he was connected to the George Harriot line of Herriotts. George Harriot was born in 1720 around Woodbridge, New Jersey. The Harriots had been in Woodbridge since around 1685 when David Herriott came from Scotland with Lord Neil Campbell

Since George Harriot did not marry Mary Ayers until 1750, this pointed to a strong possibility that there was an earlier marriage. Finally, while searching documents related to Israel Harriott, we came upon proof. The genealogical notes of one of Israel Harriot's grandsons noted that Dr. George Herriot of New York was a brother of Israel... and how he wished he knew who his parents were.

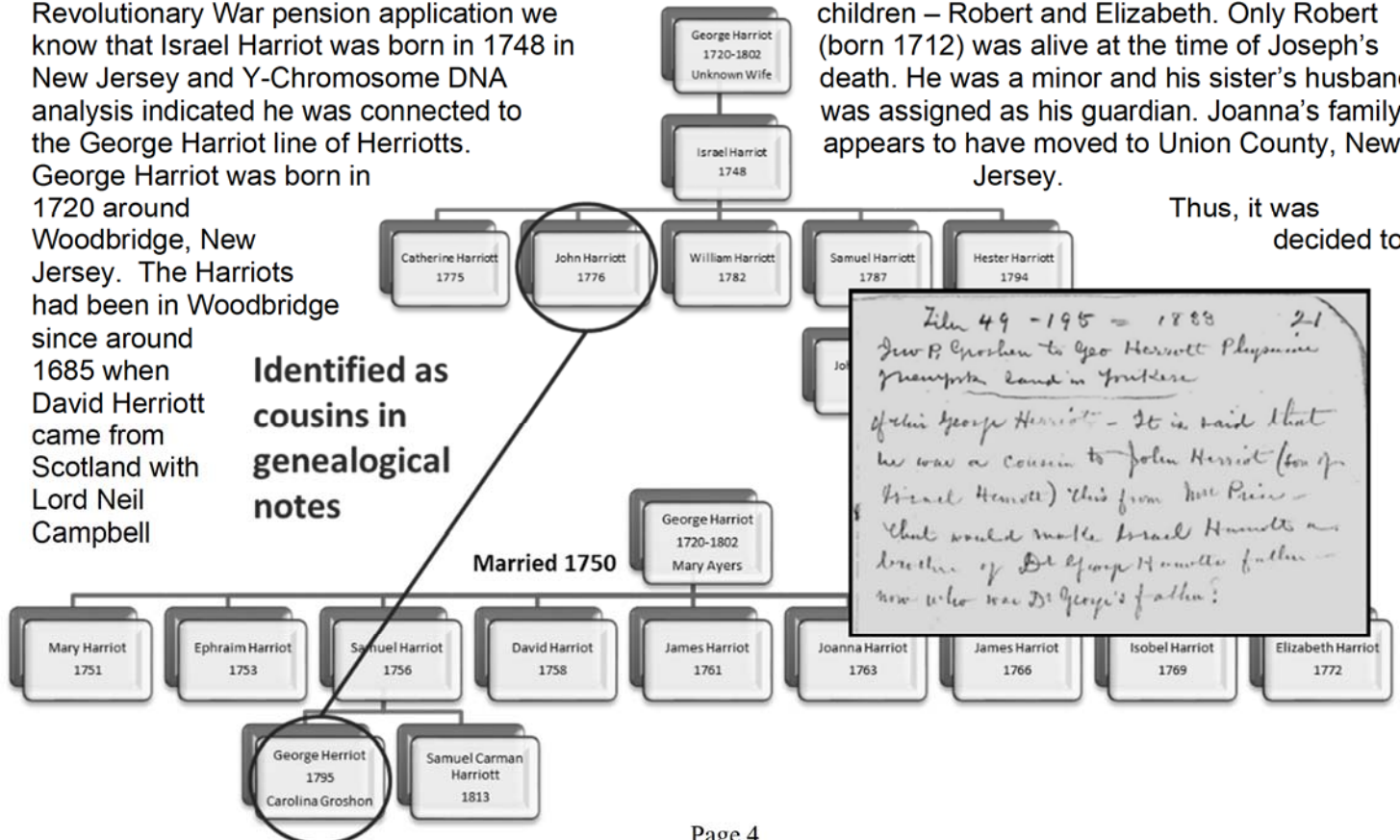
Well, we knew who his parents were... and his father was a son of George Harriot of Woodbridge. This confirmed that Israel was a son of George Harriot... and since Israel was born in 1748 there was indeed a marriage prior to Mary Ayers... but to whom? *See chart below.*

The Harriots, following Scottish tradition, were very big on naming their children after family... and Israel was NOT a good Harriot name. This was the first known occurrence. Thus, we figured he must be named after the mother's side of the family. A search indicated that the only Woodbridge family where Israel was a prominent name was the Thornalls. So we took a look at this family.

The original settler who came from New England to Woodbridge was Israel Thornall with his wife Hannah Gannett. They had several children. *See top chart on Page 5.*

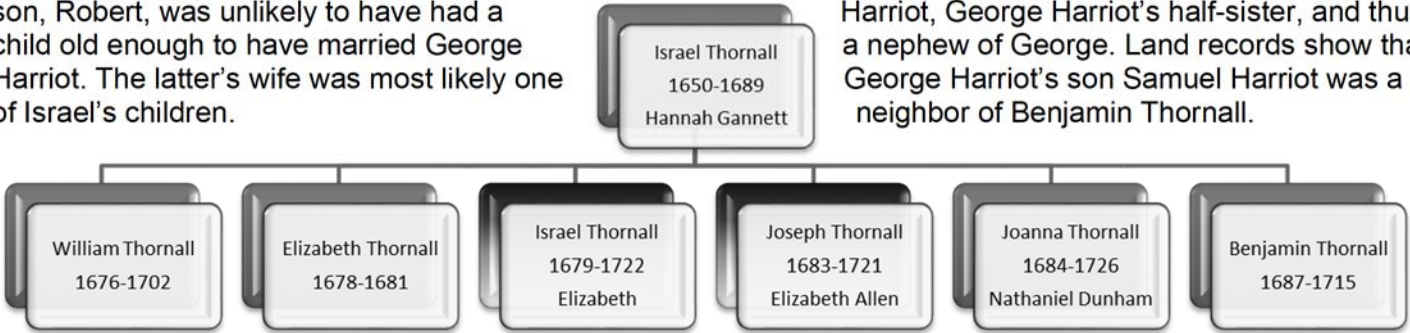
Of these children, the only ones who had children of their own were Israel, Joseph, and Joanna. William and Benjamin died young and did not appear to have had any children. Joseph also died young but had two children – Robert and Elizabeth. Only Robert (born 1712) was alive at the time of Joseph's death. He was a minor and his sister's husband was assigned as his guardian. Joanna's family appears to have moved to Union County, New Jersey.

Thus, it was decided to



focus on the children of Israel since Joseph's son, Robert, was unlikely to have had a child old enough to have married George Harriot. The latter's wife was most likely one of Israel's children.

was the son of Samuel Crow and Eleanor Harriot, George Harriot's half-sister, and thus a nephew of George. Land records show that George Harriot's son Samuel Harriot was a neighbor of Benjamin Thornall.

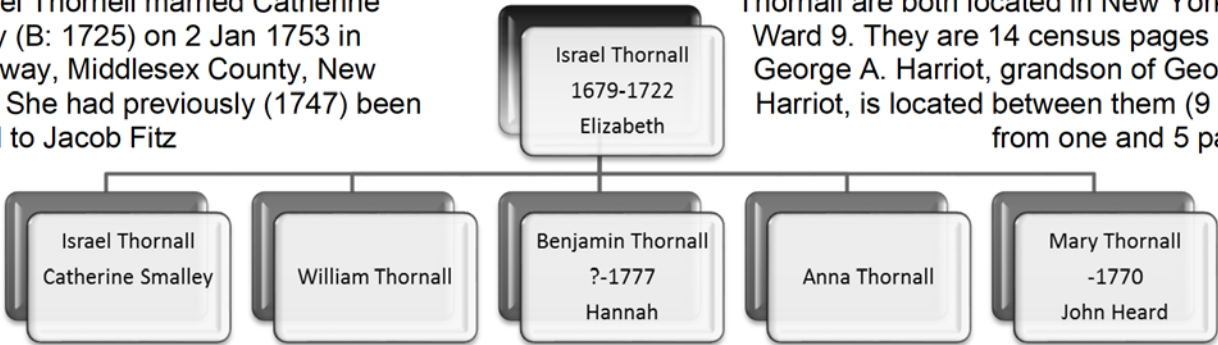


The names of Israel Thornall's children are listed in his will dated 8 April 1722. It states that all except Israel are under age. The will was proved on 9 November 1722... which was two years after George Harriot was born. See chart below.

Israel Thornell married Catherine Smalley (B: 1725) on 2 Jan 1753 in Piscataway, Middlesex County, New Jersey. She had previously (1747) been married to Jacob Fitz

When Rachel (Manning) Thornall died in 1819, her will was witnessed by her son Lewis Thornall and Mary Harriot, most likely the wife of George Harriot's son Ephraim.

In 1830 Benjamin Thornall and his brother Lewis Thornall are both located in New York City in Ward 9. They are 14 census pages apart. George A. Harriot, grandson of George Harriot, is located between them (9 pages from one and 5 pages from



Randolph (1727-1751), son of Joseph Fitz Randolph and Rebecca Drake. William and Israel are not known to have had any children. Mary Thornall married John Heard.

There is pretty much no record of Anna. She would have been born around 1717 to 1720. George was born in 1720. Nobody knows what happened to her. All we know is that she was alive and a minor in 1722 when her father died. She is the only Thornall female that nobody seems to have information about.

If she married George Harriot it would make sense that they would name a child Israel after her father (or her brother). There are also other references that point to the closeness of these families.

Benjamin Thornall and Hannah had a daughter Martha Thornall who married John Crow. John Crow

the other). Samuel Harriot is in Ward 7.

Once again in 1840 Benjamin Thornall and his brother Lewis Thornall are located in New York City Ward 9 (Page 127). Ebenezer Ford is living next to them. He is the brother of Grace Ford. He marries Abigail Cutter who after his death married Benjamin S. Thornall.

In 1870 Benjamin Thornall is living with Abigail S. Thornall and sons (including one by her marriage to Ebenezer Ford) in New York City. They live next door to Sarah Harriot and her son David. These are descendants of George Harriot. See census below.

Thus, it is very likely that George Harriot's first wife was Ann Thornall, daughter of Israel Thornall and his wife Elizabeth. They appear to have been married before 1747 and she likely died during childbirth with son Israel Harriot or shortly thereafter.

In 1750 George Harriot then married Mary Ayers, daughter of Obadiah Ayers and Mary Bloomfield.

28	Harriot Mary A	197	M	House	Harriot			Island	1
	Thornall Benjamin	173	M		Canman			500	New Jersey
	Harriot S	52	F	M	House			New Jersey	
	Harriot S	27	F	M	None			New York	
	Isaac M	194	M		House				
	Ford William W	14	M	M	House				
29	Harriot Sarah	64	F	M	House			New Jersey	
	David	30	M	M	House				
	Isaac M	194	M		House				

Many thanks to Ray Harriot for sharing his research with the Society. Mr. Harriot resides in Sykesville, Maryland, and can be reached at rayh28@verizon.net by readers with any relevant information to share.

METUCHEN AND HER HISTORY, 1870 (VI)

The following is the sixth installment of Dr. E.M. Hunt's "Metuchen and Her History," written in 1870, which we began reprinting serially in issues of *Nannygoats* beginning with the Winter/Spring 2015 edition. Many thanks to Society President Dominic T. Walker for transcribing this document.

Could you have stood upon Prospect Hill on some May-day morning of the year 1800, and taken a survey of this whole region, you would have seen the same beautiful valley, with the range of blue hills to the north, with the Raritan river and bay to the south, and with the picturesque and undulating variety of slope and dale to the east and the west, surrounding the leveler intermediate plateau; but how different the roads, the people, the houses and the landmarks. Not a building is now standing which you then would have recognized, and the old brown head-stones of the old grave-yard are the only unchanged erections and silent mementoes of the past.

The Turnpike road from New York to Philadelphia, where it passes through our village, now known as Middlesex Avenue, had not yet been made, and the Turnpike from Perth Amboy [Amboy Avenue], which passes under the railroad bridge, and so on to New Durham, was still a part of the fields.

The only access from Piscataway was either by the Bonhamtown road [Main Street] or by that running by Campbell Tappen's and coming out by the house of Ellis F. Ayres.

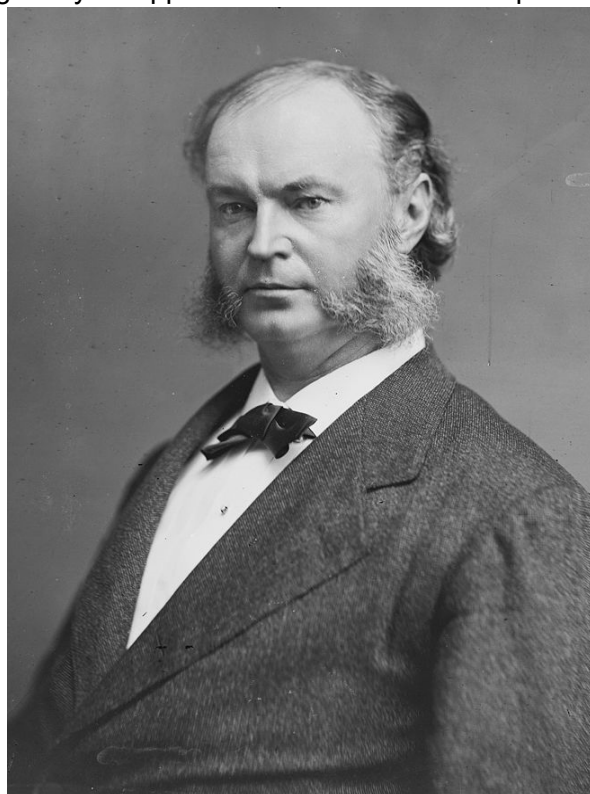
The old Woodbridge road passing the Presbyterian Church was the route both to Woodbridge and Perth Amboy. The town we now call Metuchen was really a place with one main road, reaching from the Short Hills to Bonhamtown intersected here only by the Piscataway road near the house of Ellis F. Ayres by the Woodbridge road opposite the old grave-yard, and then running on to the Bonhamtown road, which was the thoroughfare route between Philadelphia and New York, over which Washington had passed on his way to inauguration as President, and which was a chief post-road [now County Route 514] of the State.

At the south-east end of the old grave-yard stood the Presbyterian meeting-house, of which the Rev. Henry Cook was the pastor. On the corner opposite lived a man of the name of Mundy, who although not addicted to cowardice, was once somewhat startled by a ghost. One night he heard a strange noise, and looking out of his window, saw a white object in the grave-yard moving to and fro, with an occasional suppressed groan. It really seemed as if some spirit was abroad, and though at first hesitating, he concluded to make advance upon it. With due preparation, he betook himself through the darkness to the spot, and as he approached, still unable to discern what it meant, he could only see that the being retreated not at his coming, but swayed up and down as if looking out from a grave and then withdrawing into it. Summoning new courage, he marched up to the spot and found that a grave had caved in and that a stray sheep had fallen into the pit and, unable to extricate himself, could only signal his trouble by stretching his head ever, and anon above the surface. The ghost was relieved from his dilemma, and the story lives to show how many a grave-yard apparition of human form and spirit has no better basis in fact.

Between the point now occupied by Edgars & Acken's store and the road which comes out by Ellis F. Ayres' house, there were but five houses.

The nearest school-houses were a log building facing the Vineyard road; one near the first bridge above Pumptown, and another where the Lafayette school-house now stands. The mill stood on the brook toward Bonhamtown, near the bridge adjacent to the house of Samuel Lafarge. The chief store of those parts was kept near the Oak Tree, on the place now occupied by Benajah Kelly, by Major Carman, the father of M.F. Carman, and the maternal grandfather of Governor Randolph, the present Governor of our State. It was a depot between the up-country and river trade, to which came the great farm wagons of the upper counties laden with grain, butter, wool, flax, etc., and received in return the various articles of merchandise. The business then done at that point was greater than is now transacted by any one store of our place. Major Carman, about 1803, sold the building for a hat factory and removed to New Brunswick. Ezekiel Ayres kept a hotel near where Howard Ayres now resides, and the famous pump at which travelers watered their horses gave to the place the name of Pumptown.

Right: Theodore Fitz Randolph (June 24, 1826– November 7, 1883) served as the 22nd Governor of New Jersey from 1869 to 1872, and represented the state in the United States Senate for a single term, from 1875 to 1881.



Historic District (continued from Page 1)



The following is the Nomination's "Statement of Significance":

The Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District meets National Register Criterion A with local significance for its association with the development of Metuchen during its formative years

of the second half of the the first forty years of the twentieth. During this period, Metuchen developed as an attractive suburban railroad town, the home of growing numbers of railroad commuters to New York City and elsewhere. During these decades, Metuchen incorporated as an independent borough and developed its local cultural institutions while attracting business, artistic, and literary persons and earning the town a nickname as the "Brainy Borough." The historic district's residents, including businessmen, artists, attorneys, and doctors, were prominent citizens who built or owned some of the town's most prestigious houses in a neighborhood described in 1913 as "the high class residential section of town... property there is valued higher than in any other part of town." In addition, Woodwild Park, the Borough Improvement League, the Metuchen Club, the Metuchen Library, the Metuchen Inn, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, all located along Middlesex Avenue at the center of the historic district, were prominent in Metuchen's social, educational, and religious life.

The district also meets Criterion C with local architectural significance for its representation of the major American architectural influences of the mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Foursquare. The period of significance extends from 1860 to include the few extant 1860s homes along Middlesex Avenue and Hillside Avenue, which represent the beginnings of development there, and St. Luke's Church (1868-9). The period of significance extends to include the early twentieth century residential development up through and including 1940, by which time the character of the district had been firmly established and the district had essentially reached build-out.

Above: The Historic District's boundaries shown on an 1876 map of Metuchen.

Published by
The Metuchen-Edison
Historical Society
P.O. Box 61
Metuchen, NJ 08840

Board of Trustees
Dominic Walker, President
Steve Reuter, Vice President
N. Ann Walker, Treasurer
Walter R. Stochel, Jr, Corresponding
Secretary

Additional Directors
Kathleen Carlucci
Russell Gehrum
Evelyn Grant
Andy Kupersmit
Tom McKiernan
Tyreen Reuter, *Nannygoats* Editor
Gerry Rice
Byron Sondergard
Frederick Wolke

The name of the newsletter, "**Nannygoats**," is taken from the title of a collection of **anecdotes**, articles, reminiscences, and letters compiled by photographer J. Lloyd Grimstead. He took more than 2,800 photographs of the Metuchen-Edison area, mostly during the 1930s, which make up 80 percent of the Historical Society's photographic collection. The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society dedicates this publication to Lloyd Grimstead, as a way of honoring him for preserving so much of our local history.

*The Metuchen-Edison
Historical Society is a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization.*

Invaluable (continued from Page 1)

Two examples of the innumerable items to be found in back issues of the *Metuchen Recorder* are an October 19, 1912 advertisement for a "Handsome Residence" and a portion of the front page of the November 26, 1963 edition following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.



Awards (continued from Page 1)

awards are our chance to honor the many private individuals, organizations and corporations; and state, county and local governments who work hard to preserve New Jersey's historic places," said Katherine Marcopul, Administrator and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. "It is inspiring to see citizens taking action to preserve New Jersey's historic resources!"

Eagle Scout Candidate Scott Zederbaum's project commemorated the Sarah B. Jordan Boarding House through interpretive signage and delineating the footprint of the original building at the Menlo Park site in Edison. Jordan established the Boarding House in 1878 across from Thomas A. Edison's Laboratory; the proximity of the boarding house allowed the inhabitants easy access to work, especially when their services were required well into the night. While the boarding house technically still exists as reconstructed at the Henry Ford Museum, Zederbaum's project has reclaimed this important part of our area's history.

Metuchen's award was received for the restoration of the cast iron water fountain at the intersection of Middlesex and Oak Avenues, known locally as the "horse trough." The award honored not only the quality of the restoration of the fountain by a well-respected firm, but the community collaboration behind its funding. The increasing deterioration of the 117-year old local landmark prompted the Woodwild Park Association to spearhead the restoration effort. In June of 2016, they were joined by the Metuchen Arts Council, the Garden Club of Metuchen, the Borough Improvement League of Metuchen, the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church to create a unique art-focused event designed to raise a large portion of the needed funds. This in turn inspired a major financial commitment from the Metuchen Savings Bank. The restoration work was completed by Robinson Iron of Alexander City, Alabama.

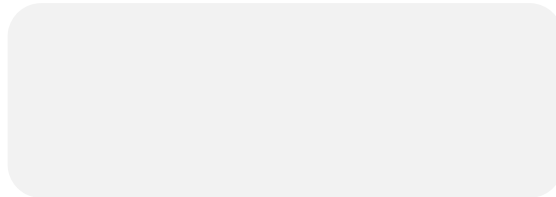
Congratulations to all on these well-deserved awards, and let's hope our community continues to garner 33% of New Jersey's Historic Preservation Awards every year!



Left: Zederbaum at the site of the Sarah B. Jordan Boarding House.
Right: Metuchen's honorees assembled in Mount Holly.



Metuchen-Edison Historical Society
P.O. Box 61
Metuchen, NJ 08840



COLONIAL CEMETERY VANDALISM UPDATE



Last summer, the Society received the terrible news that a dozen stones in Metuchen's Colonial Cemetery had been vandalized. Despite multiple news reports and an investigation by the Metuchen Police Department, no suspects have been identified to date.

Although no progress was made in the case, many Society members and residents came forth with generous donations to help fund the repairs. While it has taken much longer than we had hoped, we've finally gotten all the estimates and information together – with the help of the Borough of Metuchen – to take the next step towards the physical repairs. All but one stone will be able to be repaired; just one, the Nathan Bloomfield stone, will need to be replaced.

Our hope that this work will be done in the next couple of months, and that any additional funds not used for the repairs will be used for other needed work in this important historic site.

***In memory of Nathan Bloomfield who died Oct 30th 1823 in the
66th year of his age, For I know that my redeemer liveth and
that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth***



FALL INTO HISTORY!



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

In celebration of their 300th Anniversary, the First Presbyterian Church will hold a Candlelight Service in the Colonial Cemetery, the location of the original meeting house, followed by a procession to their Social Center for refreshments.



DIGITAL ARCHIVES WORKSHOP



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

2P.M., METUCHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY, 480 MIDDLESEX AVENUE

The Metuchen Public Library will be holding a FREE Digital Archives Workshop on accessing the Metuchen Recorder and other historical resources online!

IN SEARCH OF EDISON'S HOME ~ ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

SATURDAY - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 & 24, 11A.M. TO 4 P.M.

~ SEE REVERSE FOR FULL DETAILS ~



TRI-COUNTY HISTORY FAIR



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

11A.M. TO 3P.M., PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY, 800 PARK AVENUE

The Plainfield Public Library is hosting the 2017 Tri-County History Fair for Middlesex, Somerset, and Union counties. Join colleagues and friends for a fun day of discovery, resource sharing, raffles, and more. Speakers include Maxine Lurie, Seton Hall professor/author/historian; and Eugene Armstead, NJ Chapter President of the Afro American Historical & Genealogical Society. FREE.



METUCHEN COUNTRY FAIR



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017

10A.M. TO 4P.M., DOWNTOWN METUCHEN

Mark your calendars now for the annual Metuchen Country Fair to be held on Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 10am to 4pm in downtown Metuchen. The Society will have a booth at the Fair, as we always do, and will have a display and merchandise for sale. Volunteers to staff the booth will be needed! This year's Fair Theme is "Games" and in honor of that topic, the issue of *Nannygoats* released that day will feature the beloved institution that was **METUCHEN CENTER**. Have memories or images of Metuchen Center? Contact us!

In Search of Edison's Home

Saturday - Sunday, September 23 & 24, 11:00 – 4:00

Middlesex County's Raritan Valley Public Archaeology Program

The Edison home once stood at the base of Christie Street not far from his Menlo Park Laboratory where he developed the perfected light bulb and phonograph. Edison lived in the home with his wife Mary and his children Marion, Thomas Alva Jr. and William.

The Archaeological Society of New Jersey and the Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park will conduct a public archaeology open house at the former site of his home to potentially locate the foundations of this structure and any associated artifacts.

Sponsored by the Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage

Text Culture to 56512

Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park

37 Christie Street, Edison NJ www.menloparkmuseum.org

HATCHER'S HOUSE.

LABORATORY, OFFICE, AND MACHINE SHOP.

EDISON'S HOME, MENLO PARK, NEW JERSEY.—FROM A SKETCH BY THEO. R. DAVIS.—[SEE PAGE 6.]