



Nannygoats



Vol. 22, Issue 4

Newsletter of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society

Fall/Winter 2024

For this issue of Nannygoats, we are doing something a little different in honor of our 50th anniversary. In the spirit of saving the past for the future, we are also saving the present for the future, in the form of short profiles of the various members who comprise the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society's Board of Directors. We are all very different, but all very much the same as well, united in our dedication to local history and sharing the wealth of information the Society has gathered over the last fifty years. We hope you enjoy getting to know a little more about those of us charged with leading the Society into the future.

Deborah Finley has lived here for most of her life, except for a few years in Louisiana and other NJ towns, and now lives in Edison with her husband (Mike) of 42 years. They have three adult children (Sean, Rachael, and Alexis) and two cats (Carlie and Cannoli). She is a Paraprofessional in the Edison School District, working with high school aged multiply disabled and autistic students.

Debbie joined the Board 5 years ago, after being a member for more than 15. She enjoys all types of needlecraft, reading, yoga, contemporary jazz, new age music, and travel. Debbie volunteers because of her love of history and serving on the Board enables her to participate in decisions that make a difference in "saving the past for the future." She is concerned about loss of historic resources, and although it is not a "preservation" organization that can control what happens, the Society can document them before they are gone. Her dream for the Society would be to have its own space, a place where they could keep its archives, have displays and presentations, and host special events.

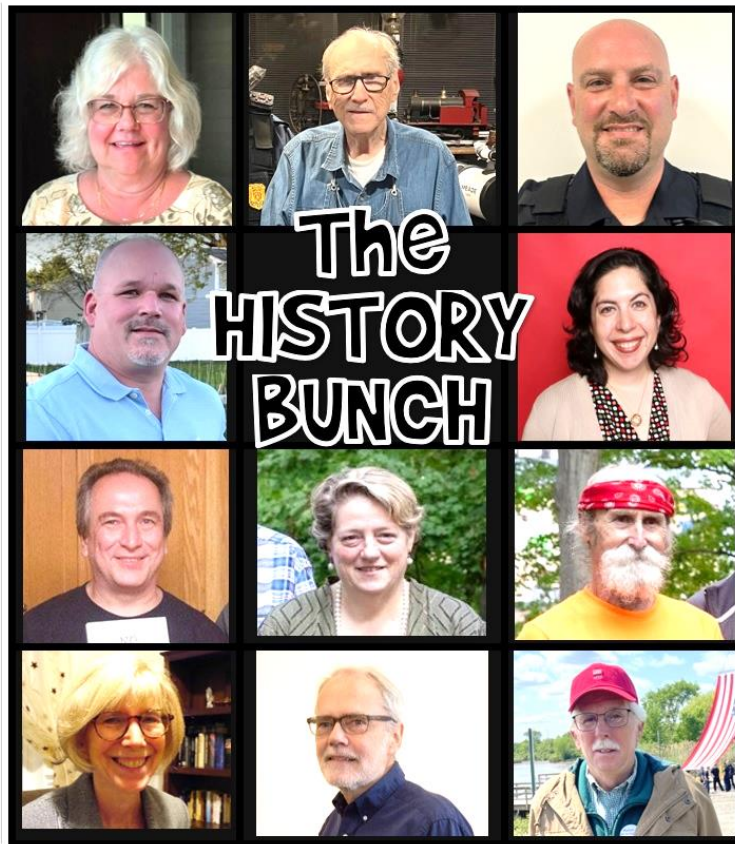
Russ Gehrum is a lifelong Metuchenite, a retired police officer, and also a past salvage diver and tugboat worker. He has a Cockatiel named Trudy and enjoys woodworking and metalworking. He takes a great deal of pleasure in

learning and researching anything regarding the famous inventor and Edison Township namesake, Thomas A. Edison. Russ is a dedicated volunteer with the Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park. He's been a Society member for many years and has served on the Board since 2012. Being part of an all-volunteer organization that helps preserve the history of our area for future generations to

come is what motivates him to serve. He hopes that one day the Society will have its own building where they can display the beautiful items they have preserved over the years.

Dan Granato grew up in Sayreville and received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers, master's from Seton Hall, and certified Public Manager Certificate from Rutgers. He is a police officer in the Borough of Metuchen and has lived in the area for 23 years, currently residing in Edison with his wife, Tara, and dog, Luca. He enjoys riding his Harley Davidson, playing solitaire, researching local history, watching mob movies like *The Godfather*, bird hunting, and walking

Luca. He hopes to one day be able to travel back to Italy, where his family came here from. He has been a member of the Society for several years and joined the Board in 2021, most recently serving as Vice President. He serves to help with preserving our local history for our future generations and is proud that the Society hosts so many events



Continued on Page 4

The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society was founded in 1974 with the primary purpose of promoting an interest in and appreciation of the history of the Borough of Metuchen and the Township of Edison.

50th Anniversary Year Events Continue!



Nannygoats



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

Board of Directors
Robert Kentos, *President*
Daniel Granato, *Vice President*
Debbie Finley, *Recording Secretary*
Steve Reuter, *Treasurer*

Tyreen Reuter, *Nannygoats Editor*
Byron Sondergard, *Archives Chair*

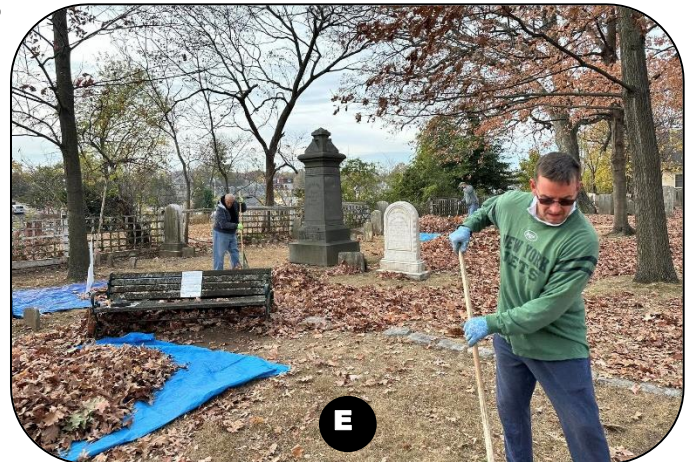
Russell Gehrum
Lauren Mastbaum

Gerry Rice
Grace Shackney

Walter R. Stochel, Jr., *Membership Chair*

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, and make up 80 percent of the 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, tax-exempt charitable organization.
info@metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org*



A: Gerry Rice poses by the grave of his ancestor, Colonel J.L. Moss, during the First Presbyterian Cemetery Tour on September 22. **B:** William Bodycombe presenting his "Hidden History of Middlesex Avenue" program at the Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge on October 13. **C:** Walter Stochel, Jr. led a cemetery tour as part of Piscatawaytown History Day on October 20. **D:** Members enjoyed a tour of the ca. 1740 Ayers-Allen House on October 27. **E:** The Metuchen Elks Lodge #1914 joined in for the Metuchen Colonial Cemetery Cleanup on November 10, making great strides in pruning, raking, and cleaning stones.

New in the Archives

Listed here are just *some* of our many recent acquisitions from August through November 2024. While we cannot accept historic items that are unrelated to our local history, we are always interested in acquiring originals and/or copies of photographs, ephemera, books, etc. relevant to our collective past. If you don't want to part with an original item, we'd be delighted to either photograph or scan it. Contact us at info@metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org with any questions.

- *Know Your Town Handbook: Metuchen*, prepared and published by The League of Women Voters, September 1971 (donated by Artie Flaherty)
- 1956 Metuchen Kid's Bicycle License Plate; May 1943 Blank Application for War Savings Bonds from the Post Office Department; 1945-1947 gas and rent receipts from Marie Kovach of 252 Main Street, Metuchen; and 1943 War Ration Book Four issued to Marie Kovach of 252 Main Street (donated by Rick Thoren)
- Two binders from the Metuchen Zoning Department containing newspaper clippings and press releases about various Metuchen Borough events, 1975-1984 (donated by the Metuchen Zoning Department)
- White-painted "Franklin School" metal letters removed from the front facade of the Franklin School building during the 1999 demolition and a copy of The Bulldog's Bark, Metuchen High School newspaper, 11/23/1955 (donated by Coach Joe Prehodka)
- Postcards of Camp Kilmer and the Camp Kilmer Pamphlet No. 1: Information for all Personnel Returning from Overseas, 7/3/1945 (donated by Tony Gruenewald)
- Two milk glass plates for the 1976 Bicentennial sold by the Borough Improvement League, postcards of the 1911 Thomas Edison's Laboratory and Office and the 1930 Ayers-Allen House, program for the 1985 "A Celebration of Light" at the Edison Memorial Tower, program of My Fair Lady for the 1978 Plays-in-the-Park at Roosevelt Park, program for "Convention Nite on the Square" (A Two Act Variety Show) by the Players Group of the Metuchen Masonic Building Association, invitation for the 1979 Dinner in honor of Thomas Edison & the Centennial Year of Electric Light, invitation for the 1972 Eighth Annual Brotherhood Award Dinner sponsored by the Metuchen-Edison Racial Relations Council, cards and envelopes for the 1968 Fifth Annual Metuchen Country Fair, envelopes for The Brainy Borough 1900-1976 Bicentennial Celebration, envelopes for the International Day at the 1977 Fourteenth Annual Metuchen Country Fair, miscellaneous newspaper clippings about the Thornall family history and Metuchen's Mrs. Santa Claus, flyer for the 1986 MEHS



Richmondton Restoration Tour, advertisement for Morris Stores, and framed painting / thermometer for Durham Cafe (donated by Janet Aspinwall)

- Gund teddy bear celebrating the Metuchen Centennial 1900-2000 (donated by Tyreen Reuter)
- Christmas ornament commemorating the Metuchen Centennial 1900-2000 and ceramic mug for the Edison Bicentennial 1976 (donated by Emily Popp)
 - 1983 Souvenir Programs for the Metuchen Bulldogs, 1984 Easter Sunrise Service Program for the Metuchen First Baptist Church, and a 1937 Map of the Borough of Metuchen, Middlesex County, New Jersey from the Schedule Rating Office of New Jersey Engineering Department (donated by Stephanie Bartz of the South River Historical & Preservation Society)
 - Poster boards for Metuchen Public Library's event titled "Remembering Martin Spritzer, lifelong civil rights activist and community advocate," 9/10/2022 (donated by the Metuchen Public Library)
- 11 slides of the 1977 Conrail Train Wreck in Metuchen and photo album titled "Metuchen Makeover" showing new construction in downtown Metuchen during the 2000s (donated by Thomas Luckus)

THOMAS EDISON CENTER AT MENLO PARK

Hours:
Thur., Fri., Sat.
10am - 4pm

37 Christie St.
Edison, NJ



The Thomas Edison Center museum offers guided tours to individuals, families, corporations, scout programs, schools, summer camps, and senior groups.

We book private tours for groups of 12 or more on other days in advance when available.

Visit our website for more information about other programs, volunteering, memberships, and much more.

732-549-3299

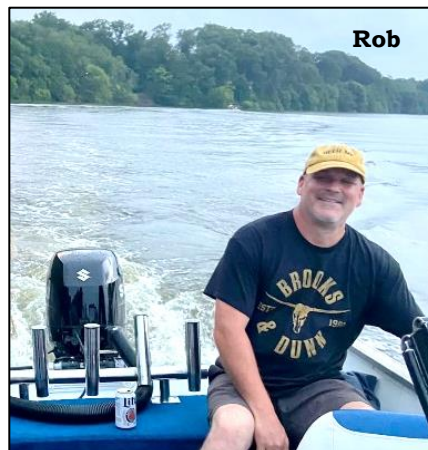
www.menloparkmuseum.org

Continued from Page 1

throughout the year. His dream for the Society is to get our own space, or a bigger room, in which the our collections can be displayed.

Rob Kentos is a lifelong Edisonite, has been a member of the Society for five years, and has served on the Board for three. He was born and raised in the Piscatawaytown neighborhood and spent most of his childhood on Meadow Road where he currently lives with his family and two dogs, a Ridgeback named Pilot and a Coonhound named Radar. His career began in Engineering and for the past 20 years he's worked in Information Technology. His hobbies include gardening and collecting local historical artifacts. He has studied the history of the area for much of his life and wants to share what he's learned. With deep roots in the Piscatawaytown neighborhood, he has several lineages that go back 5-8 generations and one that extends back 15 generations. He is passionate about preserving the rich local history of our area for the future, and believes the Society is a great place to learn about local history, meet new friends, and engage in our community. His dream for the Society is to have a historic house from which to operate.

Lauren Mastbaum moved to Metuchen in 2019, joined the Society soon after, then came on the Board in January 2023. Starting at age 16, she has volunteered for historical societies everywhere she's lived and Metuchen is no different, although this is the place she plans to stay the longest, so it feels special to her. She's originally from North Jersey and a third-generation American with grandparents from Italy. She has degrees in sociology and journalism, and believes the news is the "first rough draft of history." She works in media and is the proud wife of a Rutgers professor, with whom she has a 15-year-old orange tabby cat, Linus, who loves cuddling up with a new edition of *Nannygoats*. She enjoys learning about



history and travelling to areas of historical significance. Being a little over a year away from the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, she would love for locals to be more aware of how New Jersey (and Central Jersey in particular) was truly the "Crossroads of the Revolution." Her dream for the Society is to have a designated space for us to meet and hold events, bonus points if it were a historic building.

Steve Reuter grew up in Kenilworth and Iselin before moving to Metuchen 26 years ago with his fiancée, Tyreen. He would always drive through Metuchen on his way to work at *The Star-Ledger*. He loves music and going to concerts. Bob Dylan is the person he has seen the most, but he also has eclectic tastes, with The Mekons and Sonic Youth being his two favorite bands growing up. He is also a devoted Rutgers basketball and football fan, follows NJ Devils Hockey, and has been a Baltimore Orioles fan since he was very young. He lives in a very old (ca. 1740) house in Metuchen with his wife, sons Sam and Nick, and dog Rudy. He joined the Society within days of moving here in October, 1998 and joined the Board the following February. He serves because he likes learning about local history, lives in a historic house, and also helps out at a historic schoolhouse (the Old Franklin Schoolhouse). He hopes that people know that the more they become involved, the more the Society can do, as it is an

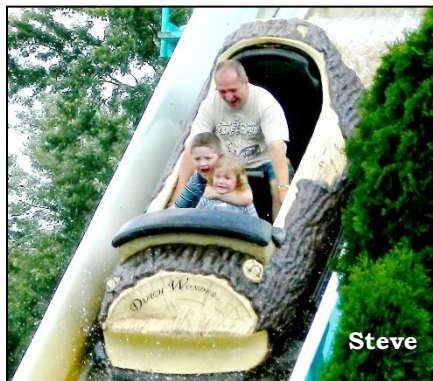
organization comprised of volunteers. His dream is to have a space where the Society's collections can be shown.

Tyreen Reuter's family is from New England, although she was born in (West) Germany where her parents were stationed. She thought she would be a Latin teacher, but ended up working in the entertainment industry until moving to Metuchen 26 years ago. As she and her fiancé Steve were getting married at their very old home, a handful of Society Board members at the time "crashed" the wedding and convinced them to join and serve on the Board. She is grateful for that, as it's through the Society she's met

so many wonderful people from whom she has learned a great deal. She enjoys art projects, live music, fundraising for good causes, watching funny movies with her husband, sons, and dog, and researching new history topics. She wants people to know that local history is for everyone, and just because existing written histories may omit or diminish underrepresented populations, significant history is still there and not only deserves to be shared, but when it is, can bring everyone more together. Her dream for the Society is the freedom to be able to make decisions based on the ideal, not what fits in the budget.

Gerry Rice has lived in Metuchen since birth and joined the Society and Board about six years ago. He volunteers to carry forward his Moss Family heritage that his mother instilled in him and encourages everyone to pay attention to the past or suffer the consequences of making negative history repeating itself. He enjoys restoring Victorian houses and classic cars/motorcycles, keeping trees healthy, and doing good, kind works around the neighborhood. He had three Afghan hounds, now resting peacefully underground, and currently does a lot of travelling but will always have a special place in his heart for his hometown, where his ancestor Col. J.L. Moss founded the Masonic lodge and Moss School is named for his relative, Mildred B. Moss. His dream for the Society is to prosper at least another 50 years, or perhaps 150!

Grace Shackney has lived in the area for most of her life and has been a Member of the Society since the mid 1980s. In 1968, she joined the founding members of Theatre Six to create a professional, resident theater in Metuchen's Centenary Methodist Church, then at the corner of Main Street and Middlesex Avenue. That experience led to a degree in theater administration from Rutgers University. She met her husband at Theatre Six and moved to Rockland County, NY in 1971 but came back to Metuchen in 1982 with their two sons in tow. Although she doesn't have any pets, she does have five grandsons, Orry,



Noah, Harry, Nate, and Daniel. After almost 20 years at McCarter Theatre in Princeton, she is still very closely connected to the performing arts community as a member of the Metuchen Arts Council. She enjoys working with artists, coordinating programs, and producing events. She's seen many physical changes in the area, including as a child growing up in a home on South Main Street where the bridge over Route 287 now stands. She is fascinated with the history of the land, buildings, and people who've populated this area over the centuries. She encourage those living here now to understand what came before so as to inform them how to best shape our community now. She feels blessed Metuchen is her home, one with such a strong sense of place. Her dream for the Society is to create a museum to house our ever-expanding archives along with exhibition space.

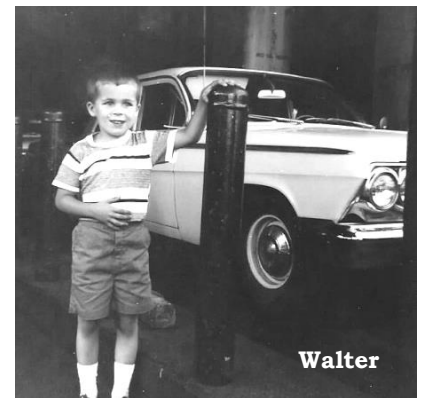
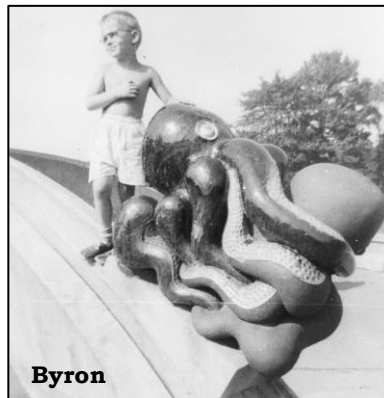
Byron Sondergard has lived in the area his entire life, except for five years. He's been a member for many years and joined the Board in 2011. He resides with Douglas the dog, who fully supports his efforts on behalf of the Society, but thanks his father for triggering his interest in local history; many images from his postcard collection can be found in the Society's "Greetings from Metuchen and Edison" book. He attended Washington (now Moss) School, Franklin Junior High, and Metuchen High School, then graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University. His career was entirely in the book industry, primarily in advertising and sales, including owning and operating Metuchen Book Shop from 1983 until 1994. He's always collected "stuff," including, but not limited to stamps, coins, Dinky Toys, plastic models, baseball cards, records, books, and lobby cards; so being the Archives Chair seems to be a role he was destined for. History has always been important, and, having grown up in Metuchen, local history's been especially so. By serving on the Board, he has access to, and can add to, the wealth of

information about our history of Metuchen and Edison. He believes learning about our history enhances our lives, and that it is the Society's responsibility to record and archive this information for the enjoyment of future generations; appreciation comes from knowing more about those who lived in your house before you, how your street got its name, what stores and restaurants were here 20 or 40 or 60 years ago, and what the local political issues were. His dream is for the Society to have a spacious home of its own, with lots and lots of rooms to display our archival treasures and historic photographs, have special events, and hold meetings. He also hopes for a steady source of income large enough to enable it to publish more books and produce more tchotchkes advertising and promoting the rich history of Metuchen and Edison.

Walter Stochel has lived in the area for 64 years and has been a member of the Society for 45, serving on the Board for 34 years on and off. His family moved to Henry

Street in Edison in 1933 and in 1941 his grandparents bought the house on Oak Tree Road where he lives today. He doesn't keep any pets, just plants, and enjoys gardening, biking, and hiking. He likes history and helping the Society, as every day we learn more about the history of this area. Being on the Board gives him the opportunity to help preserve this rich local history, with its Native American camp sites, colonial villages, Revolutionary War battles, Thomas Edison's Menlo Park Laboratory, and military facilities from both World Wars. His dream for the Society is to have a modern archive to store what we have collected and what we will collect in the future.

IMAGES: The collage on Page 1 shows the Board Members from left to right, top to bottom in the same order that their profiles appear in the text. The candid images on pages 4, 5, and 6 appear in the same order as well, from top to bottom, then left to right.



It's Membership Renewal Season!

Notices have been sent to all members regarding membership renewals; dues are our single biggest funding source, making them extremely important to all we do. Just some of what we accomplished and/or participated in this past year with your help:

* Annual Meeting & The Lehigh Valley Railroad Program * Local History Day * Nixon Nitration Disaster 100th Anniversary Commemoration * Spring & Fall Metuchen Colonial Cemetery Cleanups * Middlesex County History Day * Tri-County History Day * Edison Memorial Day Parade * Battle of the Short Hills Commemoration * Two Piscatawaytown History Days & Burial Ground Tours * Field Trip to the Danish Home & Cultural Center * First Presbyterian Cemetery Tour * History of Middlesex Avenues with the Mt. Zion Masons * Ayers-Allen House Hallowe'en Open House * Published four editions of our *Nannygoats* Newsletter * Provided photographs/artifacts for the Gallery at the Edison Municipal Complex and Middlesex County Sports Exhibit * Middlesex County archives grant * Black History Booklet grant * Cemetery Program with Dr. Veit hosted by Metuchen Elks * Honored Second Baptist Church of Metuchen's 110th Anniversary *

Renew (or join!) today at www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org!

First Presbyterian Cemetery Comes Alive

by Byron Sondergard

With perfect weather on September 22, the first day of Fall, the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society hosted a tour of the First Presbyterian Church (FPC) cemetery.

The tour was conducted by professional genealogist, Laura Cabbage-Draper, a Society member and Metuchen resident active with the First Presbyterian Church. Her tour began with a brief history of the church and cemetery, and their prominent place within the history of Metuchen. We then walked about the cemetery, stopping at the graves of a diverse group of notables, as Laura discussed their contributions, their families, and their lives. These included a minister, a bridge builder, two ship captain brothers, a landscape painter, and a prominent educator.

The minister, Reverend James Gilbert Mason, was pastor of the FPC for 48 years, during a time of significant growth for the church. As a result of his friendship with Thomas Edison, one of the earliest exhibitions of the phonograph was for members of the FPC congregation. Reverend Mason was a very active prohibitionist, and in 1917-1918 led the fight to outlaw saloons in Metuchen.

The bridge builder, Gustav Lindenthal, was very well known for designing and building bridges throughout the country, most notably the Hellgate Bridge, across the East River. He received several patents for bridge building, and many of his bridges are included on historic registers.

The ship captain brothers were George and Cephus K. Waite. Of particular note is a ship's account log from the Jairus B. Lincoln, a 200-foot merchant ship. The account log was probably saved because Cephus' niece repurposed it into a scrapbook. The account log contains much detailed information about the ship's income and disbursements, and ports of call from the late 1870s onward.



The logbook is now in the Society's archives.

The landscape painter, Julie Hart Beers Kempson, associated with the Hudson River School, was one of a very few commercially successful female landscape painters of her day (late 1860s, onward). She married her second husband, Metuchenite, Dr. Peter Tertius Kempson, in 1876 or 1877. An 1876 map of Metuchen, reproduced by the Society, shows his residence as 203 Woodbridge Avenue. This house is still standing.

Born in Metuchen, prominent educator, Dr. Mildred L. Barr Moss, has the distinction among this group of notables of being the only one born locally. Dr. Moss had a long and distinguished career in education, beginning as a second-grade teacher at Edgar School in 1918. Teaching, then becoming Teacher in Charge (essentially a euphemism for Principal), then Principal, as well as teacher, at Washington School. In 1962 she was named Principal of the Year in a national competition. Dr. Moss retired in 1966. When I attended Washington School in the 1950s, I knew Dr. Moss, as a teacher and as Principal. I can personally say that having Washington School renamed Moss School in 1966 was an honor well deserved.

The more than 30 attendees remained engaged, making comments and asking questions throughout the hour-long tour. At the end of the tour, attendee Walter Stochel provided the title for this article; during the tour the cemetery did indeed "come alive."

Phyllis Boeddinghaus (1929-2024)

The Society regrettably shares the news of the passing of Phyllis (Smith) Boeddinghaus, a longtime member of the Society. Phyllis was awarded Honorary Membership status several years ago in honor of her service to the Society as a member, volunteer, Board member, and constant supporter. Phyllis was an indefatigable community volunteer, known for the many, many nonprofit organizations she led, volunteered with, and supported. Born in New Brunswick, she moved to Metuchen and graduated from Metuchen High School in 1947. She and her late husband Jack – whom she met while working at Costa's Cottage on Main Street in Metuchen – were the owners and operators of Jack's Flower Shop (currently Gardenias) in Metuchen from 1948 until their retirement in 1997. Her work with the Oral History Collection was exceptionally impactful, both in preserving oral histories and in conducting them. She is shown here working with Walter Stochel, Jr. on the oral histories in a 1994 photograph from *The Star-Ledger*.



Walter Stochel Jr. of Edison, president of the Metuchen-Edison Historical and Genealogical Society, looks over items for the group's oral history project with Phyllis Boeddinghaus of Metuchen. Photo by Steve Andraski.

HISTORY IN THE HEADLINES

It's wonderful to see our local history honored and preserved, and the last few months have given us much to celebrate. In June of this year, the Borough unveiled signage marking the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District (see upper right), listed several years ago in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places through the work of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee with archival assistance from the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society. This signage brings much-deserved recognition to this historic neighborhood.



preservation, and interpretation of Metuchen's Colonial Cemetery was announced by the Borough of Metuchen (see bottom). This award was made possible through the significant efforts of the 18th District Legislative Delegation and provides unprecedented financial support for this publicly owned historic site.



This summer also saw the opening of a recreational area within Edison Township's Papaiani Park (see above). While many such spray parks feature sea life or pirate themes, the Township chose to honor its namesake by featuring a 20-foot replica of the Edison Memorial Tower with globes and classic film cameras as water guns. The splash pad itself is in the shape of a light bulb, and a large sign declares "Edison Illuminates Our Global Community."

In July, ground was broken on "The Kempson," a state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly upscale multifamily building with 272 units on Durham Avenue's former Gulton property (see center right). This *Nannygoats* editor was pleased as punch to learn that the name honors Julia Fenn Hart Beers Kempson (1834-1913), one of the nation's first professional women landscape painters, and one of the very few commercially successful women artists of her day, who for many years lived on Woodbridge Avenue in Metuchen.

In early October, the receipt of \$250,000 in State grant funds intended for stabilization,



Letter to the Editor

Just a note to express my appreciation for the very kind piece on Condit (Connie) Atkinson. He was my music teacher who got me started on playing saxophone. I only regret putting it aside after my military service. Keep sending *Nannygoats*... really love reading them.

-Jim Gerner,
Metuchen High School Class of '56

Flashback to 1974

Metuchen film set

METUCHEN — "Metuchen in the Twenties," a film of the people, places and events to be shown tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the Metuchen Public Library. The commentary will be by Sherwood H. Mundy, attorney and lifelong resident here. The showing is sponsored by the Metuchen Regional Historical Society and is free of charge.

Huguenots subject of lecture

METUCHEN A lecture on Huguenot trails and election of officers will be featured at a meeting of the Metuchen Regional Historical Society on Friday.

The meeting, to begin at 1 p.m., will be held at the Borough Building on Middlesex Avenue.



I, the Secretary of State of the State of New Jersey, do hereby Certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Certificate of Incorporation of METUCHEN REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY and the endorsements thereon, as the same is taken from and compared with the original filed in my office on the 13th day of February, 1974, and now remaining on file and of record therein.



In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal at Trenton, this 13th day of February, A.D. 1974.

Marian Stone
John H. Brinckmann
Bertha Beekman
Mary Ward
Vernie K. Rhodes
Shirley Trense

Book describes 'Olde Metuchen'

METUCHEN — "Step into the Past," a walking-tour booklet of "Olde Metuchen," is available at the circulation desk of the Metuchen Public Library during National Library Week (April 21-27). The material was gathered, documented and prepared by Mrs. Marion Stone, president of the Metuchen Regional Historical Society, who is

Historical society meets Friday

METUCHEN — Mrs. Clyde Woodbridge will discuss early American art at the next meeting of the Metuchen Regional Historical Society on Friday at 1 p.m. in the Borough Building on Middlesex Avenue.



Shown here are images from our founding year of 1974, including a selection of news clippings, an excerpt and page from our incorporation papers, and an aerial view of the 1974 Metuchen Country Fair. The incorporation documents mention the founding members, including Marion Stone, John Brinckmann, Bertha Beekman, Vernie Rhodes, and Shirley Trense.

*Special Holiday Shopping Advertisement from the
Borough Improvement League, proud owners and caretakers of the
historic Old Franklin Schoolhouse, built ca. 1807.*

MINI METUCHEN COLLECTIBLES \$15 EACH



Old Franklin Schoolhouse



Franklin School (1900-1999)



323 Main Street
(Chamber of Commerce)



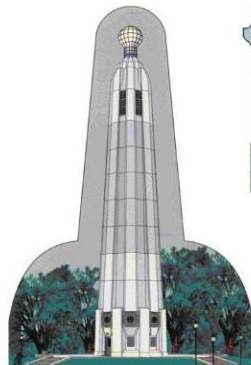
Metuchen Fire Department & Washington Hose Co.



Freedom Plaza



Metuchen Post Office



Edison
Memorial
Tower



Metuchen Public Library



St. Luke's Church



Venture Theatre/Methodist Church
(1869-1981)

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If you haven't already, please consider joining the Society as a dues-paying Member... this income provides the primary support for everything we do and allows us to "Save the Past for the Future." Visit our website or scan the code below.



Facebook Group

Our active, informative, and carefully moderated Facebook group is loaded with images and historical miscellany. Search us on Facebook or scan below.



View Our YouTube Channel!

Check out our growing video collection on our dedicated YouTube channel. Search for us or our username [@metuchenedisonhistoricals1744](https://www.youtube.com/user/metuchenedisonhistoricals1744).

It's Renewal Season!
Don't forget your 2025 Membership Dues!

Save the Date for 2025 Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting & Elections

Saturday, January 11, 2025

American Legion Father & Son Post #435

43 Oakland Avenue, Edison, NJ 08817

Local History Day

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Metuchen Public Library

480 Middlesex Avenue

www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org

Missed an issue of our newsletter? All back issues of *Nannygoats* are available on our website at www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org