

The Historical Society of West Windsor

c/o Reed, 534 Village Rd., West,
Princeton Jct., N.J. 08550

"What's Happening" Spring 2008

Because of a lack of firm information, we have not been able to send out a newsletter for a while. However, we hope the following will be of interest and that the projects mentioned will proceed in a timely manner.

Schenck Farmstead

The HSofWW has had two meetings with the WWT Council at the Schenck House to discuss priorities and projects for the buildings that are their responsibility: the barn, the school house, public lavatories, parking. The HSofWW remains responsible for the farmhouse and the area inside its fence.

The Barn

The main portion of the barn building has been reconstructed. It lacks only its windows and doors, which apparently have to be made individually, since standard doors and windows will not fit.

The metal machine shed at the back of the barn has been removed and is being reconstructed. It is probable that this building will house the farm equipment the HSofWW has collected.

Once these projects have been completed, the barn will be opened to the public. The Council hopes to rent the barn to groups and organizations to raise funds to help pay for the barn's reconstruction and maintenance.

The HSofWW will be responsible for a room in the main portion of the barn, in which we will mount exhibits of a temporary or permanent nature.



Dutch Neck One-Room School House

The School house

The building was determined to be beyond restoration and has been dismantled and stored until its reconstruction can be begun.

The building will be moved to a different location on the farm, probably across from the barn to make it easier for visitors to tour all the buildings on the farmstead quickly and easily.

The schoolhouse will also be the responsibility of the WWT Council. However, the HSofWW will add the completed schoolhouse to the tours for school groups as requested by the WW-P schools.

The school desks, school books, maps, the original pot bellied stove and other furnishings collected by the HSofWW will be placed in the school house, as well as a display of school class photos which we have been collecting.

Other Outbuildings

The Wagon House - next to the barn will be restored and open to the public. We are not certain what wagons, sleighs, etc. are available to be on view in the building.

Public Toilets - A new building in keeping with the farmstead will be erected for the use of the visiting public. Its location has not yet been decided.

Parking Lot - A small parking lot will be set up at a place convenient to visitors.



The Schenck Farmhouse

As stated earlier, the farmhouse and its grounds will remain the responsibility of the HSofWW and its headquarters. Our priority has been to attract as many visitors as possible to our Open Days.

Exhibits -During 2007 and 2008, special exhibits have been mounted bringing in a good amount of visitors. Special exhibits in 2007 included Antique Valentines, "A History of Hats" and our Holiday Event.

In February 2008, we opened an exhibit, "Antique Dolls and Dollhouse Rooms," which featured dolls from 1700 to 1940 and mini-rooms illustrating different time periods. Of special interest are dollhouse versions of the Schenck House colonial kitchen and its double parlor.

For our April 6 Open House, we developed an exhibit of over a dozen evening gowns dating from 1914 to 1988. Members of the HSofWW lent their gowns and accessories. **Last chance to see both special exhibits is June 8th.**

Both exhibits brought more than the average number of visitors. We were fortunate to have the events publicized in the Trenton Times, Princeton Packet and the West Windsor-Plainsboro News and U.S. 1. Posters were on view at the WW library and PNC Bank in the Junction.

Our room-sized exhibit of West Windsor history was completely redone by Clifford Reed, Jim Souders and Don McNinch. They constructed wooden, felt-covered panels for our best photographs of the WW villages as well as farming and school photos. Alice Martch, Mildred Moomaw, Bev Souders Lois Stuller and Roberta Smith remounted the photos and arranged them on the panels.

In addition, track lighting has been added to the ceiling in the room making the exhibits easier to see.

Meetings

During 2007 and 2008, our regular society meetings ended with a presentation by an expert in various fields of historic interest. We have had talks on bridges, tomatoes, the Jersey Devil, N.J. Planned Communities, Princeton Nurseries, as well as films made by local residents about the pros and cons of development.

Programs will continue to end our meetings under the direction of vice president Donna Munde.

Donations & Acquisitions

We have received several interesting donations in 2008, including:
From Helen Burke - a 19th century Bible;
From Kathy Kapp - men's spats and a mink hat from the 1950s. In addition, Kay Reed arranged to have a love seat and a chair from the double parlor reupholstered.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome: Earl H. Tindall and David and Sandra Brooke.

Milestones - We regret to report the death of Richard Gustafson in 2007, and send our condolences to his wife, Jeanne.

Membership Dues

As members of HSofWW, you realize that your dues are necessary to allow us to continue to upgrade the Schenck House, as well as to organize and computerize our photos, historical information and family histories. We receive requests for information regularly from students and others in the community.

A membership form follows. We hope you will send in your dues as soon as possible.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please (enter/renew) (my/our) membership in the HSofWW for the years: _____.
Enclosed is: Sponsor-\$100; Patron-\$50; Family-\$12; Individual-\$8; Organizations-\$25;
Senior Citizens (over 65)-\$5; Students (6-18)-\$5. No dues if you are over 80.

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Fall 2008-Spring 2009

Monday, Sept. 8, 2008	Meeting of HSofWW at Schenck House
Sunday, October 12	Open Day at Schenck House
Monday, Nov. 3,	Meeting of HSofWW at Schenck House
Sunday, Dec. 14	Holiday Open House at Schenck House
Monday, Jan. 5, 2009	Meeting of HSofWW at Schenck House
Sunday, Feb. 8	Open Day at Schenck House
Monday, March 2	Meeting of HSofWW at Schenck House
Sunday, Apr. 19	Open Day at Schenck House
Monday, May 4	Meeting of HSofWW at Schenck House
Sunday, June 14	Open Day at Schenck House

Programs for the HSofWW meetings have yet to be scheduled.

Special exhibits at the Schenck House Open Days have not yet been decided.

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