

## *The Historical Society of West Windsor*

*c/o Reed, 534 Village Rd. West  
West Windsor, N.J. 08550*

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

#### **FALL 2012-SPRING 2013**



1790-1830 Schenck House, 50 Southfield Rd. West Windsor

#### **30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

It seems like only yesterday we gathered to share with a group of interested residents our ideas and plans to form a historical society for West Windsor. However, it was June 1983 and that means our society will be 30 years old next June 2013.

With the donation of the Schenck Farmstead and its 117 acres by the Max Zaitz Family to West Windsor Township and the Schenck Farmhouse to the Society in 1991, the HSofWW finally had someplace to hang its hat. The donation of the contents of the Doherty Family house on Quaker Bridge Rd.

by American Cyanamid allowed us to furnish the house quickly, in the proper period and beautifully.

Since 2002, we have opened the Schenck House five times a year for self-guided tours. Its museum rooms and the comprehensive exhibit of photos of Old West Windsor have brought entertainment and information to hundreds of visitors from this area and beyond.

How will we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? Plans are in process for special exhibits and events during our Open Days at the Schenck House during 2013. If any members have ideas to share, please contact us or come to one of our meetings and let us hear your ideas. (See Calendar of Events for dates.)

#### **THE SCHENCK FARMSTEAD**

##### **1790-1830 FARMHOUSE**

Donations continue to be received with many of them going immediately into the barn, schoolhouse or the farmhouse itself. See "Donations" section for a list of recently acquired items.

In addition, several items have been purchased for specific places and purposes within the house. For example, we now have a tall bookcase in the Exhibit Room that holds our collection of historic reference books and photo albums. Visitors are welcome to browse this collection.

##### **DUTCH-ENGLISH BARN**

Clifford Reed and his committee (Jim Souders, Jim Britton, Trevor LePrevost, Victor Mount, Donald Schenck) have done a wonderful job in arranging and identifying the

many tools, farm equipment and some household items that would have been used by farmers in earlier years. It has taken a lot of effort to identify some of the items, their use, approximate year and even original cost.

Visiting the barn will give visitors a good education in how a farmer's life was spent in the days before electric power was available.

### **ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE**



**Dutch Neck one-room schoolhouse, Village Rd. West.**

The photo above shows the Dutch Neck one room schoolhouse on Village Rd. West, now a private home. It is similar to the schoolhouse on the Schenck Farmstead that was moved from next to the Maurice Hawk School and known as the Parsonage School.

Our schoolhouse will have a “stoop,” which means a small roof over the door, as well as the step in front of the entrance doorway. It will also have a cupola.

The many school desks that have been collected and donated have now been cleaned and arranged inside the schoolhouse. A cabinet of school books will be on view, as well as many photographs of West Windsor school classes going back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Our aim is to give visitors an idea of what school would have been like before the Dutch

Neck and Penns Neck 4-room schools were built in 1917.

We hope that school class tours will soon begin to visit the Farmstead, in particular the one-room schoolhouse.

### **OUT BUILDINGS:**

**COACH HOUSE** – The building has been redone and holds sleighs and wagons, as well as equipment for the horses that pulled them.

**LAVATORIES** – The Council has begun building a public lavatory at the end of the garage for use when events are held in the barn.

**MEMBERSHIP**—We thank all the members who have paid their 2012 dues. Attached is a copy of our membership form for the 2013 dues. Please let us know if you have reached 80 years of age when dues are no longer collected.

**MILESTONES** — We welcome new members: Claudia Tindall, Lauren Lembo, Nancy Winship, Karen Repka and Yvonne Plakivitis.

We regret to report the passing of the following members: Shirlee Bleacher, Lillian Coleman, Stefan and Frances Guzy, Lorraine Kapp, Jim Ruch, William Wilson, Earl Smith, Barbara Shuke, Hiram Cook Tintall, Susan, Sally and Edward Steele, Paul Finkelstein, Robert Yuell. Our condolences go to their families.



## DONATIONS

We are grateful to the following for their donations to the Society:

Donations by the children of Raymond L. Souders (Richard Souders, Susanna Shade, and Timothy Souders-35 items of farm tools and equipment.

Scott and Joan Parry – A large group of farm tools and equipment, crocks, copperware and 20 quilts, as well as historic reference books.

First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck – twenty-two folding chairs.

Earl Tindall-Farmer's account book in metal box from Scheidler Bros. of Bakers Basin Rd. and electric sign advertising a variety of corn.

Sylvia Russo – “The Van Dyke Family” by Paul C. Van Dyke and “Discovering Horse-Drawn Farm Machinery” by D.J. Smith

Luci DiPolvere-two cook books; wooden recipe box;

James and Mary Alice Britton – wagon buckboard seat and 1888 family Bible from Hiram Cook., who owned hardware store in Dutch Neck. A special plastic box will be purchased to display and protect this donation.

Laura Jackson – Desk and two chairs used in one-room Dutch Neck schoolhouse. Laura is Evelyn Walton's granddaughter. The items were passed down to her from Barbara Danser, her mother.

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### *The Historical Society of West Windsor*

534 Village Road West

West Windsor, New Jersey 08550

Attn: Kay T. Reed, Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enter/renew my/our membership in the Historical Society of West Windsor for the year(s)

\_\_\_\_\_.

NAME(S)\_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

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TELEPHONE NO./E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the appropriate category and send your check to the above address: Family @\$12 year; Senior Citizen (65-79) @\$5 yr.; Individual @\$8 yr; Organization@\$25 yr.; Senior Citizen over 80- No dues.