

South River Historical & Preservation News

Number 2

South River, New Jersey

February 1997

ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 1996

Society's 1997 Calendar

Business: All officers from 1996 were reelected to serve in 1997. The President welcomed the three newly elected Trustees, **Edwin and Dolores Roginski** and **Candice Lewandowki** as their interest had been previously demonstrated as participants in the Society's activities. The fourth member of the Class of 1999 was the reelection of incumbent, **Irene Buga**.

The President expressed thanks to **Warren Booraem, Gladys Benn** and **Doris Miller** retiring Trustees, as they were ineligible for reelection after two consecutive three-year terms.

Program: **Mary Ann Warakomski** of South River gave an interesting slide presentation on the life and works of **John Frazee**, an early American sculptor. South River is fortunate to have an example of this work, the five (5) foot high urn in the cemetery behind the Old School Baptist Church. It is a memorial to his wife who died of cholera in 1832 at the early age of 42 years. The epitaph bears the inscription, "To the wife of my youth".

The December photo in the Society's Calendar features four (4) Safety Patrol students with **Captain Quinn**, several teachers and other adults.

The photo's caption solicits the public for names of the students. Response has been great. We now know the names of the students and a number of the adults. If you know the names of any of the unnamed persons in the list below, please advise the Society. Write or call **Earl Wenger**, President, 12 Clark St., S. R. (257-0280)

Counting from left to right:

1. ?
2. ?
3. ?
4. **Edwin Eppinger**, Student
5. **Mary Riddle Thompson**, Teacher
6. ___ **Hackenjos**, Security Guard
7. **Adolph (Sonny) Dziepak**, Student
8. **Joseph Hollfelder**, Principal
9. **Raymond Bastkowski**, Student
10. ?
11. **Mildred McCormick**, Teacher
12. **Richard Kuhn**, Student
13. **Martha Smith**, Principal
14. **Capt. Quinn**, Police Dept.

Meeting: February 26 at 7 p.m.

YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

Officers

Pres. **Earl Wenger**
 VP **Marilyn Anastasio**
 Treas. **Paul Goepfert**
 Sec. **Ann Rafano**
 Past President **Joann Smith Geopfert;**

-----Trustees-----

Class of '97	Class of '98	Class of '99
Robert Rafano	Iris Schmitt	Dolores Roginski
Emily Miller	Anne Sivess	Edwin Roginski
Donna Rafano	Rosemary Freese	Candice Lewandoski
Raymond Bruhn	Kenneth Roginski	Irene Buga
Standing Comm. Corrine Cebula, Archives		

Washington/ South River Map Grant Request to Restore a Map of Washington

Quoting from Jessie Selover's "History of South River":

"R. Van Dyke Reid, Washington's (S.R.'s) first college graduate, was a member of Rutgers College of civil engineering Class of 1853. In March 1850, nearing the close of the Freshman year, Mr. Reid made the first survey and drew the first map of Washington. The map is owned by Mr. Selover, a gift from Mr. Reid. Mrs. Selover has since turned the map over to the War Memorial Library as a memorial gift."

The map was found by several members of your Society while searching the storage area of the Borough Clerk's Office for artifacts. It appears the the South River Library, which formerly occupied this building, left the map behind when it moved to its new building in 1979. The map is 21" X 30" in size and in quite poor condition. It is tightly rolled, has several large tears and multiple edge tears all of which have been repaired with a rather heavy weight adhesive tape. The Society has had the map assessed for feasibility and cost of restoration by the Conservation Center for Art and Artifacts in Philadelphia.

The historical significance of the map is best described by Ronald Becker, Head- Special Collections, Rutgers Library. Quoting: "The map is an important historical resource...there is no other resource to detail landscape of the community ...none for Washington in 1851...Original maps such as yours

help to make history come alive."

With such an endorsement, the Society has prepared a grant application for the Library to submit to the New Jersey Historical Commission in the amount of \$2,000 for restoration of the map. As owner of the map, the Library has a better chance of receiving the grant than the Society.

OSBC RENOVATIONS UPDATE

Preliminary plans for the renovation have been submitted to the New Jersey Historic Trust and the local building inspector for review and comment. When this is completed, the architect will need to prepare final plans before seeking quotes on construction.

Progress: slowly but surely

*Adam Zdrodowski
Guest Speaker*

Adam Zdrodowski will be the guest speaker at the February 26 meeting. As a life time resident, he will reflect on his years in South River.

Please join us at 7 P.M. at the South River Library.

"Original maps such as yours help to make history come alive."

*—Ronald
Becker,
Rutgers Library*

ACQUISITIONS

Ted Sivess' daughter, Mary Lee, has given the Society Ted's diplomas from High School, 1927, Rutgers Bachelor, 1931, and Masters Degrees, 1933; his army uniform; and a large framed, waist length colored photo of Ted.

All three diplomas are approximately 17 X 21 inches in size and his Bachelor diploma is written in Latin. In contrast to today's diplomas, Ted's high school diploma states that "he has successfully completed an approved curriculum covering 4 years of work in this school..." There is no named course but it is obvious that we would call it a "college preparatory" course for his diploma lists the courses and credits in each:

English	20	Algebra	10	Commercial Arith.	5	Plane Geometry	5
American History	5	Biology	5	American History	5	Physics	5
Chemistry	5	French	15	Bookkeeping	10	Stenography	10
Typewriting	5	Physical Training	4				

Furthermore, this diploma is signed by: M. L. Lowery, County Superintendent; William S. Lesh, Supervising Principal and Wilbur A. Bryan, Principal

Can you imagine the County Superintendent of Schools signing all high school diplomas today!

COMMEMORATIVE BOOK - SOUTH RIVER'S 275TH ANNIVERSARY

Have you purchased a book yet?

Can you name the authors of the following quotes from the book?

1. "South River is a town with strong family values, deep religious beliefs and a hard work ethic."
2. "Everyone is a participant in history."
3. "Time is the foil of history."
4. "Time also changes the present."
5. "South River offers its residents the opportunity to share its cultural diversity, thereby enriching their lives and making their community a better place to live."

Answers to the following questions may be found in the book:

6. Where is Joseph Csatori's original drawing of the Old School Baptist Church (War Memorial Building) exhibited?
7. Where was the tree planted and stone marker placed in celebration of the Anniversary?
8. How many and who were the residents who opened their premises for "A Walk Through the Gardens of South River"?
9. What are the names of the Willett sisters whose portraits hang in the South River Library?
10. How many houses of worship were there in town in 1995?
11. Which church was first constructed in Sayreville, dismantled two years later and moved to South River?
12. Which two churches have 400 and 600 pound bells in their steeples which were cast in a South River foundry?

Answers on the last page.*

South River Historical and Preservation Society
129 Main Street
South River, New Jersey 08882

YOU ARE INVITED!

Wednesday, February 26

7:00 p.m. at the South River Library

Guest Speaker: Adam Zdrodowski

Refreshment will be served.

***Answers: 1. p. 3; 2. p.4; 3. p. 4; 4. p.4; 5. p. 7; 6. p. 8; 7. p. 9; 8. p. 10; 9. p. 21;
10. p. 27-39; 11. p. 32; 12. p. 31 & 37.**