



**Meeting**  
**June 24**  
**QUILTING**  
**IN S.R.**  
**Wednesday**  
**At 7 p.m.**  
**SR Library**  
**Appleby Ave.**

## *Borough of South River Marks Its Incorporation of 100 Years Ago*

### **Concerning the Act of Incorporation:**

Under an act of the legislature adopted in 1870, the boundary limits were set forth under which the village became a town governed by a Board of Commissioners.

Those who served as the early commissioners were Garrett I. Snedeker, James Bissett, Charles Whitehead, W. C. Barkelew, Maximillion Frommel, Daniel Morgan, William Van Zant, Charles Conett, Frederick Stults, George E. Brown, Thomas Booraem, Jonathan Peterson, William H. Peterson, Isaac Blew, Daniel Selover, Issac Barkalew and Charles Serviss.

From 1881 to 1897 the town of South River remained under the control of a Town Committee government except for the offices of an assessor and tax collector which were retained by East Brunswick Township. In 1897, a bill was introduced in the State Legislature by Senator James Van Cleef of New Brunswick to incorporate South River as a borough.

In 1898, Peter F. Daly, who later was appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, drafted a statute incorporating South River as a Borough. This statute was approved on February 28, 1898 and on this date South River entered upon a new epoch in its history.

James Bissett, a member of the former commission, became the first elected Mayor of the Borough of South River.

### **Peter F. Daly drafted the statute incorporating South River as a Borough:**

The boundaries of the said borough shall be as follows: Beginning at South river (sic) on a line between land of Marcus S. Wright, formerly Randolph Low's, and lands of Timothy Selover, and running thence (1) Westerly up said line between said lands and continuing on the same course westerly to the center of the road leading from Old Bridge to New Brunswick near (formerly) Sheriff Bissett's house; (2) following the center of said road northwesterly the several courses thereof to a line between lands of Milton A. Edgar, formerly Charles Van Deventer's and land of Robert A. Messler; thence (3) Easterly down the said line between said lands and a line between said lands of Messler and land of Milton A. Edgar's, formerly Garline and Abraham Van Deventer's to South river (sic) aforesaid; thence (4) up said river the several courses thereof to the place of beginning.

### **Joint committee works out the agreement in 3 meetings:**

Execution of the incorporation authorized by the Act of the Legislature was accomplished by a Joint Committee in 7 scheduled meetings, all held in one month's time. An agreement was worked out in just 3 of these meetings, 3 quickly adjourned for lack of either a quorum or counsel and the agreement was adopted and signed at the 7th meeting. All the meetings were held in G.H. Ten Brocks' Hall in South River.

The Joint Committee (John Cozzens, George Rusher, George Kohlhepp, Elwood Serviss, Joseph Mark Edward Smith, Frank Vilet, Joseph Hodapp, David Serviss, and Benjamin Connover)

On July 9th the Joint Committee finished formulation of and agreed upon a statement of resources and liabilities. Resources amounted to \$6,163.50 and liabilities \$2,228.79. The excess of resources over liabilities (\$3,934.71) was split \$2,413.95 as East Brunswick's share and \$1,520.76 as South River's share allowing for uncollected taxes.

At the July 16th meeting, Peter Daly, E.B.'s Counsel, read the agreement of July 9th and on a motion by Elwood Serviss with second by George Kohlhepp the agreement was approved and member of the Joint Committee were directed to sign it.

### **Officers**

**Pres:** Robert C. Rafano  
**Vice Pres.:** M. Anastasio  
**Secretary:** Ann Rafano  
**Treasurer:** Paul Goepfert  
**Past Pres.:** Earl Wegner

### **Executive Board**

**Class of '98**  
 Iris Schmitt  
 Ann Sivess  
 Rosemary Freese  
 Kenneth Roginski

**Class of '99**  
 Irene Buga  
 Candice Lewandowski  
 Dolores Roginski  
 Edward Roginski

**Class of '00**  
 Ray Bruhn  
 JoAnn Goepfert  
 Doris Miller  
 Donna Rafano

**Standing Committee:**  
 Artifacts: Corrine Ceubla

### **Honorary Trustees:**

Harold Armstrong  
 Helen Armstrong

**South River Historic & Preservation Society, Inc.**  
**129 Main Street**  
**South River, New Jersey 08882**

**Remember...**

**Wednesday, June 24 at 7 p.m. at the SR Library will be the next meeting.**

**The meeting is about QUILTS, QUILTING, and QUILTERS!!!  
Come join us at the June 24th meeting! We will see, learn, meet and eat!**

## ***ACQUISITIONS***

There have been a number of mementos and artifacts received:

1. A Book, "South River City Directory Inclusive of Lawrence Brook and Part of East Brunswick", 1969, donated by Thomas Dominicki
2. Three (3) butcher knives, Luithart's Shop and a new 1 cent post card from Chet Zdrodowski
3. A postal card photo of Washington Cemetery, news clippings about Charles Whitehead, and Harold Armstrong's high school class ring.
4. A carton of relics and old newspapers about South River's 250th Anniversary from Eleanor Eppinger's mother's house.
5. A Shade tree census of south River in 30"X22" map from, WPA Project.
6. A 48 Star Flag.
7. A scrap book re: life of Marvin Paar, HS photo Class of '46 from his sister, Mrs. Joan Paar Jackson.
8. Photos of Firemen on parade, mid to late 1970's from Geo. Virgilia.
9. Letter notifying Dr. Smith of his election as Director of the First National Bank from Mrs. Smith, January 14, 1947.
10. VCR Tape 2/28/96, General Membership Meeting, Program on Lincoln and Campbell Schools in South River.
11. VCR Tape 6/7/88 interview with Joseph Hollfelder; 12/13/88 interview with Anthony Agnone and Theodore Appleby
12. VCR Tape 4/23/97, "Those Were the Days My Friends", General Membership Meeting celebrating the closing of Willett, Campbell and the Middle Schools.

***The Society is always interested in South River Memorabilia. Please let us know if you have something you would like to donate to the SRH&P Society.***