



**FEBRUARY
23**

**MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR MEETING. IT
WILL BE ABOUT
CAMPBELL SCHOOL.
IF YOU HAVE ANY
MEMORABILIA WHICH
YOU WOULD LIKE TO
SHARE WITH US,
PLEASE BRING IT TO
THE MEETING.

THE MEETING WILL
BEGIN AT 7:00 AT THE
O.S.B.C. MUSEUM.

REFRESHMENTS WILL
BE PROVIDED BY THE
TRUSTEES.

**Meeting Dates
for 2000**

**February 23
April 26
June 28
September 27
November 15**

**S.R. H. & P. S.
OFFICERS**

Donna Rafano
President
Paul Goepfert
Vice President
Edwin Roginski
Treasurer
Stephanie Bartz
Secretary

President's Message

by Donna Rafano

History balances the frustration of "how far we have to go" with the satisfaction of "how far we have come"...

Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

...and we have come a long way. The South River Historical & Preservation Society is proud of our accomplishments. Two years ago a museum was just a dream - now it is a reality. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of members, friends, and with the help of the Mayor and Borough Council, the Old School Baptist Church Museum is a wonderful showcase of South River's proud history.

As the new president of the Society, I intend to continue the momentum of bringing the history of South River to our residents and neighboring communities.

Although the O.S.B.C. Museum is only open one Sunday a month, over 700 visitors have passed through its doors. The enthusiasm of these guests has been overwhelming. For example, when the South River Elementary 3rd Graders were asked to write about one favorite thing from their visit in October, their response was "only one?" The excitement in the eyes of the Boy Scouts, who visited in December, and participated in a historic treasure hunt in the museum, was terrific. When the Girl Scouts visited this month and asked how soon they could come back to visit the cemetery behind the museum (which was covered with snow), I have to say that "we are doing something right!"

But as stated above, we have a long way to go. In the months to

come, the Society's goal is to promote more of this great energy by inviting and encouraging the community and other organizations to utilize the museum. We are planning programs that will appeal to all ages. In the spring, a Senior Sunday and a Student Open House are already in the works. At our membership meetings, we are looking forward to learning more about South River families, as our members and guests share the experiences of generations that have passed through our town.

I hope that we see new and familiar faces and welcome more members as we not only review our history but become a part of making it!

The O.S.B.C. Museum

The Old School Baptist Church Museum has been very busy since the rededication on September 12, 1999. It is used by the Borough of South River as a committee meeting place.

There have been over 700 visitors to the museum. Students in the third and fourth grades from the South River Elementary School visited the museum. After the lighting of the Christmas tree in front of Borough Hall, everyone was invited to the museum for hot cider and cookies. The Girl Scouts from South River visited the museum for a lecture, too.

If you have a group or organization which would like to visit the museum, please call 613-3967 to arrange a time.

MUSEUM HOURS

**First Sunday of the Month
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Or by Appointment**

The Spokesman

by Edwin Roginski

The Borough of South River through its Administrator, Charles Kolakowski, donated four bound volumes of "The Spokesman" editions from January 1, 1959 through December 31, 1961. The local weekly periodical was established on March 13, 1919 and served the South River, Sayreville, East Brunswick, Spotswood, Jamesburg, Helmetta, and Old Bridge area. It was published every Thursday and had office locations at the Knights of Columbus Building on Jackson Street

and at 48 Main Street, South River.

Over time, "The Spokesman" was acquired by Greater Media Newspapers, and called "The Sentinel". It is published by the Sentinel Publishing Company of East Brunswick. Its focus today is upon the communities of East Brunswick, Milltown, South River, and Spotswood. The 2000 Millennium represents eighty-one years of media coverage of South River & its adjacent communities.

Holiday Decorations

A special thanks to *Rose Mary Freese*, chairperson, with committee members *Earl Wenger*, *Woodis Booraem*, *Warren Booraem*, and *Iris Schmitt* for decorating the museum for the holidays. The atmosphere created was one of warmth, beauty, and joy.

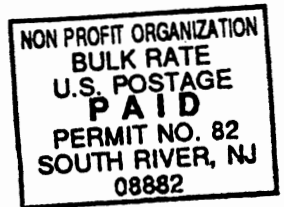
Make Your Membership Count. Get Involved!

If you would like to help the Society, please let us know. We need help proofreading information from the Washington Cemetery, organizing artifacts, and setting up displays.



**SOUTH RIVER
HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION
SOCIETY, INC.**

Box 545
South River, New Jersey
08882



Meeting	Wednesday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m., O.S.B.C. Museum, 64 - 66 Main Street, S.R.
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HISTORIC FACTS: What did Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy have in common?

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.
John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.

Both Presidents were shot on Friday.
Both were succeeded by Southerners.
Both successors were named Johnson
Both assassins were known by their three names.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860.
John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960.

Booth ran from the theater and was caught in a warehouse.
Oswald ran from a warehouse and was caught in a theater.

Both lost their children while living in the White House.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Dues per year: \$5:00 Adults, \$1:00 Students

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

**Please send your check payable to the
South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.
To: Woodis & Warren Booraem
208 Main Street
South River, New Jersey 08882
Membership and Information call: Woodis Booraem, 257-0365**