



South River Historical & Preservation News
Number 12

November 2000

***President's
Message***

It's truly hard to believe that my year as president is quickly drawing to a close. As our Annual Meeting on November 15th approaches, I can't help but look back on our accomplishments this past year.

*We unveiled the restored 1851 R. Van Dyke Reid map.

*We celebrated one year in the Old School Baptist Church Building on September 12.

*We received \$2000 from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission for our good work and dedication.

*We watched proudly as our members received special recognition: Earl Wenger received a community service award; Marilyn Anastasio and Candice Lewandoski developed, submitted and were granted a Mini History Grant for Education; Karen Migut won the South River Slogan Contest with "Proud Past, Bright Future".

*We displayed artifacts of the Lenape Indians courtesy of the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

*We started the development of a web site for the Society:

www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/

*We created a Preservation Committee dedicated to educating the community on the value of historic homes and buildings.

*We received over 197 donated items for the museum.

*We welcomed over 700 visitors to the museum. They included school groups, Girl Scouts, senior citizens, in and out of state visitors, and our own South River friends.

**Yes, the year
2000 has been a
GREAT year!**

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who spent many hours of their time to help make all these wonderful things happen.

Let's keep the momentum going next year as we set our goals even higher.

Together we can make the South River Historical & Preservation Society and the museum user-friendly to friends and neighbors who share our love and passion for history.

***SRH&PS
Officers***

Donna Rafano

President

Paul Geopfert

Vice President

Edwin Roginski

Treasurer

Stephanie Bartz

Secretary

Annual Meeting
November 15
Wednesday
At 7:00 p.m.

64 - 66 Main Street

As in the past, our annual program will be "Share a Piece of History." We invite members and guests to bring an item, a story or even a person to share with us. It will be an evening of good food and great fun!

2001 Meeting Dates

February 21st

April 25th

June 27th

September 26th

November 28th

Summer Time Fun



Students from the South River Summer Library Program spent a morning at the museum with Dawn Bladzinski, the Youth Services Librarian, and society volunteers. The students worked on a map activity and a History Hunt.



Donations, Thank You!!

Thanks to Siemens Hearing Instruments, Inc. in Piscataway who donated a Toshiba Personal Computer with 36 MB of RAM and a Pentium processor. The computer came with Windows '98 and Microsoft Office.

The Society's database is installed. We can print out our address information thanks to Mrs. Josephine Marsh who donated a Cannon Bubble Jet printer. Stephanie and Ed Bartz donated a flat bed scanner that will make it possible to compile our pictures on disks.

Acquisitions

Thanks to the generosity of members of the society, the collection of South River artifacts is expanding.

Recent acquisitions include: a copy and a blueprint copy of the 1851 Van Dyke Reid map from Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hetman; a book entitled "New Testament, Illustrated and Explained" inscribed with the name 'Sarah Brown' and the year 1896 from the library; a collection of borough photographs taken by Bill Reichenbach which were donated by his brother Richard Reichenbach; two framed photos of the South River Police Department donated by Sgt. Thomas Karaniewsky; the umbrella stand and drinking fountain from Dr. Smith's office donated by Mrs. Smith; copies of photos from Judge Nicholas Stroumstos; and copies of photos of Becker's and the Colonial Sweet Shop from Delores Tartza.

Membership

Interest in the OSBC and SRH&PS continues to grow. There are 162 members. Leo J. Cannon and Richard Reichenbach are our newest members.

"History knows no resting places and no plateaus."

Henry A. Kissinger

Girl Scouts &

Senior Citizens

The Girls Scouts of Troop 1169, under the direction of their leader, Debbie Zemann, are working to make a connection with the senior citizens, themselves, and the museum.

The Girl Scouts attended an orientation session at the museum. They had an opportunity to learn about the exhibits and, in turn, will serve as docents later this month.

Senior citizens have been invited by the Girl Scouts for a tour of the museum on Sunday, November 19. Refreshments will be served.

If you are interested in joining the tour, please come to the museum on Sunday, November 19 at 1:30 p.m.



SR Elementary Students Visit the Museum

Third and fourth grade students from the South River Public School visited the museum this fall.

On Government Day, the third graders visited the museum in addition to the Police Department, Rescue Squad, Fire Department, Court, and Post Office.

The fourth graders spent more time at the museum than the third graders. The fourth graders were given a tour of the museum through an interactive activity designed by the Society.

“Thanks” to the third and fourth grade teachers, especially Julia Sandler and Karen Balazs, for organizing the trips.

September Meeting

Have you ever wondered how a cameo is made? Members at the September meeting were shown various types of cameos and had the opportunity to have their cameos appraised.

Barbara Reinhardt explained ways to evaluate a cameo, brought examples of cameos, and gave estimates on the value of the cameos that members brought to the meeting.



Barbara Reinhardt

If you are interested in finding out more information, please visit

Barbara Reinhardt at Barbara's Unique Antiques Boutique in Jamesburg.

2001 Calendars

Calendars for 2001 are now on sale for \$6.00 each. The calendars can be purchased at the following Main Street locations: The Old School Baptist Church Museum, Rafano & Wood Attorneys at Law Office, and Main Street Florist.

Csatari Prints

Limited quantities of signed Csatari prints of the Old School Baptist Church are available.



Unframed print are \$25.00, framed prints are \$90.00.

Please call Bob Rafano at 257-2200 for more information.

In Memoriam

Marie Gray, a member of the society, recently passed away.



Members attend the September meeting.

Historic Events in Our Area

Raritan Landing Archaeological Excavations are currently under way through December.

Drop in Tours: every Friday from 10:00am, 10:30, 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. (excepts holidays). Group tours of more than six people (reservations required): every Friday afternoons 1:00, 1:30, 2:00 and 2:30 p.m. For more information call 877-529-3211.

Nearby Historic Sites:

Metlar/Bodine House
Museum

1281 River Road,
Piscataway
732-463-8363

Cornelius Low House,
Middlesex County Museum

1225 River Road,
Piscataway
732-745-4177

East Jersey Old Towne
1050 River Road
732 - 745 - 4489

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WHO'S WHO?



This photo is from Judge N. Stroumstos. Can you identify any of the people?