

HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

News

Number 26

NEXT MEETING:**Nov. 19th at 7 p.m.**

The officers and trustees invite you to our be their guest at the Annual Meeting, supper and program.

Featured will be Walter Mrozek whose stories of the Prohibition Era in South River are sure to entertain.

The annual election of officers and trustees will also take place.

Please join us on Nov. 19th at 7 p.m. at the South River Museum (Old School Baptist Church), 64-66 Main Street in South River. Bring a friend.

2004 Meeting Dates:**FEBRUARY 25****APRIL 28****JUNE 23****SRH&PS Officers**

Marilyn Anastasio
President

Donna Rafano
Vice President

Hank Dziemian
Treasurer

Stephanie Bartz
Secretary

President's Message*by Marilyn Anastasio*

Congratulations to the South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc. on its 15th Anniversary. Thanks to Ann Rafano and Florence Clayton for initiating the formation of the organization in 1988. In addition, the Society owes a debt of gratitude to the original trustees:

Doris Booraem	Warren Booraem
Woodis Booraem	Elizabeth Chando
Florence Clayton	Llewellyn Clayton
Kathryn Paprota	Ann C. Rafano
Robert. C. Rafano	William Reichenbach
Audrey Scheidig	Mary Weis

CELEBRATING

Fifteen years later, the oil paintings of the Willett Sisters of South River (the SR Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.'s first project) are proudly hanging in their permanent home, the South River Museum. We are thankful to the Mayor and Council, the SRH&PS individual and corporate members, and the residents of South River for helping South River preserve its history.

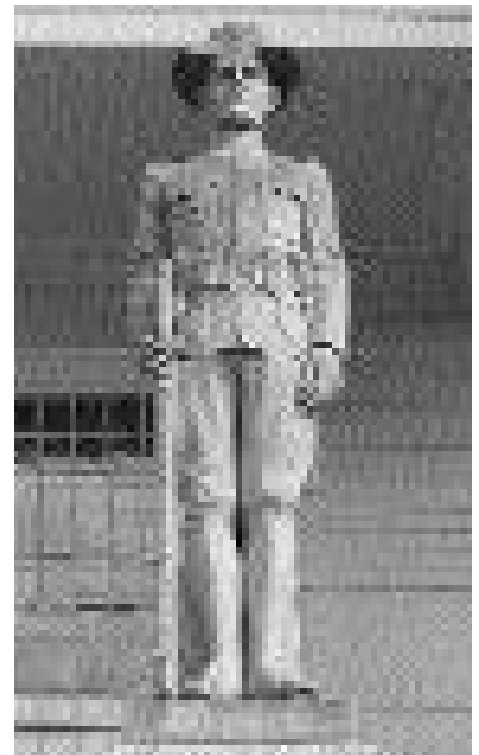
Please join us at our Annual Meeting for our 15th Anniversary Celebration, November 19th at 7 pm at the South River Museum.

The revival of the South River War Memorials

The Laboratory for Conservation of Fine Arts has been contacted by the Society to do restoration work on the doughboy and the WW II monument in front of the museum. The missing pieces of the doughboy's hat and gun will be replaced, the statue will be cleaned, the bronze plaque will be restored, and the base will be repaired. Work is expected to be done in the Spring.

A fundraising event is planned for March of 2004 to help offset the costs of the repairs. The Society hopes to work in conjunction with Veterans groups in town in this fundraising effort. Joann and Paul Goepfert will chair the event.

If you would like to contribute to the restoration, your tax deductible donations can be sent to: South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc., P.O. 545, South River, NJ 08882. Or for more information please call 732-613-3078.



Doughboy will finally get much needed repairs.

September 24th Highlights— *Bill Hermstedt shares his archaeological digging experiences*

At our September meeting, Bill Hermstedt shared aspects of his hobby with the audience. He spoke about his archaeological digs and metal detecting— which he finds are fascinating activities and great ways to meet interesting people.

Mr Hermstedt shared with us some South River treasures. His “finds” at Bissett’s Pond area include an old discus, a wagon wheel, a horseshoe, coat/curtain weights, a harness ring, a letter opener, gas lamp parts, pipe parts, an 1807 English coin, a whistle, a wonderful piece of sandstone with several fossils and a 1787 “Jersey Copper” (which is a rare coin, the first coin imprinted with “e pluribus unum”). Mr. Hermstedt has donated



Bill Hermstedt shows Society members a collection of artifacts found at Bissett’s Pond here in South River.

all of these fascinating treasures to the Society for our collection.

Mr Hermstedt is a member of Bravo Archaeological Club. He travels all over the east coast to archaeological digs, battle fields, building restorations,

which all provide great opportunities for truly “digging up the past.”

The SR&PS extends a “thank you” to Mr. Hermstedt for donating his collection to the Society and for his engaging presentation.



John, Jesse, Linda and Elena Lucas visit the museum during Cruise Night this summer.



Above: A Historic Trolley Tour sponsored by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission’s makes it’s first stop at the Old School Baptist Church.



Ann Rafano works the Society table at Heritage Day in September 20th.

Museum Information

2004 Calendars On Sale Now!

The 2004 South River calendars are now available for \$6.00 each. Calendar are available at the following locations:

- Main Street Florist
- The SR Borough Hall
- Rafano & Wood
- The SR Musuem

**For more information call
732-613-3078.**

Below: Ann Rafano speaks to the visitors about the founding of the SRH&P Society 15 years ago.



In Memoriam

The Executive Board and members of the South River Historical & Preservation Society offer our condolences to the families of:

**Raymond Bruhn
and
Miriam Welsh Hollfelder**

2003 South River Historical & Preservation Society Members—

The Society would like to thank our members and corporate sponsors for their continued support.

Lifetime Member—

Mr. Louis E. Rezem

Corporate/Business Members—

- Appleby Insurance Agency, Inc.
- First Savings Bank
- Grand Companies:
The Historic Supply Company
- Gerri's Hair Designers
- Laffin Chevrolet Sales
- Moshe Aaron Yeshiva High School
- Ria Mar Restaurant
- South River Appliance, Inc.

- Polish Army Veterans Association
of America
- Yuhus Plumbing and Heating Inc.
- Witty's Discount Liquor

Individual & Family Members—

Mr. Martin H. Adler
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony F. Agnone
 Dr. John H. Ambrogi
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Anastasio
 & Family
 Mrs. Louise Andersen
 Mrs. Audrey Appleby
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold R. Armstrong Jr.
 Mr. William Barge
 Mrs. Alberta B. Bargloski
 Mrs. Pat Barnhart
 Mr. Paul Barszczewski
 Mrs. Stephanie Bartz
 Mr. Charles G. Benn
 Ms. Katherine M. Bitow
 Ms. Woodis M. Booraem
 Mr. Warren K. Booraem
 Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Booraem
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Boyler
 Mrs. Karen Bradford
 Ms. Christine Brasno
 Mr. Jason A. Brasno
 Mrs. Henrietta Brasno
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 Mr. & Mrs. John V. Budzin & Family
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 Mrs. Irene K. Buga
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 Mr. Leo J. Cannon & Family
 Mrs. Corinne S. Cebula
 Mrs. Freda Y. Chen
 Mr. Jontel Cohn
 Mrs. Laurie A. Conger & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Csatari
 Ms. Maggie M. Cseh
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Czapkowski
 & Family
 Ms. Tanya L. Davis
 Mrs. Julie Devine
 Mrs. JoAnn Devlin
 Ms. Susan DeVoe
 Mr. Cort R. DeVoe
 Mr. & Mrs. Nelson DeVoe
 Mrs. Regina T. DeVoe

Ms. Regina T. DeVoe
 Mrs. Maryana DeZarlo & Family
 Ms. Kathy L. Donnellan
 Mr. Hank G. Dziemian
 Mrs. Linda A. Ejek
 Mrs. Eleanor R. Eppinger
 Mrs. Janet B. Fairweather
 Ms. Louise Fitzpatrick
 Mrs. Mary Forte
 Mr. & Mrs. John H. Froude
 Mr. & Mrs. John Fuhrer
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis J. Gambo
 Mr. Arthur J. Garboski
 Ms. Marie S. Gardner
 Rev. & Mrs. David F. Garretson
 & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gawarkiewicz
 Mr. James W. Genecki
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul F. Goepfert & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. Goff
 Mrs. Maxwell S. Golden
 Mr. Daniel L. Golden
 Ms. Loretta Gostkowski
 Ms. Maria Gostkowski
 Ms. Bonita C. Grant
 Mr. Ronald Grygo
 Ms. Sandra G. Guardiano
 Mr. Mark R. Haney
 Mr. Terry Hann
 Mr. Daniel Hartrum
 Mr. & Mrs. William Hermstedt
 Mrs. Patricia A. Hyland
 Ms. Kathleen E. Hyland
 Mr. Robert & The Rev. Barbara Jensen
 & Family
 Mr. Elmer D. June
 Mrs. Hilda Kadela
 Mr. John Kjersgaard
 Mrs. Fances Kosa
 Mrs. Joyce Kucyn
 Ms. Marion A. Kutawski
 Mr. Raymond J. Laffin
 Ms. Meredith M. Larson
 Mrs. Evelyn Larson
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 Mr. & Mrs. James S. Mackiewicz
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 Mrs. Emily F. Miller
 Ms. Doris Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter J. Mrozek
 Mrs. Sharon Mulvihill & Family
 Mrs. Ruth A. Nole
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. O'Neill
 Mr. & Mrs. John O'Neill
 Mrs. Dorothy Rice Oliver
 Mr. Michael Ondre
 Mrs. Christine Orlando
 Ms. Lola Ostaszewski
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 Mrs. Carol E. Presnal
 Mrs. Florence C. Price
 Mr. Edward W. Price
 Ms. Amy Rafano
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Rafano
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Rafano
 Mr. Anthony Razzano
 Mr. Kenneth R. Rice
 Mr. Walter F. Rice
 Ms. Wendy Richter
 Mrs. Irene "Debby" Richter
 Mr. Kenneth Roginski
 Ms. Florence M. Roginski
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 Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Satterthwaite

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 Mrs. Dorothy Schlauch
 Mrs. Iris Schmitt
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Senko & Family
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 Ms. Judith G. Smith
 Mrs. Ann M. Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Smutko & Family
 Mr. Skeeter Spitaleri
 Ms. Alexis Stashkevetch

Mrs. Jamie Swain
 Mayor and Mrs. Robert P. Szegeti
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Szewczyk
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Timko
 Mrs. Marilyn Tominus & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Triznadel
 Mrs. & Mrs. Leonard Tursi
 Mrs. Dorothy Unkel
 Mr. & Mrs. Emiel Verloove
 Mr. & Mrs. John E. Weck
 Mr. Earl C. Wenger

Ms. Barbara Westergaard
 Mrs. Pauline A. Wolff
 Mr. Walter Wornowicz
 Mrs. Sandra Zajac
 Mrs. Dorothy P. Zaleske
 Dr. & Mrs. Walter Zarski
 Mr. Chester A. Zdrodowski
 Mr. Adam Zdrodowski
 Ms. Lauren Zdziarski
 Mrs. Leslie Zelanko
 Mrs. Jean Zimmerman

2003 South River Historical & Preservation Society Donations—

The Society would like to thank our contributors for their generous donations:

- Ms. Hilda Kadela - framed photo of the Imperial Band
- Mr. Lou Marczak - 1961 map of South River
- Ms. Jacqueline Buffalino - 1923 booklet entitled "Sanitary Code of the Board of Health of the Borough of South River New Jersey"
- Phyllis & Richard Leming - two photos, one from a January 1956 ceremony at the Masonic Temple and the second from an unidentified event at St. Mary's
- Mr. & Mrs. Dudley Tighe - two soda bottles, complete with original caps (South River, NJ and Paterson, NJ); a bottle opener from Jack's Liquors; an ashtray from Monush's Tavern; and two milk bottles (J. Van Deusen, South River, NJ and Tilton's City Dairy, Asbury Park, NJ); 4 photos from events at Corpus Christi
- Mr. Michael Ondre - a collection of photographs; newspaper articles and other materials relating to local area sports; a "South River High School Handbook;" a soft drink bottle; and a piece of masonry from the former Tabernacle Baptist Church (razed in 1998)
- Mr. Gary Jensen - a program from the "Second Annual Field Trials Sponsored by the South River Coonhunters Ass'n at Connelly Park, Farrington Lake Dam near Milltown, NJ, July 4, 1940" and a collection of photos taken following the 1979 fire on Ferry Street in South River
- Miss Judith G. Smith - a book, "The Language of Commodities: A Commodity Glossary" written by former South River High School graduate Rosemary Erickson, nee Papuzynski
- Ms. Marie Gardner - a program from the First Annual South River High School Wall of Fame Dinner; a 1956 Willetonian; 5 photographs; and 2 Field Day trophies
- Dr. John H. Ambrogi - a collection of photographs from the 1978 Willett School expansion project and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings relating to local school history, 1972 to 1979
- Mr. John Rudy - a South River High School varsity letter and the 1945 text "Choral Speaking and Speech Improvement"
- Mr. John Miller - a program booklet and advertising agreement from the South River Firemen's Jubilee, held on Saturday, August 26, 1961
- Ms. Alice Nelson - a collection of photographs relating to the South River Riding Stables and the Kuberski family, with related materials
- Andrea and Gregory Pompiano - HP LaserJet 5mp printer
- South River Elementary School PTA - South River Elementary School 2003 yearbook
- Mrs. Charlene Farnsworth Jones - a diploma, attendance certificate, and eighth grade school certificate, football banquet program, and photograph of the football team from the 1930s and 1949s; a 25th high school reunion ashtray; a mug from the 80th anniversary of the South River Fire Department and 40th anniversary of the Rescue Squad; and a copy of the "Home Coming Celebration, Veterans of World War II" program
- Mr. Paul Boshko - a World War II era ration book and token holder including three War Ration Book Four booklets from the Dubovick family
- Ms. Margaret Abbott - South River High School "Oriflamme" yearbooks from 1936 and 1937; a scrapbook of materials relating to high school sports in the same period
- Helen and Harold Scupp - a wooden brick mold and matching brick from the South River Brick Company
- Joseph and Lois Servon - a stoneware jug labeled John Fee Jr., South River, NJ
- Mrs. Irene Buga - 3 books, "P. Vergili Maronis Bucolica et Georgica" (1929), "Required Poems for Reading and Memorizing: Third and Fourth Grades: Prescribed by State Courses of Study" (no date), and "Rational Method in Reading: an Original Presentation of Sight and Sound Work that Leads Rapidly to Independent and Intelligent Reading: Primer (First Half-Year's Work): Part II. Sight and Phonetic Reading" (1907)
- Anonymous - 2 parade photos
- Rob Rafano - 1981 Campbell School mug
- Milltown Historical Society - a framed photo of the South River Athletic Club baseball Team (no date)
- Bill Hermstedt - a collection of items from an archaeological dig at Bissett's Pond
- Edna Ejek - Her Delaware Raitan Valley Girl Scout badge jacket; a 1976 SR Rescue Squad Anniversary Mug; 2 SR Library glasses; SR 250th Anniversary items: Home News & Tribune anniversary insert, a wooden nickel and a anniversary plate.

Searching for family history

Recently SRH&PS Secretary Stephanie Bartz had an inquiry from a gentleman in Florida looking for some family history—the request for information came to her via the Society's website—it proved to be quite interesting....

Martin Schneiderman wrote:

Do you have any information about the South River Coat Co.? It existed in the twenties and thirties.

Stephanie Bartz responded:

Martin,

There's a page on the South River Coat Company in Volume II of Selover's "History of South River New Jersey." It's not available in electronic form, but since it's relatively short, I'm including the text below.

We're always interested in hearing from people who are interested in South River history. Do you mind if I ask what your connection is?

The South River Coat Company

The South River Coat Company, Paul A Kozak, owner and Manager, has been operating in South River since 1926. His plant is located in the factory building formerly occupied by the Luneppe Lace and Embroidery Company at 74 to 96 Division Street.

The South River Coat Company manufactures mens' and boys' clothing that is sold nation wide through wholesalers. Only thirty employees were on the company's payroll in 1936, but the business increased so rapidly that it brought about a steady addition to the operators until at this time (1949) the company employs 200 skilled clothing makers.

During the war period the South River Coat Company contracted with the government to make uniforms and combat-coats of special design. All contracts included strict specifications. However, the South River Coat Company established an enviable reputation in meeting the government's requirements in all.



The South River Coat Company on Division Street as it exists today.

The company occupies 35,000 feet of floor space, making it the largest individual manufacturing concern in South River although it does not employ the largest number of workers.

The plant is equipped throughout with modern machinery and the owner has made ample provision for the comfort and safety of his entire personnel.

The South River Coat Company is a great economic asset to the borough by paying \$500,000 annually in wages and salaries to it's employees.

Martin Schneiderman wrote: back:

Stephanie,

Thank you for your quick and complete reply. My grandfather, Max Schneiderman, had something to do with the South River Coat Company when he lived in South River in the mid to late 1930s. I was familiar with the government contracts you mentioned, but I also thought that Max Schneiderman played a major part in the company.

My story:

Some years ago, 1970, I was on my way to Florida from NY. I ran over a mud flap from an 18-wheeler and punctured my gas tank while on the NJT. I was towed to the Chrysler dealership in South River, NJ. I was in quite a hurry to get to my destination and was very disappointed when I was told that it would be 2-3 days before they could get to my car. The service manager asked me for my name so he could put me on the waiting list. When I gave him my name he asked if I were related to Max Schneiderman. When I told him that he was my grandfather he called the service man over and told him to get my car fixed asap. When I asked why, he said my grandfather had kept the factory open so people would have jobs during (I thought) the depression. I was trying to get more information to confirm what I remember or what actually was the case.

Thanks,
Martin

We invite anyone who has a question to contact us on our website: www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/, or write to us at South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc., P.O. 545, South River, NJ 08882 or call us at 732-613-3078. After all, we would all like to learn something new about our past.



**South River
Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.**



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P.O. Box 545
South River, New Jersey 08882

Visit our website at:
www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/

2004 SRH&PS APPLICATION FORM

Please check one: New Renewal Gift (from _____)

Please print your name clearly as it should appear on membership listing:

Name: (Mr., Mrs. Ms.) _____

Address: _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone: (____) _____

Additional contribution (optional) \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ Cash Check (Please make check payable to "SRH&PS, Inc.")

Send your application and dues payment to: **Candice Lewandoski**
60 Hillside Avenue
South River, NJ 08882

My company has a matching gift program. My company: _____
My company's address: _____

As a tax-exempt corporation, the SRH&PS, Inc. is eligible to receive matching gifts. If your employer participates in such a program, please send matching gift forms with your membership donation. The Society's fiscal year is January 1 to December 31.

I'd like information about volunteering at the Old School Baptist Church Museum

I suggest you send a copy of this application to: _____

I would like to donate an additional amount of \$ _____ towards the restoration of the SR War Monuments
Please make my donation in honor of/ in memory of _____ who served in the _____ war/conflict

ANNUAL DUE CATEGORIES

- Adults*** \$5.00
- Students** \$1.00
- Family*** \$15.00
- Business/Corporate** \$25.00
- Lifetime (Individual)** \$250.00

* For multiple memberships, please list additional names on back of this form