

HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION NEWS

President's Message by Brian Armstrong

I enjoy working in the South River Museum each month because it gives me an opportunity to speak to those people from South River and other areas that come into the museum to learn more about the history of South River. March was very interesting due the eclectic group of people that visited. Although I try to provide them with information about South River, they often expose me to new questions and information that expands my understanding of the history of the Borough.

One woman who came into the museum was interested in the South River Fire Company. We helped her look through the Selover book and other resources. She selected pages and we made copies for her. She also purchased one of the extra Fire Company Anniversary Books which made her very happy.

A group of Boy Scouts came with their leaders. They were interested in the various tools on display as well

as items exhibited in the area dubbed "Dr. Smith's office." I also gave them a tour of the cemetery, which they and their leaders enjoyed very much. I enjoy seeing the young children and teenagers showing interest in history.

One of the Boy Scout leaders came in with some wonderful donations. Her uncle had passed away and she did the right thing by saving these artifacts. She had a great scrapbook and clothes concerning a baseball team which was popular in South River in the 1950s. These were unique artifacts we had not seen before and added an interesting addition to our collection.

The invitation is offered for you to come to the museum for a visit and to provide any interesting artifacts that you might find in your house or those of your relatives. We enjoy both the mission of the South River Historical & Preservation Society and the activities that contribute to its success.

February Presentation Focuses on Native Americans

Highlighting the February meeting was Mary Anne Ross, a long time member of the Intertribal American Indians of New Jersey. Ms. Ross talked about her experiences living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, including the cultural differences that led to confusion, misunderstandings, and some very comical moments.

Ms. Ross said she first visited the Reservation in the 1980s to work as a counselor at a group home for boys, a volunteer program run by a Catholic order of Marist Brothers. While there, she met and married another counselor, Ivern Broken Nose, who was from a traditional Lakota family and didn't learn English until he went to school.

"I can't say I'm an expert on American Indian culture," said Ms. Ross. "There are so many of them. But," she added with a smile, "I do feel I am an expert on cultural differences because I have been tripping over them for the past 20 years."



Guest speaker Mary Anne Ross. On display behind her is a traditional Lakota Star Quilt which she brought with her.

SRH&PS 2010 EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

Brian Armstrong
President

Anita Hermstedt
Vice President

Ann Rafano
Secretary

Hank Dziemian
Treasurer

Dick Meyers
Immediate
Past President

TRUSTEES

Stephanie Bartz

JoAnn Devlin

Kathleen Hyland

Candice Lewandoski

Lee Meyers

Rev. Michael Psenechnuk

Gary Petrie

Robert Rafano

Iris Schmitt

Robert Szegeti

Raja Waran

Nan Whitehead

COMMITTEES

Artifacts - Stephanie Bartz

Buildings & Grounds -

Ann and Bob Rafano

Calendar - Doris Miller

Fund Raising - Joann Smith-

Goepfert and Paul Goepfert

Grants - Brian Armstrong

Historic Buildings & Sites -

Ken Roginski

Hospitality-

Membership - Marilyn Anastasio

Newsletter - Dick Meyers

Program - Anita Hermstedt

Publicity - Marilyn Anastasio

Web Site - Stephanie Bartz

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Helen Armstrong (1993)

Warren Booraem (2002)

Woodis Booraem (2002)

Ann Rafano (2003)

Marilyn Anastasio (2005)

Stephanie Bartz (2007)

Dick Meyers (2008)

Doris Miller (2008)

Robert Rafano (2008)

South River Historical & Preservation News

Published five times yearly by the South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.

Editor: Dick Meyers

Associate Editors & Contributors:

Marilyn Anastasio

Stephanie Bartz

Candice Lewandoski

Ann Rafano

Mailings & Distribution:

Paul & Joann Goepfert

Brian Armstrong

To Our Readers:

The *South River Historical & Preservation News* willingly corrects its factual errors. If you believe we have made a mistake, please let us know.

Readers' contributions to the newsletter are welcomed. Submissions for the June 2010 issue must be received by May 15.

Please advise us if you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email.

For contact information, please see page 4.

New Acquisitions, January-March, 2010

- Map** - "Map of South River, New Jersey," published by C. Buyofsky, Jr., 1961. Donated by Kevin Dunn.
- Yearbook** - Oriflamme, 1945, volume eighteen, owned by Charlotte Sicknick, with autographs; **yearbook** - Oriflamme, 1947, volume twenty, owned by Phyllis Sicknick, with autographs; **print, photographic** - South River High School Class of 1947; **directory** - Clark's South River New Jersey Buyer's Guide, 1953-54; **bill** - Borough of South River, NJ, Tax Bill, 1932; **bill** - Final Tax Bill 1941 Taxes, Borough of South River, NJ; **bill** - Final Tax Bill 1943 Taxes, Borough of South River, NJ; **4 prints, photographic** - South River Moose Lodge No. 165, 1949; **receipt** - payment to Joseph Frank, photographer, for South River Moose Lodge photographs, 4/8/1949; **3 proofs, photographic** - South River Moose Lodge No. 165, 1949; **clipping, newspaper** - advertisement for South River Trust Company "1 stop - drive-in banking" [n.d]; **photocopy** - Wallace anniversary [no date]--1930 obituary, Amandus Sicknick--1938 obituary, Martha Sicknick--1999 obituary, Helen Sicknick Hanson. Donated by Charles Sicknick.
- Record, phonograph** - Christmas '74, Imperial Chorus South River, NJ. Donated by the South River Public Library.
- Scrapbook** - newspaper clippings from local sports teams and other memorabilia, 1950s; **jacket** - Barrons boys club baseball team, 1950s; **2 shirts** - Barrons boys club baseball team, 1950s; **shirt** - South River High School; **shirt** - Knotty Pine Inn baseball; **directory** - South River High School Alumni Directory 1995; **directory** - South River High School Alumni Directory 2003; **yearbook** - Oriflamme, 1959, volume XXXII, with autographs. From the estate of Joseph Genard; donated by Edith Costello.

Census Reminder

Among the primary resources for a family history researcher are the U.S. Census records. The forms, themselves, are not made public for 72 years (the 1940 Census records will be released in 2012), but more generalized information is made available far sooner. Examples can be found on the SRH&PS website: data from 2000 and earlier on South River's populations, including the number of foreign-born residents and the countries from which they emigrated.

Frequently, however, family members provide inaccurate information, and more importantly, entire families are sometimes missed. As a contributor to our website's Guest Register remarked, "the Census is unrealistic due the fact that the immigrants are left out."

You can help to ensure that future genealogical researchers find your family accurately represented in the 2010 Census: carefully complete the form you received through the mail in March, and be sure to send it in. If you don't, you can expect a representative of the Census Bureau to pay you a personal visit.

Special Acknowledgements (2/19 – 3/10)

CONTRIBUTORS:

Anthony & Alice Agnone Ken & Gloria Smutko
Judith G. Smith, with a matching gift from Johnson & Johnson

CONTRIBUTIONS IN HONOR OF:

Corinne Cebula by June Sicknick Whetstone

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OF:

Karl Becker by Barbara Cline
Jontel Cohn by Davia Cohn
Dr. Maxwell S. Golden by Rosalie Golden
Patricia A. Hyland by Kathleen Hyland
Joseph L. Nole, August 24, 1970, by Ruth Nole
Joanne Seviss and Leslie Senko by Joanne & Steve Senko

CORRECTION

The February 2010 issue of the *South River Historical & Preservation News* misidentified Mary Smith as May Smith. In "New Acquisitions, September-December 2009," the following item on p. 4 should have read as follows:

10. **Photo album**, containing portraits of Martha, Elizabeth, Roselle, and Mary Smith and other photos of the Smith family, assorted classes and groups, and individual photos. Donated by Betty Wagner.

The Editor regrets the error.

SRH&PS GIFT SHOP

New! Old School Baptist Church

Postcard – Set of 3 postcards, \$1.00
Features an 1894 photo of the OSBC (now the South River Museum).



2010 SRH&PS Calendar - \$8.00
Previous years also available - \$6.00



Old School Baptist Church print

by **Joseph Csatari** - \$25.00
Numbered limited edition print 13" x 15 3/4", unframed, includes brief biography of the artist and history of the Old School Baptist Church building.

Commemorative 200th Anniversary Old School Baptist Church Medalion Ornament (South River Museum) - \$10.00

Commemorative Book in Celebration of South River's 275th Anniversary, 1720-1995 - \$10.00
Over 90 pages of text & photos.

Wooden Plaque of the Old School Baptist Church

- \$10.00
Made from timber from the original portico columns.

Old School Baptist Church Note Cards with Envelopes - Set of 5 cards, \$2.50; set of 10 cards, \$4.00
Features an early photo of the OSBC.

SRH&PS Hat

- \$5.00
Blue with white lettering and a picture of the Old School Baptist Church.

Lapel Pin - \$5.00
Collectible pin commemorating the South River Museum - Old School Baptist Church [size- 7/8 inch]



Note: Prices do not include postage. Please visit our website (see back page) for additional items.



P.O. Box 446
South River, New Jersey 08882

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 589
SOUTH RIVER, NJ
08882

South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.

Phone us: **732-613-3078**
Email us: **SouthRiverHistory@gmail.com**
Visit our Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/>
Visit our Museum: **See Calendar (insert)**
Write to us: **See mailing address, above**

Bovine Blight or A Bunch of Baloney?

At various times during the 19th-century, South River was renowned for its shipping and shipbuilding, its brickyards and pottery-making. And were it not for an event reported in the July 28, 1881 edition of the *New Brunswick Daily Times*, it might even have become known as a cattletown.

According to a page 3 article, after months of unsubstantiated rumors that cattle in South River had contracted a deadly bovine disease, things came to a head with the arrival of “a person calling himself Wm. B. E. Miller, D.V.S.” Miller, said the article, claimed to be from the Veterinary Infirmary in Camden, and upon declaring that “twenty-two head of cattle...were more or less affected by pleuro-pneumonia,” he and two cronies seized and took away the livestock. This, the article noted, was in violation of New Jersey State law, which required diseased cattle “to be slaughtered on the spot and buried, hoof and hide, six feet under ground.”

What, then, did happen to the cattle?

The article reported that Miller sold them to a Camden butcher, with assurances “that they were not sufficiently diseased to affect the meat.” In full agreement, the article continued, the butcher boasted “that they would make first rate bologna.” Clearly, neither Miller nor the butcher were epicureans, but the latter showed he stood on slightly higher moral grounds than Miller: in deference to the people from whom the cattle were taken, the butcher added that the bologna would only be sold locally, and that “the South River people...would probably not get any of the stuff.”

Were it not for Miller’s highhandedness, would South River have added cattle ranching to its list of accomplishments? While the question may never be definitively answered, it certainly can be a fitting topic for debate until...well, until the cows come home.

Old School Baptist Church Cemetery Conservation Program Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP Code: _____

Phone (Optional): _____

Email (Optional): _____

Amount of donation: _____

Please make checks payable to the South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc. and send them with the form to: SRH&PS, Inc.

P.O. Box 446

South River, NJ 08882

(If you would like to make a memorial donation, please add the information to the back of the form.)

South River Historical & Preservation Society Calendar

2010 Meetings: April 28 June 23 September 22 November 17

April 28 Program: Joseph Butewicz will do a presentation on red earthenware plates, popular in the early to mid-19th century. Mr. Butewicz will also offer a free appraisal of any antique plates our members would care to bring.

This, as with all Wednesday meetings, will convene at 7:00 p.m. at the South River Museum (formerly the Old School Baptist Church/War Memorial Building), 64-66 Main Street, South River.

The Museum is also open to the general public from 1:30 until 3:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month (second Sunday if the first is a holiday):

April 11 May 2 June 6 July 11

2010 SRH&PS Membership Application Form

Please check one: New Renewal Gift (from _____)

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Check here and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope to receive a membership card.

Check here and include your email above if you would like to receive your newsletter via email.

I would like to donate an additional amount of \$ _____ (Gifts will be recognized in our newsletter)

The gift is: in honor of in memory of: _____

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

Send your application and dues payment to: SRH&PS Membership
P.O. Box 446
South River, NJ 08882

[All dues and contributions are tax-deductible.]

My company has a matching gift program.

Company name: _____

Company 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.

ANNUAL DUES CATEGORIES

Please check one:

Adult \$10.00

Student \$5.00

Family/Couple \$15.00

Business/Corporate \$25.00

Lifetime - Individual 250.00