

Milestones

HARRISON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Last Call Taverns & Temperance

**TEMPERANCE TEA TASTING AND
LECTURE OPEN NEW EXHIBITION
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 6 & 7**

Did you know that in the early days of New Jersey's history the government encouraged the establishment of inns and taverns to facilitate business and trade? Taverns were often the principal public spaces in a community - Harrison Township Committee met in the Eagle and Blue Ball Taverns in Mullica Hill for almost 40 years before moving to Old Town Hall. The centrality of taverns, however, was complicated by the sale of alcohol and some of these old stands earned bad reputations. Richwood was known as Helltown because of its tavern's ill repute.

Concern about the regulation of alcoholic beverages and alcoholism grew out of a broad social reform movement in the 19th century, culminating in the passage of the 18th amendment in 1919. Harrison Township residents, though, banned the sale of alcohol a year earlier, agitated in part by the local chapters of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The township remained dry for almost a century.

It's this colorful history that we're exploring this year at Old Town Hall with a remarkable collection of artifacts, images and documents gathered from our holdings with loans from other historical societies and private collectors.

The exhibition opens on Saturday, April 6, with a temperance tea tasting featuring Greenwich Teaburner Tea Company and Silver Feather Farm Herbal Teas. On Sunday, April 7, Michael C. Gabriele, author of *New Jersey's Colonial Taverns. Liberty, Libations and Revolution*, will be at Old Town Hall

Continued on page 4



**ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL RETURNS
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 11:30 - 3
MORE CHEFS, NEW EXHIBITS, MORE FUN**

Once again the Society celebrates the anniversary of the first air shipment of fresh produce in the US that took place right here on May 17, 1922 with more chefs, exhibits and family fun.

The 2024 Battle of the Chefs will see Marino's defending their win last year against blueplate, David and Sons 322 BBQ, Harrison House, and Naples, while the Cake Boutique goes up against Amici and Artisan Marshmallow in the dessert round. With asparagus supplied by Grasso Girls Farm Market, this will be a true farm-to-table match-up. New this year, a panel of guest judges - Action News 6 meteorologist Karen Rogers joins food bloggers Marilyn Johnson (southjerseyfoodscene.com) and P.J. Johnson (the.Traveling.tastebuds) - will add in their votes to the public's to pick this year's winners.

Also new this year, Roughwood Heirloom Seedways, will have heirloom seeds (just in time for Spring planting), books and seed jewelry for purchase. Commemorative Tee-Shirts, family activities, special exhibits, vintage cookbook sale and, of course, fresh asparagus from Heilig Farm will be available.

Tickets for the Battle of the Chefs Tasting event are \$20 (children 12 and under are free) and can be purchased by scanning the QR code on the back page or going to harrisonhistorical.com. Secure your seat at the table—history never tasted so good!



**HARRISON TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
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Follow us on Facebook

Old Town Hall Museum (1871)

62-64 South Main Street, Mullica Hill, NJ

Richwood Academy Cultural Center (1870)

836 Lambs Road, Richwood, NJ

OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Robert Schumann

Vice President: Dave Tinney

Recording Secretary: Paul Davis

Corresponding Secretary: Claire Bartholomew

Treasurer: Barbara Ridgway

Harrison Township Liaison: Michelle Powell

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Chris Knisely, Cindy Madara,

Dollie Mann-Wells, Maxine Mino,

Richard Ridgway, Mary Snively, Judy Suplee,

James Turk, Michele Vallone, Marion White

*Executive Board meetings are the second
Wednesday of each month, 7 pm, except July
and December, at Richwood Academy Cultural
Center. Members and the public are welcome.*

**ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE
SOCIETY'S EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMS**

(as of 3/15/2024)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| American Legion Robert W. Mills Post 452 | Stella & Ray Landry |
| Kathleen & Alan Appleby | Donald Lynch |
| Betty & Wayne Bailey | Marino's of Mullica Hill |
| Leona Ballinger | Susan Massaglia |
| Claire Bartholomew | Lisa Matzner |
| Sharon & Brian Bartholomew | Carla Maxwell |
| Bast Brothers Garden Center | Dale Murtlow |
| JoAnn & Scott Bergman | Joanne & Lawrence Owen |
| blueplate | Joanne Padgett |
| Joan Boarts | Anna Park, DMD, LLC |
| Philip Correll & Ronald Magill | John Pinzka |
| Dolores Daniels | Plain Hope Fund |
| Michael DiGiamberardino | Charlotte Preston |
| Law Office of Brian J. Duffield | Printers of Salem County |
| Marlyne & Roy Duffield | Doris Reuter |
| Joan Egerton | William Reuter & Sharon Heritage |
| Betty Enzman | Barbara & Richard Ridgway |
| Catherine Flaherty | Sandra & Mike Ridgway |
| Nolah Fulk | Round Tree Farm |
| Magdeline & Webber Gaunt | Marge Scerbo |
| Donna Grasso | Elizabeth Stevenson |
| Suzanne & John Grasso | Ann & Bob Schumann |
| Cindy and Rich Hoagland | Mary & John Snively |
| Alma Jordan | Elizabeth Stevenson |
| | Patricia & Richard Taylor |
| | Tori's Alterations |
| Mary Kirby | James F. Turk |
| Yvonne Knorr | Village Bagels |

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Fichera

Daniel Oldt

Evans Neale

MULLICA HILL ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS COMEDY NIGHT BENEFIT FOR HTHS

The Mullica Hill Rotary Club is presenting a Comedy Night at the American Legion Post 452 on Saturday, April 13 headlined by Keith Alberstadt and featuring Joe Larson, with proceeds benefitting the Society.

Alberstadt began doing stand-up in his hometown of Nashville. After moving to New York City, it didn't take him long to become a favorite at the Comedy Cellar in New York City as well as comedy clubs and venues across America. Appearances include The Late Show with David Letterman, Late Night with Seth Meyers, Last Comic Standing, and The Late Show with Stephen Colbert. He's also worked as a freelance writer for Jimmy Fallon and Saturday Night Live. His latest comedic album, *Walk It Off*, was ranked in the Top Ten comedy albums on iTunes.

Tickets are \$40 at the door or \$35 in advance at soulojoels.com/shop/lickets/mullicahillrotary/. Doors open at 5:30 and the show begins at 7 pm. There is a cash bar and you are welcome to bring your own snacks. It will be a great night for a great cause - we hope to see you there! Thank you, Rotary!

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SPRING AT OLD TOWN HALL MUSEUM AND RICHWOOD ACADEMY CULTURAL CENTER!

NEW EXHIBITION AT OLD TOWN HALL MUSEUM



Taverns & Temperance

April 6 - June 8 Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 PM
Tales of historic taverns, the temperance movement, distilleries, wineries, prohibition and repeal told through artifacts, images and recorded narratives and songs.

Opening Day Temperance Tea Tasting - April 6, 1-4 PM

Featuring Greenwich Teaburners Tea Company, Greenwich, and Silver Feather Farm, Pittsgrove

Free admission - Closed Mother's Day



2024 ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL - *Catch the "Spear-it"!* Commemorating the First Air Shipment of Fresh Produce in America Saturday, May 18, 11:30 AM - 3 PM

On May 17, 1922, 1000 lbs of asparagus was transported by plane from Mullica Hill to Boston. This year's "Battle of the Chefs" asparagus recipe tasting features 5 restaurants and 3 pastry chefs vying for the coveted Best Recipe Trophy. Celebrity judges and the public vote for their favorites. In addition to exhibits, fresh asparagus, commemorative T-shirt and vintage cookbook sales, and family fun, the Roughwood Center for Heritage Seedways will have heirloom seeds, books and seed jewelry for sale. Celebrate Spring at this not-to-be missed event!

Battle of the Chefs Tasting Tickets: \$20 adults; free for children 12 and under
Information/Tickets at www.harrisonhistorical.com and our Facebook page

RICHWOOD ACADEMY CULTURAL CENTER LECTURES & CONCERTS

All programs take place on Sundays at 3 pm and are live-streamed at our public Facebook page.
Free tickets to attend in person are available at our Facebook page.

April 7 New Jersey's Colonial Taverns: Liberty, Libations and Revolution.

Lecture and booksigning by author Michael C. Gabriele

April 23 Strings for Spring. String Trio and Art Exhibit from Rowan University

May 5 10 for 100: The Ten Most Important Events in Rowan University's First Hundred Years. Dr. William Carrigan, Rowan University

May 19 Tavern Foods and Foodways in the Delaware Valley

Lecture and booksigning by author & food historian, Dr. William Woys Weaver

June 2 Jazz in June. Rowan University Jazz Trio

Continued from page 1

from 1-2 pm for a book signing, followed by a lecture at Richwood Academy Cultural Center at 3. There is no admission charge for any of these events, and teas will be available for purchase.

The exhibition is accompanied by recorded narratives and songs drawn from local history. Hear about “tavern crawls” before the Civil War, what made Richwood’s tavern so notorious, a temperance meeting in Ewan and a raid on a bootleg still in Richwood. Scan the QR codes in the gallery to listen to these fascinating stories. Be sure to stop by and bring along your family, friends and neighbors to discover Old Harrison’s “spirited past.”



*Pine Tavern. Established c1750, this old hostelry stood on Pine Tavern Rd near Mood’s Farm Market.
Photo: Gloucester County Historical Society*

JACOB SPICER, PHILANTHROPIST AND HUMANITARIAN

Jacob Spicer was a prominent early Quaker landowner in Harrison Township. He and his wife, Mary Lippincott, whom he married in 1749, owned nearly 1,000 acres south of Raccoon Creek in present-day Mullica Hill. Although the couple had no children, they cared about the education of children and permitted Friends to build a schoolhouse on their property in 1756 (then known as Spicer’s School). Subsequently in 1779 Spicer included a provision in his will “that the lot where the schoolhouse stands be a school forever” (1). This building was located near the present-day Friends Meetinghouse and burial ground, the land for which was bequeathed to Friends.

By all accounts, he was well-respected locally and was said to have served as executor for many local estates. The esteem in which he was held is further evidenced by his appointment to the Committee to determine the boundaries of Gloucester County’s townships in 1761 (2). In 1767 he was involved in the establishment of Woolwich Township and was the township’s first Freeholder, a position he held 1767–1769 and 1771-1775 (3).

A document in the Frank H. Stewart Collection, Rowan University Archives and Special Collections further illuminates Spicer’s political and humanitarian concerns.

The Boston Tea Party in December 1773 was the culmination of growing unrest regarding Britain’s tax policies. King George III and Parliament responded in June 1774 with the Boston Port Act, which essentially closed the port of Boston from all commerce, punishment for the colony’s activism. An economic crisis resulted in Massachusetts. Outraged, sympathetic residents of the other colonies organized Committees of Correspondence to support the people of Massachusetts. In July 1774 New Jersey held a convention in New Brunswick to set up county committees to provide relief for the citizens of Boston (4). The minutes of the first meeting of the Gloucester County Committee (transcribed on page 5) document who was appointed to receive donations for the “suffering Brethren of Boston.” Spicer was one of the appointees for Woolwich Township. Today this response to the Boston Port Act is seen as the first step toward unification of the colonies against Great Britain. Two months later the first Continental Congress met in Philadelphia.

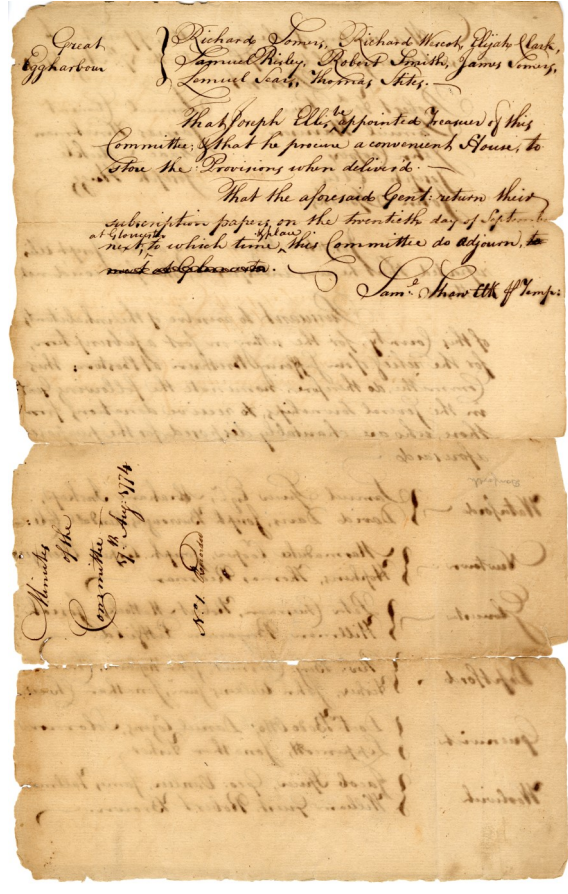
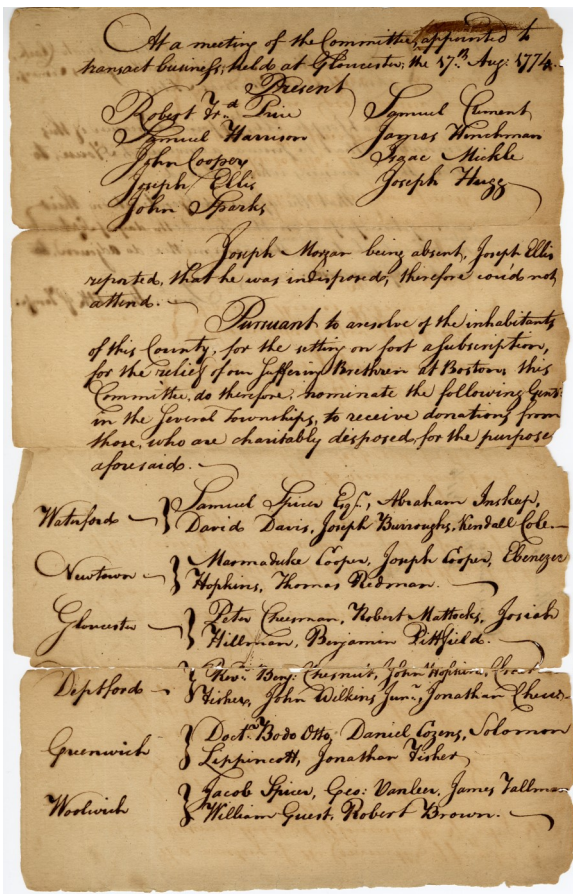
In 1844, decades after his death, Spicer was still esteemed enough that the original name for Harrison Township was “Spicer,” a political compromise to gain legislative approval. Today Jacob Spicer’s philanthropic, humanitarian and political activities are largely forgotten. His surname lives on, however, in “Spicer Street” and “Spicer Estates,” even if few residents know of the man.

(1) *Salem Quarter* (Pennsville, NJ: Salem Quarterly Meeting, 1991), 187.

(2) Thomas Cushing and Charles E. Sheppard, *History of the Counties of Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland, New Jersey* (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1883), 111.

(3) *Ibid*, 297.

(4) Robert W. Harper, *Old Gloucester County and the American Revolution 1763-1778* (Woodbury, NJ: Gloucester County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 1986), 13.



Courtesy of Rowan University Archives and Special Collections, Stewart Collection

Minutes of the Committee 17th Aug. 1774 No. 1 Resolved

At a meeting of the Committee appointed to transact business held at Gloucester the 17th Aug 1774

Present

Robert Frnd [Friend] Price
 Samuel Harrison
 John Cooper
 Joseph Ellis
 John Sparks

Samuel Clement
 James Hinchman
 Isaac Mickle
 Joseph Hugg

Joseph Morgan being absent, Joseph Ellis reported that he was indisposed, therefore could not attend.

Pursuant to resolve of the inhabitants of this County, for the setting on foot a subscription for the relief of our Suffering Brethren at Boston this Committee, do therefore, nominate the following Gents. in the Several Townships, to receive donations from those, who are charitably disposed, for the purpose aforesaid.

Waterford—Samuel Spicer Esq., Abraham Inskeep, David Davis, Joseph Burroughs, Kendall Cole.

Newtown—Marmaduke Cooper, Joseph Cooper, Ebenezer Hopkins, Thomas Redman.

Gloucester—Peter Cheeseman, Robert Matlock, Josiah Hillman, Benjamin Pittfield.

Deptford—Rev. d Benj. Chesnut, John Hopkins, Chas. Fisher, John Wilkins Jun., Jonathan Chew.

Greenwich—Doct. Bodo Otto, Daniel Cozens, Solomon Lippincott, Jonathan Fisher.

Woolwich—Jacob Spicer, Geo. Vanleer, James Tallman, William Guest, Robert Brown.

Great Eggharbor—Richard Somers, Richard Wescot, Elijah Clark, Samuel Risley, Robert Smith, James Somers, Lemuel Sear, Thomas Stites

That Joseph Ellis be appointed Treasurer of this Committee; that he procure a convenient House, to store the Provisions when delivered.

That the aforesaid Gent. return their subscription papers on the twentieth day of Sept. at Gloucester next, to which time & place this Committee do adjourn to meet at Gloucester.

Sam'l Shaw Clk of Temp.

SOCIETY ACQUIRES RARE WOOLWICH SCHOOL SAMPLER



HTHS 2024.19

Needlework instruction was widespread throughout New Jersey in the 18th and 19th centuries despite the lack of large population centers (1) Even very small rural settlements like Mullica Hill supported educational institutions. The village's first school, one of the first in the entire county, was established by Quakers as early as 1720 on a lot north of the Friends Meetinghouse. This primitive log structure was replaced in 1756, as discussed on page 4. In 1790, Friends again replaced this building with a more commodious structure funded by contributions from eleven men and women (2). These schoolhouses predated the establishment of Woolwich Preparative Meeting in 1797, as Mullica Hill Meeting was originally known, and it is very likely that the first meetings for worship were held in the schoolhouse.

Unfortunately no records of the school are known to have survived, yet there is evidence that needlework instruction was offered there. William Snowden, whose family belonged to Mullica Hill Meeting, noted that during the summer season, when older children were helping with farm and household chores, school mistresses took over the schoolhouses and provided rudimentary education to young children, including stitchery (3). Although Snowden emphasized that needlework instruction consisted of "plain sewing," samplers simply consisting of alphabets, numbers, and a few basic decorative stitches that would later be employed to identify household linens and clothing were made for this purpose. The Society owns two examples of this type that are attributable to the Friends school by virtue of their family history, even though neither the school nor instructress was identified.

The newly acquired Elizabeth Lewis 1834 Sampler, therefore, is quite significant, as it identifies her as a pupil at Woolwich School. As already noted, the name of Mullica Hill's Quaker school has been lost, however, given that the institution was then under the care of Woolwich Preparative Meeting, it seems plausible that it would be known as the Woolwich School. Furthermore, no other local schoolhouse was so named. Elizabeth's work is one of three known Woolwich School samplers all stitched by young girls from local Quaker families. The present whereabouts of Abigail Bradshaw's 1837 sampler is unknown, however, the third stitched by Priscilla M. Stout in 1833 resides in a private collection and not only identifies the school, but also the teacher, Margaret W. Brown. All three examples were stitched between 1833 and 1835 and are of very similar design, suggesting that Priscilla, Elizabeth and Abigail were all taught by Brown.

The Lewis sampler surfaced at Brooks Auction in May last year. Recognizing its local significance, Board member Chris Knisely offered to underwrite the purchase and the Society was successful in its acquisition.

While the majority of the Society's collections have been generously donated by members, friends and organizations, there are times when certain objects enter the marketplace and can only be acquired by purchase. We exhibited the sampler for the first time in the schoolroom in Old Town Hall in December and are grateful to Chris for his generous support.

- (1) Betty Ring (*Girlhood Embroidery*, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1993, II, 467) states that Ethel Stanwood Bolton and Eva Johnston Coe's pioneering survey, *American Samplers*, found that the number of samplers from New Jersey was only exceeded by those from Massachusetts.
- (2) *Salem Quarter* (Pennsville, NJ: Salem Quarterly Meeting, 1991), 187.
- (3) William H. Snowden, "Snowden's Reminiscences," *The New Jersey Society of Pennsylvania Year Book for 1926*, 72.

FISHMONGER SHOP PROJECT ACCOMPLISHED BY VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS

In a cooperative project between Harrison Township Historic Preservation Commission (HTHPC) and the Harrison Township Historical Society (HTHS) preservation of a small freestanding shop at 5 South Main Street in Mullica Hill began in 2022. Known as The Fishmonger's Shop, the building was erected in the 1940's for the Shute family fish business. The project was fostered by a deep-seated feeling that each organization needs to lead the way in preservation in our community and endorsed by the township, owners of the property.

Donations of materials and labor were sought community wide. First was replacement of the roof. Second, electrical service was installed. Windows were primed, reglazed, and painted, period doors were restored and installed, sills which were termite damaged and rotted were replaced with pressure treated lumber and repair and replacement of some of the German siding. The building was scraped, primed, and painted white and deep green garnering much attention and community approval.

Beyond the roof and electrical systems the majority of the work was completed by Joseph Arni, Robert Greene, and Richard Ridgway, members of the HTHS board, Paul Showers of the HTHPC, and Nicholas Giovinco.

Currently there is a major hardscaping project underway surrounding the building. This will be the seed for what will see the surrounding lot evolve into a community garden, in coordination with the Harrison Township Environmental Commission, which, in the near future, will be dedicated to honor the memory of a former community member.

We sincerely thank the following donors without whom this project could not have been undertaken:

Magic Roofing, D-Signed For You, Matter Brothers Electrical Contractors, Warren's Hardware, Benjamin Moore Paint, Sorbello's Landscaping LLC., Joseph Arni, Nicholas Giovinco, Robert Greene, Richard Ridgway, Paul B. Showers and for generous financial support an anonymous donor.



THE YELLOW GARAGE ANTIQUES

PRESENTS:

The Annual June Festival of Antiques At the Fairgrounds

Saturday June 8, 2024, 9am-3pm

(Severe Weather Check FB/IG/Website)

Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds

275 Bridgeton Pike, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

A portion of the proceeds benefits the Society.

Unlimited Parking

Admission \$6 (\$5 at [ticketleap.com](https://www.ticketleap.com))



Catch the "Spear-it"!
CELEBRATE SPRING AT THE 2024 ASPARGUS FESTIVAL
MAY 18 - 11:30 AM - 3 PM

Tickets: \$20 (children and under free)

Reserve your place at the table here. 



*The Harrison Township Historical Society's arts and history programs are made possible in part by funding from
The Gloucester County Cultural and Heritage Commission at Rowan College of South Jersey,
in partnership with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State
and the National Endowment for the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State.*

