



Howell Heritage

The Newsletter of The Howell Historical Society February, 2010

Howell Historical Society
February Meeting
Friday, February 26, 8:00 pm
Howell Township
Municipal Offices Meeting Room

Refreshments will be served.

Bring your friends and family!

February's meeting will focus on — **PKs!**

TRIVIA TIME —

Q. Why do we say "Chairman of the Board"?

February 13, 1763 — On this date, the diary of James Boswell contained the following observations on the stimulating effects of a favorite beverage: “I was really a good deal low-spirited all the forenoon, in the evening, my mind cleared up. I was pleased and lively, and my genius was in fine humour for composition. I wrote several fanciful essays that pleased me highly. The human mind is really curious; I can answer for my own. For here now, in the space of a few hours, I was a dull and miserable, a clever and a happy mortal, and all without the intervention of any external cause, except a dish of green tea, which indeed is a most kind remedy in cases of this kind. Often I have found relief from it. I am so fond of tea that I could write a whole dissertation on its virtues. It comforts and enlivens without the risks attendant on spiritous liquors. Gentle herb! Let the florid grape yield to thee.”

For the sake of accuracy and completeness, items of news and interest **MUST** be submitted to **Howell Heritage** in writing. Please make sure that any names used are complete (first and last) and spelled correctly.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

HH staff

February 14 — St. Valentine’s Day is a ceremony never omitted among the vulgar to draw lots, which they term *Valentines*, on the eve before Valentine-day. The names of a select number of one sex are, by an equal number of the other, put into some vessel; and after that, every one draws a name, which . . . is called their Valentine, and is also look’d upon [as] a good omen of their being man and wife afterwards. Some of those who once drew slips of paper with their Valentine’s name in this manner wore them pinned to their sleeves, leading to the phrase “to wear one’s heart on one’s sleeve.”

History of the Quaker Cemetery

The historic Quaker Cemetery is located in Squankum, on the Lakewood-Farmingdale Road (County Route 547). To be precise, the cemetery is located between the on/off ramps of 195. This nice

Editorially Speaking:

The owls have gone back to school. Triumphant over snow and sickness our barn owl and our eastern great horned owl once again wowed the audiences of three fifth grade classes at Newbury School.

It is an excursion that the owls look forward to each year and they were pleased with their reception again this year.

While on the visit it was commented upon that owls (at least the great horned varieties) bear a striking resemblance to cats or perhaps it is cats who bear a striking resemblance to great horned owls. It is of no matter. Suffice it to say that cats and owls resemble one another. And that observation brought to mind the silly old poem called *The Owl and the Pussy-cat*.

Elsewhere in this issue the poem is printed along with a brief biographical account on the life of the author of *The Owl and the Pussy-cat*, Edward Lear.

A little silliness is good for the soul!

etry is definitely worth a visit. Edward Patterson Cook, one of the earlier Howell Residents, sold the land to the Quakers, back in the days when the entire area was known as Shrewsbury (1778). The following written excerpt of the indenture fully describes the land transaction between the parties.

“This indenture made the twenty first day of the month called February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight between Edward Patterson Cook of the Town of Shrewsbury in the County of Monmouth in New Jersey of the one part and George Parker, Obadiah Williams, Obadiah Tilton, Britain White, Benjamin Corlies and Peter Corlies of the other part, witness that said Patterson Cook, for the consideration of forty shillings doth grant all that piece of land situated in said Town of Shrewsbury at a place called Squancom, containing three quarters of an acre of land lying on the road from Colts Neck to Squancom Bridge. That is to say, the use and benefit is for the people belonging to the Religious Society of the people called Quakers and for a plot to erect a meeting house and make a burying place for the use of said

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Howell Heritage, Newsletter of the Howell Historical Society, published monthly. Howell Historical Society, PO Box 694, Farmingdale, NJ 07727. Deadline for each month’s submissions is the 10th of each month. Submissions must be typed, electronic submissions preferred. Solicited materials include items of interest to the membership of the Howell Historical Society, social items about members, local events, happenings, local history, and personalities. Send to **WordPeople@AOL.com**. All items are subject to editorial review, and determination of appropriateness. Newsletter staff: Ida Donahay Devlin, editor; Norma Cohen, In and Around Howell Events; Tim Clayton, Special Features Correspondent/Genealogy.

people”.....

Signed, Sealed & Delivered
(All Parties Signed)

Tim Clayton

Ash Wednesday — This particular day was termed Ash Wednesday from the custom which was observed in the ancient church of penitents appearing publicly in sackcloth and ashes, in token of their humiliation. In the time of Henry VIII, it is remarked in Fuller’s *Church History*, that the custom of giving ashes . . . to put every man in remembrance that he is but ashes and earth, and thereto shall return, was almost the only catholic superstition which survived the shock of Reformation.

Randall Jones – Howell Resident

In recognition of Black History Month, this genealogical reference is about Randall Jones, a black man who was born in New Jersey circa 1800-1805. As determined by the various census records, he and his family were among the earliest black residents in Howell, Monmouth County, New Jersey. The 1840 Howell Census records listed Randall Jones as the Head of Family. Living in the household were one male under 10, two males 24-36, four females under 10, two females between 10-24 and one female between 24-36. All were listed as Free Colored Persons in the 1840 record. At the time of the 1850 Census, Randall Jones, his wife Hannah, and their ten children, were living in Howell, New Jersey. As noted in the record, Randall was age 50, he was born in New Jersey, his occupation was Laborer, and the value of his Real Estate was \$300. The children’s names by order of birth were listed as Lucy, David, Margaret, Sarah, Diania, Lander, Cordelia, William, George and Hannah. When the 1860 Census was taken, Randall Jones, his wife Hannah, and three of their children were living in Howell, New Jersey. The record indicated that he was age 60, he was born in New Jersey, the value of his Real Estate was \$200 and value of his Personal Estate was \$50. During the 1870 Census, Randall Jones, his wife Hannah, and three of their children were still living in Howell. As noted in the

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e was age 65, and his occupation was Farm Labor. At the time of the 1880 Census, Randall Jones, his wife Hannah and four extended family members were once again living in Howell, New Jersey. Randall’s age was listed as 75 and his occupation was listed as Laborer. Some of the present day Jones family members in Monmouth County are descended from Randall Jones and other Jones family members such as Lander Jones, David Jones, George Jones, William R. Jones, and Octavis Jones.

Tim Clayton

February 7, 1863 — This is the birthday of lexicographer Sir James Murray, who, being seldom observed without a book, made it clear in his parents’ community of Hawick, in Roxburghshire, Scotland, that he was not meant for farm life. He taught school and reared eleven children before moving to Oxford in 1885 where, after seven years of work at home, he continued one of the most ambitious literary undertakings of his era. His goal was to realize the dream of Richard Trench and other members of England’s Philological Society, who several decades earlier had envisioned unifying the myriad of English glossaries and dictionaries into a single work. This project, eventually known as the *Oxford English Dictionary*, required over half a century — several times Murray’s original estimate.

ROUND AND ABOUT HOWELL TOWNSHIP

MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL ROOM

The Headquarters location of the Monmouth County Library established the Monmouth County Historical Room in 1998 to serve the needs of its patronage by collecting and preserving written materials documenting and illuminating many aspects of life in New Jersey with emphasis on Monmouth County.

The Monmouth County Historical Room collection contains a variety of materials about state, county and local history including books, magazines, directories, scrapbooks and various other materials. More than 1400 items comprise the collection. Patrons can research current and historical information pertaining to Monmouth County and New Jersey including businesses, institutions, buildings, agriculture, economics, government documents, biographical and genealogical information and much more. The room also contains a case exhibit arranged by Monmouth County Archives featuring documents of interest pertaining to the history of New Jersey.

Materials found in the Monmouth County Room

are identified in the WebCat Catalog with the location NJ-Room. Materials are primarily non-circulating reference works, which may be used only in the library. Housed in a secure room at Headquarters, the collection may be accessed with the assistance of the reference librarian staff. Librarians are also available to assist patrons with locating information.

MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION is actively seeking donations of 20th-century artifacts used, worn, purchased and/or made in Monmouth County. They are particularly interested in household and kitchen equipment, men's, women's, and children's clothing and personal accessories, furniture, technology items such as early radios, televisions, telephones, office equipment, and items related to 20th-century Monmouth County businesses and retail stores.

For further information on the Association's collections, or to speak with the Museum Curator regarding a donation of objects to the collection, please contact Bernadette M. Rogoff at 732-462-1466, ext. 13.

Freehold Art Society Exhibit

Feb. 9-May 8; the Freehold Art Society will have an exhibit at the Freehold Public Library, 28 1/2 E. Main St., Freehold, during library hours. It is an open exhibit for any artist, amateur or professional; artists may contact the society at 732-431-1039 or at www.freeholdartsociety.homestead.com for a prospectus and entry information

The Spencers: Magic of Illusion

Mar. 5, 7:30pm; the Spencers are back with their brand new magic illusion show; combining original theatrical elements with cutting-edge illusions, audience interaction, dramatic lighting, special effects, music, movement and stage magic; the world of Kevin and Cindy Spencer is a place where intellect and amazement collide, where impossibility and inspiration are inseparable; Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St., Red Bank; tickets \$29.50, \$19.50; call 732-842-9000; www.countbasietheatre.org

Gaelic Storm

Mar. 6, 8:00pm; Gaelic Storm has evolved from its pub-band roots to become a pioneer in Celtic and world music, performing on a melange of instruments ranging from bagpipes to African drums, the group pairs energetic rhythms with unforgettable, storytelling lyrics that guarantee a rousing concert experience; Algonquin Arts, 173 Main St., Manasquan; tickets \$41, \$39, \$25; call 732-528-9211; www.algonquinarts.com

Three Irish Tenors starring in "DRUID"

Mar. 6, 8:00pm; DRUID is a salute to those who have kept the core and substance of Irish culture alive, wherever they may dwell; DRUID is a unique concert experience, celebrating the essence of the Irish spirit in music and dance; Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St., Red Bank; tickets \$49.50, \$35, \$25, \$19.50; call 732-842-9000; www.countbasietheatre.org

Belmar St. Patrick's Day Parade

Mar. 7, 12:00noon; one of the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in New Jersey; Main St., Belmar; call 732-280-2648; www.belmarparade.com

2010 E. Murray Todd Half Marathon

Mar. 7, 9:00am start; 13.1 miles through rural and residential areas of Lincroft, Holmdel and Colts Neck; Pre-registration fee \$25 by FEB. 26; post-registration fee \$30 accepted 7:15-8:30 on race day; register online at www.monmouthcountyparks.com; register by mail at Program Registration, 805 Newman Springs Rd., Lincroft 07728 by FEB. 26

Howell Women's Club St. Patrick's Day Party

Mar. 13, 7:00pm-11:00pm; Woodlake Country Club, New Hampshire Ave., Lakewood; the ticket price of \$40 per person includes a buffet dinner of corned beef and cabbage, music and two tickets for the Pot of Gold gift raffle; additional tickets to the Pot of Gold raffle, major prize raffles and 50/50 will be available for purchase; there will also be a cash bar; tickets and more information, call Gloria at 732-938-7278

The Met Live in HD - Hamlet

Mar. 27, 1:00pm; approx. running time is 3 hours 45 minutes; the works of Shakespeare have inspired more operatic adaptations than any other writer; Simon Keenlyside and Natalie Dessay bring their extraordinary acting skills to two of Shakespeare's most unforgettable characters in this new production of Ambrose Thomas's Hamlet; for the role of Ophelia, the French composer created an extended mad scene that is among the greatest in opera; Pollak Theatre, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch; tickets are \$22; call 732-263-6889; www.monmouth.edu

Monmouth Symphony Orchestra

Mar. 28, 3:00pm; featuring Nicholas Gatto, English Horn and Lucian Rinando, Conductor; selections will be Overture to Mignon (Thomas); Concertino for English Horn; Two Horns, and Strings in A-Flat Major, Op.34 (Wolf-Ferrari); Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op.55 ("Eroica") (Beethoven)

The Irish Rovers

Mar. 14, 3:00pm; from 1966 to the present, the Irish Rovers have been passionate about performing their

music and entertaining their fans; Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St., Red Bank; tickets \$39.50, \$29.50, \$19.50; call 732-842-9000; www.countbasietheatre.org

2010 Teen Arts Festival

Mar. 18-19; an event presented by the Monmouth County Arts Council; at the festival, talented teens from across the country have an opportunity to participate in workshops, performances, exhibits and critiques in an open and nurturing atmosphere; Brookdale Community College, 765 Newman Springs Rd., Lincroft; call 732-212-1890; www.monmoutharts.org

Howell Mother and Son Dinner Dance

Mar. 19, 6:00pm-9:00pm; the evening will consist of full dinner buffet, a color photo taken by a professional photographer and music for dancing; tables will seat 10 to 12 people; suggested ages are 5 to 12 years old; no mail in reservations; tickets of \$31 can be purchased at the Howell Recreation Building, 251 Preventorium Rd., Howell; reservations are only taken with payment; for more information call 732-938-4500, ext. 2501

Classical Music Festival of New Jersey

Mar. 20-21; a weekend of classical music with a variety of performers, a collaboration of the finest classical music organizations from across central New Jersey; Axelrod Performing Arts Center, 100 Grant Ave., Deal Park; tickets for Mar. 20 opening night reception and concert are \$15 adults, \$10 students, which also includes ticket for Sunday showcases; call 732-531-9100, ext. 142;

www.axelrodartscenter.com

8th Annual Garden State Film Festival

Mar. 25-28; the festival features film competition for independent filmmakers, open talent casting call, panel discussions, children's workshops, and opening and closing ceremonies; Paramount Theatre, Boardwalk, Asbury Park; for information call 877-908-7050;

www.gsff.org

Colm Toibin - Author

Mar. 25, 4:30pm; he was born in Ireland and is the author of six novels; he will speak as part of Monmouth University's Visiting Writers Series; Wilson Hall Auditorium, Monmouth Univ., 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch; 732-571-3512;

www.monmouth.edu/arts

West Point's Glee Club

Mar. 26, 7:30pm; first organized in 1903 the Cadet Glee Club is now a 70-voice mixed chorus whose members serve as musical ambassadors for West Point and rank among our nation's most prestigious

college choirs; First Presbyterian Church of Freehold, 18 West Main St., Freehold; call 908-415-6731

Howell Atlantic City Trip

Mar. 27; the Recreation Dept. is having a trip to the Showboat Casino; RESERVATIONS BY MARCH 12, you must be 21 years of age to attend this trip; bus departs from Town Hall at 9:30am and returns approximately 6:30pm; the cost is \$30 and includes transportation to the casino with \$25 casino slot bonus; tickets can be purchased at the Howell Recreation Building, 251 Preventorium Rd., Howell; for more information call 732-938-4500, ext. 2501

The Owl and the Pussy-cat

I

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat,
They took some honey, and plenty of money,
Wrapped up in a five pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
"O lovely Pussy! O Pussy my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are,
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

II

Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! too long we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?"
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-tree grows
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his nose.

III

"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will."
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.

Edward Lear (12 May 1812–29 January 1888) was an English artist, illustrator, author, and poet,

renowned today primarily for his literary nonsense, in poetry and prose, and especially his limericks, a form that he popularised.

Lear was born into a middle-class family, the 21st child of Ann and Jeremiah Lear. He was raised by his eldest sister, also named Ann, 21 years his senior. Ann doted on Lear and continued to mother him until her death, when Lear was almost 50 years of age. Due to the family's failing financial fortune, at age four he and his sister had to leave the family home and set up house together.

Largely self-educated, Lear has been described as idiosyncratic yet brilliantly talented. Lear suffered from frequent *grand mal* seizures, bronchitis, asthma, and in later life, partial blindness.

Lear traveled widely throughout his life and eventually settled on the Mediterranean coast, in the 1870s. A trusted companion was his cat, Foss, who died in 1886 and was buried with some ceremony in the garden. Lear died at his villa in 1888.

Lear was already drawing "for bread and cheese" by the time he was aged 16 and soon developed into a serious illustrator; his first publication, published when he was 19, was *Illustrations of the Family of Psittacidae, or Parrots* in 1830. His paintings were well received and he was favorably compared with Audubon.

Lear traveled for three years in Italy and published two volumes of illustrations, *Illustrated Excursions in Italy*. Lear briefly gave drawing lessons to Queen Victoria, who had been pleased by the *Excursions* and summoned him to court, leading to some awkward incidents when he failed to observe proper court protocol. Lear then returned to the Mediterranean, wishing to illustrate all points along the coast of that sea.

Throughout his life he continued to paint seriously. He had a lifelong ambition to illustrate Tennyson's poems; near the end of his life a volume with a small number of illustrations was published, but his vision for the work was never realized.

In 1846 Lear published *A Book of Nonsense*, a volume of limericks that went through three editions and helped popularize the form. In 1865 *The History of the Seven Families of the Lake Pipple-Popple* was published, and in 1867 his most famous piece of nonsense, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, which he wrote for the children of his patron Edward Stanley, 13th Earl

of Derby. Many other works followed.

Lear's nonsense works are distinguished by a facility of verbal invention and a poet's delight in the sounds of words, both real and imaginary. A stuffed rhinoceros becomes a "diaphanous doorscraper". A "blue Boss-Woss" plunges into "a perpendicular, spicular, orbicular, quadrangular, circular depth of soft mud". His heroes are Quangle-Wangles, Pobbles, and Jumbles. His most famous piece of verbal invention, a "runcible spoon" occurs in the closing lines of *The Owl and the Pussycat*, and is now found in many English dictionaries.

Though famous for his neologisms, Lear employed a number of other devices in his works in order to defy reader expectations. For example, "Cold Are The Crabs", adheres to the sonnet tradition until the dramatically foreshortened last line.

Limericks are invariably typeset as four plus one lines today, but Lear's limericks were published in a variety of formats. It appears that Lear wrote them in manuscript in as many lines as there was room for beneath the picture. In the first three editions most are typeset as, respectively, two, five, and three lines. The cover of one edition bears an entire limerick typeset in two lines:

There was an Old Derry down Derry, who loved
to see little folks merry;
So he made them a book, and with laughter
they shook at the fun of that Derry down Derry.

In Lear's limericks the first and last lines usually end with the same word rather than rhyming. For the most part they are truly nonsensical and devoid of any punch line or point. They are completely free of the off-color humor with which the verse form is now associated. A typical thematic element is the presence of a callous and critical "they". An example of a typical Lear limerick:

There was an Old Man of Asta,
Who possessed a large Cow, but he lost her;
But they said, 'Don't you see,
she has rushed up a tree?
You invidious Old Man of Aôsta!

Five of Lear's limericks from the Book of Nonsense, in the 1946 Italian translation by Carlo Izzo, were set to music for choir a cappella by Goffredo Petrassi, in 1952.

△. Back in the 1700s, many homes were just one room, with very little furniture. The table was often just a board that folded from the wall. Quite often the household furniture consisted of just one chair which was reserved for the male "head of household". A male guest would often be invited to sit in the chair, hence the term "chairman" or "chairman of the board".

HOWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to enroll/renew (circle one) as a member in the category checked:

\$10 Individual \$15 Family \$30 Sponsor \$50 Patron

Name: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (night) _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Return this form with your check to: Lynne Gillette, PO Box 694, Farmingdale NJ 07727

The success of our museum, schoolhouse, library, and grounds depends upon the help of many willing hands. We need YOUR help. Please check the list below and indicate how you might us:

Officer Herb Gardens Gift shop help Photography Publicity

Library Calligraphy Newsletter Computer skills

Accessioning gifts

Crafts Housekeeping Genealogy work Carpentry & signs

Other Interests (please specify) _____

Membership is on an annual basis and may be tax deductible