



Howell Heritage

The Newsletter of the Howell Historical Society

October 2009

Trustees: Don Smith, Chairman; John Armata; Ida Devlin; Pauline Smith; Evelyn Barrow;
Evelyn Gillette, Alternate

October Meeting

Friday, October 30, 2009

8:00 PM at Town Hall

!! Election Time !!

Slate of Officers

Elaine Taylor – President

Paulette Bradow – Vice President

Evelyn Gillette – Treasurer

Sandra Solly – Secretary

Tara Dolan – Corresponding Secretary

John Armata - Trustee

Thank you to all who helped with Howell Day! Harry Haggren, Jane Norman, Don Smith, Evelyn Barrow, Lynne Gillette, who were there for the day, and also Pauline Smith, Sandra Solly, Dot Gratton, John Armata and Tara Dolan. It was a good (but windy!) day!

Prayer Request

Continued prayer for Tom and Ida Devlin. Tom is still hospitalized and in serious condition after two surgeries. They wish to thank you all for your prayers and support. Hang in there Ida and Tom!

THE GREAT DEPRESSION 80 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH (1929-1945)

An old joke goes something like this- What's the difference between a Recession and a Depression? Answer- It's a Recession when it happens to you and it's a Depression when it happens to me.

The Great Depression was no joking matter. This unfortunate calamity affected almost everyone, and it ultimately became a world-wide problem. The Depression began in the United States during October of 1929. The stock market crashed, many people were financially ruined, people lost jobs, many lost homes, families went hungry, and many had to turn to charity in order to survive. Historians say that the Depression was caused by the greed of the wealthy, and the financial disparity between themselves and the poor. However, the basic cause was the public's loss of confidence in our country's financial system and our economic future. Once confidence was lost, a snowballing and an ever quickening downward spiral began. Corporate profits dropped, banks failed, over one million families lost their farms, almost 300,000 families were evicted from their homes in 1932 alone, and two million homeless people were migrating around the country. Between 1929 and 1932, the average family's income was reduced by 40%. By 1933, over 60% of Americans were categorized as poor. In the mining counties of our country, the malnourished children approached the 90% mark. As previously mentioned, the Depression became a world-wide problem which led to several leadership changes in government. In Germany, the economic situation led to the rise of Adolph Hitler, and in the interest of financial gain, the Japanese invaded China (both of these led to WWII). In the early stages of the Depression, our President Herbert Hoover misjudged the situation at hand. He actually thought that we could "dig ourselves out" of the problem within a very short time. Unfortunately, things went from bad to worse. People lived in cardboard shacks and begged for money. Cardboard towns called "Hooverilles" were built by homeless men. The "Hoover Blanket" was actually newspapers used as bedding material

and the "Hoover Flag" was actually an empty pocket turned inside out. Fair or not, the Great Depression was squarely blamed on Herbert Hoover's financial policies, or lack thereof. At the time of the next election, Hoover's opponent, Franklin D. Roosevelt had a plan which he called the "New Deal". The American public accepted the plan and elected FDR as our new president. Roosevelt's new reforms gave the government more power which helped to ease the depression. The New Deal included federal relief programs which were initially directed to aid the farmers and the labor unions. By 1935, the Social Security program and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program had begun. The National Labor Relations Board acted as a stimulus for the union workers. The economic conditions steadily improved until the Recession of 1937. Ultimately, the German and the Japanese militarism forced our country into war production in the 1940s. By 1942, our country was fully involved in the production of WWII war goods and most of our men were fighting for our country. By war's end in 1945, we were finally able to put the Great Depression behind us.

-Tim Clayton-

Sources:

[Wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

<http://www.gusmorino.com>

<http://www.org/wgbh/amex/dustbowl/peoplevents/pandeamex05.html>

<http://www.lizexplore2.com/depression>

THE NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS

For those of us that live in the Southern Monmouth – Northern Ocean County area, we are fortunate to be actually living on the fringe of the New Jersey Pine Barrens. By living in such close proximity to this unique wilderness, I have personally enjoyed the many "things to do" that the area has to offer. Some of the wonderful opportunities that have presented themselves over the years, were events such as family camping, canoeing, hiking, dining out at the Sweet Water Casino, walks on abandoned railways, visiting the winery, climbing the fire watch tower, ghost town hunting, visiting the abandoned village of Batsto, four wheeling on the many dirt roads, grave hunting with a friend and looking for his

Revolutionary War ancestors, attending bluegrass music events at the famous Albert Music Hall, and last but not least the camping with my fellow Boy Scouts at Bass River. The Scout camping trips always included a fearful search for the Jersey Devil. This unnerving search for "the creature" was imposed on us by our "deranged" West Point Pleasant Scout Master. Without exception, our "leader" was always able to point out some broken twigs and other signs of the Jersey Devil (it didn't take much to convince us about the danger). Of course, the search always took place just before and a little after dark! Talk about a poor night's sleep for a bunch of Scouts! However, before I expand on the matter of the Jersey Devil, we should really discuss the Pine Barrens, its history, along with its ecology, wildlife, etc.

The Pine Barrens is comprised of approximately 22% of the land in New Jersey and includes municipalities such as Beachwood, Berlin Boro, Berlin Township, Corbin City, Lakehurst, Medford Lakes, Pemberton Boro, Port Republic, South Toms River, Weymouth, Woodbine, Wrightstown and others. Over one million acres of forests, swamps, bogs, and approximately 850 species of plants make up this unique environment-wilderness. The dense forests of the Pine Barrens are made up of pine, oak, cedar, pitch pine, as well as the famous "pygmy forest", a 12,000 acre area of dwarf pine and oak trees. Of prime importance to New Jersey is the fact that approximately 17 trillion gallons of pure water lies underneath the reserve in the Cohansey- Kirkwood aquifer. The Pine Barrens amphibians include at least seven different species of salamander, and nine different kinds of frogs & toads. The reptiles include nine species of turtles, three kinds of lizards, and seventeen different kinds of snakes, including the Timber Rattlesnake. The species of birds include the whip-poor-wills, brown thrashers, towhees, nighthawks, hummingbirds, as well as the more common species such as robins, blue jays, crows, owls, ducks, geese, etc., etc. The Pine Barren mammals include opossums, shrews, rabbits, chipmunks, three types of squirrels, mice, voles, muskrats, fox, raccoons, deer, mink,

otters, and humans. The various types of fish located in the Pine Barrens include eels, pickerel, minnows, shiners, chub suckers, bullhead, perch, sunfish, and swamp darters. Due to the fact that the Pine Barrens is such a national treasure, it has been designated as our country's first National Reserve and it is now under the direct control of the independent state/federal agency called the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. As I previously mentioned, there are "many things to do" in the Pine Barrens. I highly recommend that we all take advantage of the fact that we are in such close proximity to this natural treasure which was once inhabited by the Native Americans.

And now for the matter of the Jersey Devil! I am convinced that my fellow Boy Scouts and I were only "inches away" from danger, or even perhaps, our demise! The Jersey Devil folk lore is said to have begun with Mrs. Leeds, a poor pine barrens woman that already had twelve starving children. When she found out that she was once again "with child", she exclaimed "let this child be a devil". At the time of the birth of said child, a horrible deformed creature with the head of a horse, cloven feet, large wings, and a serpentine body came out of the womb. After attacking the poor woman and her nurses, it flew up the chimney and into the woods. The creature is said to have fed on children and livestock, which caused much fear to the locals, even to this day. In 1899, one Philadelphia newspaper even reported a sighting of the "creature" by a reputable business man. Many reports of "Jersey Devil sightings" persist to this day. However, with all of that said, this matter is much like the present day UFO situation..... you won't hear much about the Jersey Devil from the authorities. But rumor has it that the Jersey Devil has recently ranged as far north as Howell Township in Monmouth County. If history proves to be accurate, he is most dangerous when he desperately stalks prey outside of his normal territory. Old people, children, history buffs, and little animals are typically vulnerable. Watch out, especially when you put your trash out to the street after dark! Remember, anyone with common sense would tell you that the season of Halloween can be very, very dangerous if the Jersey Devil sets

his ugly red eyes on you! You have been warned! Happy Halloween!

-Tim Clayton-

Sources:

strangemag.com

njpinelandsanddownjersey.com

njpinebarrens.com

pinebarrenspineypower.com

pinebarrenswikipedia.com

PANIC OF 1837

The First Great Depression

In 1836 when Martin Van Buren was elected president, our founding country was in turmoil. Many of the problems that faced him developed during the previous administration. Congress had failed to limit the sales of public lands to actual settlers. Everyone was speculating in public lands, even clerks and shoeshine boys. State banks and branches of the Bank of the United States had joined the speculative splurge. They made vast loans without security in gold or silver. Unable to limit land sales, President Jackson had issued his Specie Circular of July 11, 1836. It required the government to accept only gold and silver in payment for public lands. Banks could no longer make loans without security, and the speculation ended. A financial crash was inevitable. It came on May 10, 1837 just 67 days after Van Buren took office. Banks in Philadelphia and New York City closed, and soon every bank in the country did likewise. The first great depression in U.S. history had begun.

-Norma Cohen-

Editors' Corner

With a lot of help from Ed McLean and Alyssa Peterson, I think I'm beginning to get the hang of this! I learn a couple of new 'tricks' each time! But I still could not do it without their assistance. (By the time I have it down pat, hopefully Tom will be better and Ida will be able to step back in!)

Comments?

Lynne Gillette can be reached by phone at 732-919-7036, or by E-mail at llgillette@gmail.com (I don't check my E-mail that often - if it is important, please use the phone! Thanks! – Lynne)

Coming Events

The time is drawing near for the annual Holiday Open House, held at the MacKenzie Museum, usually on the Saturday between Christmas and New Years! This year that would fall on December 26th, the day after Christmas. I Plan to come out and help, and enjoy the company and refreshments!

Help Wanted!!

Workers needed to clean and decorate the museum for the holidays! If you can help with any chores, please contact Lynne Gillette at 732-919-7036 to co-ordinate our efforts!

Bakers needed- Pauline Smith and Jane Norman do most of the baking, but we don't want to wear them out! If you are baking Christmas goodies, please consider making an extra batch of cookies, etc. for the Open House.

'Round And About Howell Township

-Historical Exhibition

The Monmouth County Historical Association's "Craftsmen and Clients" exhibition, which began October 4th and runs through June of 2010 at the association's museum and library, at 70 Court Street, Freehold. It will feature the work of local 18th and 19th century craftsmen. Through their products, clients and documentation, cabinetmakers, silversmiths and potters will be highlighted. Featured will be the work of Monmouth County cabinetmakers and joiners Robert Rhea (d.1720), William Applegate (1726-1768), Fenwick Lyell (1767-1822) and Matthew Egerton, Jr. (c.1765-1837); silversmiths Anthony Holmes (1760-1849, John Schanck (1774-1869), Teunis Denis DuBois (1773-1843) and Garret Schanck (1763-1795); and the stoneware of potteries Warne Letts and VanWickle & Morgan.

-Arsenic and Old Lace

Nov. 1, at 2:00pm; Nov. 6-7, at 8:00pm; This classic 1939 comedy tells the story of a man who returns home to introduce his fiancé to his sweet elderly aunts. He discovers his dear aunts have taken up a most disturbing hobby – and some rather dark hilarity ensues. Spring Lake Theatre Company, 300 Madison Avenue, Spring Lake; phone: 732-449-4530; or www.springlaketheatre.com

-Bachelor Auction

Nov. 5, 6:30pm; The evening includes a lovely sit down dinner, guaranteed introduction to each bachelor and the chance to bid on the man and date of your dreams; all proceeds go to the Garden State Film Festival and their Autism Support campaign; Oyster Point Hotel, 146 Bodman Place, Red Bank; tickets are \$60 in advance online; 877-908-7050; www.gsff.org

-Stocking Stuffer Sale

Nov. 6-8, 10:00am-3:00pm; event sponsored by the Allaire Auxiliary; Allaire Village, Rt. 524/4265 Atlantic Avenue, Wall; 732-919-3500; www.allairevillage.org

-A Midsummer Night's Dream

Now through Nov. 8; Shakespeare's classic as directed by Aaron Posner, Two River Theatre Company, 21 Bridge Avenue, Red Bank; for tickets and showtimes call 732-345-1400, or www.trtc.org

-Fall Foliage Cruise

Nov. 7-8; board 10:30am, depart 11:00am, return 3:00pm; cruise with SeaStreak to see the beautiful collors of New York. This 4 hour cruise offers spectacular views of Manhattan, Palisades, and Hudson River decorated in fall colors while enjoying a hot buffet lunch with cash bar. Reservations are required; Conners Ferry Landing, Highlands; tickets are \$70 per person; 1-800-262-8743; www.seastreak.com

-Veteran's Day Ceremony

Nov. 11, 11:00am; NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, GSP eit 116, PNC Bank, 1 Memorial Lane, Holmdel; 732-335-0033; www.njvvmf.org

-Twelve Angry Men (a play)

Oct. 16-Nov. 15, weekends; a Center Players Signature Series with production directed by Anthony Greco and Colleen DeFelice; Center Playhouse, 35 South street, Freehold; tickets \$24; 732-462-9093 for showtimes; www.centerplayers.org

-Dead Ringer (a play)

Oct.15-Nov. 15; set in Texas in 1885, a reclusive horse trainer lives on a ranch with his invalid sister; enter a young stranger, his arrival

disrupts the delicate balance between brother and sister, and the three find themselves trapped in a complex web of intrigue and greed; NJ Repertory Company, 179 Broadway, Long Branch; tickets \$35-\$60; for showtimes call 732-229-3166; www.njrep.org

-Miss Saigon

Nov. 13-14, 20-21, 8:00pm; Nov.15, 22, 3:00pm; Puccini's Madame Butterfly is set in wartime Vietnam with 400 performances on Broadway; Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank; tickets \$29, \$26, \$22; call 732-842-9000; www.counbasietheatre.org

-Drum!

Nov. 15, 7:00pm; Nova Scotia's spectacular new musical production featuring 20 musicians, dancers, drummers, and singers from the four principal cultures: Black, Acadian, Aboriginal and Celtic; Pollak Theatre, 400 Cedar Avenue, West long Branch; tickets \$40, \$32; 732-263-6889; www.monmouth.edu

-A 19th Century Thanksgiving

Nov. 22, 12:00-3:00pm; program at Allaire Chapel at 1:00pm; Historic Allaire Village within Allaire State Park, Rte. 524/4265 Atlantic Ave., Wall; 732-919-3500; www.allairevillage.org

-The Irish Tenors

Nov. 27, 8:00pm; an evening of holiday music with Finbar Wright, Anthony Kearns and Karl Scully; Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St., Red Bank; tickets \$59.50, \$49.50, \$29.50, \$19.50; information 732- 842-9000, or www.countbasietheatre.org

-Festive Feasts and Culinary Creations

Nov. 22- Jan. 3; the annual holiday exhibition will explore this theme with trees and trimmings decorated by local garden clubs and the Friend of the Museum. As usual, the ever-expanding model railroad layout will play a prominent role in the holiday festivities; The Monmouth Museum on Brookdale Community College campus, 765 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft; call 732-747-2266 for museum hours; www.monmouthmuseum.org

Listings courtesy of Norma Cohen – welcome back, Norma!

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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) _____

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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

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Membership is on an annual basis and may be tax deductible