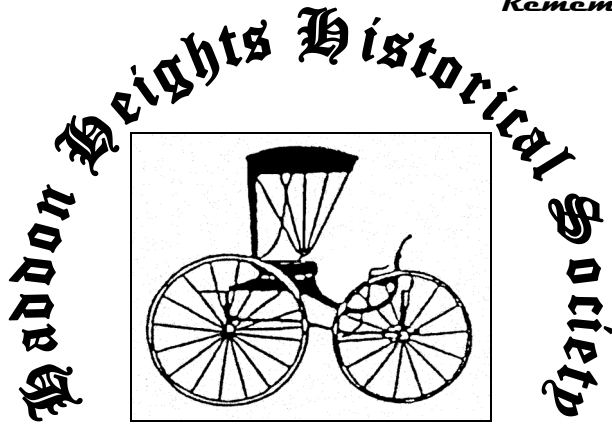


" Remembering Yesterday For The People Of Tomorrow "



Bulletin

P.O. Box 118 • Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

Volume 44 Number 2

April 2019

We meet on the third Monday of January, April, July, and October - at 7:00pm in the Library

APRIL MEETING: BRING ME OLD JEWELRY, YOUR BRIC-A-BRAC, AND ANTIQUES –



Join us on Monday evening April 15th at 7:00pm when we welcome our Guest Speaker Mike Ivankovich. He is a multi-talented entrepreneur who works in the fields of antiques, appraisals and auctions, fine art and art prints, art and picture preservation, home downsizing and even the “art” of slow pitch Softball. He is an Auctioneer, author, businessman, and public speaker. When asked about his main business, he says that he works with his clients and helps them discover their treasures. He says his life is a never ending “Treasure Hunt”.

At our April meeting, Haddon Heights Historical Society will be hosting our own version of the “Antiques Road Show”. Members are invited to come as early as 6:30pm and bring one or two of your personal favorite antique “treasures”. Mike will give us a brief talk about how values are established for antiques, and then will work his way through those items, giving his estimate of value. Hopefully he will be able to get to everything we bring, before our library closing curfew of 9:00pm.

Members can bring 1-2 items per person at no charge. Non-Members can also bring 1-2 items each and have them reviewed (first come, first served) for a charge of \$5.00– benefitting the Historical Society. We hope to see you!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE– “Spring: a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be.” Author unknown. Enjoy walking outdoors, looking at all the beautiful flowers, observe the budding trees and saying “Hello” to all of your neighbors!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Please read the HELP WANTED ad in this newsletter. The Haddon Heights Historical Board members are a fantastic group and we would like YOU to be an addition to the Board. I recently had a wonderful afternoon attending the Daughters of the American Revolution luncheon. J.P. Gentile, our youngest Historical Society member, was honored for his interest in History. It was truly a memorable honor for J.P. It was also a treat for all of the guests to hear J.P. speak to us and explain his interest in History. We are all very proud of him! I look forward to seeing all of you at our Antiques Road Show in April. Mike Ivankovich will tell you what your treasured item is worth. Members and non-members are invited to bring an item. I can’t wait to discover what treasures you all will bring.

Elena Hill



DOWN BY THE STATION DAY 2019- SATURDAY May 11th marks the Annual Haddon Heights “Down By The Station Day”. With referenc to the Train Station, this fun day of

family events includes such favorites as Trolley Rides on Station Avenue, Model Railroad exhibit in the "Station", railroad videos in Borough Hall, a silent book auction in the Library, and a walking tour of our downtown on Station Avenue at 2:15pm. Free train engineer hats for the kids will be provided by the Borough. Please plan to come out and bring the family to visit our local shops.

COUNTY-WIDE HISTORY EVENT ON MAY 11th- The first Built in Camden County Day will be held across the county on Saturday May 11th. It will highlight the architectural heritage trail, with colonial brick houses, federal mansions, a historic railroad station, a huge battleship, an ornate baroque church, and other historical structures throughout Camden County. Most events are free. For more information, go to the CCHA page on the Camden County Historical Society site at: www.cchsnj.org

HELP WANTED- VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN THE H.H.H.S. BOARD-

The Haddon Heights historical Society needs YOU! We are currently searching for several individuals interested in volunteering a little bit of time to make a big difference in our organization. We need a few fresh faces to join our few but mighty group of Board Members and Committee Chairs. Please consider helping make your historical society even better and more vibrant. We are looking for interested individuals to fill the following openings: * Secretary * programs Chairperson * Publicity * Digital Photographer * Borough Council Liaison, No prior experience necessary. In fact, after 25 years of editing this newsletter, I am still learning as I go. Please reach out to any Board Member for information or to volunteer.

**HELP
WANTED
APPLY
WITHIN**

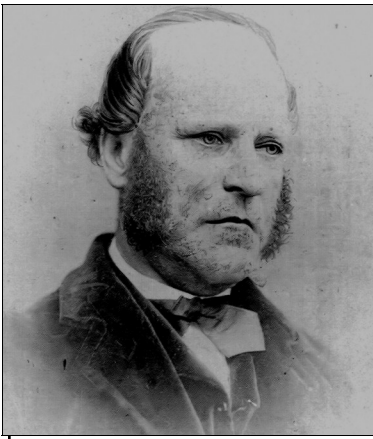
WE ALL KNOW WHERE SMITHVILLE IS, RIGHT?! Maybe not THIS Smithville is not on the way to the shore. Did you know there once was a thriving industrial community in Burlington County called Smithville? Today, this former bustling utopia of manufacturing is part of Eastampton Township.

From its humble beginnings before 1676 as the town of Alumhatta, a Delaware Indian settlement, to the purchase of the village by then known as Shreveville, by Hezekiah B. Smith in 1865, Smithville has undergone many changes. The property was first owned in 1676 by Henry Stacy from his purchase of a part of a share of Edward Byllinge's proprietorship of West Jersey. This was a 500 acre tract of land with creek frontage. In 1686, Henry Stacy's widow Mary sold the 500 acre tract of land to Sarah Parker. After Sarah Parker died, the land was owned by several different owners. It was known as Parker's Mills from about 1780 to 1830, Shreveville from 1831 to 1865 and finally Smithville from 1865 to present day. Each owner made their own changes and additions, but the common denominator was the available water power at the site, provided by the "Rancocas Creek".



In 1831 Samuel and Jonathan Shreve purchased the property for the purpose of building a calico printing factory. At first the business was very successful. They built the Mansion in 1840 in the Greek Revival style of the time and had a thriving factory and village. When the government lifted the import tariffs on textiles, the Shreve brothers could not maintain their business and subsequently went bankrupt. After their deaths in 1856 and 1857, Shreveville was purchased in 1858 from the Sheriff by their brother Benjamin Shreve, who 7 years later was able to sell the property to Hezekiah B. Smith.

Smith was born in Bridgewater, Vermont, on July 24, 1816. After completing an eighth grade education, he was trained as a cabinet maker and set up shop in a former tannery building. Smith left the Woodstock District in 1846, taking with him Eveline Verona English, whom he married in a civil ceremony in May 1846, in their Boston hotel room. Smith and his wife moved first to Manchester, New Hampshire, where Smith made



a living carving wooden patterns while learning the machine business. In July 1846, their first child, Ella, was born. During the spring of 1847 in Manchester there was a scarlet fever epidemic known as 'ship fever', and Eveline took the child Ella and returned to Woodstock. They would never again live together as husband and wife.

Smith (see photo- left) moved on to Lebanon, New Hampshire, where he began to manufacture items to other people's specifications, including such items as the Howe sewing machine. Smith took the first sewing machine ever seen in Woodstock and gave it to Eveline, herself a renowned tailor, ensuring her own independence. Smith later moved on from Lebanon to Boston, Massachusetts, where he began manufacturing woodworking machinery of his own design. He subsequently moved his business to Lowell, Massachusetts. However, he continued to visit his

wife in Woodstock, fathering three sons with her: Elton (1848), Eugene V. (1851) and Edward A. (1853).

In Lowell, during the summer of 1854, Smith was introduced to Agnes Mitilda Gilkerson (1838–1881). Gilkerson (see photo- right) was a mill girl working in a textile factory and living in a boarding house. Smith hired her as his confidential secretary, then sent her to Mrs. Rodgers' finishing school. By 1859, Gilkerson would convince Smith that she should go further with her education. Smith sent her to live with the family of the manager of his Philadelphia sales office. There Gilkerson attended Penn Medical School, graduating in the spring of 1861 with a degree in medicine, with a major in chemistry.



As you might imagine based upon the living situation described above, Mr. and Mrs. Smith lived two separate lives. We will get to that in a minute. In 1865, Smith visited with Benjamin Shreve in Medford, New Jersey. Shreve had a \$100,000 investment in his deceased brother's business. Smith managed to acquire from Shreve basically the entire town of Shreveville, in Eastampton Township, Burlington County, New Jersey, for only \$20,000. Before moving to his new acquisition (soon to be renamed Smithville), Smith made a final journey to Woodstock to the home he had purchased in 1861 for his wife, Eveline Smith.

There, he demanded a divorce, but his wife refused to agree to one. Smith then demanded everything he had written her since 1847, which he then burned in her stove. He then went to the town clerk's office, where he transferred ownership of the house to his wife's maiden name, then to the bank where he established an account, again in her maiden name, and deposited a few hundred dollars. Finally, he went to his sister's house, where he demanded the family Bible. Upon being given the Bible by his sister, he used his pocketknife to excise all record of his marriage and children from the family tree recorded within, burning the paper scraps in his sister's stove. Having completed what he felt to be a divorce, he left Woodstock, never to return.

Is this story getting interesting yet? I was really surprised to hear his story during two recent visits to the Historic Smithville mansion. The mansion sits on land that is part of Burlington County's Smithville Park, and is located near Route 38, a short distance past Mount Holly. Next issue, we will continue with the story of Hezekiah B. Smith, the village of Smithville, his manufacturing, inventions and even a stint in Congress.... Stay tuned.

2019 Membership Application / Renewal- Haddon Heights Historical Society

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ E-Mail _____

Type of Membership: _____ Single- \$10.00 _____ Household- \$15.00

I would like to make a tax deductible donation to Haddon Heights Historical Society, in the amount of \$ _____

Coming Events

April 15, 2019- HHHS General Membership Mtg.
7:00pm in the Haddon Heights Library- Antiques
Appraisal, like our own "Road Show"

April 27, 2019- Haddon Heights Car Cruise: Adja-
cent to Stanfill Tower. Come and enjoy the cars

May 11, 2019- H.H. Down by the Station Day 10a-
3p, Station Avenue.

May 11, 2019- "Built in Camden County Day"-info
see Camden County Historical Society web page

June 1, 2019- league of Historical Societies- NJ
meeting: Dey Farm, Monroe Twp., Middlesex Cty

July 15, 2019- HHHS General Membership Mtg.
7:00pm in the Haddon Heights Library-
Benjamin Franklin portrayal

MEMBERSHIP DUES- Your "*Paid Through*
YEAR" is printed on your Newsletter label. Your
dues help us keep history alive. Only paid-up mem-
bers will continue to receive the HHHS Newsletter!

Those members who provide us an e-mail address,
will also receive an electronic color copy of each
edition of the newsletter in advance of the mailing.

2019 Historical Society Board

<u>President-(2018-2020)</u>	Elena Hill
<u>Vice-President-(2018-2020)</u>	Bob Hunter
<u>Past President-</u>	Margaret Westfield
<u>Treasurer-(2018- 2020)</u>	David Somerville
<u>Secretary- (Ends 2020)</u>	VACANT
<u>Trustees-(2016-2019)</u>	Ken Funkhouser
	Anne McAdams
	Peter Hill

COMMITTEES / CHAIRS

<u>Newsletter Ed.-</u>	Ken Funkhouser
<u>Membership Chair-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Web Master-</u>	Gianna Hill
<u>Nominating Comm.-</u>	Bob Hunter/ Peter Hill
<u>Borough Council Liaison</u>	VACANT
<u>Affairs-</u>	VACANT
<u>Merch/Fund Raising-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Programs/Publicity-</u>	VACANT
<u>Programs/Publicity- Asst.</u>	VACANT
<u>Digital Photographer</u>	VACANT

Contact the Board : WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

Mail correspondence- P.O. Box 118 Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

The Haddon Heights Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Please keep us in mind as you plan your charitable donations. Make us part of Your Legacy...

Another WOW for this Newsletter edition! April of 2019 marks my 25th year of editing this publication.
And they said it would never last... I enjoy bringing our members the information and stories that come my way. Truth be told, I would rather be speaking to a larger group... Everyone can play a part in bringing in new members. Please do YOUR PART. Thanks for listening all these years! Ken Funkhouser, Editor (25 yrs)

Haddon Heights Historical Society
P.O. Box 118
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

