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 reference 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 Bor-
ough. 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 bar-
oque 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 differ-
ence 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.

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 under-
gone 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 front-
age. 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 Dis-
trict 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 Gilk-
erson (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 busi-
ness. Smith managed to acquire from Shreve basically the entire town of Shreveville, in Eastampton Township, Bur-
lington County, New Jersey, for only $20,000. Before moving to his new acquisition (soon to be renamed Smith-
ville), 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 $______
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)