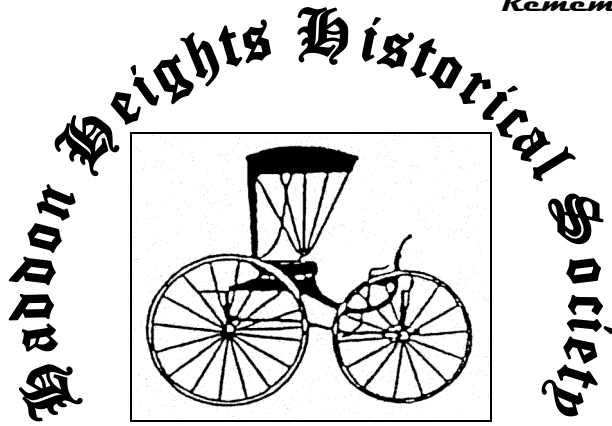


" Remembering Yesterday For The People Of Tomorrow "



Bulletin

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

WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

Volume 47 Number 3

July 2022

We meet on the 3rd Monday- April, July, & October. 4th Monday- January: 7:00pm- Haddon Heights Library

IN-PERSON SOCIETY MEETING ON JULY 18th- Our next speaker is Milton Weist, a Haddon Heights resident. He is a former History teacher, but now does something unique, but directly related to his former career. Maybe you have even dreamed of trying this avocation yourself! In fact, if Mr. Weist was on the old TV show, "What's My Line?", I bet you would have a difficult time guessing what he does now..... Please join us on July 18th as we hear Mr. Weist talk about his long-time volunteer work with the Department of the Interior at Independence National Park in Philadelphia! He will be speaking about the Liberty Bell. We all know it is there, but what do we really know about where it came from, what it was intended for, how much it weighs, and, of course, how it got its famous crack. By the way, do you know what the Centennial Bell is? Come out on the 18th and find out !!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- "Live in the sunshine. Swim in the sea. Drink in the wild air." — Ralph Waldo Emerson. "Cause a little bit of summer is what the whole year is about!"-Unknown. I hope you are enjoying the Summer season. The Haddon Heights Historical Society is busy documenting HH history with Historical Markers. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission for research, write-up, photo selection, and layout for some additional signs. We are hoping to have four new completed signs ready for dedication by this Fall. Margaret Westfield has completed an additional Historic Marker commemorating the Fairfield Garage, which is in production. We anxiously await the dedication and hope you will be able to attend. Details to follow !!!! Looking forward to seeing you on July 18th and learning about the Liberty Bell !!!!!

Elena M. Hill, President

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR THE BOARD- Please review the last page of the newsletter to see the openings we have for Historical Society Board members and assistants. No experience is required! YOU can make a difference if you are willing to step up and help. If you are unable to help at this time, maybe you can think of someone who might be interested.

LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES UPCOMING MEETINGS- The Haddon Heights Historical Society is a member of the NJ League of Historical Societies. As such, you, can also attend their meetings and historic tours. The "League" has three meetings each year which rotate between north, central, and southern New Jersey. In fact, the April meeting was hosted by the Camden County Historical Society, and the group visited Haddon Heights in 2004 in commemoration of our town centennial. I have included below, some of the upcoming meetings and contact information for the League's Executive Director.

May 28, 2022– South River Historical and Preservation Society: South River, Middlesex County
November 5, 2022– Paterson Museum and the Paterson Museum Foundation: Paterson, Passaic County
Winter 2023– Date TBD– Bordentown Historical Society: Bordentown, Burlington County
Spring 2023– Date TBD– Hunterdon County Historical Society: Flemington, Hunterdon County
Fall 2023– Date TBD– Sparta Historical Society: Sparta, Sussex County

You can reach the Executive Director, Linda Barth for additional information and direction to the appropriate host historical society at, barthlinda123@aol.com, or you can call at 908-240-0488. The Board hopes you get out there and explore our very historic state!

CAMDEN COUNTY HISTORY MONTH COMING IN OCTOBER– The annual Camden County History Month will continue this year with many events throughout the county. Our meeting October 17th will be one of those events, as part of the celebration. Please watch for additional information in the newspaper, online, and the Camden County History Alliance publication, which is delivered to your door.

DISCOVERING MY HISTORY– It was a normal evening at the Ritz Theatre in Haddon Township in the Fall of 2018, and at intermission, I was speaking with my friend Oskar Gmunder. Oskar is an older gentleman who lives locally, but was born in Switzerland and has traveled/lived many places for work and enjoyment. He also leads tours to Switzerland, Germany, and Austria. As you may know from previous newsletters over the years (28), my wife and I love to travel, so I often sought out Oskar at intermission to hear one of his stories.

On this particular evening, I received one of the biggest surprises of my life when Oskar asked, “Mr. Funkhouser, do you know you are Swiss?” I replied that I was pretty sure I was of German descent. He then followed up, telling me he was sure my family originated from Switzerland, and he had been to the ancestral family farm!!! Imagine the myriad of questions swirling around in my mind, and I only had the fifteen minutes of intermission to have them all answered.... Well, Oskar answered many of my questions and invited my wife and I to his house to see photos.

From there, Oskar put me in touch with another Funkhouser, Joe, who lives in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia; as do many other Funkhousers. Joe had done extensive research on the origin of the family name, even extending one of Oskar’s tours, to go with Oskar to find the “Fankhauser” ancestral farm. Last summer, during a vacation trip back to my family farm in Illinois and to visit our niece in Nashville, Hendersonville, Virginia was included on the road trip. We met Joe and Sally Funkhouser, who were both very gracious and willing to share their research and experience visiting the Fankhauser farm “Hinter Hutten” in Switzerland with



Oskar. They sent us off with a copy of Joe’s online research as well as a small photo album from their trip.

Needless to say, the Fankhauser farm and museum were immediately added to our plans for our next big European adventure! The trip was planned, thanks to great research by my wife, and we were to have our “Once in a lifetime” trip to Europe in May of 2022 to explore places we had not been before. We planned for thirty days, which began with a Viking River Cruise from Berlin to Prague. At that point, we ventured out on our own with our Eurail Passes on the phone, to visit several more countries by train..... Hungary, Slovenia, Italy– with France and Luxembourg planned later in the trip. Of course, Switzerland played heavily into our plans and we got to Lucerne about midway during our adventure. The farm was only a half hour from Lucerne.

When I called Oskar this Spring to tell him we were planning our “big Trip”, he mentioned that his daughter Heidi and her partner, Pitsch (retired history teacher, AAA Tour Guide, and active Swiss Museum Association member), lived outside Lucerne and he offered that they would be glad to be our Swiss tour guides for three days. They would drive and take us to the Fankhauser farm among other places. After traveling with our luggage on several long train rides, it was nice to meet Heidi and Pitsch in the



Lucerne Train Station, and ride in a car with someone who knew their way around. We drove out of the city into the countryside with mountains and valleys, and followed signs leading to the village of Fankhaus. That be-

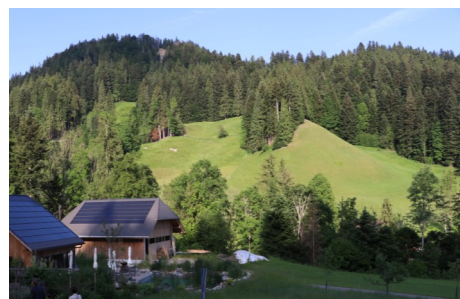


ing said, the Fankhauser farm was still hard to find– even with GPS !

We arrived late afternoon and were greeted by the Fankhauser family. Pitsch and I had previously communicated with them so they were expecting us. They said over the years, several other family “Funkhousers” have come to visit and see their museum. Fankhaus-

ers have lived on this property for centuries. Over the door you can see a timber with the carved date of 1608. Here, you will find the one and only hiding place of the Anabaptists which has been preserved to this day. The current Fankhauser family living on the property consists of Simon, Regula, and their daughter Deborah.

The museum is dedicated to Christen Fankhauser and explores religious intolerance and the persecution of the Anabaptist Christians in the region during the 17th and 18th centuries. The Anabaptists followed old and strict beliefs. You know their descendants today as the Amish and Mennonites. It seems Christen Fankhauser was very devout, and therefore, was sought out by the local authorities trying to purge what they considered fringe or non-conforming religions.



Christen was very creative, though. He built a hidden room under the floor of his barn (which in Switzerland is attached to the house), and installed a section of floor that was hinged, allowing him to slide down into the “Hiding Place”, push up the section of floor and re-latch it, whenever the men with warrants signed by the local bishop, would come to take him away. Those Anabaptists who were caught, were banished from the Canton (state) or worse. Eventually the “Huntersmen” figured out that Christen had do be hiding somewhere in the barn. They waited, he was caught, expelled, and forced to live away from his wife and children for many decades. This visit, and hearing the story of the tribulations and troubles of my ancestors was, for me, the highlight of our trip! After hearing about this place several years ago, I took one of the photos and painted a watercolor of my ancestral home. I took a print on canvas of that painting, and gave it to my new-found relatives as a “Thank You” for being so kind and welcoming.

You can find information about the Hinter Hutten– Fankhauser Farm and the Anabaptist Museum at: www.taeuferversteck.ch I encourage you to look into your family history. You never know what you will find!!!

2022 Membership Application / Renewal– Haddon Heights Historical Society

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____ 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

H. H. Historical Society- Fall General Meeting:
October 17th 7:00pm- Haddon Heights Library

MEMBERSHIP DUES- Dues for 2022 are now...due. Your dues help us keep history alive. Only paid-up members will continue to receive the HHHS Newsletter! Your "Paid Through " year is highlighted on your mailing label. Your dues help defray Society costs and support our mission. Please return the membership form and remain a member in good standing.

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.

HEIGHTS NOTE CARDS- Note card packs featuring pre-Revolutionary War homes in town. Available at the Library. \$4.00 for a pack of 8.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE-

www.hhhistorical.org. Take a look and check out our archived material Many thanks to Gianna Hill, our Webmaster, for keeping us current during the pandemic!

2022 Historical Society Board

<u>President-(2020-2022)</u>	Elena Hill
<u>Vice-President-(2020-2022)</u>	Bob Hunter
<u>Past President-</u>	Margaret Westfield
<u>Treasurer-(2020-2022)</u>	David Somerville
<u>Secretary- (2021-2023)</u>	Lauren McBeath
<u>Trustees- (2019-2022)</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>	Rose Fitzgerald
<u>Affairs-</u>	VACANT
<u>Merch/Fund Raising-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Programs/Publicity-</u>	Peter Hill
Programs/Publicity- Asst.	VACANT
<u>Digital Photographer</u>	Amy Schmidt

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 History by Making us part of Your Legacy...

You can make a difference! I ask you to think of the dozen (so far) Historical Interpretive signs we have placed in town, and consider that they were created for the benefit and education of our citizens. But equally as important, most of them were funded by generous charitable gifts from a family foundation, in memory of a deceased resident who was part of our group.

Thanks for listening! Ken Funkhouser, Editor

Haddon Heights Historical Society
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