

Volume 49 Number 1

January 2024

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

<u>JANUARY MEETING REMINDER</u>– Please be reminded that the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday fell on our usual January meeting date (1/15/24). Therefore, the Board has chosen to move the January meeting to the fourth Monday of the month; January 22, 2024.

<u>SIGN(S) OF THE TIMES</u>. Our January 22nd meeting will feature noted county historian, Paul Schopp, to talk about the significance of our next three interpretive markers. Employed in the Cultural Resource Management field for several decades, Paul W. Schopp has garnered an abundance of experience and knowledge during his service as senior historian for several consulting firms. While working in CRM, Paul specialized in transportation history, industrial history, and local history, particularly in South Jersey and the Delaware Valley. He is also a well-known authority on African American history in South Jersey, having conducted research in this field for the past 30 years. Among the National Register nominations he prepared, Mr. Schopp wrote or edited three nominations that are for African American sites. In 2014, Paul left the CRM world to begin working at Stockton University as the Assistant Director of the South Jersey Culture & History Center, a position he still holds.

<u>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</u>- Welcome everyone to an exciting year of history in the place where you live !!!!!!!!! I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!!! The Society has been busy and we would really like your help. Please consider volunteering to help us in our quest to bring History to the residents and visitors of Haddon Heights.

I am pleased to announce that the Society has received a \$4000.00 Grant from The Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission. The Grant money will be used to hire an archivist to better organize and archive the historical documents and artifacts housed in the Haddon Heights Library.

We hope you will join us on January 22, 2024, at 7 P. M. in the Haddon Heights Library for an informative and interesting presentation by Paul Schopp. Paul will be discussing the three new interpretive signs that he has been researching. Our new signs will interpret Hoyle-Butcher Post No. 149, Haddon Heights High School commemorating 100 years and the historic Lipincott House on First Avenue. These signs will be installed and dedicated in the near future. We will keep you apprised as each dedication ceremony approaches.

Thank you for your continued support. Elena Hill, President

<u>REFLECTIONS FROM THE PAST-</u> Unless you are of Native American descent, all of our ancestors came from somewhere else. I found out not too long ago that my relatives started in Switzerland, moved to Germany, and finally came to America. At its beginnings, our little town was advertised as more of a Summer getaway from the big

city; Philadelphia or Camden. Yes, you may have lived in Haddon Heights since birth, but the families of many residents of our area moved from Camden at one time or another, and settled in the suburbs. I found these postcards reflecting pieces of Camden's history, on the Historical Society of Riverton's website. Enjoy!



J. B. Van Sciver Co. FURNITURE FACTORY - STORE



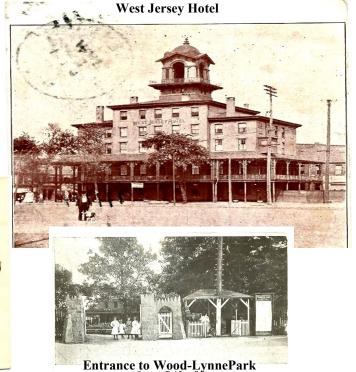
C-I4—Entrance to Delaware River Bridge, Connecting Philadelphia, P.a. and Camden, N. J., Camden Side







First Gyrocopter mail delivery



ALL THE WAY TO TIMBUCTOO AND BACK- Have you ever wondered about just how do you get

TIMBUCTOO A STOP ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Timbuctoo includes Church St. Blue Jay Hill Road, and adjacent areas. With the support of local Quakers, it was founded c1820 by free Blacks and runaway slaves. At its peak in the mid-nineteenth century, Timbuctoo had more than 125 residents, a school, an AME Zion Church, and a cemetery. The key remaining evidence of this community is the cemetery on Church Street, which contains graves of Black Civil War Veterans. Some current residents are descendants of early settlers.



to Timbuctoo? Well my friends, although the reference is usually meant to indicate somewhere way out of the way in the middle of nowhere, Timbuctoo is actually closer than you may think!!! In the early 1800's, formerly enslaved and free African-Americans bought land from the Quakers and settled, building a community in the Mount Holly area (now part of Westampton Twp.).

JoAnn Donnelly was a Rancocas High School Social Studies teacher in 2016 when she found a way to bring the African-American experience to life for her students. She began a quest to develop a different approach as part of the curriculum. In March of 2019, Donnelly and two of her fellow teachers (Neshea Thomas and

Cheryl Alspach) received a grant, allowing them to research Timbuctoo. When it existed as a community, Timbuctoo had 30-35 homes and about 150 residents.

Timbuctoo consisted of for-



mer slaves who had been freed, slaves who had escaped the South via the Under-

ground Railroad, and other African-Americans who had never been enslaved. New Jersey had gradually begun to outlaw slavery in 1804. As the movement grew in the state, New Jersey became a safe haven for runaway slaves. Many of the settlers in Timbuctoo worked in the local Quaker owned brickyards, and built their own church and public school. They all learned to enjoy life and depend on one another. The free African-Americans also felt a duty to help liberate those still held in bondage in the South. After the Emancipation Proclamation, African-Americans were allowed to serve in the Union Army. Their efforts helped defeat the Confederacy just two years later. In fact, several Civil War veterans are buried at Timbuctoo, and are honored in the Civil War Cemetery.

During the 2019-2020 school year, Thomas and Alspach taught a one week lesson about the settlement, to their classes. These three teachers

plus two of their colleagues won the 2020 History Award from the Burlington County Division of Parks and Recreation, for their work on developing the lesson. The announcement of their achievement mentioned how the teachers had managed to tie local history into the greater narrative of U.S. history.

The Timbuctoo settlement in Burlington county was named for the ancient Timbuktu civilization in Africa, a place of commercial wealth and opportunity, where African youth were sent from far and wide to further their education. Because of the cultural significance to the African-American community, several towns in the U.S. bear the same name.

(Excerpted from the December 13, 2020 edition of the Courier-Post newspaper)

2024 Membership Application / Renewal- Haddon Heights Historical Society

Name_

Address

Phone (H)

_____ (C)___

E-Mail

Membership Type:__Single- \$10.00__Household- \$15.00 Additional tax deductible donation of:\$__

COMING EVENTS

H. H. Historical Society Meetings– Winter meeting Monday January 22, 2024 !!!! All meetings begin at 7:00pm– Haddon Heights Library– lower level

<u>MEMBERSHIP DUES</u> Dues for 2024 are now due. Please consider renewing your membership. All dues help <u>your</u> Historical Society cover ongoing costs and support our mission. Keep history alive. Only "paid-up" members will continue to receive this highly informative and insightful (in the Editor's opinion) HHHS Newsletter!

Your "Paid Through" year is highlighted on your mailing label. Return the membership form on page 3 to remain a member in good standing.

<u>Please Note: Those members who provide an e-</u> mail address, will also receive an electronic color copy of the newsletter in advance of the mailing.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE - www.hhhistorical.org.

<u>WE NEED YOU–</u> There are just a few of us who actively work to keep this organization going. YOU can help by volunteering to serve and by helping build our membership. We need YOU!!!!!!

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<u>2023 Historical Sc</u>	<u>ociety Board</u>
<u>President-(2022-2024)</u>	Elena Hill
Vice-President-(2022-2024)	Bob Hunter
<u>Past President-</u>	Margaret Westfield
<u>Treasurer-(2022-2024)</u>	David Somerville
<u>Secretary- (2021-2023)</u>	Lauren McBeath
<u>Trustees- (2022-2025)</u>	Ken Funkhouser
	Anne McAdams
	Peter Hill
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<u>Newsletter Editor-</u>	Ken Funkhouser
<u>Membership Chair-</u>	Joan Rossler
Web Master-	Morgan Sanabria
Nominating Comm	Bob Hunter/
	Peter Hill
<u>Borough Council Liaison</u>	VACANT
Historical Society Affairs-	VACANT
<u>Merch/Fund Raising-</u>	Joan Rossler
Programs/Publicity-	Peter Hill
Program/Membership Dev	JP Gentile
<u>Digital Photographer</u>	Amy Schmidt
Contact the Board : WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG	

<u>Contact the Board : WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG</u> Mail correspondence- and Dues to: 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...

It is exciting to see younger people getting involved in preserving our local history. I encourage YOU to reach out to see how YOU can help !! I am always looking for historical information, photos, input/reminiscences and stories from our members. Please consider sending me YOUR memories so we can share them with other members! Thanks for listening! Ken Funkhouser, Editor- since April 1994 (30 yrs.)

