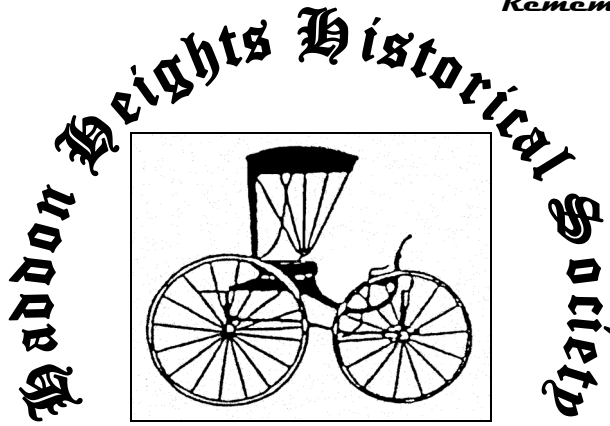


" Remembering Yesterday For The People Of Tomorrow "



Bulletin

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

WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

Volume 45 Number 1

January 2020

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

* January 2020 meeting will be held on the fourth Monday (1/27/20) due to the Martin Luther King Holiday

JANUARY MEETING: THE DON WALLACE HISTORICAL TOOL COLLECTION-



Please join us on January 27th at 7:00pm as we welcome our presenter Michael Underwood, curator of the Don Wallace Historical Tool collection at the Haddonfield Historical Society. This is one of the best hardware and implement resources in the state. Mr. Underwood will speak about the history of selected tools and invites our guests to take a guess about the use of some unique items on his "What Is It" table. This should prove to be quite interesting.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- I would like to wish everyone a Happy and a Healthy New Year. As we begin a new decade, remember that this year's moments will be next years memories. We are pleased to welcome and introduce Emma Erwin as a new Board Member. Emma grew up in Haddon Heights and upon college graduation, she is anxious to be a part of Haddon Heights' History. I hope to see all of you at our January meeting. Tool Curator Mike Underwood has an information and interactive program on antique and vintage tools used by the trade's, craftsmen, and domestic homemakers. There will be a "Please Touch Atmosphere" and even a guessing game as to the purpose of some of the tools. Mike promises an informative a fun evening.



If you are looking for other evening programs please visit the Museum of The American Revolution "History after Hours." The programs are 5-8 PM. Many are free for members and there is a charge for non-members. February 18 will answer the questions: "What were some of the ways enslaved people of African descent fought for and found freedom?" and "For free people of African descent what decisions were in their best interest?" The topic for March 10, 2020 will be Live free or die!

In 1798, Irish revolutionaries, led by the United Irishmen, fought for independence from the British Empire and for equal rights for all Irishmen. Learn about this revolt, inspired by the American and French revolutions, and the people who were involved. In the Museum's Cross Keys Café, you can raise a pint and sing along to songs of the Irish Revolution during the final week of the exhibition, Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier. History is all around us. Please enjoy our past. Elena Hill

REFLECTIONS OF OLD HADDON HEIGHTS!- Recently, I was contacted by Judy Buecker, a member and past Secretary of the Historical Society with the offer of several pictures showing old Haddon Heights. In fact,

the photos show a few of our residents on Station Avenue in 1913-1914. Of course, I jumped at the chance to scan pieces of history, and thought I would share them with you here. You may even be related to these guys...



Mr. Wolf delivered Express and Freight



Taken in front of Wilmont Apartments



Sam Reddig shipping a trunk by rail

Dr. Freyer, Clayton Hankela, and unidentified man from Swain's Drug Store

Thanks to Judy for sharing these old photos from her father! As if the photos weren't enough, there was also an "I LIKE IKE" presidential campaign pin in the envelope. What great history to be able to pass along!

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR THE BOARD- See page four of this newsletter for information about the openings on the Historical Society's Committees. We need several people to lend a hand. No prior experience necessary. Reach out to the Editor or any Board Member for information or to volunteer.

2020 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 UNDERGROUND RAILROAD: COLUMBIA, PA. TO PHILADELPHIA- William Whip



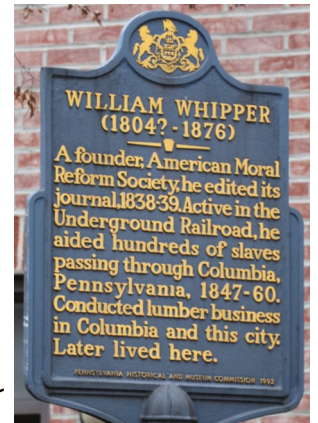
William Whipper-1870

per and his partner Stephen Smith built one of the most successful lumber and real estate empires in 19th-century Pennsylvania. Their business holdings included real estate, railroad cars, and a steamship- all of which were frequently used to help fugitive slaves escape to the north.

Whipper's home in Columbia, Pa, was near the Wrightsville Bridge on the Susquehanna River. He claimed that slaves typically paid forty dollars to come from Maryland to York and then to his home, where they usually arrived "hungry and penniless." He recalled that he "received hundreds in this condition," ranging from "one to seventeen at a time in a single night."

The runaways were then dispatched to various white and black residents in Columbia. Some remained in the small community, which became the home to nearly 1,000 blacks in the years before the Civil War. Others went by boat to Pittsburgh. The vast majority, however, rode in Smith and Whipper lumber wagons or rail cars to Philadelphia, where William Still and other members of the Vigilance Committee received them.

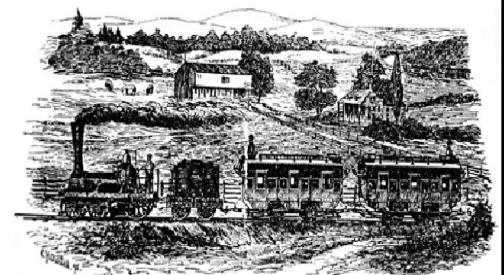
Whipper and Smith, who regularly shipped lumber from Columbia to Philadelphia, built special boxcars with false ends to conceal fugitive slaves. It was large enough for someone to stand at one end of the boxcar and not be seen. There are no details - how many of these boxcars were built, or what the dimensions were. We don't know how many people they held. It sounds pretty uncomfortable, but getting to Philadelphia and freedom was probably more important than being uncomfortable for the 8 to 10 hours it took to get there. Although the boxcars were privately owned, the collusion of the state-owned railroad and its employees is clear. Obviously, a great many state employees, if not actively involved, would at least turn the other way to let these people get aboard," according to Randy Harris, a local Columbia, Pa historian when he was interviewed in 2010. Although state law required inspectors to check cars for fugitives, none of Whipper and Smith's "special passengers" was ever detected.



As editor of the journal of the American Moral Reform Society, an organization of African Americans whose purpose was to abolish slavery and establish liberty, justice, and humanity for all blacks, Whipper originally believed in non-resistance and moral persuasion. Eventually, however, too many encounters with racist whites in Columbia changed his mind. When a fugitive was shot and killed in 1852, Whipper noted sternly that it offered an example of "bullet emancipation" and that at least "it was better to deprive [the runaway] of his life than his liberty." Whipper spent the latter part of his life in Philadelphia where he was a prominent member of the city's African American community.

Born near Harrisburg, Pa in 1795, Stephen Smith was the son of a slave woman. He learned the lumber business while indentured to general Thomas Boude. Boude allowed Smith to manage his entire lumber enterprise as Smith approached manhood. In 1816, Stephen Smith borrowed \$50 and bought his freedom. Later that year, he also purchased release from his indenture. Already equipped with entrepreneurial skills, he opened his own lumber business in Columbia, Pa and became involved in lucrative real estate operations while his wife operated an oyster and refreshment house. He became prosperous and served on the Board of the Columbia Bank. Smith was the wealthiest American black in the north prior to the Civil War. He shared his wealth generously with a number of institutions, was held in high regard as a real estate dealer. He moved to Philadelphia in the 1830's and lived at 921 Lombard St. His real estate speculation included properties in Philadelphia, Columbia, PA, Lancaster, Pa and he even owned many properties in Cape May, NJ.

He owned 22 fine merchantmen railroad cars which ran on lines from Philadelphia to Baltimore. William Goodrich, a York, Pa businessman also owned many railcars which ran on the Baltimore Railroad line branch in Lancaster. Both Smith and Goodrich aided fugitive slaves, who had escaped the South by transporting them in hidden compartments of railroad cars. This was one aspect of the Underground Railroad that actually utilized the above ground rail system. As a final note, one theory about the origin of the term "Underground Railroad" is attributed to slave hunters who would track and follow escaped slaves to Columbia, Pa, and then mysteriously lose their trail, saying it was like they had boarded an "underground Railroad".



Coming Events

January 27, 2020- Haddon Heights Historical Society General Meeting 7:00pm- H.H. Library

Winter 2020- League of Historical Societies of NJ Meeting- Camden County Historical Society

April 19, 2020-Haddon Heights Historical Society General Meeting 7:00pm- H.H. Library

MEMBERSHIP DUES- Dues for 2020 are now...due. Your *"Paid Through YEAR"* is printed on your Newsletter label. Your dues help us keep history alive. Only paid-up members will continue to receive the HHS 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.

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 REVITALIZED WEBSITE- Go have a look! www.hhhistorical.org

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- (2019- 2021)</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>	VACANT
<u>Affairs-</u>	VACANT
<u>Merch/Fund Raising-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Programs/Publicity-</u>	Emma Erwin
<u>Programs/Publicity- Asst.</u>	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...

I had the opportunity on that really spring-like weekend in January, to visit Laurel Hill Cemetery in Fairmount Park and take a guided tour. WOW !!! The stories behind many of those graves are amazing! More to follow on that adventure in the next edition. Share your history with those around you. Please consider how you can help build our membership. Thanks for listening all these years! Ken Funkhouser, Editor (25 yrs)

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