

Freehold Township Heritage Society

Winter 2020

President's Message

Happy New Year and New Beginnings to everyone!

We are excited about the New Year and our growth as an organization. It's a time for new beginnings and opportunities. Here are some exciting events we have coming up in 2020.

Weekend in Old Monmouth, our Artisan Festival, Open Houses at Oakley Farmstead and the one-room West Freehold School, Pavilion performances, including the Center Players from Freehold Borough, and the 4th NJ Civil War Reenactors' Tea and Christmas at the Camp. Please consider being a part of our Society at our events, whether you can give a little or a lot of time. A half an hour, an hour, a couple of hours...they all add up. As they say, "It takes a village to raise a child." This is true of organizations as well. Keeping history alive and doing education and outreach are important to our next generations. It is how we will let those who come after us know where we came from and the lessons learned from our past.

Here's to a great year and being productive together. Join us so that we can all work together. Be on the lookout for a list of some events and the areas where you can volunteer that will be sent out to our mailing list.

Upcoming Events 2020

March 21 ... The Birds and The Bees
May 2 - 2 ... Weekend in Old Monmouth
June Open Houses
Sept ... Civil War Tea
Oct 4 Artisan Festival and outdoor concert
Dec ... Christmas at Camp with the 4th NJ



Monthly Meetings - ALL ARE WELCOME

Whether you want to attend to hear what is being planned, whether you want to find out how to volunteer or if you want to make some new friends. **All are welcome to join.**

The 2nd Wednesday of every month @ 10:00 a.m.
at the Oakley Farm, 189b Wemrock Road

Volunteers are needed

Events occur at our sites throughout the year and we can always use help. No experience is necessary and we welcome students that need community service hours.

We are also looking for volunteers with experience in grant writing, fundraising or facilities management. Call us @ 732.577.9766 or email us @ ftheritagesociety@gmail.com



Community Garden

The Community Garden (CG) will be starting our 5th year on March 31st. The season will begin with an orientation at the garden, with new and old members. Of the 41 garden beds available, there are 26 gardeners signed up. We even have 6 raised beds for anyone that has difficulty bending over&/or kneeling.

At the orientation, everyone will introduce themselves to the group, so everyone will know who is in the garden. Throughout the growing season we often do not see each other, so it is nice to put a face and name together. We will be passing out folders with important information about what to grow and at what time. You will also receive instructions about entry into the garden and our garden shed, which holds tools and other supplies that we use during the season. On the application for a Community Garden bed, it will explain all of the rules and regulations you need to follow. It will also tell you the cost and size of the bed you choose. This has been a great experience for me and my co-chair, as well. If you are interested in joining us this year, go to our website or come to Oakley and pick up an application to fill out.

We will try to have a Master Gardener (MG) present once a week to answer any questions or help with any gardening issues. We have 5 MG's that are involved with the CG. We will base that time on how many people are interested in this.

If you haven't seen or visited the Community Garden, I invite you to stop by for a tour. We are looking forward to meeting you and to a Fabulous growing season.

Ronnie Leibowitz - chair
Richard Jarocki - co-chair

To get an application, email:
ftcommunitygardenatoakley@gmail.com

For questions, call:
732-780-0327



Old Time Music comes to Oakley

Old Time is music of and by the people. The basis of many Old time tunes is simple and follows a predictable pattern and chord progression. The challenge for proficient musicians is the improvisation that occurs once the melody is learned.

Passed down by ear with regional differences, Revolutionary and Civil War tunes are in the mix, hymns, ballads and silly nonsense songs make up a variety of music shared by many. Fiddles, banjos, mandolins are commonly used, however, this program includes harmonica, fiddles/violins, bass, guitars, dulcimer and other instruments.

Come with or without an instrument to enjoy music and a group of new friends that enjoy music.

The group gathers on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 - 10:00 p.m.
at the Oakley Farmstead.

189b Wemrock Road in Freehold, NJ



Annual Donation

Our annual donation drive has started and those on our mailing list will receive a form in the mail. If you do not receive an annual package, please call us and request one.

Our President, Pat Eisemann, has requested everyone's help to raise funds for required repairs to the Oakley farmhouse. It's expensive to keep each structure historically accurate so we can continue to protect and educate others on the history of Freehold Township and its original properties. We need the help from those that share this passion.

Please become one of our supporters in our continued effort to preserve the history of Freehold Township or send a donation to help keep our history alive.



Come see our broom making machine at Oakley.



Contact Us: 732.577.9766

Freehold Township Heritage Society
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Broom making at the Oakley Farm

Women in Colonial times spent a lot of their time keeping their households running. We still do, right? But without a Big Box Store right down the road, Colonials had to create EVERYTHING...making soap, fashioning brooms, weaving cloth from wool and flax, braiding rugs...everything had to be hand made by someone.

Here at the Oakley Farm we have a floor loom and a broom making table that we are researching and working towards making productive again.

The broom table is likely from the early 1800's, donated by the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture. Prior to the 1790's, brooms were likely brush tied to sticks, and were not very effective nor long lasting. In 1797, a man named Levi Dickenson is credited with making the first broom using the tassels of a type of sorghum, what we now call broomcorn. While better than any broom before, it still was not very durable, and the first foot treadle broom machine was invented about 1810. This machine made it much easier to make brooms. In 1820, the Shakers developed the process and make it into an industry, and the shape of brooms changed from round to the flatter ones we have now.

“Kick-winder” broom machines were the most common, but all these machines work in a similar fashion. Wire or stiff twine is wrapped around a spool, which leads to a tensioner which holds the string taut. The handle is held in a vice, and a turning mechanism allows the user to turn the handle while keeping everything tight. The Kick-winders had the turning mechanism on the floor, with the broom maker moving it with their foot. The one on the Oakley farm has the turning mechanism higher, moved by the maker's left hand. This was an early style, probably made before 1825.

Once the bristles are attached to the broom handle, the broom is moved into a vice, and stitched flat.

Our first experimentations at broom making were not entirely successful, but we are determined. Hopefully we will be up and running soon, but in the meantime, you can read all about these intriguing machines here:

<http://www.kickstitchbrooms.com/museum.php>