



Freehold Township Heritage Society December 2021

President's Message

The holidays are upon us! Where did the time go?

As the nation found a way to live with Covid, so did the Freehold Township Heritage Society. We were able to host a series of successful outdoor events, including car shows, a yard sale, an artisan festival, concerts, music jams, house tours, garden celebrations, a cemetery tour, and even some weddings. The Oakley Farm was involved with some Zoom events as well, including the original play *Meet the Oakleys*.

We are busily looking forward to next year, and new events and opportunities. We surely hope you will come with us into 2022. Your memberships help us fund events and essential maintenance and improvements for our historic sites. FTHS Memberships run from January – December, so it's time to sign up again. We can't do this without you! There's a membership form for 2022 at the end of this newsletter.

We very much appreciate your support, and hope the season brings you joy and happiness!

Denise Warren
President, Freehold Township Heritage Society

Winter Calendar

Dec 11 **Christmas at Camp 11:00-3:00**

Over the winter months we will not be regularly opening the house for tours. You can request a personal tour for you and your group by emailing ftheritagesociety@gmail.com

Oakley Music Jam

Our second Tuesday jam is going on hiatus for the winter. It is getting pretty cold for playing stringed instruments outside and we are not comfortable playing inside in these times of Covid.

We are still sending out Tunes of the Month, so join our email list by emailing FreeholdOTM@gmail.com You will get the monthly tune to learn and be notified when we are ready to start back up again!

Here's this month's tune: Hangman's Reel.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2W1jTK7SK4&t=21s>



Docents at the Oakley Farm

At the Oakley farmstead we are beginning to train docents to act as if they were part of some of the families that have owned and lived at the Oakley farm.

In April, Center Players produced the original play, *Meet the Oakleys*. From that play showing some of the families that lived at the farm, the idea came to have costumed docents portraying some of those characters giving house tours and participating in events. A first training was held in June, with a workshop led by Bernice Garfield-Sitza, artistic director of Center Players.

At a concert in September, one trainee played the adolescent son of a wealthy distiller, Elijah Combs, who owned the farm between 1800 and 1850. "Thomas Combs" offered apples to our guests as a young man trying to earn his way to college. He collected significant donations, entertained our guests and had a great time himself. We plan to provide more opportunities to act as one of the farm's occupants and bring a bit of our history to life.

QR Code Project

So you have seen these codes around at restaurants and museums, but what exactly ARE they?

"QR" is an acronym for "Quick Response". Essentially they are a barcode, just like the ones on the products we buy at stores. They hold information: a link to a website, phone numbers, messages, etc. Most QRs that we encounter everyday are simply a link to an internet site.



So how do you use them? Most people just use their cell phones. Most modern cell phones have a QR scanner built into their camera. If your phone is connected to the internet through data or wifi, just turn on the camera on your phone, aim it at the QR code and see what happens! When I tested this QR code on my iPhone 11, I aimed my camera at the QR code and a small window immediately popped up asking me if I wanted to open "oakleyfarmmuseum.org" link. If you touch that message, it opens up the link. Give it a try with this QR!

If you do not have a QR reader built into your camera, have no fear, you can still use QR codes. You will just need to download a QR app from your app store. Some Apple QR codereaders are: QR Reader for iPhone, QR Code Reader: Quick Scan, and QR Code Reader & Code Scanner. Some Android apps are: Kaspersky's QR Code Reader and Scanner, NeoReader QR & Barcode Scanner, Bar-Code Reader and QR Code Reader by Scan.

The Freehold Township Heritage Society has been working on a QR code tour for quite some time, and we are finally there! We will be posting signs with QR codes at various places on our four sites. As you visit our sites you can use the QR codes to get information and stories on the buildings and artifacts you are visiting. The signs and codes will be posted within the next few weeks.

HISTORIC SITES OF FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP

On behalf of the Freehold Township Historic Preservation Commission we would like to thank the Society for their help raising funds for preservation of our sites.

We are in final approval stage by the Federal Government for National Register Status on West Freehold Schoolhouse. We submitted the paperwork in 2019 but due to COVID it was postponed. We hope to hear something very soon—we are confident we will receive the status.

The Georgia Road Schoolhouse has new roofs on all buildings and the cupola was restored this year. This will be our next site to get on the National Register of Historic Places. The site is eligible, but we need to do much more research on the site. We have lots of historic information from late 1860 through the 1950s but are lacking pre-1860 research. We are reaching out to several research organizations to help with this. The site dates to 1735, when it was turned over by the Board of Governors of East Jersey to the Quakers for religious and educational purposes. We will need to apply for a Certified Local Government grant from New Jersey State Historic Preservation office to help offset the cost. It will be well worth it if we can achieve National Register Status as it will give us three sites listed on the Register.

The Commission is moving forward with Henderson Park as well. This site is located within the Freehold Marketplace and will be located on the Thomas Henderson home site. The barn is in the process of being rehabbed to serve as a visitor center, and the area where the house was situated will be cleared of brush and debris. A walking path will be established with seating and story boards explaining the significance of the site. Even though the house was burned in the 1980s the foundation is still visible in spots. We will expose the foundation of the original (circa 1734) house and show the footprint. The house was among many burned by the British during the Battle of Monmouth. Dr. Henderson was the town doctor and a Lieutenant in the Colonial Army. When he returned from the Battle of Monmouth he vowed to rebuild on the original foundation. This was accomplished and the house was named Cincinnati Hall. The Order of Cincinnati was the first veteran's organization established in the United States after the American Revolution.

We also had some news from one of the descendants of Henrick Williamson who is buried at Wikoff Hill Burial Ground. He was a patriot and fought in Battle of Monmouth. His family is filing application to get a historic marker for his grave. This also makes this site eligible for National Register Status as well.

We are so blessed to live in an area with such a wealth of history still visible.

Cookie Polverino

Freehold Township Historic Preservation Commission





Christmas In the field

- Photos with Santa
- Reenactment at 2PM
- Open House Tours
- Tent Decorating

189 Wemrock Rd
Freehold NJ





PUZZLE CORNER

Jigsaw puzzles were invented in 1767 as an enjoyable pastime. Playing these puzzles has a variety of benefits.

In child development, jigsaw puzzles help develop fine motor ability, eye-hand coordination, problem-solving skills, spatial awareness. and concentration.

In adults, benefits include improved memory, improved visual-spatial reasoning, increased attention to detail, lower stress levels, and improved mood.

In addition to the benefits mentioned above, in this time of quarantine, virtual jigsaw puzzles can help to pass the time.

There are three puzzles for you to solve. The links for them are found below. If clicking on the link doesn't work for you, type it or copy and paste the address in your browser.

A window will open with puzzle pieces. Pieces are moved with your mouse. You can change some things if you want as listed below:

- **Play As** drop down menu at the top right. Each picture included here is set for 20 or 24 pieces. You can change that if you want to in Play As. You can also change the shape of the pieces.
- **Share** drop down menu next to Play As. You can send the puzzle in an email or other ways.
- **Maximize** button in the bottom right corner will make the puzzle fill your screen.
- **Several Buttons** in the bottom left corner give you choices including Restart. You can also choose to put up a Ghost Image, which shows a faded copy of the picture you are working to solve.
- **Timer** is in the bottom center.
- **Home, My Puzzles, Saved Games, Explore, and Create** at the top left allow you options.
- **Create** is where you can create a jigsaw puzzle from your own photos.
- Once you solve a puzzle, a Restart circle appears in the bottom left corner if you want to do it again.

Give it a try! Enjoy!

§ Artisan Festival October 2021 <https://tinyurl.com/dtn8adkd>

§ Car Show October 2021 <https://tinyurl.com/yckrbhnX>

§ The Jam <https://tinyurl.com/nkzpx7a6>



You Can Create a Welcoming Haven For Wildlife and Certify It

The National Wildlife Federation's program to create and certify a wildlife habitat is open to everyone. The Freehold Township Heritage Society is working on certifying our rain garden as such.

"Anyone can create a welcoming haven for local wildlife. Turning your yard, balcony container garden, schoolyard, work landscape, or roadside greenspace into a Certified Wildlife Habitat is fun, easy, and can make a lasting difference for wildlife."

It's very easy. You may already have all of the required elements in your garden. Wildlife need food, water, cover, and places to raise their young, and your certified garden will supply that. You can learn about a variety of things in the process, including the value of native plants.

The cost to certify your garden is only \$20.

More information can be found at <https://www.nwf.org/certify>

You can make a difference!



News from the Community Garden

We had a very successful gardening season this year. We grew just about everything. We are very lucky to have a few different ethnicities growing vegetables from their cultures, such as bitter melon, kimchi cabbage, taro root, and bok choy. Of *course* we always have an abundance of many varieties of tomatoes and peppers!

The Community Garden has been there for going on 7 years. Most of the gardeners return each year, except for the ones that move or can't continue with the garden. It is always challenging when some don't do their obligations per their application. The rules are pretty simple to maintain as long as you come to the garden on a regular basis.

We always welcome new members, since everyone brings something new to the garden. Some of the gardeners have a background in gardening, and some do not. So we are always learning something new!

The next time you are at Oakley, walk over to the back lawn area and take a look. Of course, right now we only have a few gardeners that are growing a fall crop, most gardeners are done for the season.

If you have interest in the garden or know of someone who does, look at our website for the application. The fees and the rules of the garden are on the application. Hope to see you around the garden!

Happy Holidays, stay safe,

Ronnie Liebowitz, Community Garden Chair

To get an application for 2022 email: ftcommunitygardenatoakley@gmail.com

BECOME A MEMBER

Suggested donation:

\$20 per year per person or \$25 per year per family

\$50 per year Business/Organization

Supporter Levels:

\$100 Patron

\$250 Gold member

\$500 Platinum member

Freehold Township Heritage Society

189B Wemrock Road, Freehold NJ 07728

732.577.9766

email: ftheritagesociety@gmail.com

2022 membership - starts immediately and goes through December 2022

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

____ This donation is being made in the memory of _____

____ This donation is made in the name of _____

Please complete and return it along with your donation to the address above.

Make all checks payable to: Freehold Township Heritage Society

THANK YOU!