

Tuckerton Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

January-March Edition 2021

OFFICERS

Donald O. Caselli	President
Joe Harness	Vice President
Pat Johnson	Curator
Tom Applegate	Archivist Historian
Joan Exel	Treasurer
Jennifer Etherington	Recording Secretary
Connie Woolson	Corresponding Secretary

NON OFFICERS

Kathleen Cortese	Project Manager
Sue Zubrski	Administrative Secretary
Ursula Catalano	Membership Committee



FROM THE PRESIDENT

As President of the Tuckerton Historical Society my mission is to revitalize and encourage active participation with the existing membership, and to aggressively solicit the addition of new members through programs and drives designed around the interest of history and genealogy of the town and its inhabitants.

While we have been closed due to Covid-19, the staff of THS has been very busy on a restoration campaign at the Giffordtown Schoolhouse Museum. It is our hope that in 2021 we will once again welcome visitors, conduct tours, offer monthly presentations, and better serve the community. We have set aside a library section in the East Room of the schoolhouse where visitors can read genealogy information pertaining to past generations of Tuckerton and Little Egg Harbor residents.

In addition to the reopening of the museum in March, we are planning a day in the Spring we are calling "A Celebration of Tuckerton". The Pig/Roast/Fundraiser will be held at the Dockside Cafe and Marina on the scenic Tuckerton Creek at 338 South Green Street. This celebration is only one of many events scheduled throughout the new year, and we are looking forward to once again having our annual "Ye Ole Clamtown Antique Flea Market" in September.

In spite of all the troubles of 2020 the Tuckerton Historical Society hopes you find peace and happiness in the new year!

Donald O. Caselli

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your interest in the Giffordtown Schoolhouse Museum. We are always looking for dedicated volunteers to assist us in preserving and sharing local history. If you would like to share your family stories, please stop by any Wednesday morning, we'd love to hear them! If you'd like to become a member please call (609) 294-1547.

JoanExcel/UrsulaCatalano
Membership Committee

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER.

www.tuckertonhistoricalsociety.org

FUTURE EDITIONS WILL BE EMAILED THE FIRST WEEK OF EACH QUARTER AND POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE ONE WEEK LATER.

BOOK/GIFT SHOP

Your purchase of Books and Gifts help the Tuckerton Historical Society realize its vision of a society that embraces and values family history. Stop in and see our new Book/Gift Shop located in the foyer of the Giffordtown Schoolhouse Museum. Or visit our online store at www.tuckertonhistoricalsociety.org. To place a phone order call Connie Woolson at (609) 294-1547.

In addition to books and publications written and edited by our members we have Commemorative Plates, T-Shirts, Hats, Flags, Maps, Post and Note Cards for sale.



The Society of Friends Cemetery on the rise to the east of Lake Pohatcong is located on the grounds of the Friends Meeting House. It is the oldest Tuckerton Cemetery and dates back to the early part of the 1700's. Most of the burial sites do not have markers, and the written records are lost.



STILLNESS

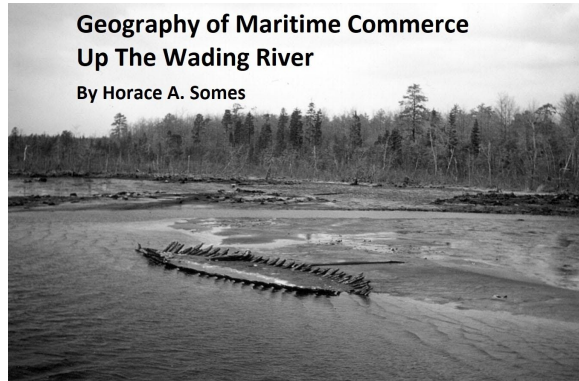
Mother Nature's quiet beauty
Bringing calmness to voices
That can not speak
The stillness of the landscape and
gentle breezes whispering life's secrets
while conveying peaceful memories
to souls at ease in sleep.

By k.cortese

"The magic in family history is bridging generations by getting to know those who came before us."
Unknown Source

WRITER'S CORNER

Featuring articles by THS in-house writers.



WRECK of the SLOOP HUNTRESS at the FORMER McKEEN WHARF of LEEKS UPPER LANDING in OLD BRIDGEPORT - CIRCA 1960's.

IT MAY BE HARD TO ENVISION THAT THERE WAS shipping and commerce of a maritime nature on a river that is now called the *Wading*, but historically was referred to as the *Ashatamarus* after the last tribe of Native Americans in the area.

However, the Wading River flowed from deep in the Pine Barrens and into the navigable Mullica River, which ultimately connected through Great Bay to the former Beach Haven Inlet. This connected to the ocean and coastal trade, and also to the Tuckerton port-of-entry into the colonial province of West Jersey. The connection to the Mullica River between another port at Chestnut Neck and Swan Bay, also allowed shipping and commerce via that larger, tidal waterway that extended far into the inlands to the west. This accessed riverside communities and industries between "The Banks" (Lower and Upper; now Green), and "The Forks" where there was access to the industries of bog iron and glass at Batsto and beyond.

Shipping extended up the navigable portion to Leeks Lower Landing at the mouth of Ives Branch, which locally was called Mill Creek - where a water-powered sawmill and gristmill were operated

and provided a commercial base for purchasing and selling a variety of goods, as well as shipping via water and hauling by teamsters via land over the stage routes.

The geographical setting changed drastically in 1817 when a bridge was built across the river at what had been Leeks Upper Landing - which became Bridgeport. The river channel and depth allowed shipping to continue to this point, where the low level of the bridge roadway provided a low deck that could be used for docking of vessels and a wharf for goods. However, the further upriver channel was too shallow and winding for larger vessels. Barge-like scows with a payload of a dozen or more tons, could proceed upriver from Bridgeport under sail, tow, rowed, poled and reliance on favorable tide flows, water level and beneficial wind direction. A series of landings were located on riverside highbanks where the scows could dock, and either unload imports or take on exports to be transshipped downriver to larger vessels at Bridgeport. All were associated with the natural resources of the region, and their trade to the east and Little Egg Harbor or to the west and the Delaware valley. The uppermost docking was at the Hay Landing between Bodine and Beaver Branch, and was named after the Salt Hay (*Spartina patens*) that grew in the salty tide marshes - but had multiple commercial benefits as livestock food, bedding as well as the unique manufacture of coarse paper products at Harrisville.

All of the communities, commerce and waterways were associated with the natural resources of the coast, marshes and Pine Barrens. The streams offered water power when dammed for industries, which ranged from iron furnaces and forges to wood production of lumber and charcoal. All relied upon the landings along the river to export commercial goods, as well as import necessary goods for the local communities that supported the industries.

Newsletter Editors: J. Harness, K. Cortese.