

# Tuckerton Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

### July August September Edition 2021

Giffordtown Schoolhouse Museum  
35 Leitz Blvd. & Wisteria Lane  
West Tuckerton, LEH, NJ 08087  
609-294-1547

#### OFFICERS:

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

#### NON OFFICERS:

Sue Zubriski – Administrative Secretary  
Tom Applegate – Archivist Historian  
Horace Somes – Mulica River Valley Historian  
Kathleen Cortese – Project Manager  
Ursula Catalano – Membership/Display Mgr.  
Chuck Richmond – Building/Grounds Mgr.

OUR GENERAL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON  
THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH  
AT 7 PM (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)



In May, THS participated in the Ocean County Historical Society's Antique and Gift Faire at Tom's River High School South. Connie Woolson at THS table.

#### MEMBERSHIP:

Become a member and follow along with us in the coming year as we improve the museum's exhibits and educate the public on Tuckerton and Little Egg Harbor's entwined history.

Joan Exel / Ursula Catalano  
Membership Committee



THS's Girl Patrol and Tom Applegate, Author of *Tuckerton Then and Now*.

The Fundraiser/Pig Roast held on Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Dockside Café and Marina on South Green Street was a fun event! It not only brought residents of Tuckerton and Little Egg Harbor together, but the money raised will help the Tuckerton Historical Society realize its vision of a society that embraces and values family history!

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## A CELEBRATION OF TUCKERTON

The Tuckerton Historical Society would like to thank the following local businesses for their generous gifts and donations to the Pig Roast that was held on June 26, 2021.

We are thrilled to have had their support and we hope you consider patronizing these businesses whenever possible.

We would like to give a special thank you to Gina and Dan of the Dockside Café & Marina for hosting “A Celebration of Tuckerton”.

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**Alice McEnerney Cook – Artist**  
**Atlantic Shore Pines Campground**  
**Balic Winery – Mays Landing**  
**Black Dog Liquor Store**  
**Buy Rite Liquors**  
**Calloway’s Restaurant**  
**Carol Freas – Artist**  
**Costco – Manahawkin**  
**Cranberry Creek Pet Lodging**  
**Dollar Discount**  
**Doyle’s Pour House**  
**Dunkin Donuts – Tuckerton**  
**Dynasty Diner**  
**First United Methodist Church of Tuckerton**  
**Fly Way Decoys**  
**Grapevine Restaurant**  
**Hands Garden Center**  
**Jane’s Cutaway**  
**Jon Miller Car Care**  
**Joyce Lawrence – Bay Moon Art Studio**  
**L&M Deli**  
**Lady Magpie Tearoom**  
**Linda Martorelli – Whimsical Water Colors**  
**MJ Nails & Spa**  
**Maker’s Station**

**Maritime Marina**  
**Mark Ford Decoys**  
**McDonalds – Tuckerton**  
**Mickey’s Port of Call Pub**  
**My Three Sons**  
**Mystic Meat & Seafood**  
**Naples Restaurant**  
**Parkertown Tire**  
**Quaker Meeting House**  
**Sea Pirate Campground**  
**Seaport Tattoo**  
**Shooters**  
**Shore Wheels**  
**Tips Hardware**  
**Tractor Supply**  
**Tuckerton Bait Shop**  
**Tuckerton Emporium**  
**Tuckerton Lumber**  
**Tuckerton Marine Service Center**  
**Union Market**  
**Village Bicycles**  
**Walmart – Tuckerton**  
**Wetlands – Wildlife Photography**  
**777 Tattoos – Tuckerton**

## Presentations and Events for July, August and September 2021

July 24<sup>th</sup> Contentious Elections in American History: History Professor Richard Trimble will give a talk on America's sometimes rocky trip to the election booth. Political fights have been part of the political scene as far back as 1793. He will also explain how the election process has evolved. However, there will be no discussion of the last Biden vs. Trump election, please.

August 14<sup>th</sup> Eilvese HAM Radio Club: Presentation of the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wireless radio transmission between Tuckerton, NJ and Eilvese, Germany in 2013.

Our Flea Market is baaaaaaack.....

NOW ON SALE AT THE GIFFORDTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM



The Tuckerton Beacon, 1917 – 1929  
Edited by Steve Dodson

### Favorite Quote

It is hard for individuals to accept that sometimes the family story they believed all their lives is incorrect.

Visit our website to subscribe to our newsletter  
[www.tuckertonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.tuckertonhistoricalsociety.org)  
[tuckertonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:tuckertonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

Museum is open Wednesdays 10am to 4pm (all year)  
Saturdays: June thru September 2 to 4 pm.  
For other times and private tours, call for an appointment.

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

*46th Annual Ye Old Clamtown  
Antique Flea Market  
Plus Fine Arts & Crafts*



at Ocean County  
"Tip Seaman" Park  
Route 9  
Tuckerton, NJ

SATURDAY SEPT. 11, 2021  
8 AM - 4 PM  
Rain Dates - Sept. 12th or 18th

Over 70 dealers  
Selected Food Trucks

*Park has playgrounds and ball fields for the kids!*

Appraiser Table 10 AM - 2 PM  
**DEALERS and Artisans WANTED**

Dealers may get info at: <http://tuckertonhistoricalsociety.org>  
or email: [tuckertonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:tuckertonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)  
or telephone: (609) 294-1547

Artisans call Pat Johnson 609-618-3089

• Sponsored by the Tuckerton Historical Society •  
PO Box 43, Tuckerton, NJ 08087



## *the Writer*

Featuring articles and stories by THS in-house writers

Setting: Southwest Ireland 1878

### **Too Late to Turn Back Now!**

That summer Mary made a rash decision that would change the course of her life forever.... her father, Patrick, had left Ireland and was working as a farm laborer in the United States. Mr. McSweeney's (a survivor of the "Great Famine") intention was to buy land in America and then bring over his sons, Patrick Jr. and Michael, to help him farm. Buying land was something that would've been impossible for him to do if he stayed in Ireland, where Catholics were forbidden to own property. However, the plan for the rest of his family to leave County Kerry and go to New Jersey wasn't happening fast enough to suit his impetuous daughter, Mary. Mary the second oldest child in the family spent her time doing housework and helping her mother with her two youngest siblings, Thomas and Julia. On most days like all young people in Ireland Mary dreamed about going to America, the land of promise. Her father had been gone for four years, and although he was sending home money on a regular basis, she knew about men who left seeking their fortunes, never to be seen again! Besides longing for an adventurous life, Mary was yearning to get married, however, she had very slim pickings in her village. All the eligible, young men were either

leaving for parts unknown or going into the priesthood. That's what her oldest brother, John had done. Mary would be turning eighteen in November and with each and every passing day, she was becoming more convinced that Patrick McSweeney would never really send for his family!

The day that the agent from a shipping company came to town expounding about the better living conditions and wonderful year-round climate in a place called New Zealand, Mary (among a group of hopefuls) was all ears. The man said he was looking for young women in good health, of sound mind and free of bodily defects to become domestic servants. He said he only wanted a better class of girls and the ones he chose would travel to this far away land at no cost and given free bedding and food on the ship. The man perused the crowd for a few minutes before he singled out about a dozen girls which included Mary. What Mary and the others didn't know was that the recruiter had a quota to fill and needed to sign up as many young women as he could. So to sweeten the deal, he told the chosen twelve, "I'll give anyone who signs up **RIGHT NOW**, a free railway pass to the port of embarkation!" Mary without giving it much thought ran up and secured her train ticket with Mary Cournane, Bridget Fogarty, Catherine Donovan, Mary O'Neill and Mary Clifford not far behind her. As the crowd dispersed the agent huddled the six conspirators holding a ticket off to the side and announced, "The next ship is leaving from Queenstown tomorrow morning!" That was when sheer panic and excitement set in for Mary and her adventuresome friends who ranged in age from sixteen to twenty years old.

The plan was that the girls would meet the shipping agent later that evening at the railway station. When Mary got home, she decided to say nothing to her mother because the persuasive man had told all of them, "You'll be doing yourself a big favor by not saying a word!"

Before dinner Mary put a few possessions and some clothes in a small valise and stashed it under her bed. How she was going to get out of the house without being detected was a mystery to her, but somehow she pulled it off without a single hitch. Everything was happening so fast, but fear of the unknown did not set in until in the distance Mary heard the trains whistle. At that moment the realization hit her that she was leaving everyone she loved behind. As the locomotive pulled into the station she almost turned around and ran home, but instead she mustered up all the courage she could and stepped on board. It was the first time she had ever been more than a few miles away from home so by the time Mary got off the train at the Port of Queenstown she was shivering with fear and felt completely disoriented.

Once there the agent directed his six whimpering recruits to stand in a line at the ticket counter. When Bridget Fogarty, one of the older girls said "I've changed my mind I want to go home," the man snarled at her and said, "Your train ticket was for only one way!" Once some papers were in order Mary and her companions were told to stand by the water's edge beside a vessel that was due to sail sometime the following day. As each hour passed the line behind them grew longer with a few families and some young men, but mostly with young single woman who'd traveled to get there from all over Ireland. Early the next morning Mary barely had time to stand and pick up her valise when without warning everyone ahead of her began moving forward. She hesitated momentarily when she got to the gangplank however the momentum of the crowd being pushed from behind made her step up and on to the ramp. Before she knew what happened her fate was sealed and Mary said out loud to no one in particular, "Too late to turn back now!" It is rumored that twenty-one months after Mary Mc Sweeney's abrupt exodus from Cahirciveen, Ireland, her brother, John left the seminary to join his father in southern New Jersey. A few months after that, Mary's mother Julia,

brother's Patrick Jr. Michael, Thomas and baby sister, Julia would leave Ireland to join them at a picturesque seaside resort that locals called, "Clamtown" or "Middle of the Shore".

A sad note to Mary's story is that she would spend the rest of her life in New Zealand, never to see her parents and siblings again!  
Short Story by Kathleen (Paul) Cortese

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