

Tuckerton Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

October November December Edition 2021

Giffordtown Schoolhouse Museum
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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 – Mullica River Valley Historian
Kathleen Cortese – Genealogy/Newsletter
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)

Our most recent flea market marked the 46th year of Tuckerton Historical Society's Annual "Ye Olde Clamtown Antique Flea Market". It was held Saturday, September 11th at Tip Seaman Park. There were over 85 vendors selling antiques and crafts.



WE WANT YOU!

MEMBERSHIP:

Help Tuckerton Historical Society bring history alive and help us find new ways to thrive in the future. If our Society is going to survive, we need to attract younger members to join our organization and become actively involved. All skills and talents are welcome.

Joan Exel / Ursula Catalano
Membership Committee

Take a tour of our Schoolhouse and enjoy a glimpse of Tuckerton and Little Egg Harbor's past history. Learn about Henry Jacob Falkinburg, the first settler to purchase land from the Lenape Indians around 1674 and the Village of Andrew Mills that was settled in 1699. Learn about the Andrew Brothers, Mordecai and Edward, who settled on the west and east side of Pohatcong Creek. The Village of Andrew Mills was known by a few different names over the next ninety years. The town at times was called Quakertown, Fishtown, or Clamtown, and because of its location to the shore half-way between Long Branch and Cape May, the town was sometimes referred to as "Middle-of-the-Shore". In 1798, a feast was given to officially change the name of "Clamtown" to "Tuckerton". It was renamed for the man giving the feast, Ebenezer Tucker.

MUSEUM IS OPEN WEDNESDAYS 10AM TO 4PM (ALL YEAR). SATURDAYS: JUNE THRU SEPTEMBER, TIMES TBD. FOR OTHER TIMES AND PRIVATE TOURS, CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE:

(Currently being held at Little Egg Harbor Quaker Friends Meeting House, 2PM)

Saturday, October 16th: Joel Mott, History of Tuckerton.

Saturday, November 20th: Forgotten Towns of the Pinelands – Chief Park Naturalist German Georgeiff of the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation will give a slide show and talk about once thriving factory towns: Atison and Martha iron forge towns, Harrisville, a paper-making town, Herman City and Crowleytown where glass was made and Crossley, a town that grew up mining clay.

Saturday, December 5th?:

Annual Christmas Party with Clam Chowder and Cookies in Little Borough Hall. Open to the public. Date to be announced.



The Little Borough Hall on So. Green Street is one of the community's historic buildings. It was used as a jail and borough hall until the 1940's and then became an office used for official purposes.

HOLIDAY BOOK/GIFT SHOP



Think ahead for Christmas Items including books about Tuckerton that your loved ones will enjoy reading. To place a phone order, call Connie Woolson at 609-294-1547.



FAVORITE QUOTE:

There is **no limit** to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the **credit**.

– Ronald Reagan

THE ROCKING CHAIR WISDOM PROGRAM IS BACK!

Our first interview was with the 7X Great- Grandson of Henry Jacob Falkenburg. Ernie was born in Tuckerton Borough in a front apartment of a duplex house on Main Street on the 2nd day of March 1938. He is the oldest of two children born to Ernest A. Falkenburg and Alice Friel. All the Falkenburg men who preceded Ernie's birth were born in Little Egg Harbor and Tuckerton Borough, and each had many children. Countless residents can trace their ancestry back to the area's founding father Henry Jacob. However, Ernie is one of the few that still carries the Falkenburg last name. The video is available at the museum for a \$5.00 donation.



THS Member and Artisan, Ernie Falkenburg, caning a rocking chair from the Andrew Bartlett House.



**Another example of Ernie's craftsmanship....
Rush chair used for our Rocking Chair Wisdom Program.**



the Writer

Featuring articles and stories by THS in-house writers.



Note spyglass in Washington's hand. Detail of John Turnbull's "George Washington Before the Battle of Trenton."

George Washington Shopped Here
by J. Anthony Harness

To locate, close with, and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver. From – The Marine Rifle Squad, FMFM 6-5

That is the mission of every armed force, distilled to its essence. Today, and as it has always been. But no longer is the first step, the location of the enemy, limited to reconnaissance patrols and observation posts. The detection of the hostile foe on today's electronic battlefield has been advanced by the use of such technological developments as modern radar and sonar, radio interception devices, satellite images, spy planes, drones, night vision equipment, and cyber warfare methods.

In our era, huge national defense budgets provide for these crucial military intelligence gathering systems. However, during the Revolutionary War the leadership of our new nation often times had to depend on observation equipment captured from the enemy.

The privateers of the Egg Harbor region offloaded tons of liberated British cargoes, ranging from army victuals, uniforms, weapons and accouterments, to valuable commercial goods, that in condemnation sales provided much needed revenue to the struggling state authorities and Continental Congress. Sometimes they were fortunate enough to capture the latest in European technology, equipment so special, that in one documented case, word of its possible seizure went straight to the top.

By October 4th, 1778, the eve of the Battle of Chestnut Neck, word had reached General George Washington at his headquarters at Fishkill, NY of military supplies that had been brought into Egg Harbor by a privateer and transferred to Market Street prize brokers in Philadelphia. On that day Washington wrote to Colonel John Cox, Assistant Quartermaster General, and Colonel John Mitchell, Deputy Quartermaster General, (one or the other of whom he believed would be in Philadelphia,) and directed the QM Department to purchase camp equipment and a “cut and thrust sword,” that he had heard were among the captured cargo, for his own use.

His intelligence reported that this cargo had been addressed to James Rivington a New York merchant and newspaper publisher. He also knew that since September 5th, Rivington had been advertising fine optics for sale in his *Royal Gazette*:

NOW the Military have taken their several posts, those not possessed of a portable SPY-GLASS, may be accommodated with this approved RECONNOITERER, first invented by Mr. Dollond, a prime Optician. Please to apply to James Rivington; the prices from Seven to Sixteen Dollars each.

1The Egg Harbor region, as known during the latter half of the 18th Century, consisted of the Little Egg Inlet area, the adjacent Fox Burrows anchorage, Clamtown (present day Tuckerton and Little Egg Harbor,) and the Little Egg Harbor River (now Mullica River) watershed that included Chestnut Neck, the Forks, Batsto and Pleasant Mills as well.

2 Cox was the owner of Batsto Furnace, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Philadelphia Associates, and a former intelligence officer for Washington.

3 Mitchell was a prominent Philadelphia merchant before the war.

4 Rivington is now believed to have been a secret agent for the American cause.

Putting these two facts together, Washington also asked the QM men to ascertain whether any of these highly-valued Dollond telescopes were among the privateer's plunder, and to purchase one for him if they were. He obviously knew that Dollond's instruments would be quickly bought up and distributed throughout the army, and that if he

wanted one for himself, he had better have his order in before they were all gone.

From George Washington to Colonel John Cox, Jr., or John Mitchell,

Fish-kill Octr 4th 1778.

Dear Sir,

I am informed that Sundry Goods (in the Military line) addressed to Mr Jas Rivington of New-York, were taken - carried into Egg harbour - and are now in Philadelphia. Among them a compleat sett of Camp equipage - As I am perfectly incompleat in this way, I should be glad if you would enquire into the truth of this matter, and make a purchase of it for me, if it answers the description; and can be had upon terms not unreasonable.

I am also informed that there are proper Camp Trunks, with Straps &c; two of which, equal in size, I should be glad to get; and a Cut & thrust Sword - genteel, but not costly - with Chain & swivels – strong.

These things are to be had, I am told, in Market Street, but of whom - I have not been able to learn—Genl Wilkenson, if in Phila., can tell. I am Dr Sir Yr Most Obedt ser.

Go: Washington

p.s. If there are any of Dolands best pocket Telescopes be so good as to get one of these also, & send it to me as soon as you can.

In 2015 Rock Island Auctions of Illinois offered a spyglass inscribed “G. Washington. Mt. Vernon” with provenance. Could it have come by way of the Privateer's of Egg Harbor?



Photo from <https://www.prweb.com/releases/2015/11/prweb13095947.htm>

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