

TUCKERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

• July - September, 2012 • Vol. 1 No. 2 •



Giffordtown Museum
Home of the Tuckerton Historical Society

TUCKERTON AND THE WAR OF 1812

By Peter H. Stemmer

The War of 1812 is a relatively unfamiliar war. Most people can tell you that we, again, fought the British, Washington D.C. was burned, and Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled banner during a battle at Baltimore Harbor. Others may remember Johnny Horton's 1959 song hit, "The Battle of New Orleans". Few, if any, can tell you how the war touched Tuckerton.

As a retired U.S. History teacher, I probably know more about the War of 1812 than the average American. However, I had no knowledge of how the war effected the Tuckerton area until I stumbled upon a 1904 *Tuckerton Beacon* article that mentioned two old documents found in the attic of James Otis, a prominent Tuckerton resident. These documents dealt with the formation of a local militia to protect the Tuckerton coast from incursions of the British navy during the War of 1812. This is not surprising, as Tuckerton was an official Port of Entry into the United States and, as such, might become a target of the Royal British Navy.

The first document was a proclamation written on September 7, 1814 to "His Excellency William Pennington, the Commander-in-Chief of all the Militia of the State of New Jersey" informing him that Tuckerton area residents were forming a local militia called the "Tuckerton Pennington Light Infantry Company".

Reuben D. Tucker, Esq was chosen Captain; Joseph Lippincott, Lieutenant; and Samual Shrouds, Ensign. The company proclaimed that they "do hereby voluntarily offer to your excellency our services to march at a moment's warning for the defense, during the present war, of the sea coast comprised in the limits of the District of Little Egg Harbor . . . And we do hereby pledge our lives and fortunes for the performance of the said duty, and respectfully beg your excellency's acceptance of our services."

Such dedication to one's State and Country is noteworthy. I was initially moved by the eloquent expressions of patriotism. However, further reflection brought a question to my mind. The United States declared war on Britain on June 18, 1812, yet the Tuckerton proclamation was not issued until September 7, 1814, two years and three months after President Madison's declaration of war. What took the Tuckertonians so long to take action?

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 14, 2012: Historic Local Postcards - Jim Estelle will present many aspects of interest of over 30 years of historic local postcard collecting. Bring some of your old local post cards to share. 2-4 PM.

August 18, 2012: Introduction to Genealogy and Local Records - John Yates will present an introduction to genealogy for beginners to intermediates, including getting started, keeping records, using computer programs, and researching local, county, state, and federal records. 2-4 PM.

September 8, 2012: Ye Old Clamtown Flea Market - Held at TIP SEAMAN PARK from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM. RAIN DATES - September 9th or 15th.

The second, companion document offered additional information about the make up of the Tuckerton militia. The area of their influence was expanded to "the defense of the seacoast of Burlington and Monmouth Counties" and various promises regarding their outfitting and drilling were made.

"The uniform of the company shall be;
Hat, round, with cockade and feather;
Coatee; single-breasted; collar and cuffs

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OUT OF THE PAST PROJECT

In our last issue, we published the first installment of our OUT OF THE PAST PROJECT with a reprint of excerpts from the August 8, 1890 edition of the *Tuckerton Beacon*. This second installment is from the October 25, 1945 edition of the *Tuckerton Beacon* which highlights items originally published on October 31, 1890. We hope you find it enlightening.

Items of particular interest include Tuckerton church news, a Pawnee Indian Medicine Show in Bartlett Hall, a budding women's lib movement in the general Methodist Conference, the planning of a new railroad along the coast from New York to Cape May, a local resident winning a gold watch in a national baseball contest, shore area damage from a late winter storm,

the selling of shares for the building of a Town Hall in New Gretna, 20 Tuckerton men joining the Knights of Pythias Castle 45 in New Gretna, and New Gretna church news highlighting a Supper and Bonnet party.

The October 31, 1890 "Out of the Past" article is reproduced on page 2.

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT
www.tuckertonhistoricalsociety.org**

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OUT OF THE PAST PROJECT

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TUCKERTON BEACON

OUT OF THE PAST

(This column is reprinted from the Tuckerton Beacon of Thursday afternoon, October 31, 1890.)

CHURCH NOTES

The services at the M. E. Church next Sabbath are, preaching at 10:30 A. M., subject: Conscience back of the Will. The celebration of the Lord's Supper will follow. In the evening at 7:30 there will be an evangelistic service. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

The services of divine worship in the Presbyterian church, next Sabbath will be at the usual hours. The subject of the morning sermon will be "The Restoration of Life to the Dead"; and in the evening, "An Ugly Portrait."

The Baptists of Tuckerton hold regular services in Masonic Hall, corner of Church and Wood streets.

Bible School, Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Preaching Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Prayer meeting, Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Mr. Herbert Stiles of the yacht Sanddanona is home for a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Butler of Beach Haven spent Sunday in Tuckerton.

Mrs. Thomas Speck has returned to her home after spending a few weeks with relatives in Trenton.

Miss Smallwood, of Atlantic City, has been spending a few days at Mr. F. R. Austin's.

The Pawnee Indian Medicine Co. are giving entertainments this week in Bartlett's Hall. We learn that they are quite successful.

Mrs. J. F. Sechrist, and Mrs. Geo. W. Mathis attended—as delegates—the annual state convention of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, held yesterday at Bethel M. E. Church.

Mr. Walter Morris, the amateur photographer, has been taking a number of views of Tuckerton and vicinity. Some of them are quite interesting, and equal in merit to the work of city artists.

The anticipated election for or against the admission of women as delegates to the General Conference of the M. E. church was held throughout the New Jersey conference, on Wednesday last.

The Penna. R. R. has had a corps of engineers surveying routes along the coast to complete the connection between New York city and Cape May. The proposed route does not take in Tuckerton, but would benefit us in giving a more direct communication with New York.

A pleasant entertainment was given in the Methodist Church on Monday evening, in behalf of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society.

We notice that our townsman, Mr. G. H. Fulton has been one of the lucky "500," he having received from Messrs P. Lorillard & Co., the Tobacco manufacturers, of Jersey City, N.J. a very handsome Gold Watch in return for having guessed correctly the standing of the Base Ball Clubs in the National League and Brotherhood on Oct. 1st.

The late storm which set in on the evening of the 23rd was followed by very high tides—the highest known on our coast for many years and considerable damage was done. At Asbury Park a large sewer pipe was broken and the lake between that place and Ocean Grove, overflowed injuring some small vessels. A wash-out at Normandie prevented travel in the N. J. Southern R. R. north of Sea Bright. At Monmouth Beach the sea washed a gap into the bluff, and there and at Sea Bright many fishermen's houses narrowly escaped destruction. At Keyport, fishing boats and oyster sloops were damaged; some of them being carried upon the beach.

NEW GRETTA

The day is not far distant when New Gretna will have a town hall. The project was given a good start on Saturday evening, 75 shares being taken at \$10 per share.

About twenty men from this place have joined Tuckerton Castle No. 45 K. of G. E. and still there are more to follow. The Castle has increased very rapidly.

The M. E. Church choir gave a fine selection of music on Sunday evening. The choir in its present standing with its excellent Bass is deserving of praise.

The Sunday School is growing under the labors of our superintendent and officers, who are working to build up and improve the school.

The Supper and Bonnet party held in the new parsonage by the Ladies Mite Society of the Presbyterian church was a grand success. The ladies deserve great credit for their attention at the tables. After the supper was all over, the young ladies began to carry in the old hats and bonnets, and all kinds of trimmings for the Bonnet Party; such a collection. The garrets had all been ransacked and the result was amazing. The young ladies sold tickets to the gentlemen; each ticket having on it a number and each gentleman received with his ticket a needle and thread. The ladies all had tickets to correspond, with the gentlemen's in number. Well the gentlemen went to work and after the bonnets were all trimmed the result was astonishing. The gentlemen found their partners and each lady donned the bonnet trimmed for her and the couple marched around the room: such a procession never was seen before. The hat trimmed by Mr. Norris Sears which was done very artistically took the head prize. Mr. Wm. Jones of Hammonton took the small prize, that hat was a sight to behold.

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of red; metal buttons on each; Pantaloon of drab cassimere trimmed with black cord ; Stock of leather, Boots or Gaiters.”

“We also promise and agree to uniform ourselves within the space of four weeks and as much sooner as practicable and to meet on the last Saturday of every month at 1 o'clock P.M. ; for the purpose of drilling and as much oftener as three-fourths of the company shall decide, and also strictly to obey rules and regulations for the company agreed upon by a majority of the members at a future meeting.”

They must have looked quite dandy parading in full uniform!

I find it interesting that a great deal of effort went into describing the elaborate uniforms of the company but no mention was made of weapons that would be necessary to defend the coastline. This, plus their organization well into the war, makes me wonder if they truly believed that the British were a threat to the Tuckerton area. Their priorities seem suspect.

Monetary support for the operation of the militia was also pledged. What a difference this is from our nation's present military structure which is fully funded by the government. Imagine today's troops chipping in to pay for their captain's expenses.

“We also promise and agree to pay to the Captain by us chosen the sum of 62 1/2 cents each within one week after the formulation of the company, which shall constitute a fund for the incidental expenses of the company; to be accounted for by him.”

They also pledged \$15.00 for the Captain to hire someone to represent his interests in the Governor's office. This is clearly an early form of lobbying. I guess there is truly nothing new under the sun!

“We also promise and agree to pay to the Captain aforesaid (immediately if called for) our respective shares of the sum of fifteen dollars to be expended by him (if thought necessary) in the hiring of a proper person to represent the Captain of the Company to the Governor of this state at Trenton.”

As a guarantee that they were serious and that their word was reliable, the document closed with the following pledge. They were showing their commitment by putting their money where their mouth was.

“For the performance of each and every of these articles we bind ourselves under the penalty of twenty dollars each.”

The proclamation closed with a listing of the volunteers. The following names were transcribed from the June 26, 1904 newspaper article.

R. D. Tucker	Job Rose	Johnathan Gifford	States Palmer
John Bogin	Stockton Rose	George Nichol	Joseph McCullow
John Horner	Bennet White	Jacob Gale	Israel Anderson
Charles Rutter	Sam'l Lippincott Jr	Maja Ireland	James Nale
Joseph Lines	James Gale	John Shourds	Nicholas Extol
Joseph Downey	Aden Mathis	Enoch Mott	Hugh Lippincott
Jos. S. Woodward	Amos Gale	Joseph Lippincott	John Smith
Elven T. Smith	Hananiah Gaunt	Solomon Rockhill	Eli Gifford
Jesse Stiles	Jacob French	Joseph Weaver	James Kelley
Job Mathis	Benjamin Parker	Samuel Shourds	John Rager
John Headley	John Deen	Isaac Downs	Samuel Gale
Mahlon Mathis	Joseph Redno	Rockhill Shourds	Peter Parker
James Parker	Isaac Stiles Wooley	William Line	Benj. Weatherby

PAST PROGRAMS

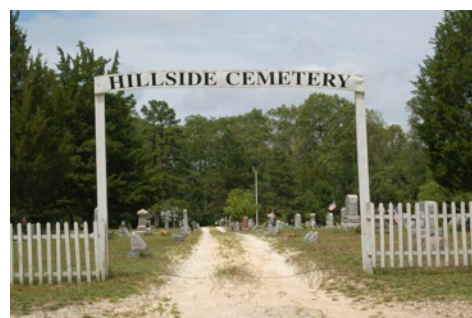
MAY 12, 2012 – MATHEW B. BRADY: CAMERAMAN OF THE CIVIL WAR

Charles F. McSorley presented a talk and slide presentation exploring the life and times of celebrated New York City



photographer Mathew B. Brady with an emphasis on his role in photographing the Civil War. We were surprised to hear that most of the Brady Civil War photographs were taken by his employees and not Brady himself.

JUNE 16, 2012 - BASS RIVER CEMETERIES



Pete Stemmer, Bass River Historian and Blogger, gave a talk and slide tour of Bass River Township's 5 cemeteries and how on site observations of tombstones, fraternal organization medallions, veteran's plaques, and other items found in the cemeteries can be used in developing family genealogies.

William Weatherby Jr	David Brewer
Nathaniel Cowperthwaite	William Gale
William Rutter	Job Headley.
John Gale	