

# CUMBERLAND PATRIOT

The Cumberland County Historical Society  
Greenwich, New Jersey



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## Cumberland County Historical Society



49th Annual Christmas in Greenwich  
Sunday, December 9th, 2018 12pm-5pm

## CHRISTMAS IN GREENWICH 49th ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

*Sunday, December 9th - 12 to 5 p.m.*

Tickets may be purchased at the

Doctor's Office - \$15 per person

located on the grounds of the Gibbon House

(960 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich)

Enjoy self-guided tours of private homes, religious and historic sites and local museums.

All buildings will be decorated for the holiday season!

Stop in to visit Santa and don't forget to hand him your Wish List!

New this year and weather permitting... "S'mores with Santa"

You will be amazed with the creative structures at the Gingerbread Exhibit, located in Santa's Workshop!

Enjoy homemade soups, treats and goodies that will be for sale at local sites.

For more information, call 856-455-8580.

### 2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The Cumberland County Historical Society greatly appreciates your interest, dedication, and support. Your membership helps the Society in fulfilling its mission "to preserve and promote the history and heritage of the county through acquisitions, collections, exhibits and research, educational programs and publications for the benefit of current and future generations." As we wrap up 2018 and this being the last *Cumberland Patriot* of the year, we would like to send a friendly reminder that it is time to renew your membership. If you are unsure if you are a lifetime member or not please, contact us at 856-455-8580. A form is on the last page of this issue to fill out and mail back with a check payable to CCHS to PO Box 16, Greenwich, NJ 08323 by January 31, 2019. Dues that are not paid in January will result in a lapse of membership. Thank you again for your continual support.

## PAUPERS & PATIENTS: THE SOULS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S POTTER'S FIELD 1809 - 1939

*By Brittney Ingersoll*

Today, where the Cumberland Manor stands on Sunny Slope drive in Hopewell, once stood the Moore Hall that belonged to one of the presumed Greenwich Tea Burners, Dr. Alexander Moore Jr. In 1809, while living in Pennsylvania, Moore sold the Hall along with 210 acres of land to the County Freeholders for \$5,000. The Hall was refashioned into the Cumberland County Almshouse that opened in June 1810. The Almshouse was funded by the county to house individuals who were unable to support themselves. Potential inmates needed signatures from government officials to gain residency into the Poor House. The Almshouse continued operation into the 1940's with the last matron being Charles Ware. (1)



*Photos courtesy of the  
Cumberland County  
Historical Society*

The area continued to be a place for people who were ostracized from the rest of society. Across the street from the Almshouse, the Cumberland County Insane Asylum was constructed. Normally, individuals who needed occupancies in such hospitals were sent to the state facility but due to the cost, the Freeholders approved the erection of an Insane Asylum in Hopewell, Cumberland County, across from the Almshouse. The county asylum operated until the 1980's when the old building was phased out of use and the Cumberland Manor was built where the Almshouse at one time stood. The original Cumberland County Insane Asylum building can be seen in the 1983 film *Some Sunny Days* later retitled to *Touched*. The building later burned down in the 1990's. (2)



The Cumberland County Almshouse and Insane Asylum have an intertwining history being stationed so close to one another. The land has a history of housing some of the most alienated people of Cumberland County, with the evidence of that being the Potter's Field that sits next to the Manor. Potter's Field, also known as Paupers' Grave or Common Grave, were burial sites for individuals who were financially unable to afford a conventional burial. Majority of the individuals who were interred in Potter's Field were either inmates of the Almshouse or Asylum. The earliest burial known was in 1872 and the last burial was of an unnamed baby in 1951. (3)



Sometime after 1951, the 307 grave markers of Potter's Field were removed and housed behind a local shed. In 1975, a map was discovered allowing the freeholders to return the stones in 1979 to their correct location. Out of the 402 graves, only 372 markers survived, at what point they were lost is unknown. The stones lay flat on the ground causing indents amongst the field. The stones list very little information—name and death date of the deceased. Historically, the area was designated for the alienated throughout two and a half centuries. Standing amongst the buried, the air possesses a heaviness of isolation of a past that grappled with poverty and mental health. (4)

(1) *Cumberland County, NJ Board of Chosen Freeholders Minutes of the Meetings 1748-1825*. (Transcribed: Craig Allen) P. 128-140.

(2) "A County Insane Asylum." *Bridgeton Evening News* (1882)., Doug Fuhrman, "Local History: 'Touched' filmed in Bridgeton Area" *Daily Journal* (2015). <https://www.thedailyjournal.com/story/news/history/2015/06/10/local-history-touched-filmed-in-bridgeton-area/71009572/>.

(3) Eileen Bennett, "From Mental Home to Movie Set, Hospital Uses Have Run the Gamut Part III" *Bridgeton Evening News* (1981).

(4) Ibid., Richard E. Beecroft, "County May Resurrect Indigents' Burial Grounds" *Bridgeton Evening News* (1975)., Mona Moore, "Forgotten Cemetery Rescued From Oblivion by Farmer" *Bridgeton Evening News* (1975).

## A SAMPLER STORY: JUDITH TOWNSEND (1769 – 1859), NEEDLEWORK INSTRUCTRESS

*By Barbara Stratton*

One of the fascinating things about antique samplers, in addition to the uniqueness of each piece, is that they are tangible evidence of early female education. Embroidery was not the leisure activity it is today, but rather, a socially-accepted skillset for women. Parents equipped their daughters with the skills necessary to manage a household and, if needed, to use those skills to support themselves. For women, marriage was the financial security of both choice and necessity. Combine limited income opportunities with high mortality rates, and women frequently found themselves with mouths to feed and no source of income. Such was the case for Judith Townsend, the needlework instructress named on Mary Tracy's 1804 sampler (*Cumberland Patriot*, Fall 2018, Vol. 50, No. 2). (1)

Judith was born in Great Egg Harbor, Gloucester County (now part of Atlantic County), on June 8, 1769, the youngest child of Noah Smith (1725-1790) and Judith Steelman Smith (1726-1778). She first married Jesse Townsend (1771-c.1802), son of Isaac Townsend (1738-1780) and Keturah Albertson Townsend (1743-1797), sometime between December 2, 1793, and January 6, 1794. Both were from prominent Quaker families of the combined Egg Harbor City and Cape May Meetings. (2)

After an initial heartbreak of losing premature twin girls, Judith and Jesse had two children, Josiah (1795-1831) and Keturah (1798-1868). They moved to Salem County in 1798 after which a third child, Jesse (1802-1865), was born. By July 1803, Judith's husband had died, and she moved to Greenwich to take a teaching position to support herself and her three young children. (3)

Judith's tenure in Greenwich was short, less than two years from July 1803 to May 1805. She fell in love again, this time with Philip Pedrick (1771-1857) of Lower Alloways Creek, son of Hugh Pedrick (1737-1792) and Elizabeth Booth Pedrick (1742-1788). Judith and her children followed Philip to Ohio where they were married on May 21, 1806, in the newly-founded Quaker settlement of Salem (named after Salem, NJ). They had two more children, Catherine (1807-1888) and Elizabeth (1809-1859). (4)

While in New Jersey, Philip had bought and sold land suggesting he dabbled in land speculation. The Land Act of 1804, designed to encourage migration to what was then "The West", was probably the incentive for their move to Ohio in early 1805. On May 2, 1827, under the Land Act of 1820, Philip purchased 82.32 acres of land at \$1.25 per acre in Wayne County, Indiana, where Philip and Judith lived out their days. Philip died on November 17, 1857, and Judith died on March 22, 1859. (5)

It is unknown if Judith ever taught again. (6)

(1) Dan & Marty Campanelli, "So Education Forms the Mind": Early Female Education in New Jersey, with Special Emphasis on Needlework Instruction, (Alpha, NJ: Sheridan Communications, Inc., 2014), p. 4-7, 20-21.

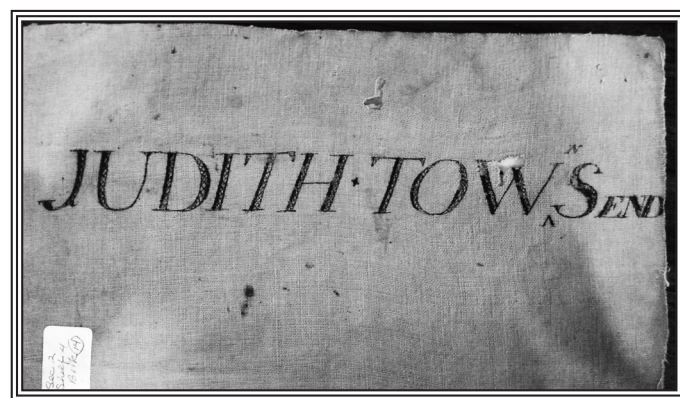
(2) Ancestry.com.U.S., "Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935", (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014), Monthly Meetings: Egg Harbor & Cape May, NJ; Salem, NJ; Greenwich, NJ; Concord, OH; Bull Creek, OH; Chester, IN.

(3) Hubert B. Shoemaker, The Pedrick Family of New Jersey, (Philadelphia, PA: Temple Typecrafters, 1938), p. 307-308.

(4) Edmund West, comp., "Family Data Collection—Marriages", (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2001).

(5) Harold B. Barth, History of Columbiana County, Ohio, (Topeka, IN: Higginson Book Co., 1926), p. 117.

(6) Ancestry.com.U.S., "General Land Office Records, 1796 – 1907", (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2008).



*Photo courtesy of Barbara Stratton*

**Among the treasures tucked away at Lummis Library is an arithmetic notebook bearing Judith's name, suggesting she was well educated and responsible for the entire curriculum. Mary Tracy's 1804 sampler is tangible evidence that needlework was part of that curriculum.**



## EARLY CUMBERLAND COUNTY NEWS – Part 2

*By Bill Saunderlin*

*This is the second and conclusive list of the early Cumberland County news, transcribed from the True American newspaper from Trenton, New Jersey.*

Volunteering at both the Salem and Cumberland County Historical Societies has been rewarding for me! I enjoy trying to help people solve some of their history's mysteries.

Being on both Library Committees has enabled me to be aware of the many resources that are offered. One such resource that needs to be put out there for researchers is the rare data that comes from early newspapers.

About a year ago, I went through some microfilm reels during the winter, documenting important information from the *True American* newspaper of Trenton, New Jersey. This newspaper was published from March 10, 1801 through June 27, 1829. I logged data for both Salem and Cumberland County, New Jersey. Since very few newspapers existed in the early 1800's, I thought it would be vital to document the early years for both Salem and Cumberland County. I am listing my findings for Cumberland County and I especially wanted to inform people of the marriages and death listings which may not be found anywhere else.

- 20 May 1816**—Married—At Roadstown on 25 April 1816—Enos Reed to Miss Rebecca Sheppard.
- 20 May 1816**—Married—On 27 Apr. 1816—Eli Ca\_\_? to Peggy Ott.
- 20 May 1816**—Married—Nathan Garton to Betsy Souder.
- 20 May 1816**—Died—At Deerfield, Cumb. Co.—Broadway Davis—age 35.
- 27 May 1816**—Died—At Millville, Cumb. Co.—Mrs. Mary Foster, wife of Nathaniel Foster—age 28.
- 3 June 1816**—Married—At Port Elizabeth by Stephen Willis, Esq.—John Spence [age 20] to Miss Sarah Crippen [age 18].
- 3 June 1816**—Married—In Fairfield Twp.—by Abijah Davis—Doctor Daniel C. Pierson to Naomi Nixon.
- 3 June 1816**—Died—At Millville—Cornelius Shaw—age 51.
- 3 June 1816**—Died—In Fairfield Twp.—David Fithian—age 46.
- 17 June 1816**—Married—On 6 June 1816—Azel Pierson to Miss Abigail Burt [both of Cedarville].
- 9 Sept. 1816**—Died—On 31 Aug. 1816 at Bridgetown, Cumb. Co.—Dr. Samuel Moore Shute—age 54—A Revolutionary War Patriot.
- 9 Sept. 1816**—Died—On 28 August 1816—Uriah Parvin.
- 9 Sept. 1816**—Died—On 28 August 1816—Mrs. Phebe Benson, and child.
- 21 Oct. 1816**—Died—At Bridgetown on 29 Sept. 1816—Mrs. Nancy B. Elmer—age 26—wife of Dr. William Elmer.
- 21 Oct. 1816**—Died—In Fairfield Twp. on 11 Oct. 1816—Miss Mary Shaw—age 18, daughter of D. P. Shaw.
- 24 Mar. 1817**—Died—At Fairfield Twp. on 5 Mar. 1817—Samuel Bennett—age 75.
- 21 Apr. 1817**—Died—At Bridgetown—Richard Parvin, son of Rev. Holmes Parvin.
- 21 Apr. 1817**—Died—Near Dividing Creek—William Moore—age 73.
- 21 Apr. 1817**—Died—At Newport, Cumb. Co.—William Chard, Esq.
- 21 Apr. 1817**—Died—At Budd's Works—Mrs. Lettice Finch—age 40, wife of John Finch.
- 21 Apr. 1817**—Died—David Lewis—age 24.
- 25 Aug. 1817**—Died—Mary H. Buck—age 17—eldest daughter of Jeremiah Buck, in Bridgetown.
- 25 Aug. 1817**—Died—At Bridgetown on 9 Aug. 1817—Miss Hannah Miller—age 20.
- 25 Aug. 1817**—Died—On 11 Aug. 1817—Mrs. Mary Sheppard, consort of Henry Sheppard—age 27.
- 25 Aug. 1817**—Died—On 5 Aug. 1817—Mrs. Mary Lummis, consort of Edward Lummis.
- 25 Aug. 1817**—Died—On 12 Aug. 1817—Mrs. Margaret Ireland, and the next day, two of her children.
- 20 Oct. 1817**—Married—At Cedarville—William Westcott to Miss Mary Ogden.
- 20 Oct. 1817**—Died—At Millville—Susanna Shaw—age 64.
- 20 Oct. 1817**—Died—At Fairfield Twp.—Miss Hannah Elmer—age 10.
- 20 Oct. 1817**—Died—At Fairfield Twp.—Mrs. Elizabeth Osborn—wife of Rev. Ethan Osborn—age 42.
- 15 Feb. 1819**—Died—At Bridgetown—Nathaniel P. Clark—age 22, only son of James Clark, Esq.
- 15 Mar. 1819**—Married—At Bridgetown—Henry Sheppard to Miss Sarah Ogden.
- 22 Mar. 1819**—Married—John Perry, of Bridgetown, Cumb. Co. to Miss Amanda DuBois, of Pittsgrove Twp., Salem Co., N.J.
- 19 Apr. 1819**—Married—At Newport, Cumb. Co.—William Banks to Miss Lorana Lovett.

- 19 Apr. 1819**—Married—At Newport, Cumb. Co.—William Brown to Mrs. Betsy Gillingham.
- 19 Apr. 1819**—Died—At Cedarville—Amos Fithian.
- 19 Apr. 1819**—Died—At Newport, Cumb. Co.—Sarah Day—age 84.
- 19 Apr. 1819**—Marriage—In Cumb. Co.—by Rev. Henry Smalley—Lemuel Paullin to Miss Sarah Husted.
- 19 Apr. 1819**—Married—By Jeremiah Stratton, Esq.—Mark Bowen to Clarissa Lupton.
- 19 Apr. 1819**—Married—Henry Frehaver to Miss Harriet Lupton.
- 10 May 1819**—Married—In Cumb. Co. on 28 Apr. 1819 by Rev. Michael Swing—William Bevan, of Bridgetown to Miss Jane Bateman, of Fairfield Twp.
- 21 June 1819**—Married—On 17 May 1819—Constantine Foster, of Cape May to Miss Margaret Sayre, of Hopewell Twp., Cumb. Co.
- 21 June 1819**—Married—On 18 May 1819—by Rev. Christopher Spry—Dr. George O. Trenchard, formerly of Cedarville, to Mrs. Ann M. Deford, of Maryland.
- 19 July 1819**—Died—At Cedarville—Miss Lydia Bateman—age 20, daughter of Col. Nathan Bateman.
- 26 July 1819**—Died—At Fairton—Miss Lydia Trullender—age 19.
- 23 Aug. 1819**—Died—At Cedarville—George Washington Fithian, youngest son of Amos Fithian—age 15.
- 23 Aug. 1819**—Died—At Fairton—The Widow—Rhoda Garton.
- 23 Aug. 1819**—Died—Near Dividing Creek—Miss Sally Riley, daughter of William Riley [deceased].
- 6 Sept. 1819**—Died—At Dividing Creek—Mrs. Anna Henderson, wife of Col. W. Henderson.
- 6 Sept. 1819**—Died—At Cedarville—Miss Betsy Long, daughter of Uriah Long [deceased]—age 19.
- 6 Sept. 1819**—Died—At Fairton—Mrs. Hannah Rook, wife of Thomas Rook.
- 4 Oct. 1819**—Married—On 22 Sept. 1819—by Rev. Edward Page—Joseph P. Goff, of Cedarville to Miss Mary Adams, of Gloucester County, New Jersey.
- 29 Nov. 1819**—Married—At Fairfield Twp.—Ephraim Sheppard to Miss Jane Westcott.
- 29 Nov. 1819**—Died—At Bridgetown on 24 Oct. 1819—Abraham Sayre, Esq.—age 69.
- 6 Dec. 1819**—Died—At Millville—Miss Ann McCulley, daughter of Jacoby McCulley—age 17.
- 5 June 1820**—Died—At Fairton—Mrs. Abigail Westcott, wife of Ephraim Westcott—age 41.
- 5 June 1820**—Died—At Downe Twp.—David Page, who fell overboard from a sloop, opposite Pea-Patch Island, in the Delaware River. He drowned on 24 May 1820.
- 17 Mar. 1821**—Died—In Deerfield, Cumb. Co., N.J.—Levi Leake—age 69. He was a longtime member of the Presbyterian Church.
- 17 Mar. 1821**—Died—At Roadstown—Mrs. Elizabeth Webb Johnson, wife of James Johnson.
- 24 Mar. 1821**—Married—At Bridgeton on 13 March 1821, by Rev. Jonathan Freeman—Enoch Shoemaker to Miss Sarah Flemmings [both of Bridgeton].
- 24 Mar. 1821**—Married—At Bowentown on 14 Apr. 1821—by Rev. Henry Smalley—Benjamin Sheppard to Miss Elizabeth Garrison.
- 24 Mar. 1821**—Married—On 8 Mar. 1821 by Josiah Moore, Esq.—Isaac Reeves, of Cumb. Co. to Miss Mary Proud, of Salem County, New Jersey.
- 24 Mar. 1821**—Died—At Cedarville on 11 March 1821—Mrs. Sarah Rose, wife of Ezekiel Rose.
- 7 Apr. 1821**—Died—At Stow Creek Twp.—about 23 Mar. 1821—Mason G. Seeley.
- 7 Apr. 1821**—Died—On 24 Mar. 1821—Mrs. Elizabeth Seeley, wife of Richard Seeley.
- 16 June 1821**—Died—In Bridgeton on 8 June 1821—Jeremy Elwell—while working at Mr. Reeve's Nail Factory.
- 29 Dec. 1821**—Married—At Roadstown—David Vail to Miss Nancy Mulford.
- 29 Dec. 1821**—Married—At Stow Creek Twp.—Elhaneen W. Davis to Miss Ruth Titsworth.
- 2 Feb. 1822**—Married—At Swedesboro—John Burch to Naomi Johnson [both of Bridgeton].
- 2 Feb. 1822**—Married—At Port Norris—Stephen Elder to Miss Rhoda Biggs.
- 9 Feb. 1822**—Married—At Bridgeton—Hiram Paul to Miss Phebe Brooks, daughter of Major Almorine Brooks.
- 9 Feb. 1822**—Died—At Dorchester—Mrs. Mary Mansfield—age 87.
- 16 Feb. 1822**—Married—In Cumb. Co.—David King to Miss Mary Riggins.
- 13 Apr. 1822**—Married—In Cumb. Co.—by Rev. Henry Smalley—James McGilliard to Miss Amy Hires.
- 13 Apr. 1822**—Married—William Arish to Miss Ann Moore.
- 13 Apr. 1822**—Married—by Rev. Jonathan Freeman—Elijah Moore to Miss Lorange Garrison.
- 13 Apr. 1822**—Married—At Woodstown on 3 Apr. 1822 by Israel R. Clawson, Esq.—Martin Miller to Elizabeth Brown [both of Cumberland County, N.J.].
- 13 Apr. 1822**—Died—At Bridgetown, Cumb. Co. on 5 Apr. 1822—Mrs. Rebecca Seeley, wife of Josiah Seeley—age 64.
- 20 Apr. 1822**—Married—In Cumb. Co.—by Rev. Henry Smalley—Nathan Davis to Miss Martha Reeves.
- 20 Apr. 1822**—Died—In Bridgetown, Cumb. Co.—Samuel Stevens—at an advanced age.
- 20 Apr. 1822**—Died—In Bridgetown, Cumb. Co.—Mr. Lewis Collins.
- 4 May 1822**—Married—At Pennington, N.J. on 20 Apr. 1822—Ephraim Fithian of Deerfield to Miss Hannah Claypoole, daughter of Joseph Claypoole, of Hopewell Twp.
- 29 June 1822**—Married—At Bridgetown, by Rev. Mr. Balentine—David B. Tomlinson to Mrs. Ruth Newkirk.
- 24 Aug. 1822**—Died—In Fairfield Twp.—Col. James Ogden.
- 24 Aug. 1822**—Died—on Jones Island, Cumb. Co.—Widow Hannah Pierson—age 76.

**24 Aug. 1822**—Died—In Back Neck [Fairfield Twp.]—Zephaniah Marts.

**24 Aug. 1822**—Died—At Cedarville on 9 Aug. 1822—Mrs. Rhoda Bateman.

**24 Aug. 1822**—Died—At Cedarville on 13 Aug. 1822—her husband, Daniel Bateman, Jr.

**7 Sept. 1822**—Married—In Cumb. Co.—Elihu Sheppard to Miss Priscilla L. Harris.

**21 Sept. 1822**—Died—In Bridgetown, Cumb. Co.—Josiah Parvin—age—56.

**21 Sept. 1822**—Died—In Woodbury, Glou. Co., N.J.—Amos Fithian, formerly of Cedarville—age 21.

## AFFAIRS AT THE “FAIRS”

*By Jim Bergmann*

**Note: This article is a continuation from the Fall 2018 issue of the *Cumberland Patriot*.**

With the coming of a new century, even more changes were in the future. On July 17, 1900, a “matinee” race was held at Mr. Elmer Ogden’s Maplewood Stock Farm near Roadstown. To bring back the fair in Cumberland County, a “Farmers’ Day” was held on August 2nd at Tumbling Dam Park. This began an annual Farm Products Exhibit to replace the Cumberland County Agricultural and Horticultural Society (CCAHS), formed at the Davis Hotel in 1851. Riverside Driving Park was also in trouble. Colonel Morris died in 1900 but the management of the park had been transferred to Benjamin Tuft and Joseph Fox of Salem prior to his death. This arrangement lasted only until 1901 when B. H. Minch of Bridgeton bought the park. Interest in Riverside Driving Park remained strong through most of the first decade of the 20th century.

The Fayette Street race track reopened in 1905 under the ownership of the Bridgeton Driving Association (BDA). Meanwhile, the 46th Annual County Fair was held at Tumbling Dam Park in 1903. The goal that year was to pay off their previous debts. The fair at Tumbling Dam Park continued until the second decade of the 20th century but faced increasing competition from the Bridgeton Driving Association Fair.

The Bridgeton Driving Association (previously the Bridgeton Racing Association) sought help from the Bridgeton-Millville Traction Company to develop the southwest section of the city by extending the trolley line to the area. The intention of the BDA was to revive the “Cumberland County Fair” to compete with the Trenton State Fair. A meet was held on August 2nd and 3rd. The trolley line was eventually extended to the southwest section. There had been trolley service to Tumbling Dam Park since 1894. The BDA was almost immediately in financial trouble. They held a July 4, 1906 holiday meet that attracted 2,000 paid attendees. Their August 1st and 2nd meet was hampered by rain and they lost money. On August 8, 1906 at Tumbling Dam Park, there was a Pomona Grange Picnic. At this time, it was discussed about the possibility of having the Grange run the Cumberland County Fair. Starting in 1907, the fair continued at Tumbling Dam Park under the auspices of the Pomona Grange and remained so until 1921 when the park was sold to the Cumberland Country Club (KKK).

Also, in the August 10, 1906 *Dollar Weekly News*, there was news that the once bankrupt Pawnee Bill’s Wild West and Great Far East Show was alive and well. In an article, Major Gordon W. Lillie, aka Pawnee Bill, expounded on his show. The show was coming to Bridgeton the next week. Lillie touted the show by saying “...you are surely safe in anticipating a glorious holiday filled to overflowing with sterling, startling, sensational features...” In an advertisement you could buy “Reserved Seats” on sale day of show (without extra charge) at Blew & Blew Drugstore” which was at 81 East Commerce Street in Bridgeton.

The ad said: "COMING SURE – Bridgeton, N.J.  
Friday, August 17th – SHOW GROUNDS, EAST BRIDGETON  
PAWNEE BILL'S – HISTORIC – Wild West and Great Far East  
America's National Entertainment"

It was the only Wild West Show Touring America at that time.

The ad also said: "Over 1,000 Men, Women and Horses Employed.  
An Army of Cowboys, Cowgirls, Scouts, Trappers, Plainsmen and Noted Western Characters.  
The Actual Ties of Frontier Life Vividly Reproduced.  
100 Indians from Different Western Tribes."

It seems as if all those things could have made an interesting show. But no, there was more: "Grand Ethnological Congress" that included "Strange People from Every Clime." It mentioned: "Prince Lucca's Imperial Cossack from Russia, Chief Yahmahatma's Troup of Royal Sinhalese Dancers from Ceylon, South American Gauchas—Native Africans from Dahomey, Australian Boomerang Throwers—Mexican Rurales, South Sea Islanders." It didn't end there because also included were: "Thrilling Military Reviews by Detachments of Cavalry from all Great Nations, Herd of Royal India Elephants, Drove of Egyptian Camels, Herd of Buffaloes, Philippine Island Cattle." Then, there is the: "Stupendous Spectacle, the Mountain Meadow Massacre, Hanging of a Horse Thief, Burning of Trapper Tom's Cabin, Custer's Last Fight."

Shows were advertised as daily at 2 and 8 p.m., rain or shine. There was room for 10,000 or 15,000 people, take your pick, under "sun and rain proof canopies." The final thing was a "Magnificent and startling Free Street Parade at 10 a.m."

If in fact this show did perform in Bridgeton as advertised, it seems logical that some lighting would be necessary for the 8 p.m. show.

As mentioned earlier, the "County Fair" was being held at Tumbling Dam Park since 1907. In the August 16, 1916, *The Daily Pioneer* the headline read: "READY FOR COUNTY FAIR." It continued: "The County Fair this year is bigger than ever before. The fair is well laid out and there are many exhibits and demonstrations." The McPherson tent was the most attractive one and the "automobile dealers are all showing the late machines there being a greater exhibit than ever before." There was farm machinery on exhibit and in the lake pavilion the women will have their exhibits. It was a two-day affair.

A riot occurred at the July 1909 BDA meet on Fayette Street due to a contested race. The judges had to be escorted away under police protection. The fair ground on Fayette Street acted as an airport on July 23, 1910. On this day, local manufacturer, Henry A. Hettinger, demonstrated his Bridgeton built airplane in the center of the race track. There was also a "four-card event for County horses." Fairs were held on Fayette Street until WWI forced them into bankruptcy in 1917 and racing was suspended. The BDA had opened the racing to "colored" drivers and owners in 1916 to compete in a four-event card.

In the *Dollar Weekly News* of August 4, 1916, the headlines said: "COLORED FOLKS RACED HORSES."

The four-card event was held on a Saturday and featured the “colored folks of Salem and Cumberland Counties, which provided some pretty fast classes and lively rivalry during the afternoon. In the match race, “Marie Rex,” owned by Edward Cooper of Bridgeton, competed against “Glenmore,” owned by Constable Peter P. Custis of Gouldtown. “Marie Rex” won. The other horses that day were “Midnight Bell,” Pierce; “Bella Beltman,” Burrell; “General Bell,” Bordley; “Prince C,” Loatman; “Dick King,” Winrow; “J. Harry, Jr.,” Dunn; “Dustless Chimes,” Loatman; “Ida B,” Johnson; “Jennie G,” Gross; “Flossie A,” Adams and “Governor C,” Prince. Was this the first or last time colored folks raced in Bridgeton? Roland Joel Pierce was an African-American artist from Bridgeton in the first half of the 20th century. One of his oil paintings depicts a harness race at a fair ground. Could this be the 1916 meet held by the BDA on Fayette Street? Shortly thereafter, the BDA went into liquidation. Mr. Henry M. Seeley became the owner for the sum of \$4,675 on March 10, 1917. The BDA stockholders took a big loss. Seeley’s ownership was short-lived because after the Memorial Day event, more trouble was in store. Seeley and the Bridgeton Athletic Association co-hosted harness racing and eight field athletic events. Now, Seeley also declared bankruptcy. The track was idle in 1918.

On September 25, 1919, William Stover of Harrisonburg, VA purchased the Fayette Street fair. He paid \$1,000 and assumed the existing mortgage of \$3,500. There were no races in 1920. Another milestone would be reached in 1921 with the introduction of auto races on Labor Day. There were also horse races and the two events drew a crowd of 5,000. Also, in September, Walter M. Garrison, of Greenwich bought the fairground from Stover for \$10,000. This is the same Garrison that George Agnew Chamberlain, the writer and diplomat, drew emphasis for a character in his novel, “The Taken Child.” It was also serialized in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1928.

In an attempt to give the fair more stature, it would now be known as the Garden State Fair Grounds in 1922. On July 4th, a meet was held under the new name, followed by horse and auto races on July 30th. Horse races were again held on September 4th. The name Garden State Fair Grounds continued on Fayette Street between 1923 and 1937. There were horse races, agricultural and horticultural displays and rides during this time period. From 1922-29, Walter M. Garrison managed the fair. Frank Emerson took over from Garrison and ran Garden State Fair Grounds from 1929 to 1937. During this time, financial problems caused Garrison to sell to Miss Anna P. Sharpless, a Quaker, on March 7, 1931. Her interest in the property was to convey it to the Boy Scouts. On November 10, 1937, Sharpless conveyed 17 acres “Provided, however, that the tract of ground hereby granted and conveyed, shall be used only for the activities of the Boy Scout, or allied purposes until such time as the Boy Scouts’ organization, Cumberland County Council, deems it desirable to sell all or part of it for residential development.”

In 1938, the county fair officially ended and there were plans to raze the buildings. The fair on Fayette Street was revived after WWII. In 1946, George Agnew Chamberlain wrote the forward for the *Cumberland County Catalogue* about the fair. Chamberlain wrote:

“The Bridgeton Fairgrounds have come to life again and also has the track. This is an enterprise that should have the support of everybody for miles around. And, it is a joy to witness the revival of this ancient American sport throughout Southern New Jersey. County fairs have a deeper object than to make money. They bring people together and show what the other guy is doing. They stir up stagnant blood. They are a lot of fun, especially to the old-timer with



a winning horse between the knees.”

The fair survived until 1967 when it moved to its new location on Carmel Road in Millville.

All of the quotes in this story are from A. W. Kaufmann’s “An Epochal Historette” that appeared in serial form in the *Bridgeton Evening News* in 1938.

Picture of the old Davis Hotel, taken in the spring of 1886.

*Photo courtesy of the Cumberland County Historical Society.*



***We welcome the following new members to the Cumberland County Historical Society:***

**Bill Adair and Tom Grammer**

**Kevin Chambers**

**Irene Chance**

**Jennifer Clay**

**Mike and Donna DuBrink**

**Michele Heller**

**Andrew L. Ingersoll**

**Howard Donald LaRue**

**Wayne and Rebecca Sabota**

**Catherine A. Saier**

**RECENT EVENTS**

The 47th ANNUAL **GREENWICH ARTISANS' FAIRE & MARKETPLACE** was held on Saturday September 29, 2018 and Sunday, September 30, 2018. The event was a huge success and the weather was beautiful on both days! Thank you to all who joined us for a fantastic weekend.

This year, the annual **HALLOWEEN WALKING TOURS** were held three weekends in October. Every one of all ages enjoyed the historic haunted walk along Ye Greate Street and arrived safely at the Gibbon House for cider and donuts. Fortunately, the ghosts, ghouls and goblins did not descend on our visitors nor did the werewolf make his appearance around the full moon!

A special thank you to our tour guide, Gregg Jones, for his time and help in coordinating another fun-filled event that was sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society. We greatly appreciate and thank all the “spooky” volunteers who participated along the tour route and to the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Department who assisted in the safety of all.

## SPECIAL ACQUISITIONS AT THE GIBBON HOUSE

*By Andrew Lawrence Ingersoll*

Recently, the Gibbon House Museum has received a few new acquisitions which deserve special note.

The first acquisition of note is a wooden wheelbarrow. This wheelbarrow is in excellent condition, and was donated in memory of Roberta Claire Ferro, and the Dougherty Family of Maple Shade, where this wheelbarrow was in use for many years. It is sure to see years more use here at the Gibbon House.

The second acquisition of note is a charcoal portrait of Philip Vickers Fithian. There is only one known image of Fithian, and thanks to Mr. Howard Donald LaRue and Mr. Kevin Chambers, that portrait is now part of the Historical Society's collection. As a show of our appreciation and gratitude, the Society's Board of Trustees have voted to award Mr. LaRue and Mr. Chambers with Honorary Lifetime Memberships in the Cumberland County Historical Society.



*Photos courtesy of the  
Cumberland County  
Historical Society*

## ACQUISITIONS – LUMMIS LIBRARY 2018

*By Warren Q. Adams*

**DONOR: Mary Lou Homan (Greenwich, NJ)** Letters from Home Scrapbooks, 1943 and 1944 "To Our Boys in the Service" from the Bridgeton News Co. by the Evening News Gang; Letter to John More from Daniel More, 1795; Indenture between Jacob Cake & Abigail his wife and John Newkirk, 1813: **In Memory of Jim Homan and John Schofield.**

**DONOR: Jim Bergmann (Bridgeton, NJ)** Greenwich Pier Hotel Letterhead, Charles T. Jones, Prop. 1895; The Stewardess' Certificates from Bethel A.M.E. Church Othello, N.J. July 24, 1907 for Sarrah Lenard and Bro. Alfard Lenard; Handwritten song, "In The City" by S. E. Leonard; Ad Public Sale of Real Estate, Township of Greenwich, NJ, 1895; Newspaper articles pertaining to J.J. Low offering people of Springtown \$1.00 for their day's work if they would vote for him, 1900; By-laws of the Greenwich Fire Company, 1955.

**DONOR: Elaine E. Holt (Deptford, NJ)** Oyster knives, large handle 9", J. Stohilason?, PHIA; Small handle 7 1/2", Bagshaw & Field; Sewing basket, 100 years old; Wm. Watson Day Book A 1817, August 11, Newport; "Sacred To The Memory Of", Funeral Scene, William Watson Born Oct. 7th. 1790 Died Oct. 2, 1850, Sarah Watson Born 1791, Died 1863.

**DONOR: Kevin Chambers (Ocean Grove, NJ)** Portrait of a young man on an oval piece of handmade yellow-brown laid paper in a historic, octagonal frame, possibly Philip Vickers Fithian; possible provenance, Dr. Enoc Fithian's estate; Stainless steel storage cabinets, five feet by six feet high.

**DONOR: David B. Frobes (Rio Verde, AZ)** via Grace Ewing Thompson, Ewing Family Journal Vol. 23 – Number 2 November 2017, Vol. 24 – Number 1, May 2018.

**2019 HEARTHSIDE DINNERS – BOOKED SOLID!**

The Cumberland County Historical Society is excited to announce that the 2019 Hearthside Dinners are all booked and full to the brim! The dinners will be held on January 26th, February 23rd, and March 30th.

**2018/19 CALENDAR OF EVENTS****9th Annual Gingerbread Contest and Display**

*You don't have to be a kid to count down the days until Christmas.*

*The sights, sounds and scents of the season are enough to put anyone in the holiday spirit!*

**Saturday, December 8, 2018 to be held in Santa's Workshop, located at 884 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich**

Now is the time for holiday bakers to think about the creation of a magical gingerbread structure to enter in the contest.

Open to all ages! Registration is free! Visit our website to print out the entry form.

All creations will be on display for the 49th Annual "Christmas in Greenwich" to be held the next day!

Please call the office (856-455-8580) for additional information.

**49th Annual "Christmas in Greenwich" Holiday House Tour**

**Sunday, December 9, 2018 – Noon to 5 p.m.**

**Cost: \$15 per person**

Please call the office (856-455-8580) for additional information.

**S'Mores with Santa**

Visit with Santa while he is in Greenwich during the Holiday House Tour.

**Sunday, December 9, 2018 – Noon to 5 p.m.**

Santa will be in his workshop that is located at 884 Ye Greate Street.

Please call the office (856-455-8580) for additional information.

**Victorian Christmas at the Gibbon House**

Located at 960 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich

**Saturday, December 15, 2018 – 1 to 5 p.m.**

Come view the special holiday-themed Christmas trees and take a tour of the Gibbon House.

Punch and Christmas cookies galore will be served!

Cost: \$2 per person

Please call the office (856-455-8580) for additional information.

**Speaker Series in January, 2019**

**Sunday, January 13, 2019—2 to 4 p.m.**

to be held at the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical & Historical Library, located at 981 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich

Guest Speaker: John Seabrook

"C. F. Seabrook: Construction Engineer, 1920 – 1931"

**Hearthside Dinner at the Gibbon House - Filled**

Saturday, January 26, 2019 - Doors open promptly at 5:30 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres.

Main course: Beef

**Speaker Series in February, 2019****Sunday, February 3, 2019—2 to 4 p.m.**

to be held at the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical &amp; Historical Library, located at 981 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich

Guest Speaker: John Fea, Ph.D.

*"Remembering the Greenwich Tea Burning"***Hearthside Dinner at the Gibbon House - Filled**

Saturday, February 23, 2019 – Doors open promptly at 5:30 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres.

Main course: Turkey Breast

**Speaker Series in March, 2019****Sunday, March 10, 2019—2 to 4 p.m.**

to be held at the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical &amp; Historical Library, located at 981 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich

Guest Speaker: F. James (Jim) Bergmann

*"George Agnew Chamberlain and South Jersey Stories"***Hearthside Dinner at the Gibbon House - Filled**

Saturday, March 30, 2019 – Doors open promptly at 5:30 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres.

Main course: Ham

**Re-Opening of the c. 1730 Gibbon House****Saturday, April 6, 2019—1 to 4 p.m.****Speaker Series in April, 2019****Sunday, April 14, 2019—2–4 p.m.**

to be held at the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical &amp; Historical Library, located at 981 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich

Guest Speaker: Andrew Ingersoll

*"Colonial Economy"*

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**Officers and Trustees of the Cumberland County Historical Society**

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Linda S. Hruza-Jones, Vice President

Ruth Ann Fox, Secretary

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# A UNIQUE Christmas Idea for Someone Who has Everything!



## CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



### *Pathway to History*

Please consider donating an engraved brick as a permanent memorial to someone who has had an impact on your life. You may purchase a brick to recognize yourself, family or friends. You may choose to honor someone who is living or buy a brick in memory of someone deceased.

A four inch by eight inch brick can be engraved with one to three lines of type, with up to 14 characters per line. (Note: A blank space uses one character.) The price of each engraved and installed brick is \$125.

All funds generated through sales of the *Pathway to History* commemorative bricks become part of the Historical Society's professionally managed endowment, established for the long term financial support of the society.

The *Pathway to History* helps us advance our mission of preserving the rich history of Cumberland County for future generations, while also assuring the continued growth of the Cumberland County Historical Society endowment fund.

#### TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PATHWAY TO HISTORY, PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable to the Cumberland County Historical Society for \_\_\_\_\_ bricks.

For each commemorative brick, please complete the following:

Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Limit is 42 characters total and no more than 14 characters per line.  
Each blank space counts as a character, Please call the Society with any questions (856-455-8580).**

Cumberland County Historical Society's Office

856-455-8580

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 1 to 4 p.m.

Closed mid-December to first week in January



## Mission Statement:

The Cumberland County Historical Society was established in 1905 to erect the Tea Burners' Monument. More than 100 years later, we are committed to our mission "to preserve and promote the history and heritage of the county through acquisitions, collections, exhibits and research, educational programs and publications for the benefit of current and future generations."

## Hours of the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Library and other local museums in Greenwich:

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**Warren & Reba Lummis Genealogical  
& Historical Library**  
856-455-8580

Wednesday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Saturday and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.  
Closed mid-December to first week in January

**The Alan Ewing Carman Museum of Prehistory  
of Cumberland County**  
856-455-8141

Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.  
Closed mid-December, January, February and March

**c. 1730 Gibbon House**  
856-455-4055

Tuesday through Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.  
Closed mid-December, January, February and March

**1852 John DuBois Maritime Museum**  
856-455-1774

Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.  
Closed mid-December, January, February and March

**Cumberland County Historical Society's Office**  
856-455-8580

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 1 to 4 p.m.  
Closed mid-December to first week in January

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Follow us on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/CumberlandCountyHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/CumberlandCountyHistoricalSociety)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you are interested in the preservation of your community's history, then we invite you to become a member of the Cumberland County Historical Society. Your membership helps the Society in fulfilling its mission "to preserve and promote the history and heritage of the county through acquisitions, collections, exhibits and research, educational programs and publications for the benefit of current and future generations."

Your membership is valid for one year and is up for renewal every January. The fees for the membership are tax deductible. Those who join late in the year will receive past copies of the Cumberland Patriot newsletter of that year. Letters and emails will go out notifying you when your membership needs to be renewed.

### Benefits:

- \*Member must present membership card
- Periodic issues of *The Cumberland Patriot* newsletter (Physical & Digital Copy)
- Free photocopies at the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical & Historical Research Library (limited)
  - Discount for the Hearthside Dinners (except for January's dinner)
  - Members receive Hearthside Dinner dates prior to non-members
- \$2 discount to annual Greenwich Artisans' Faire and Marketplace admission
  - \$2 discount to "Christmas in Greenwich" admission
  - Discount for the Annual Business/Dinner Meeting

### Membership Fees:

Individual \$20  
Couple \$30  
College Student (w/ID) \$15  
Under 18 years of age \$10  
Digital Membership \$10

\*Digital membership gives members access to digital copies of the *Cumberland Patriot* newsletter, no other memberships are included in the digital membership.

CUT HERE

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

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**CHRISTMAS IN GREENWICH**

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Noon to 5 p.m.



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