

CUMBERLAND PATRIOT

**Cumberland County Historical Society
Greenwich, NJ**



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Contact Information

Mail: Po Box 16

Greenwich, NJ 08323

Phone: 856-455-8580

Email: cchistsoc@verizon.net

Website: cchistsoc.org

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Oral History*: Downtown Bridgeton in the Postwar Years

By Ian Hughes

I am old enough to remember what Bridgeton was like in the 1950s before the Cumberland Mall. Back then, Laurel Street and East Commerce Street were busy shopping streets. As you would find today in Philadelphia, there were parking meters along the streets. Friday nights and the weekends were the busiest times in downtown Bridgeton.

My mother used to tell me how Friday nights were back in the late 1940s. When my siblings and I were toddlers, either my Dad or Mom would go into the stores while the other would watch us in the car. While waiting in the car, my mom or dad would end up seeing someone they knew and would converse with them while they walked by the vehicle. When we got older, the big thrill was eating a bag of roasted peanuts that Mom and Dad bought from a store that once stood on the northeast corner of Broad and Laurel Streets. As we rode back home, we all would have some of the peanuts.

During my early childhood, my family lived near Woodstown. Often, when Dad and I went into Bridgeton, we would have a hamburger and Coke at a restaurant that was on Laurel Street, directly across from the old

Laurel Theater. I remember it being called the Bar B Q Restaurant. One of the main things I recollect about the place was the jukebox. It was brightly colored with bubbles going along some of the tubes. It was a typical jukebox of the late 1940s and early 1950s. As a child, I enjoyed listening to the music that it played.

Until the 1970s, Bridgeton had two large tomato processing plants. One was the P. J. Ritter Company, and the other was run by Hunt's. In late August through early September, there were trucks loaded with tomatoes, ready to be processed by the plants. Because of the smell of the tomatoes cooking in the factories, Bridgeton smelled like one big hamburger joint. It was always a mouth-watering smell.

On South Pearl Street, across from where the Rite-Aid is today, there was a take-out seafood place called Captain Bill's. It was extremely popular and I remember their crab cake sandwiches were really great.

There were also two movie theaters in Bridgeton when I was growing up. One was the Majestic Theater on North Laurel Street near Church Lane. The other was the Laurel Theater, which was on the lower end of South Laurel Street. By the time I was a teenager, the Majestic Theater was history. All the great new movies then came to the Laurel Theater. Among the films I saw at the Laurel Theater were "Gone With The Wind", "Psycho", "Romeo and Juliet", "Dr. Zhivago", and "Hello Dolly".

*What is oral history? Oral history is the collection of people's memories that historians interpret and analyze to write histories. Oral histories are not historical facts but are sources that historians put into conversation with other types of sources to learn about the past. Oral histories like all sources possess biases that can be shaped by class, gender, race, etc. Lived experiences are personal and uniquely different for each individual. CCHS is excited to adopt a regular oral history column to *The Cumberland Patriot*.

Like many downtowns across small-town America, the stores and theaters of downtown Bridgeton are a memory that may never make a comeback. The stores, theaters, and restaurants can be found now in pictures and in the memories of those of us who lived during those days.

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Ian Hughes, a resident of Vineland, is a member of the Cumberland County Historical Society Board of Trustees. Born in Delaware in 1946, he has lived most of his life in southern New Jersey, primarily in Cumberland County. A graduate of Bridgeton High School, Ian obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts Degrees from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University). For 27 years, he taught adult basic education at Bayside State Prison. After retirement, Ian occasionally tutored school students and adults. He is an active member of Trinity A.M.E. Church of Gouldtown.

You Might Not Believe This

By Theodore H. Ritter

The following article was initially published in the 2011 Cumberland County Bar Association newsletter. Reprinting with permission.

Relations between County Government and the local Judiciary have had their ups and downs.

The following article appeared in a local newspaper, describing a “dust-up” at a 1959 Cumberland County Freeholder Meeting.

Here’s the back-story, as relayed to this writer by the Hon. Norman Telsey, JSC,

Retired,

Norman Telsey was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1956. Paul VanEmbden, now also retired, was admitted in 1957.

Things were a little different in Bridgeton in 1959. New Jersey adult criminal defendants received defense counsel, appointed by the County Judge from the alphabetical list of licensed attorneys. There was no Office of the Public Defender. Appointed counsel were paid by the County Board of Freeholders.

The only Judge in Cumberland County, in 1959, was the Honorable Harry Adler, whom Telsey describes as “a very personable, friendly guy.”

Rookie attorneys, Telsey and VanEmbden, were appointed to represent Joseph Little of Philadelphia in an armed robbery trial. Little, age 30, was the alleged mastermind of the 1956 robbery of Powell’s Liquor Store, located across North Laurel Street from the Bridgeton Owens Illinois glass plant.

Little had been tried previously, and convicted, but the Appellate Division found reversible error in remarks made during the first trial by Judge Adler. The case was remanded for retrial.

County Prosecutor, Joseph Tusso, was so enraged by the reversal of the earlier conviction, that he assigned himself to try the jury case. He wanted to make absolutely certain that Little would be convicted the second time around, “fair and square.”

On the day the jury trial commenced, Tusso brought into the courtroom one of the two guns used in the robbery. He placed it on the counsel table, with the barrel pointed at defense counsel, saying to Telsey and VanEmbden,

Over Dinner For Convicts

Cohanzick Members May Investigate Meal Served Powell Holdup Men On Their Premises

Officials of the privately-operated Cohanzick Country Club were reported urged by members today to investigate the circumstances under which three convicts were dined on pork chops there assertedly with a guest status conferred by Judge Harry Adler.

Country Club Chef Ponto Jattros said today the arrangement was made by Judge Adler and that he had no idea who was coming until the party arrived. "You can't come down here unless you're a member or a guest of a member," Jattros said.

Judge Adler, asked to comment, said he had none.

The dinner party for six, including Sheriff William P. Riffin, two deputies and the three men who stuck up the Powell Liquor Store here in 1956 was staged last week at county expense according to a heated disclosure in the Board of Freeholders last night.

The convict trio named William Washington, Fred Cahady and Horace Collins, had been in Bridgeton as State witnesses in

(Continued From Page One)

to the State the jury freed Little.

The trip to the Country Club allegedly resulted in a shortage—even a refusal, according to one story—of a special pork chop menu by Jail Warden Winfield Thompson.

The revelation in the Board of Freeholders last night was blurted out by Freeholder William T. Middleton who offered it as a sort of offset to charges by a Vineland Freeholder that there was not enough economy in the county government.

"If I went there, they'd throw me out because I'm not a member," Middleton shouted. Then Finance Chairman April, County Treasurer William Myers and Director Edgar G. Hand dug the voucher out for display.

Hand and April said Sheriff William P. Riffin had come before the freeholder finance committee with the \$21.86 voucher in hand especially to explain it. His appearance resulted from some "reports" circulated about it the day before.

Quoted Sheriff

Hand and April quoted the sheriff as saying the judge told him to take the prisoners to the country club to eat. In the course of the Little trial Judge Adler is supposed to have told the convict trio they'd get some pork chops at the county jail. When, on questioning, they said they hadn't been given the chops, the Court ordered them taken to the country club for their favorite meal. At least that is the way the story went.

Greenwich Freeholder Joseph G. Hancock eased the tension a bit with a remark. Said Hancock: "I always thought I'd have to join the Republican Party to eat at the country club. Apparently only two classes of people are allowed to eat there."

"If you guys try to get wise and try to pull off any tricks, just remember that this gun will be pointed at you throughout the trial."

Among the prosecutor's witnesses were three co-defendants, each of whom had cut plea deals for favorable treatment, in return for their testimony on behalf of the State.

The four men had robbed Powell's at closing time, using two guns supplied

by Little. The robbers made off with some \$2,000.00 in cash – a huge sum in 1956.

On cross-examination, Telsey and VanEmbden used the deals the co-defendants had made with the State to impeach their credibility.

Well, lo and behold, the cross-examination succeeded. The jury of nine women and three men returned a verdict of "Not Guilty."

Telsey and VanEmbden were especially overjoyed with their success, since Joe Tusio

a reputation as being one of the best trial lawyers in the State.

After winning the acquittal, the Board of Freeholders at first refused to pass a resolution authorizing payment to Telsey of his \$500.00 attorneys fee. "After considerable pressure, I ultimately received the money," remembers Telsey.

It wasn't until after the foregoing newspaper article was published, that Telsey and VanEmbden learned of the promise that had been made to the three co-defendants by Judge Adler.

Judge Telsey observes that:

"Back in 1959, Cumberland County was a very cozy place. Nepotism, and close friendships were constantly aligned against newcomers such as I was at the time. What I learned was that the judge was a very close friend of the prosecutor ... [The Judge] had promised the three co-defendants a pork chop dinner at the Cumberland County Jail, where they were incarcerated, in exchange for their testimony against Little."

Judge Adley – a man of his word – saw to it that the three convicts did, indeed, receive their promised pork chop dinner. When the warden refused to provide it, the ever-resourceful Judge sent the men to feast at the members-only Cohanzick Country Club!

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Theodore H. Ritter has served on our Society's Board of Trustees since 1991. He is a graduate of Vineland Senior High School (1966), Marietta College (1970) and Washington and Lee University School of

Law (1973). He has been practicing law, in Bridgeton, since 1973. Ted is an antique automobile lover and a dedicated, rain-or-shine jogger. Ted and his wife, Jean, live in Upper Deerfield.

Rabies: Medicine and Myth in South Jersey

By Tia Antonelli

You wake one morning with what feels like the flu, or a rough cold – you're fatigued, weak, and perhaps with fever. Over the next few days your symptoms worsen, developing into consistent anxiety and agitation; to calm your nerves you reach for a sip of water, and physically recoil once it touches your lips.

Hydrophobia – one of the more notable symptoms of rabies infection. Rabies symptoms are a double-edged sword: they alert you to sickness, but once they appear it is too late to recover, and essentially serves as a death sentence. (1) Today we have the rabies vaccine, which can prevent infection in response to a wild animal bite, but in the late nineteenth century Cumberland County, the vaccine was still a fantasy. Stretching as far back as Ancient Greece, the fear of rabies has been prominent in humans, yet this anxiety appears oddly omnipresent in the late 1800s.

Without proper taxes, registrations and, particularly, the existence of a

(1)"Rabies: What are the signs and symptoms of rabies?" Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, December 23, 2021.

pound(keeper), dogs ran loose throughout the country, South Jersey being a hot spot. The fear of rabies was primarily centered on livestock – wild dogs could easily bite local farmers’ cows, pigs, and sheep, and regardless of visible infection the farmers killed their attacked livestock to avoid a rabies outbreak, thereby putting them at financial disadvantage. (2) Farmers were especially on the defensive, considering their livestock was taxed as personal property while dog owners had to pay no tax or registration, and the dogs could cause significantly more destruction (biological and financial). (3) As such, the rural Southwest New Jersey was on high alert against rabies and, by extension, dogs as a whole. There is a noticeable increase in hydrophobia cases in the area beginning around 1870, continuing into the early 1900s – whether these cases are legitimate or a consequence of mass hysteria in response to financial stress is unclear.

When infected, the most commonly reported symptoms are hysteria and hydrophobia, though in some cases victims allegedly barked and howled in pain. (4) The animalistic symptoms further cemented rabies as a primal disease, one that could strip the humanity from someone in a slow, agonizing manner. From a twenty-first century perspective, it seems almost ridiculous – and in many situations, it was embellishment to feed into then-present fears and anxieties – but there is a scientific explanation. Humans infected

with rabies frequently suffer from involuntary muscle spasms: the “barking” and “howling” can be a result of the throat convulsing while the afflicted is verbally reacting to the pain, either through crying, groaning, or wailing. (5) However, other animalistic symptoms are unexplainable; such is the case with a young girl who, although not bitten, began barking like a dog in such a way “that canines on the street answer her,” and she “ran under [her bed] like a dog.” (6)

Wild dogs were an annoyance at best and a physical/fatal threat at worst, and their threat impacted almost everyone equally – the later introduction of the vaccine allowed class and racial disparities to shine through. Although people from varying social classes could be bitten and infected, treatment was barred by price, and so people found other remedies outside of the conventional vaccine. Most commonly, victims would cauterize the wound in hopes of stopping the poison from flowing into their bloodstream; this only worked for surface wounds. (7) Even in 1905, after the vaccine’s distribution, the *Vineland Evening Journal* attested to the power of onions as a cure for rabies. The newspaper published a story of an infected man who, when he got the urge to bite a person, bit into an onion instead, and then claimed the onion drew the poison out from him over the course of a couple weeks; the evidence of the onion’s power was in the decrease in the patient’s

(2) *Vineland Evening Journal*, March 22, 1877.

(3) “Hydrophobia Kills: Seventy-nine-Year-Old Joseph Gerst, of Danville, Pa., the Victim,” *Vineland Evening Journal*, June 17, 1908.

(4) Wang, Jessica. *Mad Dogs and Other New Yorkers: Rabies, Medicine, and Society in an American Metropolis, 1840-1920*, John Hopkins University Press (Baltimore), 2019: 61-62.

(5) “Heat Causes Hydrophobia: Wilmington Girl Snarls, Barks, and Snaps Like a Dog,” *Vineland Evening Journal*, July 13, 1905.

(6) “Hydrophobia: Some of the Means Used to Combat This Horrible Disease,” *Vineland Evening Journal*, July 9, 1910.

(7) “Onions Cure For Rabies: Victim Bit Into the Tearful Bulb and Slowly Recovered,” *Vineland Evening Journal*, July 22, 1905.

symptoms, and the green color of the onions, which allegedly indicated presence of poison. (8)

Another popular remedy was the Mad Stone. Mad Stones came from the intestines of cud-chewing animals, such as deer, cows, etc. and they were passed down throughout the family as heirlooms, or borrowed – they were not meant to be bought or sold, as that would hinder their healing abilities. The stone would be boiled in milk and then applied to the wound; if it did not stick, then the patient was presumed fine. If it stuck, it would be left to fall off on its own and once it did, it would be placed in the boiling milk again, the process repeated until the stone no longer stuck to the wound. (9) Essentially, the milk-soaked stone was believed to absorb the poison from the wound, and the poison caused the stone to adhere to the skin; the stone not sticking indicates good health, in short. Similar to the onion, the milk would turn green when the stone was placed back in it, an alleged visual manifestation of the rabies.

Even today, rabies is a terrifying and fatal disease, but the introduction of Pasteur's vaccine in conjunction with wild dog management helped to ease anxieties. We most associate it with bats, raccoons, and other wild animals of the sort – dogs, in turn, are our best and most loyal friends, when over a century ago they were one of our greatest perceived threats. The methods used to combat this threat, such as the onion and Mad Stone, may seem bizarre to us – regardless, they shine a light on the ingenuity and belief system of those who precede us, primarily in reference to

disease, medicine, and ritual.

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Tia Antonelli, pursuing her M.A. in History from Villanova University, is the administrative assistant at Cumberland County Historical Society's Lummis Library, and a docent at The Gibbon House, 1730.

The Crisis of the "Mormon Menace": "Anti-Mormon" Sentiment in Bridgeton, NJ 1905-1911 Part 2

By Brittney Ingersoll

As discussed in Part 1, the Young Women's Christian Temperance Union (YWCTU) in Bridgeton made it their mission to block and prevent LDS influence from spreading into the area. But who was the YWCTU? Why was this organization concerned with the spreading of Mormonism? In part 2, I will unpack the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), its missions, and concerns, in general, to give further background to the tensions in Bridgeton between the YWCTU and the LDS.

In 1874, The Women's Christian Temperance Union formed in Cleveland, Ohio out of the temperance organization, the Women's Crusade. Annie Wittenmeyer was elected the first president with Mary Johnson as recording secretary and Frances Willard as corresponding secretary and treasurer Mary Ingham. The Union argued

(8) "Onions Cure For Rabies: Victim Bit Into the Tearful Bulb and Slowly Recovered," Vineland Evening Journal, July 22, 1905.

(9) Sutton, Keith. "The interesting history of madstones," Arkansas Democrat Gazette, February 15, 2015.

for the abolition of alcoholism for the safety of women in the home. They perceived alcohol as detrimental to women's safety due to their husbands' becoming intoxicated and either being abusive or spending the family's money at the bars, putting their family in financial jeopardy. The women of the WCTU viewed alcohol as a threat to morality in the country. (1)

In 1879 Frances Willard became president of the WCTU and changed the course to a more political one with the new leadership. The organization widened its focus to suffrage in addition to temperance. Suzanne M. Marilley described Willard as using fear tactics asserting that women, particularly mothers were good and moral with men being bad and motivated by power as an argument for women's suffrage. Overall, Willard focused on the safety of women in the home as a framework for her speeches and messages. Willard's presidency expanded the focus of the organization and led to a massive growth of members. (2)

WCTU chapters and juvenile chapters, such as the Young Women's Christian Temperance Union, were formed throughout the country. For example, in 1894 Carrie Nation formed a chapter of the WCTU in Medicine Lodge, Kansas that would ensure that temperance laws were being upheld in the area. Around that same time, she began her assault mission on bars with:

Her first assault [taking] place in December of 1894 when she shut down a "pharmacy" in Medicine Lodge. In June of 1900, Nation raided six different bars in Kiowa, Kansas. Over the next year she would attack bars throughout Kansas. Nation smashed several bars in Wichita and Enterprise and eventually made her way to Topeka, the capital city...Nation and a large group of supporters from the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) marched toward Kansas Avenue to talk with local bar owners. The bar owners were prepared for Nation as they had received word that she was coming and they had set up barricades in front of the doors and windows. Instead of forcing her way in she again talked to the owners about what alcohol can do to families when misused and asked them to abide by the current law. (3)

Nation taking a hatchet to bars was a unique situation that came out of the WCTU. (4)

The YWCTU of Bridgeton, a juvenile chapter of the WCTU, was not the only chapter that viewed Mormons as a threat to society's morality. On March 15, 1904, an article was printed in the New York Times that read "A crusade against the Mormon Church and its missionaries in this and other cities throughout the United States was launched yesterday at the semi-annual meeting of the New York County Woman's Christian Temperance Union, held in St. James's Methodist Episcopal Church." (5) While the WCTU and its juvenile organizations prohibited LDS women and were outspoken against the religion as a whole, other political and reform groups

(1) "Women's Christian Temperance Union," Case Western Reserve, <https://case.edu/ech/articles/w/womens-christian-temperance-movement#:~:text=The%20NATIONAL%20WOMEN'S%20CHRISTIAN%20TEMPERANCE,pray%2Dins%20at%20local%20taverns>.

(2) Ibid.; Suzanne M. Marilley, "Frances Willard and the Feminism of Fear," *Feminist Studies*, Spring, 1993, Vol. 19, No. 1 (Spring, 1993), pp. 123-146

(3) "Carrie Nation: The Moment when a Women's Voice was Heard Across the Nation," Visit Topeka, <https://www.visittopeka.com/things-to-do/the-crossroads-to-freedom/topeka-history/carrie-nation#:~:text=She%20organized%20a%20local%20branch,of%20prohibition%20across%20the%20state>.

(4) Ibid.

were happy to fight for their cause alongside LDS women. For example, the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton welcomed LDS women into their fold and saw them as being helpful to their cause due to them simply supporting women's suffrage. (6)

LDS women gained the right to vote in the Utah Territory in 1870. Their ability to vote did not threaten patriarchal beliefs or their adherence to strict gender roles but allowed them to vote in a way that would support their communities and culture. For example, they fought for suffrage to aid in Utah gaining statehood and in disputing the reputation that women needed to be coerced or were abused within polygamist marriages. The fight for suffrage did not persuade the overall society's opinions of polygamists. In 1894, Utah became a state under the Utah Enabling Act which included prohibiting plural marriages. (7)

Historian Dale E. Soden asserts that the WCTU's work in the Pacific northwest particularly was a struggle over cultural control due to the alcohol use and behavior the women deemed licentious in those areas. (8) The struggle over cultural control and the perceived threat of the LDS was the reasoning that caused the WCTU to wage wars against them. Please stay tuned for the final part, part 3 of this article in which I will discuss Bridgetonian Ruth

Chew, her involvement in the YWCTU, and her combative beliefs and actions towards the LDS.

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Brittney Ingersoll is the Curator of CCHS. She received her MA in American History with a Certificate in Public History from Rutgers University-Camden.

Buffalo Bill's Connection to Cumberland County, N.J.

By Bill Saunderlin

Volunteering at the Lummis Library has been very rewarding over the years. Digging into the past through various sources has unearthed some interesting discoveries. I am amazed at some of the stories that I have stumbled upon. The latest surprise for me was discovering that Buffalo Bill's mother and grandparents lived in Cumberland County, N.J. This is how it evolved.

Recently, the Lummis Library was the recipient of research papers that were originally sent to the Bridgeton City Library. This study was compiled by the late Robert D. Pepper, a humanities professor at San Jose State University in California. Pepper had been tracing Buffalo Bill's mother's side of the family, to see where that would lead. Her family's

(5) New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/1904/03/15/archives/mormons-at-wctu-session-elders-hear-denunciation-and-swell-the.html>

(6) Susan Ware, "Sister-Wives and Suffragists: Mormons and the Women's Suffrage Movement", National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/sister-wives-and-suffragists-mormonism-and-the-women-s-suffrage-movement.htm>

(7) Ibid.; Utah, <https://www.senate.gov/states/UT/timeline.shtml>

(8) Dale E. Soden, "The Woman's Christian Temperance Union in the Pacific Northwest: The Battle for Cultural Control," *The Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, Fall, 2003, Vol. 94, No. 4 (Fall, 2003), pp. 197-207

surname was Laycock. It was then noted, that they had lived in Maurice River Township by their listing on the New Jersey 1830 Federal Census. Pepper knew that Buffalo Bill's Laycock family had lived in Cumberland County, N.J., but did not have enough detail to put in his files. Perhaps he was hoping to get more information from the Bridgeton City Library.

After reading Pepper's research papers, I wanted to verify this information myself. This is what I pieced together on the Laycock Family and their local connection.

Samuel Laycock, Buffalo Bill's grandfather, was born in 1776 in what is now Delaware County, Pennsylvania. He was born into a Quaker family with seven other siblings. Not a devout Quaker, Samuel married Hannah Taylor, a Presbyterian in 1806 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Samuel was a merchant and sea captain, who made many voyages up and down the East Coast and beyond, in the early 1800s.

Samuel began purchasing properties in Cumberland County, N.J. in 1811. He owned land in Maurice River Township and expanded a couple plots in Downe Township. He must have been a land speculator as well.

Hannah and Samuel had four children, three of whom were born in New Jersey and one in Pennsylvania. The four children were: William, born in Pennsylvania; Eliza, Samuel Jr., and Mary Ann all born in New Jersey. The youngest daughter, Mary Ann Bonsall Laycock, went on to marry Isaac Cody, Buffalo Bill's father.

Hannah, died about 1827. Per the

Woodbury Village Herald Samuel remarried to Ann Welch on June 7, 1828. The article notes them residing in Dorchester, Cumberland County, N.J. In the 1830 census, the Laycock Family is listed as residing in Maurice River Township, which Dorchester is a part of.

By Professor Pepper's documentation, we discover that Samuel encountered a terrible storm in December of 1831 which wrecked his ship on the Atlantic Ocean. Samuel died in the disaster and was buried at sea. Samuel's teenage son, Samuel Laycock, Jr. was also aboard. His son was badly injured and was brought to an island, near New York State. He died shortly afterward. Ann Laycock filed a petition at the surrogate's office, in the Cumberland County Courthouse, in Bridgeton. Samuel left no Will.

Ann Laycock remarried in 1834 in Dorchester and moved to West Chester, Pennsylvania. She took her two daughters, Eliza and Marry Ann, with her. Shortly after their mother's remarriage, Eliza married and stayed in the West Chester, Pennsylvania area. Mary Ann moved to Ohio where she lived with her older brother William briefly, and later moved to Cincinnati to teach school. It was here that Mary Ann met and married Isaac Cody.

Isaac and Mary Ann Cody eventually moved further west to Le Claire, Iowa where their son, William Frederick Cody later known as Buffalo Bill was born.

Buffalo Bill received his nickname after the Civil War, when he was contracted to supply Kansas Pacific Railroad workers with buffalo meat (American bison). While under contract for eighteen months, he

killed many buffalo which earned him the name Buffalo Bill. He had many jobs over the years, and loved living and working on the western frontier. Cody, Wyoming was even founded and named after him.

Later in life, Buffalo Bill Cody put together his Wild West shows, and toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe. He performed in Bridgeton, N.J. on more than one occasion. I do not know if he was aware that his family had once lived in this area, and that he had roots in Cumberland County, New Jersey.

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Bill Saunderlin graduated from Bridgeton High School in 1968. After retiring from E.I. DuPont with 35 years service, his passion has been researching local history, and genealogy. He has served both the Salem County and Cumberland County Historical Societies on their Library Committees for the past ~~15~~ years. He is a member of the Salem County Genealogy Society, Millville Historical Society, and the Gloucester County, Salem County, and Cumberland County Historical Societies. Both sides of his family has lived in this area for over 300 years. Bill lives with his wife Beth, just outside of the village of Alloway, in Salem County, N.J.

PATRIOT, FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1898.

Bridgeton, Tuesday, May 17th

A Giant School of History & Horsemanship

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Sources:

Professor Robert D. Pepper's research papers

Woodbury Village Herald newspaper

Deeds from the Bridgeton Courthouse

Bridgeton Evening News newspaper – May 13, 1898; June 5, 1909

Update on the Cumberland County 1783 Log Granary/Barn Reinterpretation Project

By Joseph Mathews

Work recently began on the creation of a new interpretative master plan for the Cumberland County 1783 Log Granary--formerly the Swedish Granary--which stands behind the Gibbon House in Greenwich, NJ. In the Winter 2022 *Cumberland Patriot*, I wrote an article describing the \$16,000 matching grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust that will fund the reinterpretation project of the historic structure that was moved to its present site in 1975. CCHS will contribute 25% of the total or \$4,000.

There will be a total of four consultants to carry out the work. Douglass C. Reed, an Historic Structures Consultant from Mercersburg, PA, was the first of the four to start work. Reed has decades of professional experience developing techniques to restore historic structures including timber framed, log, stone, and brick. He has traveled extensively and participated in professional conferences in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe so he will be able to identify European antecedents for the Granary if they exist.

Reed visited three historic log structures in three different towns in South Jersey on May 19th and 20th: Mauricetown,

Hopewell, and Gibbstown. On June 13th Reed spent the entire day examining the Log Granary accompanied by Historic Preservation Consultant Joan Berkey. On June 14th they also visited 2 more historic buildings in Mannington and Elsinboro. These six buildings will provide a comparative context within which to view the Log Granary. Reed spent four hours in each of the five buildings, closely inspecting and measuring them, taking notes and photographs, and speaking with the homeowners who willingly shared with him whatever written materials they had collected over time on their houses. All six structures will receive Doug's customary level of intensive analysis based on the rigorous collection of factual data. The results of which will in time be presented in six individual research reports.

[Note: When Reed first saw the Granary, he doubted that it was a Granary at all. In Sweden and elsewhere, log granaries are usually elevated off the ground to ward off rodents that look for grain. To him, this building resembled more of a stable. He has since decided its uses determine it to be a livestock Barn.]

While Reed processes his findings and writes his reports over the next few months, Joan Berkey plans to begin her part of the project in August. She will conduct various kinds of research to try to determine who may have owned or built the 1783 Log Granary. She will consult wills, inventories, land divisions, ownership and property records in repositories and in online databases in order to place the 1783 Log Granary within local and regional contexts.

Then, in November, Professor Lu Ann De Cunzo will carry out an archaeological survey at the original site of the 1783 Log Granary. This is at a peach orchard in Lower Hopewell on a farm owned by Bob Fralinger. Two 2' X 10' trenches will be hand excavated and "soil screening, artifact recovery, field documentation will meet professional standards" (quoted from De Cunzo's Proposal).

Both Berkey and De Cunzo will produce summary reports which along with Reed's reports will be submitted to the project's fourth participant, Museum Consultant James Turk. Turk will review the reports, convene a Zoom meeting with the researchers to identify key findings, and then consolidate and synthesize the research into an interpretive master plan to be presented in stages to the Cumberland County Historical Society and the public.

Just recently the Cumberland County Culture and Heritage Committee voted to contribute \$1250 to help meet the project's expenses. CCHS is grateful to the New Jersey Historic Trust, to the Culture and Heritage Committee, and to all persons involved in the project. A miraculous survivor from an earlier time, the 1783 Log Granary deserves all of the attention it has been receiving lately. CCHS hopes that in making this effort to understand the Granary in its local, regional, and even national contexts, it will result in helping to recover a fading tradition, that of log buildings generally in New Jersey.

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Joseph Mathews has been working at Lummis Library for years. He has a BA

(La Salle College) and MA (U. of Toledo, Ohio) in English and an "ABD" (all but dissertation) in English and History (Temple U.). He's currently Governor of The Swedish Colonial Society.

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CCHS ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCHS is happy to announce that due to a donation made by Cumberland Mutual and to the Bridgeton Public Library for lending us reels we were missing, our Bridgeton Evenings News Microfilm is being digitized and made searchable for the years 1923-1930 and 1939-the end of the publication. The remainder of the years can be found on Genealogybank.com. We are still in the process of figuring out the logistics for how the papers will be accessible. More information to come!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Members Only Event: Come and Learn about several different objects that have never been on display at any of the CCHS locations. What are these items?

What do they tell us about history?

August 19th, 2023, 3-4pm

Registration Required - brittlp48@gmail.com or 856-455-8580

Artisans' Faire and Marketplace

Saturday (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Sunday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), September 23 and 24, 2022

Admission is \$5 (Children under 12 free)

Members with Membership card \$3

Featuring vendors, artisans, craftspeople, and historical displays

Dark Festival

Music, Mayhem, Food, & Fun

October 21, 2023

9pm-12am

CCHS BLOG

For additional historical articles and CCHS updates check out our blog at: <https://cchistsoc.org/blog/>

CCHS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

If you missed our last Speaker Series, check out our YouTube Channel.



You and a guest are invited to attend the
Cumberland County Historical Society's

ANNUAL BUSINESS AND DINNER MEETING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

to be held at the

Greenwich Presbyterian Church
630 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich, New Jersey 08323

4:30 P.M.—Business Meeting

5 P.M.—Ham Dinner with all the Trimmings

6 P.M.—Featuring Guest Speaker— Annie Oakley

\$25 per person for members and \$30 per person for non-members.

Reservations must be received by October 29, 2023.

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



Henry Box Brown: Abolitionist and Showman
(Portrayed by Keith Henley from the American Historical Theater in Philadelphia.)

Henry Box Brown was a Slave on Virginia plantation. When his wife and children were sold to the owner of a South Carolina plantation owner he began to devise a way to escape to freedom. With the help of James C. A. Smith, a local shop keeper and a member of the Philadelphia Abolitionist he mailed himself in a crate traveling from Richmond, VA to Philadelphia PA. The trip was a success, but was a great hardship as the journey lasted twenty-seven hours. Once in Philadelphia he became a noted abolitionist and eventually a showman. Themes addressed in this program are:

Overcoming the Odds, Determination vs Bondage and Faith

↓ *Cut Here* ↓

Name(s) _____

Phone number _____

Number of Tickets _____ Total Enclosed _____

Please return this form with your check by October 29, 2023.

CCHS, PO Box 16, Greenwich, NJ 08323

Cumberland County Historical Society
PO Box 16 - 981 Ye Greate Street
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