

250th Anniversary

Greenwich Tea Burning



1774-2024

October 5th, 2024

10-5pm

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Ian Hughes, Secretary
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Penny Watson,
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Suzanne Merighi
Robert Dragotta
Omarey Williams
Matthew E. Pisarski,

Warren & Reba Lummis Genealogical & Historical Library
856-455-8580
Wednesday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.

c. 1730 Gibbon House
856-455-4055
Tuesday through Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.

The Alan Ewing Carman Museum of Prehistory of Cumberland County
856-455-8141
Saturday and Sunday 12 to 4 p.m.

1852 John DuBois Maritime Museum
856-455-1774
Saturday and Sunday 12 to 4 p.m.

Potter's Tavern
Saturday and Sunday 12 to 4 p.m.

Schedule

- **12:30pm: Mustering Program for Kids with the West Jersey Artillery; Gibbon House Grounds**
- **2pm: Tea Burning Discussion with Dr. John Fea; Lummis Library, 981 Ye Greate Street**
- **3:30pm: Tea Burning Demonstration, Everyone will be welcome to burn their own tea!; Gibbon House**

Each Location Open:

**John DuBois Maritime Museum:
949 Ye Greate St, Greenwich, NJ 08323**

**Gibbon House:
960 Ye Greate St, Greenwich, NJ 08323**

**Lummis Library:
981 Ye Greate St, Greenwich, NJ 08323**

**Alan Ewing Carman Museum of Prehistory in Cumberland
County:**

1461 Bridgeton Rd, Greenwich, NJ 08323

**Greenwich Tea Burners Tea Co.
1077 Bridgeton Rd, Greenwich, NJ 08323**

**Potter's Tavern:
49-51 W Broad St, Bridgeton, NJ 08302**



Gibbon House

West Jersey Artillery

The West Jersey Artillery is an exciting and dynamic company that brings back to life those patriotic men from New Jersey who fought so long ago to help create the United States. It is with great pride that each of our men today is able to stand in the shoes of the soldiers who serviced the cannons under the command of George Washington.

The company recreates an actual New Jersey state artillery regiment that fought during the American War of Independence from 1776 till 1781. It was re-established in 2011 by a group of experienced Revolutionary War living history enthusiasts who desired to reactivate the original West Jersey Artillery to do historical presentations.

After several years of meticulous research, the result is the fielding of an exact working model of a light 3 lb bronze cannon, with a fully trained company of 15 adult men that can service every position on the field piece. The men are clothed in exact reproductions of the same uniforms worn by the original regiment, and carry the same equipment used by those patriots of so long ago. The company also has a small distaff of several women who portray the camp followers of the time.

Hearthside Cooking Demonstration by Kathryn Saxton-Granato of South Jersey Curations, LLC

Kathryn earned a Bachelor's degree in Historical Studies from Stockton and a Master's Degree in Liberal Studies from the University of Oklahoma with a focus on Organizational Development and non-for-profit community programs. She has been a history teacher, museum educator, program leader for both 4-H and Girl Scout Councils and she worked more than 15 years as a program specialist for community services writing and administering several grants.

As an independent contractor, she formed a company, South Jersey Curations, LLC and provides historic foodways programs at sites throughout South Jersey. Kathryn can support historic sites with volunteer training, program development and grant applications and she is passionate about preserving and celebrating South Jersey's history.

Pony Rides, Goats, & Chickens by Fat Pony Farm and Events LLC \$5/ride

Fat Pony Farm and Events LLC is a small family horse farm in Hopewell twp, Bridgeton, NJ. We host pony themed day camps, mommy and me classes, photography opportunities and much more! We do beginner riding lessons starting at age 4. Follow us on Facebook to see what else we are up to!

Broom Making Demonstration by Vicki Dyer

Who knew people would share in my passion to create and enjoy things you can make with your own hands, and that bring you joy! I feel rich in so many ways, creating one piece at a time. Creating has become an obsession for me. I dabble in all types of crafts, working with glass, create art for the gardens, and making brooms. I enjoy creating functional pieces that can be used and shared to bring joy to both myself and others.

Making a broom is almost magical to me, finding the perfect handle, sanding and finishing it, winding the broomcorn, and then weaving and sewing the finishing touches to make it your own, passing it on to the next owner to use and enjoy. I find time to reflect on the things around me that are affecting the world we are all a part of, and try to make sense of it all in my head as well as my heart.

Millville Historical Society

For nearly a century, the Millville Historical Society has been a vital community resource preserving the history of the city of Millville in southern New Jersey. Since its first meeting in the parlor of Katherine L. Miller, the Society has grown and been entrusted with many of Millville's historic treasures including the 1798 Baracha Dunn House, the 1814 David Wood Mansion House and its icehouse, the 1857 Millville Bank and the Governor Stokes' Mausoleum in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Incorporated in 1927, the Society has promoted the history and heritage of the city of Millville through its collections, exhibitions, publications, educational activities and special events. Stop by our tent at the Cumberland County Historical Society's 250th Anniversary of the Greenwich Tea Burning event. As a proud partner of Revolution NJ the Millville Historical Society's exhibit will focus on two important Millville residents: the Revolutionary War officer, Captain Joseph Buck, who founded Millville, and Rebecca Mulford Bacon, one of the Society's founders who played a role in the creation of the Greenwich Tea Burning Monument in 1908. Visitors can write with a feather quill pen dipped in ink; play such period pastimes as Jacob's ladder, cup-and-ball, quoits, whirligig, nine-pins, and mancala; and create a church doll.

Third Star Fibre Artists Guild

Members include spinners, weavers, knitters, basket makers, quilters, dyers, crocheters, embroiderers, and people raising fiber producing animals. This guild was commenced in 1980 and named in honor of New Jersey, the third colony to embrace the Declaration of Independence.

Greenwich Tea Burning Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

The Society, formed in 1890, to honor those heroes who fought or otherwise supported this nation's War for Independence. This organization accepts for membership any female age 18 or older who can prove she is descended from a man or woman who supported this Revolution, regardless of race, religion or national origin. The NSDAR is a 501c3 non-profit service organization whose mission is Education, Preservation of History, and Patriotism. Its motto is God, Home and Country.

The Greenwich Tea Burning Chapter NSDAR, chartered in 1904, serves Cumberland County and was named to honor those patriots who in Greenwich took control of English tea bound for Philadelphia in 1774 and burned it in defiance of British oppressive taxation without representation.

Colonial Music by Cynthia Smith of Smitty's Kitchen

Cynthia Smith With Smitty's Kitchen is a combination of bands that was the result of the disbanding of Smitty's Kitchen and the continuation of recording by Cynthia Smith with many musicians and vocalists. The music is an eclectic mix of Irish, Scottish, Folk, Blues, Latin and other genres. It is a recording project of music study, begun in 2009 and is ongoing.

Cynthia was a classical piano student from age 8-16. Then received rigid classical training for several years as an adult at the Conservatory for Musical Arts in Haddonfield, NJ, while working as a piano instructor, which is her career. She took up the Irish whistle at age 28 and met many Irish musicians in the Philadelphia area, including Michael Copeland, who made Irish whistles and flutes and was an instructor.

New Jersey Historic Commission

New Jersey's people and varied resources have helped shape the mid-Atlantic region, the Nation, and the world for more than 350 years. Its notable diversity of inhabitants was evident from its beginning in 1664. Due in no small part to its location, it has seen all the great themes of the Nation's history play out within its borders. Its pivotal role during the American Revolution and early industrialization, and continuing legacy of technological innovation, distinguish it in the historical record. For these and many other reasons, the study of New Jersey history is both engaging and relevant to the state's residents and visitors.



Greenwich Tea Burners Tea Farm

Greenwich Teaburners Tea Farm is New Jersey's first & only Tea Farm! It was established in 2006 by Rich & Michelle DeMarco. They have been running the farm along with their daughter Ginger growing, processing, & packaging the tea. There is so much you can do with tea and we would love to share it all with you!

Potter's Tavern

Matthew Potter's tavern, which also served as his home, was built around 1767 and located on the north side of Broad Street. Constructed in a "salt box" design, with two stories in the front and only one in the rear with a long sloping rear roof, the tavern catered to mostly young gentlemen doing business at the courthouse, which was directly across the street.

In December 1775 a weekly hand-written newspaper started appearing in Potter's Tavern which included articles critical of British rule and supportive of independence. The Revolutionary War had begun earlier in the year, and this hand-written newspaper, known as the "Plain Dealer," called for open revolution months before the Declaration of Independence was drafted in Philadelphia. Despite efforts by local British Loyalists to identify and prosecute the contributors to the "Plain Dealer," none of the writers, who were anonymous, were ever discovered or arrested. Writings such as those found in the "Plain Dealer" were considered treasonous and those who wrote them could be punished with public execution.

At least thirteen editions of the "Plain Dealer" were produced, and today scholars attribute a portion of the success of the American Revolution to the creation of powerful communication among colonists through newspapers and leaflets like the "Plain Dealer." By reaching out to one another, colonists built bonds of sympathy and unified and by reading about local acts of resistance and stories of suffering under British rule the colonists came to realize they were fighting for each other.

After the Revolutionary War concluded several of the writers of the "Plain Dealer" came forward and became leaders in the new nation of the United States of America. These included Joseph Bloomfield and Richard Howell, who served as governors of New Jersey.

Potter's Tavern remained a tavern until around 1788 when it was converted into a two-family dwelling. It then is abandoned and nearly collapsed before being purchased by the City of Bridgeton in 1958. In the 1970's it was placed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and is now owned by the County of Cumberland and leased to the Cumberland County Historical Society. It is open on July 4th and other special occasions and by reservation. The only known surviving copies of the "Plain Dealer" are held in the Rare Book Collection of Rutgers University Library.

John DuBois Maritime Museum

The John DuBois Maritime Museum houses a large collection of Southern New Jersey Maritime related items from the 19th and early 20th centuries. A large and unique collection of builders' models of local craft show the plans used to build a new ship from the model itself. Exhibited are tools used to carve ribs, planking, masts and booms. Also displayed are many blocks, "deadlines" and "rigging." The museum is proud to have on of the largest collections on the East Coast of caulking tools.

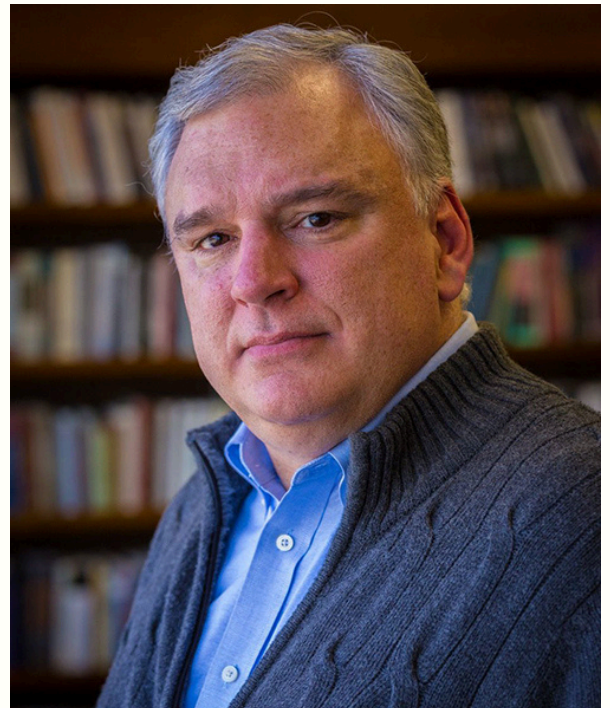
The Alan Ewing Carman Museum of Prehistory in Cumberland County

The building for the Museum of Prehistory, originally a nineteenth-century barn, was provided to the Cumberland County Historical Society by the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders to house the pre-Contact period Native American and fossil collections of Alan Ewing Carman. Carman was an avocational archaeologist who spent 52 years collecting, excavating, and researching Native American artifacts from southern New Jersey. The museum was dedicated in 1997, and Carman became the first director. Carman's generous gift to the society and his subsequent efforts managing the Museum of Prehistory helped to spread awareness and education about the Native American ancestors who lived in the region. Since Carman's original gift, the museum has acquired a variety of artifacts and specimens from different donors, which have enhanced the collection's research and educational potential. The museum has been and continues to be a valuable resource for archaeologists, paleontologists, students, tour groups, and the general public. Come visit our collections to learn more about southern New Jersey's storied past or to use our extensive research materials. You can contact the museum curator at: richardpadamczyk@gmail.com

Lummis Library

Dr. John Fea

John Fea teaches American history at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA. He is the author of **The Way of Improvement Leads Home: Philip Vickers Fithian and the Rural Enlightenment in America** (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008), **Confessing History: Explorations in Christian Faith and the Historian's Vocation** (Notre Dame University Press, 2010); **Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?: A Historical Introduction** (Westminster/John Knox Press, Feb. 2011, revised ed. Sept. 2016); *Why Study History: Reflecting on the Importance of the Past** (Baker, 2014); *The Bible Cause: A History of the American Bible Society* (Oxford, 2016); and, most recently **Believe Me: The Evangelical Road to Donald Trump* (Eerdmans, 2018).



Food

- **Creek's Edge Pizza at the Gibbon House**

Bathroom Locations

- **Lummis Library; 981 Ye Greate Street**
- **Prehistory Museum; 1461 Bridgeton Rd**



Greenwich Tea Burning December 22, 1774

By Brittney Pantelione Ingersoll, MA

On the night of December 22nd, 1774 an unknown number of Greenwich residents dressed as Indigenous people took possession of recently imported tea housed at Daniel Bowen's house. Rather than filling the bellies of colonists, this tea met the flames of protest in the town's market square.(1)

On May 10, 1773, Britain adopted the Tea Act to aid the British East India Company which was financially struggling and had a surplus of Tea. The act lowered the tax on imported Tea from the British East India Company, to help the company improve its sales and get a monopoly on

tea. Although the Tea Act cut the price of tea for the colonists, their lack of participation in the decision angered and offended them. As English citizens, they believed they had a right to have a representative in the decision-making process of laws and acts that directly affected them. Due to the lack of representation, the colonists asserted that Great Britain was being tyrannical against them. (2)

This rage and distress led to protests wherein colonists dumped British tea upon importation at ports. The most well-known was the Boston Tea Party that occurred on December 16, 1773, in which members of the Sons of Liberty dressed as Native Americans stole tea that they threw into the Boston Harbor. This act inspired many other tea incidents throughout the east

1. John Fea, "Revolution," *The Way of Improvement Leads Home: Philip Vickers Fithian and the Rural Enlightenment in Early America*, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009), p. 145-146

2. "The Tea Party," *Massachusetts Historical Society*, <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/teaparty.php>.; John M. Murrin, "England and Colonial America: A Novel Theory of the American Revolution," In *Anglicizing America: Empire, Revolution, Republic*, edited by Ignacio Gallup-Diaz, Andrew Shankman, and David J. Silverman, 9-19. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt13x1pkg.4>.

coast, one of the latest being the Greenwich Tea Burning. (3)

The tea belonged to Philadelphia merchants, John Duffield and Stacey Hepburn. The Greenwich residents indicted for the tea's destruction were Richard Howell, Joel Miller, Alexander Moore Jr., Ephraim Seeley, Silas Newcomb Henry Seeley, and Abraham Sheppard. The men were scheduled to be tried in civil and criminal cases, but due to the commencement of the war, the trials never occurred. (4)

One Greenwich resident has caused many to question his involvement- Philip Vickers Fithian. Listed on the Tea Monument in Greenwich, there is no documentation linking him to the event. Fithian became associated with the Tea Burning in 1839, 65 years after the event,

when Ebenezer Elmer, a politician and tea burner himself, named Fithian in an interview as a participant. Additionally, it has been believed that the tea burners met at Fithian's house the night of the burning. (5)

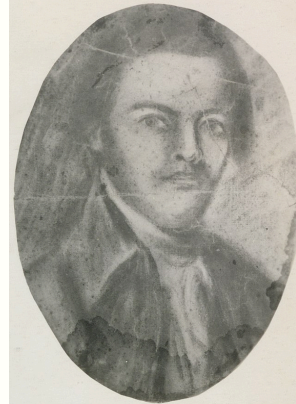


Image of Philip Vickers Fithian

The destruction of tea was a message to Great Britain. The colonists had seemingly been pushed to their limits by the array of taxation acts without representation, with the Tea Act leading to the destruction of property throughout the East Coast.

December 22, 2024, will be the 250th anniversary of when Greenwich citizens burned tea that had arrived at their port.

3. "The Tea Party," Massachusetts Historical Society, <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/teaparty.php>.

4. John Fea, "Revolution," *The Way of Improvement Leads Home: Philip Vickers Fithian and the Rural Enlightenment in Early America*, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009), p. 147-148

5. *Ibid.*, p. 48

Welcome to Woodruff Energy!

A lot has changed since we opened our doors at Woodruff Energy in 1869. From our modest beginnings delivering coal to families and businesses across Southern New Jersey to becoming a full-service HVAC, plumbing, and remodeling company that services thousands of customers from the Delaware River to the Garden State Parkway, one thing that hasn't wavered in our century and a half of business in

South Jersey is our commitment to the loyal businesses and communities who call it home. For exceptional service and competitive pricing, you can rely on Woodruff Energy - Your Only Neighborhood Fuel Company!

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