

HIGHTSTOWN
NEW



EAST WINDSOR
JERSEY

Historical Society News

DECEMBER 2013

History of the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society

From the Archives

The Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society will celebrate its 42nd Anniversary on November 21, 2013. The Society has accomplished much in those years. The following are some of the highlights :

The Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society was founded in 1971, on the initiative of the Junior Friday Club, under the direction of Hazel Zirkle. During Hightstown's celebration of its 250th Anniversary, the Club felt it was time to organize a historical society and museum. Eighty-four residents attended the historical society's planning meetings on May 23, 1971.

The first dinner meeting and installation of officers of the Society was held November 21, 1971, at the Coach and Four Restaurant. The first president of the Society was Alphaeus Albert; Vice President, Richard Lee; Recording Secretary, Hazel Zirkle; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Everett Swift; Treasurer, Mrs. V. Robert Carson, Jr.

Leonard Van Hise, a local Realtor, had the Hulda



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2013

- 15 Christmas Tea and Holiday Boutique 1:30-4:00
- 15 Candlelight House Tour, 3:00-6:00

JANUARY 2014

- 26 Annual Banquet 3:00

Ely house listed for sale and recommended that it be considered for the historical society museum. Leonard was instrumental in making the sale happen by finding a local resident to hold the loan for the Society. On June 21, 1974, the Society bought the house that it now uses as its headquarters, the Ely House, for

\$40,000. The Society managed to raise the \$10,000 down payment through fundraisers, including an "1850's Ball". Several local families purchased furniture from the Huldah Ely estate for the Society to display in its new headquarters. Among the purchases made was a mahogany drop-leaf table presently located in the dining room, and a four-poster bed with a rope spring trundle bed presently in one bedroom. Other donated furnishings include a mahogany Sheraton table of the 1820s, Ogee Clock of the 1830s, and an organ patented and built in the 1840s, and four James Marlatt portraits.



This Greek Revival style house dates from c. 1850. The house has a large entrance extending through the house. On the north side of the hall is a large "double parlor" suitable for large meetings. On the south side of the hall are two smaller rooms and a large kitchen in the rear completing the first floor. On the second floor are five bedrooms. The home has excellent woodwork, original floor-boards of random width pine, "grained" doors and many fireplaces throughout the rooms. There are square pegged oak beams in the attic.

It is believed that Abner Reed built the house. James M. Cubberly purchased the house in 1849 at a sheriff's sale for non-payment of taxes. Cubberly was director and cashier in the Central Jersey Bank that once stood next door on the now vacant lot on the corner of North Main Street and Bank Street. James Cubberly died in the house in 1889 and left

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HIGHTSTOWN EAST WINDSOR
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Hightstown, New Jersey
Founded 1971*

**To educate, while preserving for
future generations, our people
and our community's history.**

Shirley Olsen, Editor



~ **Officers for 2012-2013** ~

- Bob Patten..... President
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- Jane Cox Vice President
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- Shirley Olsen..... Recording Secretary
609-448-8388
- Kathy Patten.....Corresponding Secretary
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- Robert Szychowski Treasurer
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~ **Society Trustees** ~

Marie Gerland and Irene Schubert

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Christmas Candlelight House Tour

The Hightstown Woman's Club will be selling House Tour tickets on December 15 at Ely House after 1:30 p.m. A tour of seven private homes in Hightstown and East Windsor is planned from 3 to 6 p.m. Members of the Hightstown Woman's Club will act as docents during the tour. We thank the homeowners who decorated and open their homes, many of whom are members of the Society. The Christmas tour is organized every two years. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Proceeds from event will benefit our Society, the East Windsor Regional School District, and other Club charities.



After rummaging through old folders of previous Society tours, this editor found some histories of the houses on Christmas tour this year which she wanted to share. Although seven houses are on tour, she has chosen three to feature in this newsletter.

The **Cappy and Chris Stults** home, 408 South Main Street, built for Charles A. Mason in 1915. The house combines elements of the Arts & Crafts style and so-called Prairie style, which were fashionable during the years before World War One. Arts and Crafts houses often featured a plain stucco exterior, an open plan, and a great deal of stained oak woodwork. In this case chestnut was used. Christmas trees with shining ornaments will be displayed in each room along with this homeowners' extensive Santa Collection.



The **Jim and Darlene Keller Home**, 4 Drew Lane, East Windsor: This home was built in the 1750's and was later expanded in the 1850's. Nestled in

Annual Membership Application (January-December)

JOIN TODAY ~ BECOME A MEMBER!

- q Individual Membership—**\$20.00**
- q Family Membership—**\$25.00**
- q Booster/Patron Membership— **\$40.00**
- q Sustaining Membership—**\$50.00**
- q Life (Individual) Membership—**\$200.00**
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Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please mail the completed application, along with a check made payable to

**2014 DUES
ARE DUE
JANUARY 1ST**

Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society
Membership Committee
Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society
164 North Main Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520

among East Windsor's contemporary homes, this farmhouse has seen families celebrate Christmas since the birth of our nation. During the holiday season, the current owners use traditional decorations that are in keeping with the age and style of the home. The two fireplaces, exposed beams, and large archway give visitors a glimpse into our local Christmas past.

The **Gary and Michele Stevens** house: 231 Rogers Avenue built for Enoch Dey, circa 1860, near the intersection of Stockton Street, is an exemplary version of an L-shaped Gothic Revival home and is the center of Hightstown's Historic District. It is currently in the process of being converted from Maurice Hageman's insurance and real estate office back to a family home. The kitchen's return to the main floor is this year's cause for celebration. Vintage outdoor decorations, trees, and mantles adorned throughout, as well as the dining room set for a Christmas feast is not to be missed.

The four other homes on tour are the **Tuliszewski** house on 10 Taylor Avenue, the **Egan** home at 232 Stockton Street; the **Schmid** house at 301 Mercer Street, and the **Zito** house at 123 Morrison Avenue. Pre-sale tickets, at \$10 per person, are now available at Perennial Home (closed Mondays) and Weichert Realtors in East Windsor.

The **First United Methodist Church** 187 Stockton Street. The Bell Choir will perform on December 15 at 6 p.m. This Neo-Gothic stone building is the cornerstone for the Stockton Street Historic District, which was laid in 1898.

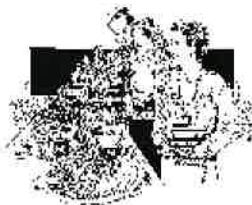
Annual Banquet set for January 26, 2014

The annual banquet is set for Sunday, January 26, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at Santino's Restaurant, 1240 Route 130 South, Robbinsville.

The price is \$32.00 per person and reservations must be made by January 20, 2013. Checks should be made out to the H.E.W. Historical Society and sent to Shirley Olsen, 6 Farr Avenue, Hightstown, N.J. 08520.

Dr. David Martin will be our guest speaker. He will be presenting a program on "Peddie School Celebrates 150 Years."

The public is invited and encouraged to attend what should be an interesting presentation.



The Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society

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the house to his daughter, Anna Cubberly Jemison Rogers, who was married in the house as were members of the Ely family. Anna apparently rented the house out, as in the early 1900s, it served as a boarding house. At one time there was a dentist's office in the back of the double parlor.

Three different families lived in the house before the Elys bought it. In 1917, Joseph J. Ely bought the house and at least two generations of the Ely family lived there. Another Ely, named Joseph, also a prominent attorney, was the father of Huldah and her brothers and sisters. Miss Huldah Ely never married and was a school teacher in Hightstown, teaching second grade. She maintained the house all alone for many years before her death. Her portrait hangs in the front hall.

After the Society purchased the Ely House, many of its 311 members began volunteering to rehabilitate the house. Volunteers, such as members of the Hightstown Woman's Club and the Exchange Club, spent the next five years scraping, painting, and plastering. It wasn't until the fall of 1979 that much of the work was done downstairs and ready for the open house.

Many open houses featuring historical exhibits were held at Ely House during the 1970's to interest the community in giving contributions toward further rehabilitation of the house. The main fundraiser in the early years was the annual Doll Show with the first show being held in April of 1977, and the 16th and final show, held in May, 1992.

The Society's current fundraiser is the historical house tour in Hightstown and East Windsor, which it sponsors every other year. Our first tour took place on October 14, 1990, and today, this continues to be a successful fundraiser for the Society due to the large participation of the local community.

The rest of the Society history will be continued in the next newsletter. The Society meets the first Tuesday of each month from September to June at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and new members are always welcome to come to the meetings and encouraged to continue the work at the Society.



Annual Christmas Tea and Holiday Boutique

The Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society invites the community to its annual Christmas Tea and Holiday Boutique from 1:30-4 p.m. on Sunday, December 15. Members of the Society are decorating the house in a Williamsburg theme. Entertainment will be provided by students from the Hightstown High School Chamber Singers and Schola under the leadership of Cathy Anzuini at 2 p.m. The Society appreciates Cathy bringing her students every year, providing entertainment for our tea.



In the Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center, members from the First Presbyterian Church will be bringing some handmade Christmas articles for sale for the holiday boutique. Rocky Brook Garden Club members will have fresh centerpieces for sale during the Christmas Tea.

Regular Society Meetings

The Society holds their Executive Board meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Sara Hutchinson Educational Center (freight station). All members are invited and encouraged to attend.



Visit our website at www.hewhs.com



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