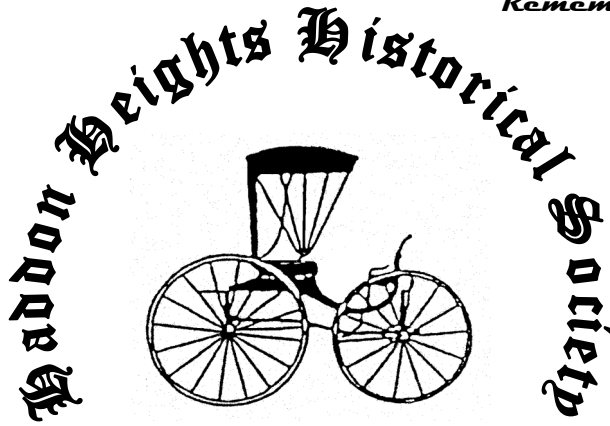


" Remembering Yesterday For The People Of Tomorrow "



Bulletin

P.O. Box 118 • Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

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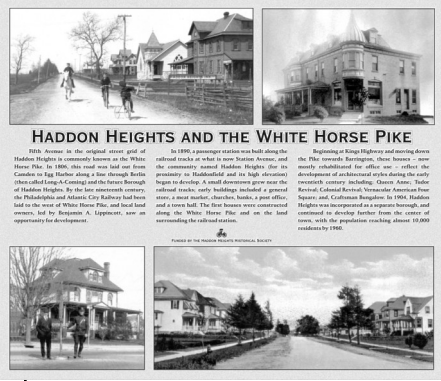
Volume 38 Number 1

January 2013

We meet on the third MONDAY of January, April, July, and October - at **7:00pm**

OUR NEXT MEETING: Monday evening January 28th at 7:00pm in the Haddon Heights Library.

Have you ever wondered how you can go for years not noticing something, then- when you finally do, you see that same thing everywhere you look? In passing, you may have stopped and read one of the interpretive markers placed around town, and not realized there are more of those gems of information to be found within a short walk or drive, right here in Haddon Heights!!! Our January meeting will feature past Historical Society Board President and Preservation Architect, Margaret Westfield, who will lead a "Show & Tell" overview presentation discussing the stories and strategic placement of these Historical Society fact-filled markers.



HADDON HEIGHTS AND THE WHITE HORSE PIKE

In 1868 a passenger train on both sides of the railroad tracks at what is now Station Avenue, and the community named Haddon Heights (due to its proximity to Haddonfield and its high elevation) began to develop. A small downtown grew near the railroad tracks; early buildings included a general store, a meat market, a church, a post office, and a town hall. The first houses were constructed along the White Horse Pike and on the land surrounding the railroad station.

Please come to meet and greet your fellow Historical Society members and community residents as we find out more about these recent additions to our landscape, meant to help us meet our vision /motto: "Remembering yesterday for the people of tomorrow..." Refreshments will be provided All of our meetings are free of charge, and open to the public.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE I would like to wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year. Now that the holidays are over I hope you will please consider volunteering to donate some of your time to the Haddon Heights Historical Society. We have a VERY hard working Board and Committee Chair People who all work above and beyond. We REALLY need to fill the positions of: Vice President, Publicity, and Photographer. Please consider volunteering to help this worthwhile non-profit organization. We cannot do it without YOU. I look forward to seeing you at the January 28, 2013 Membership Meeting as Margaret Westfield speaks about the Haddon Heights Historical Interpretive Signs. We hope you have been learning many interesting facts about our historic borough by reading these new and informative signs. PLEASE NOTE: The January Membership Meeting is on January 28th as the Library is closed on the third Monday due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. A special thank you to Peter Hill for arranging this program and to Anne McAdams for the delicious treats she provides for the meeting. See you on the 28th! Please consider bringing a friend. *Elena*

THE GRIFFITH MORGAN HOMESTEAD-

One weekend last Fall, reading the paper, we noticed an open house at a “historic” house in Pennsauken. I have lived in South Jersey for 46 years, and to that point, considered myself fairly aware of significant historic sites in our area. This home was one that had somehow flown completely under my radar! On that October Saturday afternoon, we visited the Griffith Morgan house. I was quite impressed with the restoration, especially as I looked at photos depicting the condition when the Griffith Morgan Committee was deeded the property in 1973! At one of our Haddon Heights Historical Society Board meetings, I mentioned my historic revelation to Margaret Westfield, who was quite familiar with the property. She offered to share with me (and you) a research article she had written some years ago. I hope you find it informative. Take an opportunity to seek out this historic gem!!



Nestled among the industrial buildings that characterize Pennsauken’s riverfront, there is an unusual stone and brick building associated with an early colonial settler named Griffith Morgan. Griffith Morgan (d.1714) was a mariner and a Welsh Quaker. He, like other Friends of the period, was persecuted and imprisoned for his religious beliefs in his homeland. Before settling in the Delaware Valley, Morgan may have visited or lived in Long Island, New York where other members of the Morgan family resided. Long Island was also the first home for the Spicer and Burroughs families, who were later to become Griffith Morgan’s neighbors in West Jersey.

In 1693 Griffith Morgan married Elizabeth Ibbs Coles (d.1719), the widow of emigrant Samuel Coles, in Philadelphia. After their marriage, Griffith and Elizabeth Morgan had one son, Alexander. Morgan bought a 500-acre tract of land along the southern side of the Pennsauken Creek, near its mouth at the Delaware River, in 1697 from David Lloyd and Isaac Norris, executors of the estate of Thomas Lloyd, of London. When Morgan had the parcel surveyed, it appears that he may have already been living on the property. The Thomas Sharp survey records him as being of the province of West Jersey (as opposed to NY) and marks one property boundary in the vicinity of the Griffith Morgan homestead with the description, “near an Irish man’s house.” Morgan also bought proprietary shares in West Jersey as well as 30 acres of cedar swampland.

Griffith Morgan probably continued his sea faring lifestyle, but also farmed his Pennsauken Creek property. His estate inventory, recorded after his death in 1714, notes that Morgan owned a “boat and anchor” and had “fishing net and lines” displayed next to his settle in the entry of his house. He also owned “husbandry toulds [sic] and gears,” “carpinter’s [sic] tools,” hoes, spades, a plow, sheep, swine, horses, cows, oxen, etc. Griffith Morgan’s inventory gives a detailed description of the contents of his personal estate. Several rooms of his house are noted in the listing: a “new Roume [sic],” which contained a chest of drawers, 6 chairs, a small table, and other items; an “Iner Roume [sic],” which contained a large and small bed and bedroom furniture; “the chamber” on the second floor with a bed, furnishings, and storage items; an “Entry” with a settle and fishing equipment; and “the house Pawlor [sic]” or kitchen with cooking and eating ware.

Two cellars or cold storage rooms, where the milk, cheese, candle tallow, liquor, and molasses were kept, were also noted in the inventory. These cellars may have been part of the house, but could have been spring-houses or other outbuildings separate from the main house. Although a considerable quantity of tools, farming equipment, and livestock is recorded, there is no mention of any other outbuildings.

Local tradition and history record the existing three story stone structure as the house that Griffith Morgan built between 1693 and 1696. This would make it the oldest extant house in Camden County. However, the amount of rooms noted in Griffith Morgan’s 1714 house and estate inventory suggests that his building could not have been the masonry structure that is extant today. Most likely, the standing stone building was attached to the original Griffith Morgan house at a later period. Although the existing structure may not have been the home of Griffith Morgan, the house is still significant for its architecture and association with his family.

The remnants of this earlier dwelling can be seen in the circa 1936 Historical American Building Survey (HABS) photographs and measured drawings for the “Henry Wood Sr. – Phillips House: HABS NJ-208.” These drawings show the

scarring of a low, one story, gambrel-roofed structure on the eastern elevation of the stone structure, which can now be seen in stucco on the same façade. An outline of an infilled door connecting the two buildings can also be discerned. The practice of erecting a larger and more improved house addition to the original settlement structure was a common occurrence in this area.

Alexander Morgan (d.1751) inherited his father’s property either in 1714 when Griffith died, or when Alexander reached the age of majority at 21 (since his year of birth is not known). In 1717 he married Hannah Cooper, daughter of Joseph and Lydia Cooper of Pyne Poynt in Camden, at Newton Friends Meeting. They had ten children ~ two sons, Joseph and Benjamin, and four daughters survived to adulthood. Alexander Morgan was quite involved in the political affairs of the county. He is recorded in the County’s early administrative documents as an assessor, juror, freeholder, constable, and overseer of roads and the poor for old Gloucester County and Waterford Township. Morgan was also a prosperous farmer, and it appears that his farming operations required extra hands. He advertised several times, from 1724 to 1750, in local newspapers for help in finding a runaway Irish male servant and a Negro male slave.



He had the original 500-acre homestead re-surveyed by the West Jersey Proprietors in 1717. They corrected the original survey and re-drew the proper boundaries. This survey shows the location of the original Griffith Morgan house, set back from the main channel of the Delaware River and on the fast land at the mouth of the Pennsauken Creek. During his lifetime Alexander Morgan bought and sold several private tracts, and purchased one from the West Jersey Proprietors, and one from the Penn family. Alexander Morgan’s 1751 inventory also shows that he made substantial additions to his father’s house. The inventory details the contents of the gambrel-roofed, three story stone building which contains a new kitchen and hall on the first floor, two second-floor chambers, and four third-floor garret rooms. An analysis of the room names used in the 1714 and 1751 inventories in conjunction with the 1936 HABS floor plans supports the theory that the existing structure was built after 1714. All of the room names from the 1751 inventory can be logically assigned to existing rooms except the daughter’s room, the entry going into the daughter’s, and the two chambers over

the daughter’s room. These correspond to the rooms of the original house – the daughter’s room is the 1714 “house parlor”, the entry going into the daughter’s room is the “entry”, and the two chambers must be the “inner room” and “chamber”. The fifth room of the 1714 inventory, the “new room” probably stood where the masonry structure is today, and was therefore removed for the addition.

HABS dates the existing house to circa 1738, but gives no explanation for this finding. The circa 1734 Benjamin Cooper House at Cooper’s Point in Camden is of similar stone construction and gambrel roofing. It was also built adjacent to the original home of William Cooper, the emigrant. Segmental arched openings similar to those on the existing building are found on high-style Queen Anne-style colonial houses in Philadelphia from 1725 to 1750. The HABS-recorded egg-and-dart details in the closet transoms are also similar to those in the 1726 Joseph Cooper home in Camden. The fireplace moldings and other architectural detailing of the Alexander Morgan house indicate that the house was indeed a remarkable contemporary example of a high style, Queen Anne-style colonial plantation house. Additional photos and drawings referenced in Margaret’s article can be seen at the following website: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/nj0403/>

2013 Membership Application / Renewal- Haddon Heights Historical Society

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ E-Mail _____

Type of Membership: _____ Single- \$10.00 _____ Household- \$15.00

I would also like to make a tax deductible donation to the Haddon Heights Historical Society, in the amount of \$ _____.

I am interested in getting involved with: Publicity Newsletter Web site Programs Marketing

Haddon Heights Historical Society, P.O. Box 118, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

COMING EVENTS

1/28/13 7:00pm- Library: (Note Date Change)
General Membership Mtg.- History of the HHHS
Interpretive Signs

3/23/13 League of Historical Societies of NJ-
Spring Meeting. Cold Spring Village- Cape May
County

4/15/13 7:00pm- Library: General Membership
Mtg.- Presentation on the efforts to preserve the
historic Princeton Battlefield

7/15/13 7:00pm- Library: General Membership
Mtg.-

10/21/13 7:00pm- Library: General Membership
Mtg.-

SPRING- 2014 -League of Historical Societies of
NJ Spring Meeting held in Haddon Heights !!!
2014 is the 350th anniversary of NJ. We are look-
ing for members to join our planning committee.

*Just a reminder...The Historical Society is a
501(c)3 organization. Please keep us in mind
as you plan your charitable donations.*

THANKS for listening... I know you are out there...If you come across old photos of Haddon Heights, or old stories of historic interest, please contact me. For those of you who persevere and read this newsletter to the bitter end, just to get to my message, I am pleased to announce that I have been named President of the Board of Directors at the Ritz Theatre in Haddon Township. I have been affiliated with the Ritz since 1984 and am proud to bring my many years of interest in history and preservation to this grand old theater!

Ken Funkhouser, Editor

(P.S.- I am remaining as your editor....)

2013- 2014 Historical Society Board

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <u>President-(2012-2014)</u> | Elena Hill |
| <u>*Vice-President-(2010-2012)</u> | <u>VACANT</u> |
| <u>Past President-</u> | Margaret Westfield |
| <u>Treasurer-(Ends 2013)</u> | Art Ritter |
| <u>Secretary- (Ends 2013)</u> | Judy Buecker |
| <u>Trustees-(2010-2013)</u> | Virginia Appleby Ken Funkhouser Anne McAdams |

COMMITTEES / CHAIRS

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <u>Newsletter Ed.-</u> | Ken Funkhouser |
| <u>Membership Chair-</u> | Cheryl Alexander |
| <u>Web Master-</u> | Lisa Ewing |
| <u>Nominating Comm.-</u> | Bob Hunter/ Peter Hill |
| <u>Borough Council Liaison</u> | Rose Fitzgerald |
| <u>Affairs-</u> | Ginny Appleby |
| <u>Merch/Fund Raising-</u> | Joan Rossler/ Ginny Appleby |
| <u>Programs/Publicity-</u> | Peter Hill/ *Programs/Publicity- Asst. <u>VACANT</u> *Digital Photographer <u>VACANT</u> |

Contact the Board : WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

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