

"Remembering Yesterday For The People Of Tomorrow"



Bulletin

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

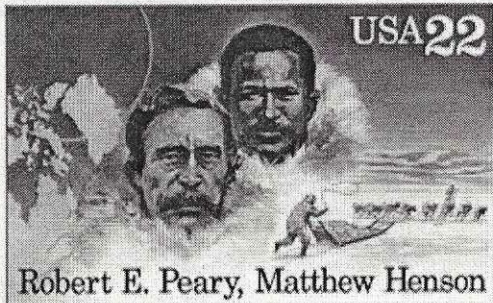
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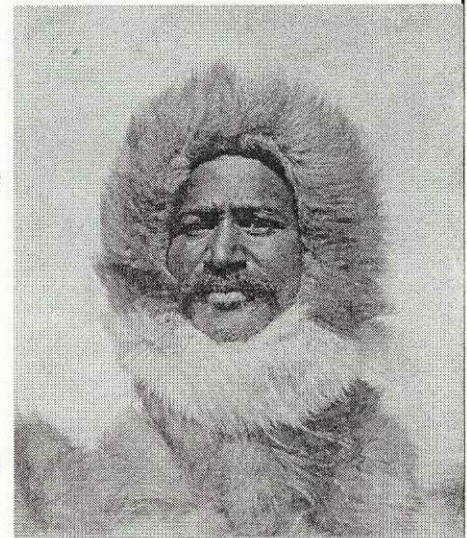
October 2014

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

MATTHEW HENSON- Ever heard of him? I consider myself to be of above average intelligence, and I have to say I did not recall ever hearing this name when it first came up as a topic for our October General Membership meeting. The more I learned about life and adventures of Mr. Henson, the more I appreciated that they were the stuff of legend and great historical significance. The North Pole could only be discovered **ONCE...** and Matthew Henson was there!!! In fact, he is the co-discoverer, along with Robert Peary... Who received the majority of credit.



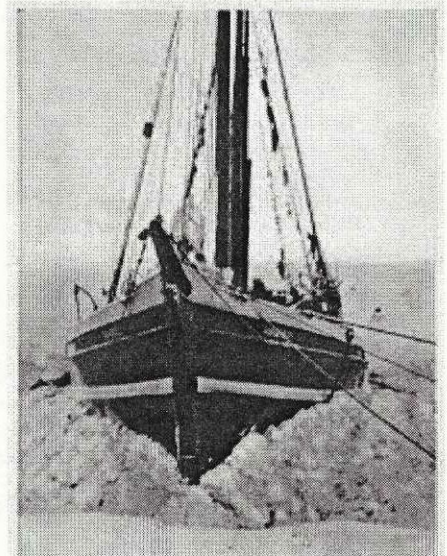
Dick Wolf, A resident of Haddon Heights, composer/song writer, has developed a multi-media show which features important historical photographs and video. Mr. Wolf is a member of the Board of Trustees as well as the Musical Director for the **CAMDEN SHIPYARD & MARITIME MUSEUM**, which is the site of a Giamotti statue of Mr. Henson. The statue is on



Broadway in Camden. This presentation honors Henson's extraordinary legacy, which should rank up with other great exploration "firsts" such as those of the astronauts. Just imagine the tenacity it took to carry out eight arctic expeditions in temperatures of -50 degrees, at the turn of the 20th century.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- The weather is getting cooler and the leaves are beginning to fall. As I drive around, I see pumpkins and plants decorating our homes. Fall is here!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The lazy, hazy days of summer are over !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I do miss the pool. The rain stopped us from participating in the Fall Festival on October 4th. Joan Rossler worked hard to prepare for the event but we did not want to "dampen" our merchandise. I appreciate the diligent efforts of the entire board. Ken, thank you for a very informative newsletter. Peter Hill has another interesting program for the October meeting. Our speaker, Dick Wolf, is an incredibly interesting person. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our October meeting. Please consider bringing a friend.

Elena



VOLUNTEERS FOR BOARD POSITIONS BEING SOUGHT-

Please see page 4 for

openings on the Board/Committees. We are also looking for someone with an I.T. or "Web" background to help with tech support to our Society Website! To volunteer/suggest someone, see us at the October meeting!

NEW FLAG FOR THE LIBRARY- A 3'x5' full fringe ceremonial flag was purchased by the Historical Society as a special thank you to the library for its generosity in allowing us to meet there. We will hold a formal presentation and "photo op..." at our October meeting.

UPCOMING LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES MEETINGS- The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey holds three state-wide meetings per year. Rotating to a different part of the state for each meeting. Meetings are open to HHHS members and will be:

- November 1, 2014 North Jersey American Revolution Round Table, Morristown, Morris County
- March 7, 2015 Medford Historical Society, Medford, Burlington County
- June 2015 Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum, Rahway, Union County

For additional information, please contact Linda Barth, 908-722-7428, barths@att.net.

HISTORY JUST DOWN THE ROAD- THE EPHRATA CLOISTER- Earlier this year, during a trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, I saw a sign for the Ephrata Cloister. I had heard of the place and pictured it in my mind before I got there. I envisioned high walls with nuns inside praying all day long. What I discovered was it is no longer active and is a historic site that recalls the practices and beliefs of an unusual religious group, over several decades. The following comes courtesy of Ephrata Cloister website. The photos are mine.

Conrad Beissel, founder of Ephrata, was born in Eberbach am Neckar, Germany, in March 1691. By the age of 8 Conrad had been orphaned by the death of his parents. He learned the trade of baker, and traveled the region to perfect his skills. He encountered Pietism, a movement to reform the established, state supported Protestant churches. Joining the Pietists, Beissel met in small groups not sanctioned by the church to read the Bible and pray. The church found Beissel in conflict with the law, and he was banished from his homeland. He remained in Germany until 1720 when he immigrated to Pennsylvania, where William Penn's policies offered freedom of conscience.



After a year in Germantown, outside Philadelphia, he moved to the Conestoga area, east of present day Lancaster, Pennsylvania. There he affiliated with the Brethren, an Anabaptist group. In 1724 Beissel was appointed leader of the newly formed Conestoga Brethren Congregation. His radical ideas of Saturday worship and promotion of celibacy soon caused a split within the congregation, and in 1728 Beissel withdrew his membership in the church. His charismatic personality continued to attract followers until 1732 when he sought the hermit's life along the banks of the Cocalico Creek in northern Lancaster County. Soon after his move, Beissel was followed by like-minded men and women wishing to follow his teachings.

What began as a small group of devoted individuals grew into a thriving community of nearly 80 celibate members supported by an estimated 200 family members from the region at its zenith in the mid-18th-century. Much of the activity surrounded the charismatic founder, Conrad Beissel. His theology, a hybrid of pietism and mysticism, encouraged celibacy, Sabbath worship, Anabaptism, and the ascetic life, yet provided room for families, limited industry, and creative expression. The community became known for its self-composed a cappella music, Germanic calligraphy known as *Frakturschriften*, and the complete publishing center which included a paper mill, printing office, and book bindery.

During the period from 1735 to 1746 the community constructed no less than eight major structures, dormitories or meetinghouses, plus a number of smaller dwellings, workshops, and mills. Internal discord grew within the group. The most dramatic was the challenge to leadership posed by Israel Eckerlin, Prior of the

Brotherhood. This came to a head in 1745 with Eckerlin's expulsion from Ephrata, but it was not the only note of conflict in the community's long history.

Beissel died in 1768 and the society quickly declined. Peter Miller, successor to Beissel, recognized the monastic life was no longer attractive to new generations, writing to Benjamin Franklin, "the mind of Americans is bent another way." By 1813 the last of the celibate members died, and in 1814 the remaining members of the married congregation formed the German Seventh Day Baptist Church. Poorer members moved into many of the original buildings on the Cloister property and altered the spaces to suit their needs. With these new residents came bits of furniture and household items; however they also made use of the furnishings that remained in the buildings. In many cases 18th-century furniture was given a coat of paint, cut down to fit a space, or repaired with disregard to original construction methods or materials.

By 1929 the remaining church members living at the Cloister entered into a disagreement with each other on the disposition of the site and its artifacts. The members took legal action against one another, and in 1934 the courts revoked the incorporation charter for the Church at Ephrata. The property was placed under the care of a court appointed receiver, and in 1941, the remaining 28 acres of the historic site was sold to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Restoration on the nine surviving original buildings began immediately.

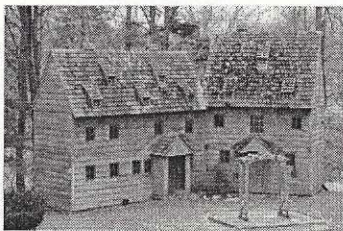
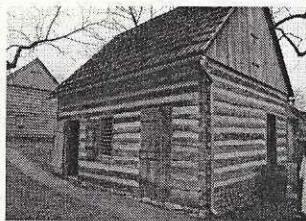
Today the National Historic Landmark is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Daily tours, special programs, and on-going research continue to inform and educate visitors to the site about Ephrata's surviving legacy and the people who built it.

Ephrata Cloister

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PA 17522

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Ephrata1732@gmail.com



2015 HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUES- 2014 is almost history, and it is time to think about renewing your individual / household membership in the Haddon Heights Historical Society. Your dues help support our activities and ongoing projects to keep history alive. In addition, paid-up members will continue to receive the HHHS Quarterly Newsletter! If you have given us your e-mail address, you will also receive a full color copy of each edition of the newsletter electronically. That alone should be worth the "price of admission"...

As we approach 2015, those who have not maintained current membership status for the past year will be dropped from the rolls, and can re-activate membership by joining for calendar year 2015. Renewal is easy. You can complete the application below and bring it to the meeting on October 20th, or you can mail it to the Historical Society P.O. Box with appropriate payment.

2015 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

10/20/14- 7:00pm General Membership Meeting-
1st to the North Pole- Discover Matthew Henson

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER- Your Dues
"Paid Through" YEAR date is printed on your
newsletter label. If your date is not 2014, your
Dues are "Due". Please make sure you are up to
date. Don't risk being dropped from our mailing !!

REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS-

We have copies of the Historical Society's book
"Haddon Heights-The Ideal Suburb" available for
sale at the Library. This book is a collection of
reminiscences from our past and holds much in-
sight into the early history of our town. Whether
you grew up here or just moved in, this book will
provide hours of enjoyable reading for only \$20.00

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

2014 Historical Society Board

<u>President-(2012-2014)</u>	Elena Hill
<u>Vice-President-(2014-2016)</u>	Bob Hunter
<u>Past President-</u>	Margaret Westfield
<u>Treasurer-(Ends 2016)</u>	Art Ritter
<u>Secretary- (Ends 2016)</u>	Judy Buecker
<u>Trustees-(2013-2016)</u>	Virginia Appleby
	Ken Funkhouser
	Anne McAdams

COMMITTEES / CHAIRS

<u>Newsletter Ed.-</u>	Ken Funkhouser
<u>Membership Chair-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Web Master-</u>	Dan Alexander
<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/ Dan Alexander
<u>Programs/Publicity- Asst.</u>	Vacant
<u>Digital Photographer</u>	Vacant
<u>Contact the Board : WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG</u>	
<u>Mail correspondence- P.O. Box 118 Haddon Heights, NJ 08035</u>	

THANKS for listening... and reading. Encourage your friends, neighbors and family to join the Historical Society. You can't beat the deal and you will get to help spread a bit of history around for those who come after us! Let us continue to remember yesterday for the people of tomorrow...

Ken Funkhouser, Editor

Haddon Heights Historical Society
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