

INDIAN MILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOUNDED FEBRUARY, 1973

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF SHAMONG TOWNSHIP HERITAGE

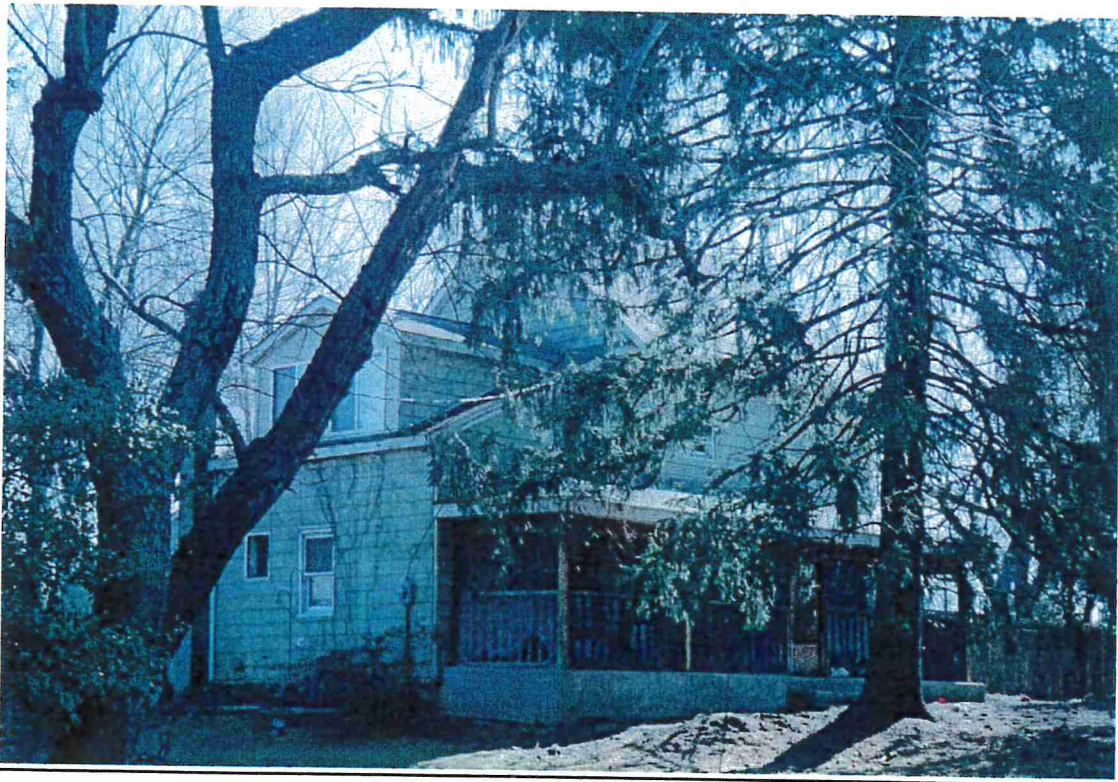
NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 Issue 2

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Spring 2010

THE FARM HOME AT 627 ATSION ROAD



Please refer to the article in the **GLIMPSES OF THE PAST** section of this newsletter for more details. The above photograph was taken in March, 2010.

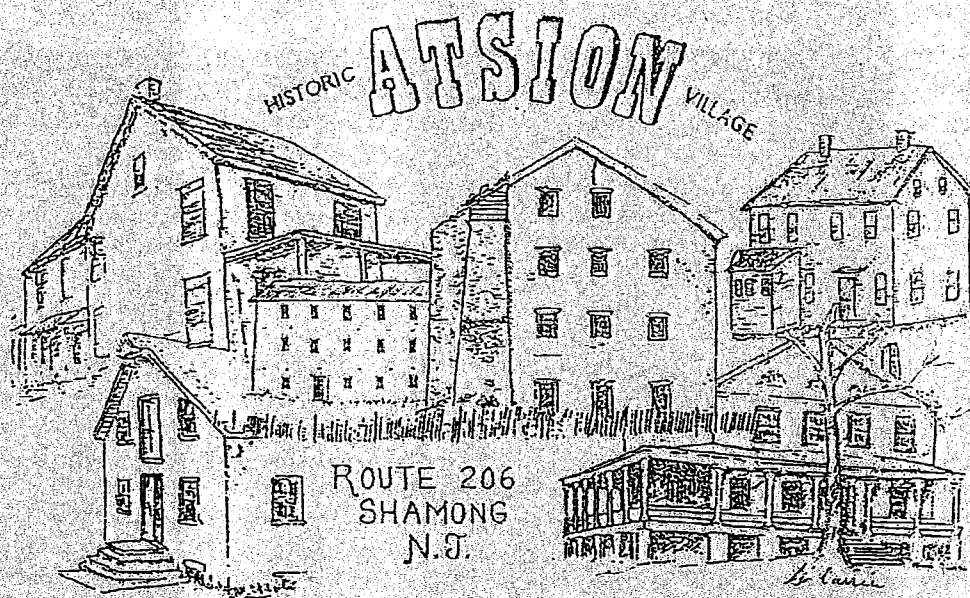
ATSION DAY - OUTDOOR - FLEA MARKET

A tradition since 1973

Sponsored By: The Indian Mills Historical Society
A 501(c)(3) non profit organization

SUNDAY MAY 2, 2010

9 AM ~ 3 PM



Arts & Crafts ~ Antiques ~ Fleas

\$25 per vendor space ~ no reservation required

Gates open 6:30AM for vendor set-up

Info: phone 609-268-6880 (Joe)

Email: asstchief281@comcast.net

Fax: 609-268-6885

**INDIAN MILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
105 Willow Grove Road, Shamong, NJ 08088**

Atsion Lake State Park
Route 206, Wharton State Forest, Shamong Township, Burlington County

Food provided by Shamong Boy Scout Troop #47

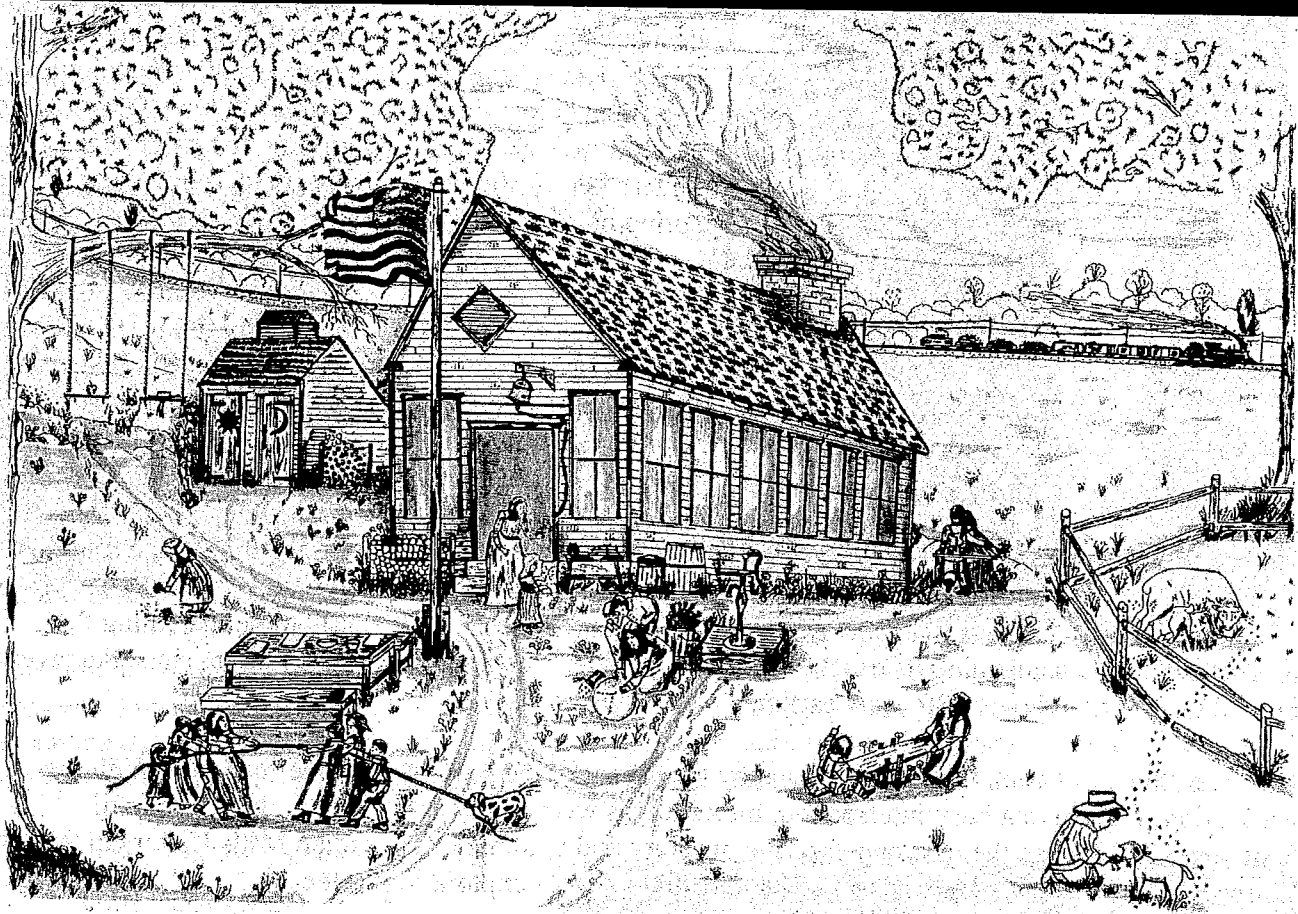
{ NJ State Park rules prohibit alcohol, weapons, & dogs in recreation area }

ANTIQUITY REVISITED

ATSION SCHOOL

Written By: Ronald R. Kurtz II

Illustrated By: Ronald R. Kurtz SR



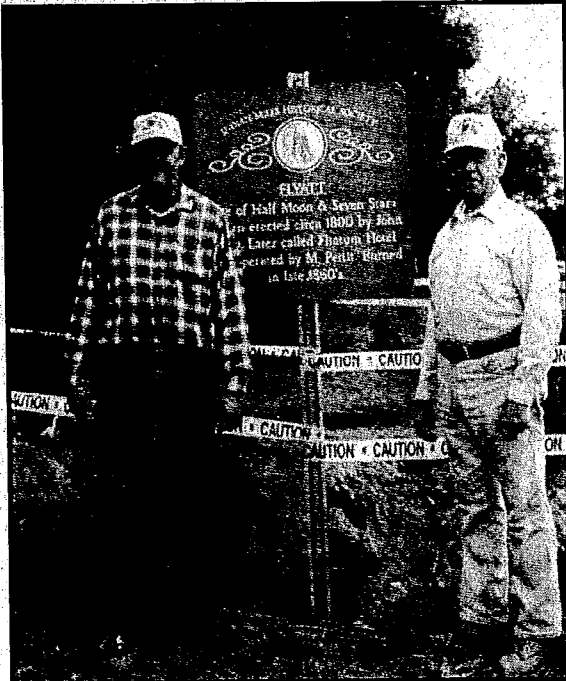
Picture this scene if you can, it's a beautiful, sunny, calm spring day. Birds chirping in the trees, the local locomotive travels slowly along its tracks on the out-skirts' of town, children playing in the school yard. The illustration above gives you a good idea of what an average day at the, 1916 constructed, Atsion School house was like. Although the school house was only in operation from 1916 to 1922, it played a valuable role in the everyday lives of the locals. The school was small only consisting of one room and a out-house to the side, the curriculum simple, just study the three "R"s, reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. If you can imagine life without all the business of today and appreciate how simple these people lived there isn't much left to wonder why the people of this era are usually depicted as more then content.

The chores were difficult, the school season only started once the cranberry harvest was finished. Farming was also a big part of the lives of these children, the summer break wasn't "spring break" it was time to tend to the cranberry bogs until the harvest was completed in October every year. The school only cost the town one thousand one hundred dollars to complete. As for the school house teacher, she was given about forty dollars a month and allowed free board at one of her students families homes as payment for her services. Incidentally, the school house still stands today, and is the only remaining structure of its kind in the Atision-Shamong area.

Its more then apparent that in a simpler time it's the little things that truly make us the happiest. A period in time lost but not forgotten, sometimes we should look at villages like Atsion in the early 1900's and take note of how lives were and how those small minimally educated people shaped the future and the 21'st century.

FLYATT TAVERN EXCAVATION PROJECT

By Don Catts



GRADY HOWARD & DON CATTS

excavated the taverns cellar and confirming its exact location. It would be the first look at this feature since the tavern burned to the ground over 130 years earlier.

However, the excavation was soon stopped by the owner of the property Jerome Jennings. With the excavation so close to a busy intersection, his concerns were safety and liability. It wasn't until September 2008 when the new owner of the property and member of the Indian Mills Historical Society, Clarence Reichenbach, gave us permission to resume further exploration of the site.

The Flyatt Tavern/Hotel and stagecoach stop site is located in Flyatt, an old historic hamlet once located in the northwestern section of Shamong Township, Burlington County, New Jersey, about two miles north of Indian Mills. Although the settlement no longer exists, the name Flyatt remains on today's maps. Lying geographically in the Atlantic Coastal Plain, the topography is fairly level and low-lying, with a ground elevation of 93 feet above sea level at co-ordinates of Latitude 39 49' 23.98" N, longitude 74 45' 28.37" W. The tavern site itself lies on the northwest corner of the intersection where the Ole Tuckerton Stage Road (Tuckerton Road) intersects the road leading from Red Lion to Smith's Tavern (Oakshade Road).

Soils in the vicinity of the tavern site are the same as throughout most of Shamong Township, characterized by yellow/orange to tannish sand subsoil. With increasing depth, this becomes mottled with reddish-rust color streaks. Cultural layers tend toward grayish-brown sandy loam. The soil at the site like most soil in South Jersey is highly acidic, which hastens the breakdown of organic and metallic artifacts. This resulted in a lot of the ferric metal objects rusting away and most of the ferric metal objects we did find were in poor condition.

Taverns were an important part of the early Pineland community; yet relatively few Pineland taverns have been archaeologically investigated in depth, and even fewer, if any, have provided significant archaeological data. The excavation of the historic "Flyatt Tavern/Hotel and Stagecoach Stop" in Shamong Township was undertaken by the Indian Mills Historical Society in the spring of 2008.

The tavern site was first identified in the fall of 1975 by a field crew that included George Flemming, Don Catts and the late Robert Jones of the Indian Mills Historical Society. Searching for the location of the old tavern site, a large 10' square test unit was excavated. The excavation revealed several artifacts and coins dating to the early part of the nineteenth century. Also exposed was a four foot section of a Jersey Fieldstone foundation (fireplace) set in a level yellow-clay construction platform (cellar floor) about 2" thick, revealing the

The primary goal of this project was to locate any remaining traces of the Flyatt Tavern/Hotel (designated "Feature A" of the plantation site) through open-area excavation and to expose the footprint of the tavern. Despite significant disturbances of the surface, it was felt that valuable archaeological information could be gathered from an excavation of the area. Information and artifacts recovered from the site were recorded, filed, and stored in an organized manner for future professional evaluation. Another goal of the project was to recover enough archaeological and architectural data to reconstruct the original tavern. Information uncovered about the size, construction methods, and spatial patterning of artifacts along with historical documents would be used to construct a model of the nineteenth century tavern. This model will give a visual portrayal of the tavern as it appeared during the early 1800's.



GROUND VIEW OF SITE



GRADY EXCAVATES UNDER TREE STUMP

This project in no way will attempt to make any archaeological or cultural conclusions. Among its purposes, this excavation and known tavern history offers simply a framework from which our understanding of tavern life can be revised, based on the results and interpretations of future work on this archaeological investigation. The project is on going and work at the site will continue.

**NO IT'S NOT THE
ORIGANIAL WAWA**

By Don Catts

But, this old school house did stand where the SHAMONG WAWA stands today, at the intersection of Oakshade and Indian Mills Roads. The picture (no date) was taken from the Small's Hotel corner.

Small's Tavern/Hotel is now the La Campagnola Restaurant. The gravel road is Indian Mills Road and the gravel road to the left is Oakshade Rd.

IMHS Historic Marker at the Site says: "SCHOOLHOUSE Site of the Free Soil School, erected in mid-1800's and used until 1922. Then converted into a private dwelling". It was removed after a fire destroyed it in 1972.



PHOTO COURTESY WASH ORME

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

By George D. Flemming

NOTES ON THE PROPERTY @ 627 Atsion Road, Shamong Twp.

Thomas Boyd, farmer of Evesham, purchased 100 acres from Henry Drinker, Rachel Drinker, Joseph Drinker, William Hartshorne and William Salter by deed dated Feb. 13, 1800 recorded in Book N page 95 for 450 pounds lawful money. Being part of a larger tract called Goshen Neck which James Inskeep of Evesham, yeoman, and Hope his wife sold in April 1773, Book AG Folio 5, to the owners of Atsion Iron Works.

Thomas Boyd sold this same 100 acres to Edward McIntire of Washington Twp. in 1833 recorded in Book F3, page 228. The 1850 Census lists Edward McIntire age 40, Frank age 12, John McIntire 81, and his wife Bridget 78. It would indicate Edward McIntire was only 23 years old when he purchased the property.

Apparently Edward McIntire had financial difficulties. A suit was filed against him by a William R. Winters. A writ was later issued authorizing the sheriff to obtain satisfaction of a judgement. The judgement was issued out of the high court of chancery. A Sheriffs Sale was advertised in the N.J.Mirror Mirror. In 1862 the property passed to William K. Armstrong by deed recorded in Book U6, page 176. The sale does not indicate what buildings were standing on the property at that time.

By the time of the 1870 Census William K. Armstrong shown as head of the family living with wife Francis, son James M, age 21, daughter Margaret age 4. By the 1880 Census William K. Armstrong still the head living with wife Francis, son James now a schoolteacher age 29 , George H. son, age 25, Maggie age 13, and Francis age 6. By the time of the 1900 Census, Alfred Bozearth born July 1859 had married Maggie (Margaret Armstrong) born 1866, their daughter Emma born Dec., 1886, son Harold born Jan., 1897, and James M. Armstrong born Oct. 1849

As time went on the property again changed hands and in Book 1636, page 335 the following is recited. James Armstrong ½ by deed from William K. Armstrong etux and rest to James M. Armstrong and Margaret Bozearth his sister dated Feb. 19, 1901. In Book 418, page 34 next Margaret A. Bozearth

to James M. Armstrong dated June 9, 1933 in Book 818, page 95. James M. Armstrong died Nov. 22, 1939 and devised to Rosa A. Bozeath. She died Aug. 9, 1954 and willed to her husband Harold E. Bozeath for life with remainder to his daughters Bertha M. Worrell and Grace H. Abrams. There were two exceptions in which Harold and Rosa Bozeath deeded 0.65 acres to Indian Mills Deer Club in Book 1171, page 243, also 1.692 acres to Indian Mills Deer Club in Book 1392, page 389 dated Jan. 8, 1959.

The Armstrong and Bozeath families have long been prominent in Shamong and also Burlington County. William K. Armstrong was the Surrogate in Burlington Co. for many years. His grandson, Harold E. Bozeath, was Shamong Township clerk for over 50 years until his death in 1978. With the exception of a very small portion of the Atsion Road farm of 100 acres, the land is still intact today, and actively producing for its owners.

The current resident of this farmhouse, Harold E. Abrams, has discovered an unusual date stone in what had been an outside wall of the farmhouse. It bears the date 1798. This wall is contained inside what is now the center of the house. The building has been added onto a number of times since it became a 100 acre farm in 1800. The 1798 date would have placed this home under the ownership of the Atsion Iron Works. Further research will be done to elaborate on this article and will be included in the Summer issue.

In the meantime if anyone has any information regarding this property or who may have originally built this home, please advise the writer. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Make checks payable to: Indian Mills Historical Society
Mail to: IMHS, 105 Willow Grove Road, Shamong, N.J. 08088

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

_____ Individual \$ 7.00 _____ Family \$12.00 _____ Senior (62 & over) \$5.00

_____ Individual Life \$50.00 _____ Honorary Member(no dues) Student under 18

Optional Tax Deductible Donation _____

I would like to dedicate this donation in memory/honor of :

Name of person(s), event, and date of memory/honor.

Example: John and Jane Doe, 20th wedding anniversary February 14, 200

**INDIAN MILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
105 WILLOW GROVE ROAD
SHAMONG, NEW JERSEY 08088**

Dedicated to the Preservation of Shamong Township Heritage