



INDIAN MILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOUNDED FEBRUARY, 1973

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF SHAMONG TOWNSHIP HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 Issue 3

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Summer 2010

RED MENS' HALL

The photo above, taken recently, depicts what could be the future headquarters of the Indian Mills Historical Society. It is currently a family residence. Plans are currently being formulated to purchase this venerable old building with the aid of various grants that can be obtained. See article under "GLIMPSES OF THE PAST".

CURRENT OFFICERS

President.....Joseph J. Reinhart
V. Pres.....Marie Kulschinsky
Rec. Secretary.....Ruth Boice
Treasurer.....Don Catts
Corr. Secty.....Linda Jagiela

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George D. Flemming
Marie Giberson
Leon King
Kathryn Ritter
Daniel Tavani

This quarterly newsletter is published by the Indian Mills Historical Society. Articles are always welcome and needed. Any news that members feel would be of interest to the entire membership should be submitted in a timely fashion to the Newsletter Editor-George D. Flemming.
E-Mail-gdchum1@aol.com or simply phone 609-859-1198. Thank you.

Join us at our monthly meetings. They are held at the Shamong Township Municipal building located at 105 Willow Grove Road at 7:30 P.M. The meetings are normally held the third Thursday of every month. There are no meetings scheduled in January, February, July, and August.

DUES ARE DUE!!!

Please be reminded that the dues for the year 2010 were due January 1st. A timely response will insure your society continues to operate smoothly. A RENEWAL FORM IS LOCATED ON THE BACK PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER. Please take note that checks should be made payable to Indian Mills Historical Society and mailed to IMHS at 105 Willow Grove Road, Shamong, N.J. 08088

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Programs for meetings to be held in 2010 are currently being formulated. Details will follow at a later date.

Historic Preservation

Every member of the society can participate by lending old photos to be copied, or anything of historic interest you may wish to display in the showcases that pertain to Shamong Township.

ANTIQUITY REVISITED

JOE MULLINER

By Ronald Kurtz Sr. and Ronald Kurtz II

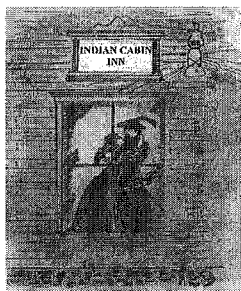
Written By: Ronald R. Kurtz II

Illustrated By: Ronald R. Kurtz S.R.



Of all the stories told in South Jersey folklore, some are slightly more rememberable such as the infamous, Jersey Devil and Black Beard, the pirate. However, a name which usually spelled disaster for local farmers, merchants, and housewives alike, was Joe Mulliner. The legend of Joe and his crew of outlaws follows the Mullica River like the tide going in or out. Joe Mulliner was described as a man over six feet in height, broad like a ship worker, and a face, which just radiated his evil intentions at first sight. Its unclear today as to if this man was native born in America, or if he had crossed the Atlantic Ocean, along with his British companions. One thing is clear, Joe Mulliner was no American Patriot, he was a loyalist to the King of England.

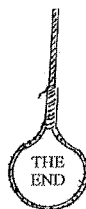
The story of Joe Mulliner isn't without a sunny side, he was as a fighter for the innocent. One story tells of Joe's men burning down a widows house and tying her and her sons to a tree while robbing their house. Within a week of this incident, \$300 in cash, was sent anonymously to the widow, believed to be repayment for Joe's men's brutality. Another story tells of Joe approaching the Washington Tavern (located near the Quaker Bridge.) as he approached the Tavern from the back-door, he came upon a woman crying, asking what was wrong the girl ran from fright of his appearance. Once entering the establishment he learned the girl was crying due to a forced betrothal. He stood in the stairway waiting for the festivities to begin and once they did he gave the groom two choices stay and die or leave. When the groom ran away. Joe then proceeded to dance with every woman at the party and drank until the sun came up.



Even with a soft spot for festivities and pretty women the story of Joe Mulliner isn't one of Robin hood, quite the opposite. Joe was a bandit who robbed supply stage coaches, as well as local colonial family's, most of which had the man of the house off to war during the Revolution. This mans ill-intentions stretched into the soul's of the local Toreys, he gathered to assist him, in his wrong doings as he was loyal to the King of England, during the Revolution. Even the mans wife and dog were said to lend assistance to Joe and his band of followers from time to time. His wife would give them warning of posse's approaching from the north end of the Mullica River by inserting a message into a small capsule attached to their dog's collar, who would swim to the other side of the river and deliver the message.

This bandit and womanizer continued about his business for several years in the pine barrens of south jersey. Until a summer's day, in 1781, when he crashed a party at the Indian Cabin Mill Inn, after arriving, as usual with a flare of V.I.P and ownership, he proceeded to dance with the prettiest girls, one at a time, and to drink the ale provided for the party. When he pushed the date of a young woman aside, so as to dance with her, the man snuck out the instructed to maintain watch over the bar, and Baylin (the man officially credited with Joe's his crimes in 1781, however, his legend will

rear of the bar, passed the men who had been gathered the local Militants, along with Captain capture.) Joe Mulliner was captured and hung for forever live on in the South Jersey pine barrens.



ATSION'S SECOND RAILROAD

By Daniel Tavani

Atsion was a busy railroad center at the turn of the last century. The existing track under Route 206 at Atsion was originally known as the Vineland Railroad. This bill passed March 7, 1867.

Permission was granted to build a railroad from Atsion to the Delaware Bay passing through Vineland and Bridgeton. The Atco-Atsion Branch known at the time as the New Jersey Southern, was running trains from Camden to New York. This involved a boat trip from Sandy Hook across lower New York Bay to Manhattan.

This circumventous route used the tracks of the Camden-Atlantic Railroad and onto the Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad north towards New York as far as Sandy Hook. The Millville and Glassboro Railroad was already running trains, which had been built in 1861, to Camden. This new proposed rail line would be Vineland's second rail. It was known as a railroad diamond. The Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad had purchased the Atsion-Atco branch in 1869.

By joining with the Raritan and Delaware Bay at Atsion, the Vineland Railroad had a direct route to New York via rails to a boat ride at Sandy Hook. The New Jersey Southern Railroad became the Raritan and Delaware Bay in 1870.

Ground was surveyed and the new line completed from the Delaware Bay on December 28, 1867 and on up to Atsion by the fall of 1868. Contracts were awarded to the Watertown, New York firm A.M. Farwell. Work started shortly thereafter. On June 7, 1871, a Vineland newspaper reported that rails were laid to Dutch Mill Road. At Atsion, eleven cars were loaded with one hundred and five tons of rail. Track laying was temporarily stopped because

of financial difficulty, a problem normally associated with the building of railroads. On June 21st it was reported that only six miles of track were laid from Vineland to Tuckahoe Road. Regular service could not be established until a permanent crossing was constructed across the Camden and Atlantic Railroad at Winslow Junction. This line, eight and a half miles below Atsion, commenced operation in July, 1854. The work on the line progressed to Atsion and was completed in October of 1868. Work on the Vineland end was completed on August 9, 1871 and passenger trains started operation thereafter.

Investors of the Vineland Railway were heavy losers because of financial problems. The Vineland Railroad incorporated April 20, 1877 had taken over operation of the Atsion to Bayside line in Cumberland County, March 23, 1880.

The entire length of the line from Bayside to Red Bank merged with the Central Railroad of New Jersey on October 16, 1917. Passenger service through Vineland continued until February 1929 and was absent until the Blue Comet service began between New York and Atlantic City. The Blue Comet, itself, was discontinued September 21, 1941, when all passenger service stopped. However, freight service continued on the line, a distance of 38.2 miles between Winslow Junction and Lakehurst Junction, until it was shut down on December 24, 1879. On January 1, 1983 this section of the line became the property of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

The gallows fifty-four foot turntable and engine house, part of the Vineland Railway, were abandoned around 1885. Parts of the turntable are still visible in the woods off the main track between Pleasant Mills Road and Route 206.

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

By George D. Flemming

NOTES ON THE PROPERTY @ Atsion Road Shamong Twp.

An unusual stone bearing the date 1798 had been discovered by Harold E. Abrams in the jersey sandstone foundation wall ,of the center portion of his home. In the year 1798 this property was part of the vast land holdings of the nearby Atsion Iron Works called Goshen Neck. There was a small settlement nearby where the Goshen Sawmill was located. This home could have been a part of that settlement. No other information has come to light.

RED MEN'S HALL

The building on the cover of this newsletter was erected in the centennial year of 1876. It was appropriately named Centennial Baptist Church, and was dedicated on March 30, 1876. The land for the church had been donated by E. S. Engle who lived a short distance away. His home was taken down a few years ago. He had served as one of the trustees of the new church along with Henry C. Shinn, Ivins Davis, and Leander B. Fox.

The actual dedication service was originally scheduled for March 16, 1876 but had to be postponed due to inclement weather. The church did hold religious services that day however, in spite of the stormy weather. A congregation of 125 persons assembled to listen to the sermon by Rev. Mr. Lung of Camden from the words "today shout thou be with me in Paradise". Subscriptions and collections were taken up amounting to \$225. This article appeared in the New Jersey Mirror which also commented "this meetinghouse is one of the neatest and prettiest small meetinghouses that is to be found in this county. Shamong is improving and someday it will be a very beautiful and important township in this county".

Apparently the church did not meet with much success, and by

1881 services were no longer being held there. The mortgage of \$1400 was in default and eventually required a Sheriff's sale on complaint of Mechanics and Workingmens' Building and Loan Association of Camden, N.J. dated March 23, 1892.

James M. Armstrong of Indian Mills purchased the property for \$775, subject to the existing mortgage balance of \$1400. The deed describes the property as Edgepillock Hall, formerly Centennial Baptist Church. The Edgepillock Tribe #168 Improved Order of Red Men were already using the building for their meetings and ceremonies. The building soon became the gathering place for the entire township. Local elections and township committee meetings were held there regularly from 1894 through 1923. The building had become known as Red Men's Hall, and continues so to the present day.

If only the walls of this 134 year old building could speak, what wondrous tales they could tell. For many years social activities were held here including square dances every week except during the winter months when they were every two weeks. In the early days transportation was by horse and carriage and there were sheds to the rear and side of the building.

Lewis Shrider Jr. purchased the old hall from the Red Men in 1964. It had been vacant for many years. The Schauman family then purchased the building in the 1970's and did extensive remodeling. For a short while it was used as a grocery store and then a nursery school. It then became a private residence and remains so today.

For further information, go to the website of the Indian Mills Historical Society and click on the power presentation by Mary Anne and Joseph Reinhart, presented to the Township Committee September 18, 2006. The society encourages the entire township to support our efforts in making Red Men's Hall a "living museum".

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