

THISTLE



Millburn -
Short Hills
Historical Society

Vol. IX, No. 3

May 1985

"THE HISTORY OF THE HARTSHORN HOUSES"

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 12, 1985 8:00 p.m.
Millburn Public Library

This is a "back by popular demand" sort of program. The last time Mrs. Harld Reintjes (Van) treated us to her slide show entitled "The History of the Hartshorn Houses", there was a standing room only crowd. At that time we were just beginning our architectural survey of the town; now two sections of it are designated historic districts. Mrs. Reintjes and her family were long time residents of a Hartshorn house on East Lane, and she researched her own house and many others built by the "founding father" of Short Hills Park.

Come to view Mrs. Reintjes' up-dated slide lecture and hear Juli Towell of the Society explain the concept of a historic district. There will be time for questions and answers about how historic districts enhance our town and affect you as homeowner or resident.

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HARTS - HORN - It's difficult to live in Millburn Township without finding the name Hartshorn on your lips occasionally, so why not pronounce it correctly. The proper pronunciation is "harts - horn", not "hart - shorn". Just remember a deer's antler!

GETTING OUT THE VOTE - The Nominating Committee, composed of Peggy Denise - Chairman, Liz Howe and Carol Charles, will present a slate of officers and trustees for election at the annual meeting of the Society on June 12. At the same time we will ask your approval of some By-laws changes.

The names of the officers and trustees who will make up the Board of the Society for 1985-86 are listed below. Those with an asterisk before their name are to be voted on.

OFFICERS

- *President Owen Lampe
- *Vice-president Robert Pyle
- *Recording Secretary Evelyn Hurlbut
- *Corresponding Secretary Edel Livermore
- *Treasurer Virginia Borzner

TRUSTEES

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Carol Charles 1986 | *Shirley Sarpi 1987 |
| Colleen McCullough 1986 | Carol Webster 1987 |
| *Jenks Schachter 1986 | *Roldah Cameron 1988 |
| Bernadette Wagner 1986 | *Ellen Goldstein 1988 |
| Aline Coles 1987 | *Bobbie Horan 1988 |
| *George Goffe 1987 | |

Margaret Coffey Past President, Ex-officio

Thanks for a job well done to retiring Board members Margaret Coffey, George Clare, Diane Jozsa, Charlanne Lamberto, Kate Stryker and Eileen Sullivan.

Changes in the By-laws to be voted on are as follows:

Article II, Section 3

Change the number of Trustees from six to twelve with four Trustees instead of three being elected annually.

Article III, Quorum

Change the number of Board members constituting a quorum from eight to nine.

MISS CORA'S OPUS, "A Little History of Short Hills" is again available to members of the Society. The first edition of "Little History", written by Cora L. Hartshorn, the daughter of Stewart Hartshorn, came out in 1946. The Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society reprinted it with drawings and maps in 1977, our first Society publication. Kate Stryker, Society publications chairman, has announced that a third edition is just off the presses. Copies of this charming little book may be had for \$1.25 plus 25¢ postage from:

Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society
Box 243
Short Hills, NJ 07078

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WYOMING RECORDS - The Wyoming Civic Association has donated to the Society the records of the Association which was formed in 1907.

When the MSHHS obtained use of a quiet room in the Millburn Public Library to house its archives, Howard Brahm, an advisor to the Society and also chairman of the historical committee of the Wyoming Civic Association, thought the Library a safer repository for the records than his attic. His suggestion to guarantee the permanency of the records was accepted by both organizations.

Consisting of various reports, clippings and pamphlets, the records of the Wyoming Civic Association provide a unique insight into Millburn's past. There are annual reports for the Township for the years 1907, 1908 and 1909 as well as a list of persons invited to the dedication on January 21, 1911 of the newly built Wyoming School which replaced an older one on Cypress Street. An undated survey to determine if members of the Wyoming Civic Association would be willing to spend \$1.00 to have mail delivered to their homes, a Township milk ordinance for the year 1922, and a pamphlet entitled "The Mosquito Nuisance in Millburn Township and How to Abate It" published by the Millburn Board of Health in 1906 are clues to the way things were in the first quarter of this century.

Materials in the archives can be accessed by contacting Society archivists Fran Land 379-3376 or Fran Scullli 376-3423.

HISTORIC HOMES OF MILLBURN - SHORT HILLS



In earlier issues we have written about the house at 41 Main Street and the Bodwell House on Millburn Avenue in the conviction that some of our readers are curious about and appreciative of the older homes which lend distinction to our community. We now draw your attention to the white clapboard house at 7 Parsonage Hill Road, on the corner of Old Short Hills Road, owned by Robert Smith, a life member of the MSHHS. The gabled roof, stone foundation and front porch with ornate arches bespeak its age, but there is little definite information about when the house was built.

Robert Smith says that the house was built in three sections, the oldest part being on the right front. He believes that part of the house may have been built in the 1700s while he dates the newer left hand side to 1868. That date and the names of workers who

built the addition are written on a wall in the attic of the older section. The initials of one of the workers - A.E. for Albert Ellis, a painter - are also scratched into the glass of a third floor window. The third section of the house is a wing on the back added in the 1920s. An outbuilding with stone fireplace which once served as a summer kitchen is now used for pool storage.

The earliest map in the Historical Society collection showing a house on this corner is dated 1859, but Township records go further back and chronicle almost a dozen owners between 1855 and 1967 when Robert Smith bought it. At the time that Dr. T.Y. Sutphen owned the home in the first decade of this century, he called it "White Gables". We rather think names like that and "Sunset Cottage" and "Redstone" are more imaginative than numbered addresses. "White Gables" or #7 Parsonage Hill Road, we are thankful that the present owner has maintained the physical integrity of his 19th century Gothic Revival style home for all of us to enjoy as we pass by.

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SOCIAL NOTES FROM ALL OVER
(From The Arrow of Short Hills, N.J. March 1881)

#Mr. and Mrs. Jas.R. Pitcher received their friends on Tuesday evening, 8th ult., at the Music Hall. Mr. Chas. Roberts Jr. of N.Y. entertained the guests with readings and recitations. His efforts were greatly appreciated, especially his rendition of "The Bells," which was very thrilling. Dancing and supper followed and a most delightful evening was passed.

#Upon a cordial invitation given by the Dramatic Club of Summit, a party from Short Hills recently attended an amateur performance at Summit Hall. It is greatly to be regretted that these dramatic and social courtesies cannot be oftener extended and reciprocated: but - "thou art near and yet so far!" With no trains after the orthodox hour of nine, three miles are about as discouraging as three hundred.

Ed. - We KNOW the feeling.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - In the past year 550 individuals have supported our Society programs and events with a dues paying membership. Because memberships are renewable on the first of July, we have enclosed a membership/dues envelope with this issue of the Thistle. We invite and encourage you to continue your participation and support in 1985-86 in anticipation of exciting new programs and projects.

Among our newest members are:

Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Baldini
Mr. Ralph F. Batch
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bowman
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Brener
Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Bunn
Mr. Alfred Busch
Mr. Maurice Carchman
Mr. and Mrs. William Caveney
Patricia Clinkunbroomer
Mrs. Bernice G. Coester
Mrs. John Cooper
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Corriden
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth E. Dougherty, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. David B. Earnest
Mr. Mahesh R. Desai
Mr. and Mrs. David Eisenberg
Mr. and Mrs. R. Eisfeld
Mrs. Diane L. Fabry
Mr. and Mrs. Ciro A. Gamboni
Dr. Michael Gerson
Ruth Gilsean
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Goodridge III
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Grieco
Janice Hagemann
Mr. and Mrs. G.J. Heckman
Dr. and Mrs. Mark S. Hochberg
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hoover
Timothy S. Hull
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Kaye
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Leonard

Rev. Msgr. Francis R. Lo Bianco
Mr. and Mrs. David Lowenstein
The Lowery Family
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Marshak
Allola McGraw
Mr. and Mrs. C.V. Meserole III
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Morowitz
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. John Nugent
Mr. and Mrs. Barry F. Ranieri
M.J. Taylor Reisler
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Robinson
Myron Rosenberg
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roth
Mr. and Mrs. Max Schachter
Mr. and Mrs. Roger C. Schumacher
Dr. and Mrs. Howard B. Spey
Ms. Lisa M. Spey
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sullivan
Mrs. Victor H. Swenson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Szewczyk
Mrs. Paul C. Tully
Mr. Taroslav and Dr. Olga Vysata
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Weinberg
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Wharton
Marilyn White
Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Williams
Mr. and Mrs. John Woodruff
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Yarnell, Jr.
Mrs. Anne Zweig

Business

Burgdorff Realtors, Inc.
Futter Shoe Store
Inter Community Bank
The Mall at Short Hills
McDermott, McGee & Ruprecht
Van Duzer Interiors



KEEP COOL this summer by using some of your free time to help with the indexing of old issues of the Millburn Item at the air-conditioned Millburn Public Library. This is an on-going project of the Society and volunteers are welcome. Contact Bernadette Wagner 379-1762 or Liz Howe 376-1568 if you are interested.

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CALENDAR

- June 12 - MSHHS Annual Meeting - Mrs. Harold Reintjes slide lecture on "The History of the Hartshorn Houses" and Juli Towell on historic districts. Millburn Public Library, 8:00 p.m.
- June 16 - Teddy Bears' Picnic at Turtle Back Zoo, celebrating 90th anniversary of the Zoo in 1895 style.
- Sept. 8 - Save this date for MSHHS annual Wine & Cheese Party!

Membership Chairman: Carol Webster 467-0840

Editor: Roldah Cameron 273-0943



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NJ 07078



**dedicated to the preservation
of our community's heritage**

Annual Dues Cover Membership July 1 to June 30

Please check one:

\$ 6.00 _____ Individual
\$ 10.00 _____ Family
\$ 15.00 _____ Supporting
\$ 25.00 _____ Business
\$100.00 _____ Life

DATE _____

NAME _____

Please include name(s) as you wish to be listed in the directory.

FIRST NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Make checks payable to: Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society
Your membership contribution is tax deductible.
Your cancelled check is your receipt.



**Millburn ~
Short Hills
Historical Society**

**P.O. BOX 243
SHORT HILLS
NEW JERSEY 07078**

MEMBERSHIP