



Cedar Grove Historical Society

Where the Past is Present

Canfield-Morgan House - Home of the Morgan Museum
908 Pompton Avenue P.O. Box 561 Cedar Grove, New Jersey
973-239-5414 - www.cedargrovehistoricalsociety.org

If a meeting is cancelled there will be a recorded message at 973-239-5414

October 2010

25th Anniversary Celebration

Come help the Cedar Grove Historical Society celebrate the 25th anniversary of the acquisition of the Morgan property.

When: Saturday, October 23, 2010

**Where: VFW Hall
970 Pompton Avenue**

Time: 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Cost: \$32 per person (\$35 after Oct. 15)

Buffet Dinner catered by Esposito's

Music by DJ Chris Segarra

Tickets may be purchased Wednesday mornings at the Morgan Museum, 903 Pompton Avenue or mail your request to the Cedar Grove Historical Society,

P.O. Box 461, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009.

Checks should be made out to "CGHS." Call 973-220-1026 or 973-239-0015 or email

info@cedargrovehistoricalsociety.org

with any questions.

President's Message

October is a very busy month and a special month for the historical society. In addition to our annual Pumpkin and Apple Sale, we will also be holding our Barn Sale. As always, the best pumpkins and apples, along with photo-ops, hand crafted jewelry and snacks will be available. Donations for the barn sale so far show a tempting assortment of housewares, both functional and decorative.

On the upper level of the barn, there is a no holds barred exhibit which showcases artifacts we have received over the years but never displayed. A bit of memorabilia is a vignette from the dinner theater days of the Meadowbrook. The house also has a new look.

The last event of the month is our 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the VFW. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, be sure to do so before October 15 when the price goes up.

If you can't help at these events, please be sure to show your support by stopping by during the sale and/or attending our anniversary celebration on October 23. Don't miss out on the fun.

Barbara

A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier

Mark Simmons, a local actor will present a program about what it was like to be a soldier during the Civil War. Dressed in costume of the period, Mr. Simmons will perform as the soldier and show some of the equipment that was used during the war.



When: October 27, 2010
Where: Cedar Grove Public Library
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Cedar Grove: Then-and-Now

The Vreeland /Taylor House

The Vreeland/Taylor house is located at 360 Ridge Road at the corner of Rugby Road . It was built in the mid-1700s by the Vreeland family. Like many of the early houses in Cedar Grove it is constructed of brownstone. The original structure was one story and had an extension containing a kitchen on the southern end. The photo below was taken in the late 1800s .



The house later passed from the Vreeland family to the Taylor family through marriage. It was then owned by the family until 1932 when it was lost by the family and put on public auction. A rear kitchen and a second floor with a gambrel roof were added to the house in the early 1900s.



The house was the farmhouse for Taylor's Dairy Farm, which was run by George Taylor and later his sons, Earle and Robert. The land owned by the family consisted of mostly pastureland for cows, barns, milk houses and two silos. A dairy store sold milk and ice cream.



In 1979 the farmhouse was purchased by Keith Honaman and his wife Sally Talmadge. Mr. Honaman's interest in the Colonial Period of American history led to the restoration of the inside of the house.



Mr. Honaman also reconstructed a barn that once existed in the northwestern portion of the property.



SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

Summer Projects

There were several improvements made both inside and outside the museum this summer. Stop by and see the improvements.



Several rooms in the house were painted.



Linda and Bill Dye, worked diligently to improve the gardens around the museum. They were assisted by Tom Dispenzere and Andrew Duncan.



Many thanks to Steve Young who donated two park benches that are now located in the garden area.

Future Events

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| October 2 | League of Historical Societies of New Jersey |
| October 9-17 | Pumpkin/Apple Sale |
| October 23 | 25th Anniversary Celebration |
| October 27 | General Meeting
A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier |
| December 12 | Holiday Open House
2 p.m.-4 p.m. |

Upcoming Elections

The terms of the following positions will expire at the end of this year. The nominations to fill the positions are next to the positions.

Two Year Positions-2011 and 2012

President	Barbara Young
Secretary	Jean Jaeger

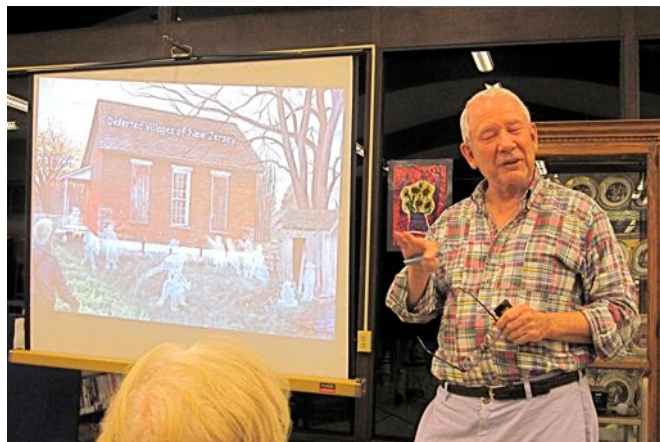
Trustees - Three Year Positions 2011 thru 2013

Merrily La Scala	Phil Jaeger
Chris Werndly	

Voting will take place at our October meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that time.

September Meeting

At our September meeting we were treated to another program by Trustee, Phil Jaeger. The program was entitled "Deserted Villages of New Jersey." Mr. Jaeger spoke about Walpack, Waterloo and Feltsville, three one-time thriving communities that are now practically deserted. It was a very interesting and informative program.



Did You Know?

Leslie Jacobus founded the Cedar Grove Historical Society in 1968. Leslie served as the first president of the society.

Meet Our Members

by Peggy O'Connor



F. Nelson Woomer, Jr. and his wife Cheryl, joined the Historical Society a mere four years ago, but 63 years in town give him a unique perspective. When Nelson was a boy, there were no more than 1,200 to 1,300 residents in Cedar Grove. The only organized activities for young people were at the Rec Hall (PNC parking lot today) - no baseball, football, soccer, or town pool. Nelson enjoyed fishing in Bowden's Pond, then taking a dip in the Peckman Brook on his way home. During the winter, there was skating on Bowden's Pond.

At the Woomer home on Bowden Road, Nelson and his brother had to keep two coal furnaces going, one for heat and one for hot water, or in the morning the family would wake to a cold house. The fire had to be restarted before school. He recalls that the hot water furnace never really got the water warm, in fact, he never had a warm shower until moving to Rugby Road. Mail was not delivered when Nelson was a boy, so he was expected to pick up the mail at the post office (at Grove and Pompton Avenues and later Gustav Meier's store.)

After graduating from the Pompton Avenue School in 1945, Nelson attended high school in Bloomfield where he played trumpet in the NJ All State Band. On Saturday afternoon, he and his friends would go to the Meadowbrook to watch the band rehearsals. There they would hear, see and talk to celebrity band leaders, including Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw and Harry James.

After service in the NJ Aviation National Guard, a successful career with ATT, Bell Labs and several years running his own business, Nelson finally retired. But not even a triple bypass has kept him from pursuing his current interests: writing monthly newsletters as his church's historian, singing in their choir and the Verona Cedar Grove Chorus, and digitizing photos and transcripts for the Cedar Grove Historical Society.



Volunteer Opportunities

Linda and Bill Dye are master gardeners who are working diligently to re-create the gardens around the museum and help with the up-keep of the grounds. They could use some help in this endeavor. If you think you can help contact Linda at 973-433-4147 or at dyelinda@optonline.net.

If you like to do research, Peggy O'Connor is working on a project to trace the history of the Morgan family. If you think you can be of some help, contact Peggy at 973-220-1026 or at peggy52@aol.com.

Each year many of the artifacts that are stored at the museum must be checked to determine their condition. All fabric objects must be checked and refolded to prevent damage. At the present time Janet Spong and Julie Ostering are working on this project. If you think you can be of some help, please contact Julie at 973-857-1968 or at 2JVO@comcast.net.

Cedar Grove Historical Society
973-239-5414

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Canfield/Morgan House - Home of the Morgan Museum
Open Each Wednesday from 10-12 a.m. or by reservation.
Call 973-239-5414 or email jeanjaeger@optonline.net to arrange a tour for your group.

General Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month except for November, December, June, July and August.
The meetings are held at the Cedar Grove Library on Pompton Avenue and begin at 7:30 p.m.

Officers

Trustees

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President:	Barbara Young	Linda Dye	Julie Ostering
Vice-president:	Peggy O'Connor	Ed Husni	Chris Werndly
Secretary:	Jean Jaeger	Phil Jaeger	Cheryl Woomer
Treasurer:	Ren Chandler	Tom Jenkins	John Young
		Merrily La Scala	

Newsletter editor, Jean Jaeger, can be reached at jeanjaeger@optonline.net
Comments and story suggestions gratefully accepted.