



Milestones

HARRISON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY



ASPARAGUS RECIPE CONTEST AND TASTING

11:30 - 1:30 - Tickets \$10

FREE ALL DAY

CHILDREN'S GAMES & ACTIVITIES

SPECIAL EXHIBITS - ASPARAGUS & SOUTH JERSEY

COOKBOOKS BY-THE-POUND SALE

COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRTS

AT OLD TOWN HALL MUSEUM

One hundred years ago this May, a planeload of asparagus flew from Mullica Hill to Boston – the first time fresh produce had been shipped by air in the United States. To celebrate this historic event, the Harrison Township Historical Society is sponsoring the Mullica Hill Asparagus Festival on the grounds at Old Town Hall Museum on Saturday, May 14, 10 am – 4 pm. There will be special exhibits, activities for families, a cookbooks by the pound sale, commemorative T-shirts and, of course, asparagus.

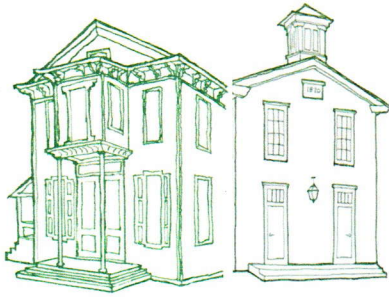
The asparagus tasting event is a highlight of the day's festivities. Mullica Hill's Top Chefs will be preparing a smorgasbord of the best asparagus recipes submitted by the public. Starting at 11:30, the competition begins when ticketholders will taste and vote for their favorite recipe. Winners will receive prizes - and bragging rights! Tickets are now available at the Society's website for \$10 each. Tickets are limited, so purchase early to reserve your place at the table. History never tasted this good!

Mullica Hill will be buzzing with activity all day. In addition to the Festival, the Mullica Hill Women's Triathlon Club is sponsoring an "Asparagus Bike Ride," starting at Ella Harris Park at 8 am. At 10 am Arts on Main Street kicks off throughout Mullica Hill.

Join in the festivities - spend the day in town.



The Fokker aeroplane which transported a load of fresh asparagus from New Jersey to Boston, leaving early in the morning and having its contents on the dinner tables in Boston the same day. © J. G. 1922



**HARRISON TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
PO Box 4 ♦ Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

Phone: 856-478-4949

E-mail: hthsmhnj@gmail.com

harrisonhistorical.com

Follow us on Facebook

Old Town Hall Museum (1871)

62-64 South Main Street, Mullica Hill, NJ

Richwood Academy Cultural Center (1870)

836 Lambs Road, Richwood, NJ

OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Robert Schumann

Vice President: Dave Tinney

Recording Secretary: Paul Davis

Corresponding Secretary: Claire Bartholomew

Treasurer: Barbara Ridgway

Harrison Township Committee Liaison:

Michelle Powell

Board Members:

Leona Ballinger, Paul Davis, Donna Grasso,

Suzanne Grasso, Robert Greene,

Karen Heritage, Maier Hitchner,

Chris Knisely, Cindy Madara, Maxine Mino,

Alice Montagnoli, Richard Ridgway,

Mary Snively, Judy Suplee, James Turk,

Michele Vallone, Marion White,

John Williams

*Executive Board meetings are the second
Wednesday of each month, 7 pm, except July
and December, at Richwood Academy
Cultural Center.*

*Members and the public are welcome to
attend.*

2021 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

With heartfelt appreciation, we are pleased to acknowledge the generous donations of our members, friends and business community. Contributions to date total \$5,284. We thank all of you for investing in the Society's mission and services.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Leona Ballinger | Bruce Matzner |
| Claire Bartholomew | Elizabeth McCutcheon |
| JoAnn & Scott Bergman | Daryl Mecklem & |
| Joan Boarts | Kathleen Howard |
| Laura Boyd | Alice Montagnoli |
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| Magdeline & Webber Gaunt | Sandra & Michael Ridgway |
| Grasso Girls Farm Market | Marge Scerbo |
| Donna Grasso | Ann & Robert Schumann |
| Joan Halter CPA | Barbara & Paul Showers |
| Franklin Heim, Jr. | Iowa Smith |
| Natalie Heritage | Mary & John Snively |
| Gloria & Robert Horvay | Elizabeth Stevenson |
| Mary Kirby | Judy Suplee |
| Nancy Kowalik | The Village Bagels |
| Connie & Steve Latham | Tori's Cleaners |
| John Ledden | James Turk |
| Donald J. Lynch, Jr. | Phyllis & Cornelius Walker |
| Eleanor Madara | Peggy Warner |
| Marino's of Mullica Hill | Marion White |
| Susan Massaglia | Diane & Ron Wohlrab |

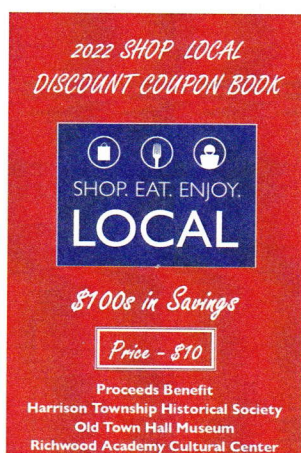
DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1920s New Jersey rivaled California for the largest acreage of asparagus in the United States - over 10,000 acres - and its crop received the highest price per crate in the country. Gloucester County was the nation's largest producer of the crop.

Today the state's production of asparagus ranks 4th in the United States, producing 5.7 million lbs. worth \$14.9 million harvested from 1,900 acres.



DUNKIN' RENEWS SUPPORT FOR THE 2022 SHOP LOCAL COUPON BOOK



Recognizing the success of last year's Shop Local Coupon Project, Kenny Patel, local Dunkin' franchisee, has again generously underwritten the production costs for the 2022 book.

Like last year's edition, the book includes special offers from over 50 businesses in Harrison, South Harrison and Elk Townships. The coupons are valid through December 31, 2022, plenty of time to take advantage of the savings while supporting local businesses and the Society - a win for everyone.

Books are \$10 each and are available in Mullica Hill at Old Town Hall Museum, Old Mill Antiques Mall and 322 BBQ, 1 S. Main St., The Parsonage, 31 S. Main St., Serendipity, 19 S. Main St., Langmore Salon, 35 S. Main St., D-signed for You, 45 S. Main St. Harrison House Diner, 98 N. Main St., and The Candy Box, 764 Lambs Rd., in Richwood.

We are grateful to Mr. Patel for his continued support.

ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

The Society gratefully acknowledges all the sponsors, contributors and volunteers whose contributions are making the Asparagus Festival possible.

FESTIVAL SPONSORS

as of 4/15/2022

PLATINUM

Brida Stone, Inc.. Glassboro
Jeffrey Downs—Brew x Bread, Mullica Hill
Gloucester County Board of Agriculture, Clarksboro
Hoagland Oil Service Heating and Air Conditioning,
Mullica Hill
The Pat Settar Team Berkshire Hathaway Fox & Roach,
Mullica Hill
Walker Brothers, Inc., Pittsgrove

GOLD

Aspire Wealth Group, Sewell
D.S. Smith Packing, Vineland
Grasso Girls Farm Market, Mullica Hill
Mark D. Wainwright - Growmark FS, LLC, Bridgeton
Heilig Orchards, Richwood
HG Ruby - Hello Gorgeous, Mullica Hill
Newkirk & Co., CPAs, Upper Pittsgrove
Nutrien Ag Solutions, Bridgeton
Peach Country Tractor, Inc., Richwood

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs - Cindy Madara & Dave Tinney

Julie DeLaurentis, Donna Grasso
Mark Gravinese, Jeff Jacques, Chris Knisely
Jim Malaby, Anthony Marino
Maxine Mino, Barbara Ridgway
Bob Schumann, Mary Lynn Shiles
Mary Snively, James Turk

SILVER

Law Office of Brian J. Duffield, Mullica Hill
Kenny Patel - Dunkin', Mullica Hill & Richwood
Charles Holtzhauser & Son, Mullica Hill
Anna K. Park DMD, LLC, Mullica Hill
Plant Food Co., Inc., Cranbury
Studio 23 Home, LLC, Mullica Hill
Warren's Hardware, Mullica Hill

BRONZE

The Candy Box LLC, Richwood
Gattuso Auto Service, East Greenwich
George's Plumbing Service, Mullica Hill
Matlack & Company, Glendora
Printers of Salem County, Salem
Rachel Rowe - Weichert Realty, Mullica Hill

FESTIVAL CONTRIBUTORS

American Legion Robert W. Mills Post, Mullica Hill
blueplate, Mullica Hill
Chazz Bjanas Designs, Woolwich
Dave's 322 BBQ, Mullica Hill
Steve Garrison, Rutgers Agriculture Agent, Retd.
Grasso Girls Farm Market, Mullica Hill
Marino's of Mullica Hill
Mullica Hill Arts Center, Lynn Perez, Mullica Hill
New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Trenton
Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick
VIDE Productions, Lisa Rysinger, Mullica Hill
Web App Clouds LLC, Dilan Desilva, Mullica Hill

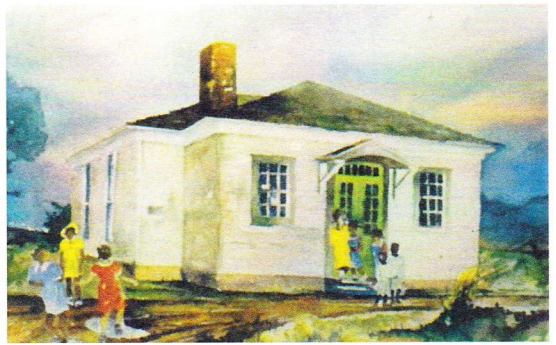
HIGH STREET SCHOOL – A “SCHOOL FOR THE COLORED” IN MULLICA HILL

Before Harrison Township School opened in 1950, there were one-, two-, and four-room schoolhouses located in Jefferson, Ewan, Richwood and Mullica Hill. All were integrated for most of their history, except in Mullica Hill.

This changed in 1919, when representatives from Mullica Hill’s Black community on High Street successfully petitioned the Board of Education to build a new neighborhood school to serve their children and provide employment for Black educators. The community was well- established with a history stretching back to the early 19th century and had recently built Mt. Calvary Baptist Church a decade earlier. The story of High Street School, unlike other segregated schools in the area, was unique in that it was the result of Black activism.

Opening mid-year in January 1920, the schoolhouse had one room and one teacher who taught pupils from grades one through eight. Initially the school only served children from Mullica Hill. Ewan, Jefferson and Richwood schools remained integrated, although for a brief period in the 1920s children from Richwood were transported to Emlin School at Mt. Zion near Barnsboro, at that time used as a segregated school. By the 1940s, however, Black students from throughout the township were being bussed to High Street.

With the exception of Union Academy, all of the township’s one- and two-room schoolhouses were rather primitive. Even though High Street was the newest schoolhouse in the township, it, like the other schools lacked indoor plumbing. All had outdoor pumps and outhouses. Children washed their hands in basins. Those who lived close enough walked home at lunchtime, otherwise they brought a brown-bag lunch with them to eat at school.



HIGH STREET SCHOOL, CIRCA 1929

James Alfred Washington (1927-2006)

Private Collection

Born in Mullica Hill, Washington attended High Street School. Encouraged to develop his artistic abilities, he began painting in the 1980s, specializing in watercolors.



1927

Alberta Holmes

Alberta Hynson Holmes attended the school in the 1920s and recalled her childhood experiences there for the Historical Society:

We went to the segregated school down on High Street, the High Street School. There was eight grades in one room and one teacher. Kindergarten was like maybe a week, you know, to get you acclimated, and after that you went into First Grade. Then you just went through.

You were distinguished by which row you were in. Each row was a different grade. You were so happy to get to a higher grade so you could be able to help somebody in a lower grade. It made you feel as though you were a little more grown, more important.

In establishing a segregated school, parents wanted to have their children taught by a Black educator. In June 1930, however, the Board of Education apparently appointed a white teacher for High Street. Parents objected and the Board rescinded its decision and appointed a teacher from Lawnside, NJ, an historic Black settlement dating back to the 1840s. Teacher’s salaries ranged from \$1,000 to \$1,100 per year and class sizes for the years 1922 through 1949 fluctuated from 26 to 49 students.

By 1947, one educator was teaching grades K-6 at High Street. Seventh and Eighth Graders throughout the township attended Union Academy and the idea of building one consolidated school in Mullica Hill was being discussed. In 1949 it was decided to close High Street. While integrating the lower grades is not recorded as having been controversial, having a Black teacher teaching white children was. A delegation of parents attended the May 1949 Board meeting to question why Dorothy Estrada, whose work had received high

marks from the County, couldn't simply continue at High Street as before or be dismissed. The Board explained that it couldn't justify the expense of continuing operations at half-full capacity and that they couldn't legally terminate Mrs. Estrada's contract. Although one person present, Henry Sauselian, commended the Board for hiring Estrada and gave reasons why she should be allowed to continue to teach, he appears to have been in the minority. The clerk reported that there was "some discussion on the intermingling of races."

That Fall Mrs. Estrada taught 5th grade at Union Academy, but left after Christmas to accept a position in another school district.

After Harrison Township School opened in 1950, the Board of Education sold all the old school properties at auction the following year. Banff Brothers bought the High Street School and grounds and used it for the storage of farm supplies. The building was demolished in the 1990s to create a home site for Banff family members. Henry Harris, a local resident and president of the Mullica Hill Civic Council, tried to get the Township or some other organization to preserve the schoolhouse for historical reasons, but no funding or a place to relocate the building were available.

On April 6, 2003, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church hosted a "High Street School Homecoming Service." Henry Harris, a deacon of the church, was the program coordinator for this service and many alumni were in attendance and gave reflections on their experiences at the school.

"The school, when it was there, and the church" Alberta Holmes recalled, "those were the two main institutions for the Black community."

Today only Mt. Calvary Church survives. High Street School may be gone, but it is not forgotten.

- Robert B. Greene and James F. Turk

Teachers at High Street School

(Partial List)

Mr. Brown	Mrs. Harmon
Emma Brown	Lillian Johnson
Miss Clay	Edith Parker
Annie M. Cooper	Alberta Perry
Dorothy D. Estrada	Dr. John H. Reed
Edna Garlic	Frances M. Thomas
Amy Waugh	



HIGH STREET SCHOOL. c1990

HTHS: Gift of Robert B. Greene



HIGH STREET SCHOOL. Mullica Hill, NJ, c1926.

HTHS: Childhood Remembered Collection

Left to right

Top Row: Evelyn Bowens, Edith Robinson, Elsie Hicks, Ethel Gaines

Middle Row: Eleanor Hynson, Ida Hynson, Helen Gaines, unknown, Estelle Robinson, — Cooper, unknown, unknown, Mary Bowens

Front Row: Earl Bowens, Paul Cooper, — Cooper (in plaid), John Hall, — Cooper, Roosevelt Gaines (with tie), unknown, Emmanuel Hill, Raymond Hall, Russell Robinson

SOURCES: Childhood Remembered Oral History Collection

Harrison Township Board of Education Minute Books

A LIVELY SPRING SEASON AT RICHWOOD ACADEMY CULTURAL CENTER

Starting on Sunday, February 27, the Society has presented concerts and lectures every other weekend to appreciative live and on-line audiences. Although in-person attendance has been limited in accordance with New Jersey's COVID guidelines, on-line viewership has attracted from 100+ to over 300 views, greatly expanding accessibility to our offerings. Like the programs themselves, in-person audiences have also been remarkable for their diversity and reach, with attendees traveling from as far away as Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and North Jersey and have provided highly positive feedback. The Center's programs remain available at the Society's public Facebook page. You do not need a personal Facebook account to view the presentations.



The Academy rocked with the Sounds of Samba as Fabio Oliveira and friends had the audience clapping and singing a traditional song in Portuguese.

Our Spring schedule continues on Sunday afternoons at 3 pm through June 5th. Admission is free with registration on-line at our Facebook page. We invite you to explore with us New Jersey's history and the arts in-person or on-line.

- ◆ **April 24 - Poetry for a Single Voice.** Ian Hipps presents an afternoon of music for solo violin and viola.
- ◆ **May 8 - Bonaparte in Bordentown.** Richard Veit relates the fascinating story of Joseph Bonaparte's remarkable sojourn in America.
- ◆ **May 22 - The History and Art of Stained Glass.** Acclaimed glass artist Kenneth Leap discusses this historic art form.
- ◆ **June 5 - Rowan Young Artists - Jazz in June.** Swing, Latin and cool jazz stylings round out the Spring program series.

After the summer hiatus, programs will continue this Fall beginning in September. Follow us on Facebook

GLOUCESTER COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION AWARDS GRANTS FOR RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS

The Society is honored to announce that the Gloucester County Cultural & Heritage Commission at Rowan College of South Jersey has awarded us two grants supporting our program and exhibition offerings and to undertake an oral history research project documenting the September 2021 tornado. The two grants total \$14,960. Our application was strengthened by our ability to match our grant request with income provided by the donations of members and friends and the Society's fundraising events.

The Arts Grant has underwritten the Spring exhibition, *Schools for the Colored*, and the concerts and lectures focusing on the arts presented at Richwood Academy Cultural Center. The History Grant is supporting the lectures on New Jersey history at the Academy. In addition, this funding has allowed us to engage the services of Melissa Ziobro, Specialist Professor of Public History, Monmouth University, to conduct a series of interviews documenting the recent tornado that struck our community, an unprecedented historical event. She is speaking with residents directly impacted by the storm, first responders, community support groups and government officials. The interviews will be transcribed and archived at the Society and will lead to the exhibition this Fall at Old Town Hall Museum marking the one-year anniversary of the event.

Funding for the grants is provided in partnership with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Society, Wednesday, May 11, 7 pm, at Richwood Academy Cultural Center for the election of Officers and Executive Board members and annual reports for the year 2021.

The Nominating Committee has put forward the following slate of nominees.

OFFICERS

- President Robert Schumann
- Vice-President David Tinney
- Recording Secretary Paul Davis
- Corresponding Secretary Claire Bartholomew
- Treasurer Barbara Ridgway

CLASS OF 2025

- Karen Heritage
- Jeffrey Jacques
- Dollie Mann-Wells
- Maxine Mino
- Michele Vallone

The regular monthly meeting of the Board will immediately follow the annual meeting. As always, members are invited and welcomed to attend.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Alan & Kathy Appleby
Joe Arni
Judy Baillere
Julie & Dominic DeLaurentis
Linda D'Urbano
Joanie Evans
Clayton & Marsha Hahn
Debby & Jeffrey Jacques
John & Jeanne Ledden
Carla Maxwell
Dale Murtlow
Diana Pierce
Richard & Patricia Taylor
Mike Turner
Chris Zeiner

IN MEMORIAM

Laura Boyd
Beulah Lafferty Brinker
Clara Campbell
Donald Mohrman

SECOND GRADE CLASSES RETURN TO OLD TOWN HALL

What an exciting week for the Harrison Township School second grade students who returned April 4-8 to tour the museum after a two-year hiatus.

Curiosity and excitement filled each room as our volunteers explained and demonstrated how many of the museum's artifacts were used. The corn sheller, asparagus buncher, boxes and tins in the general store and vintage schoolroom photos captivated the students' interest - definitely a great learning experience for both students and teachers.

Every student received a copy of "My Museum," an illustrated booklet of follow-up activities that build on the museum visit. The Society is grateful to the Rotary Club of Mullica Hill who provided funding to publish this year's edition. The museum program and booklets are all provided free of charge.

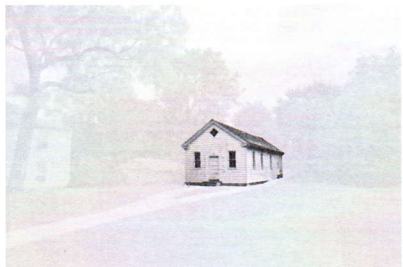
This is one of the Society's oldest on-going programs, having started over 40 years ago.

A big thank you to Mary Snively, program coordinator, and her volunteers: Gloria Horvay, Maxine Mino, Richard Ridgway, John Snively and Dave Tinney.



Children are always fascinated by the corn sheller demonstration.

**Schools for the Colored
Photography by Wendel A. White**



**Continues at Old Town Hall Museum
Saturdays & Sundays, 1-4 pm
THROUGH MAY 22ND**

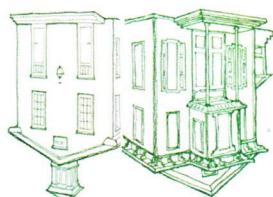
**June Festival of Antiques, June 11, 9am-3pm
Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds
275 Bridgeton Pike, Mullica Hill**

This biannual show brings together dealers from throughout the Northeast. Managed by the Society's neighbor, The Yellow Garage Antiques, the show features a wonderful variety of quality antiques in the pavilions and on the lawns. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Society.

Unlimited parking—rain or shine.



The Harrison Township Historical Society's arts and history programs are made possible in part by funding from The Gloucester County Cultural and Heritage Commission at Rowan College of South Jersey, in partnership with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and the National Endowment for the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State.



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Old Town Hall Museum ♦ Richwood Academy Cultural Center
PO Box 4 ♦ Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

