

Harrington Park Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 105, Harrington Park, New Jersey 07640

Newsletter #3

May 2003

HISTORY HIKE THIS SUNDAY

The Society's "History Hike" is this Sunday, May 4, 2003, from 1:00 – 3 P.M. This year we will take a walk in the business district and learn that Harrington Park was once the "hub" of the Northern Valley. The cost is \$2.50 for members and \$5.00 for non-members. Bring a friend – this should be fun! We will meet in the center of the business district.

Bob Griffin, Local Historian Back by Popular Demand

Mr. Robert Griffin, a prominent local historian and genealogist, will be back at our May 5, 2003, meeting to present the third part (1776 – 1865) of his series "A History of Bergen County." This lecture had to be cancelled as a result of an April snowstorm, stranding Mr. Griffin in Bucks County Pennsylvania!

The meeting begins at 7:30 P.M. and will conclude with a Q and A, followed by refreshments. Bring a friend!

Incidentally, if you miss any of these lectures, the Society's Secretary, Mr. Davis Ross writes a synopsis of the

meeting, and would be glad to e-mail you a copy. Speak with him at the March meeting.

SOCIETY SOCIAL

The Executive Committee decided it would be nice if the members of the Society got to know one another better. So we determined one way to do that would be to have a "Society Social." The date is Sunday, June 8, 2003, starting at 2:00 P.M. in the backyard of George and Gerri Gibney, 154 LaRoche Avenue. This will be a potluck social, meaning that everyone brings a dish – a true potluck. Whatever turns up is what we will all be eating. It would be great to get as many Society members out as possible. The Society will provide the beverages, and the rest is up to us! We will have an attendance sign-up sheet at the May meeting.

CEMETERY RESEARCH

We have begun a major project, headed by Dave Ross, to research all the people buried in the cemetery on Tappan Road, known as the Old Burial Ground. As custodial caretakers we will over the ensuing months begin to clean-up, as well as

fix-up this important part of the area's history.

Dave Ross reported at our last Executive Committee meeting that he had almost completed the gathering of genealogical information on most of the Blauvelts, their spouses, and children buried at the Old Burial Ground. The next stage of research involves searching for relevant information from documentary sources (wills, census returns, deeds), which may help us determine just where these people had lived. He reported that so far the earliest documented burial appears to be Jacob Blauvelt in 1768; the last is for Ann Moore in 1905. There are at least five Revolutionary War veterans (only three of whose headstones remain, one of which is shattered) and one War of 1812 officer. The initial photographing of the site has been completed, with over 100 images of the general layout and most of the surviving headstones photographed.

If you are interested in being a part of this fascinating and important project by doing independent research, please see Dave at our meeting or phone him at 201-768-3621.

If you would like to be a part of the clean-up crew, there will be a sign-up sheet at the May meeting. We have been trying to start the clean up, and every time we make a date – it pours! We will keep trying to continue with the clean up.

Also, if you, or someone you know, have historical papers or artifacts,

related to area history which you would like to donate or loan to the Society, please contact Dave, and he will catalog the items before turning them over to our archivists.

MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day 2003, the Society will be marching in the town parade again this year. Line-up is at the Harrington Park School at 9:00 A.M. We will be handing out small American flags, and proudly carrying our banner.

After the parade, we will be selling "strawberries and cream" at the town picnic at Highland Field. If you would like to be a part of the Memorial Day festivities, we will have a sign-up sheet at the May meeting. The more marchers, the merrier, and the more hands at the table selling the strawberries, the better.

Incidentally, for all you history buffs (and, who isn't?) – if you have the time – look up the history of Memorial Day and give us a short discourse on the history of this American holiday at the May meeting.

Washington Memorabilia

The Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus will be mounting an exhibit on "19th Century George Washington Memorabilia: 225th Anniversary of the Revolution" from May 14th through August 31st, Wed.-Sun., 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Your faithful servant, Gerri Gibney