

# Harrington Park Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. BOX 105, Harrington Park, NJ 07640

## President's Report

### Notes, Narration, and Natter *from Gerri Gibney*

It is with a great deal of pleasure to let all of you know that Dave Ross, Secretary of our Society, has been named as Harrington Park's Borough Historian. Dave is an integral member of the Society with the work he has spearheaded on the Old Burying Ground, which includes both research and cleanup; and his diligent, meticulous work as Society Secretary. In a word, he is a real "treasure" and now the entire town will have the benefit of his work and his wisdom. What's more, besides all his good work, he's a really nice guy too! A well deserved appointment for one of our very own.

We thank the Centennial Committee for their gift to the Society of the pictorial story boards which Lynn Warshavsky put together for Harrington Park's 100th Anniversary of Incorporation celebration. The boards consist of photographs taken of the many activities that were held in conjunction with the centennial 2004 year. You can view these graphic remembrances in the Library. These anniversary boards will now remain a permanent part of our collection.

Harrington Park History Day in October 2004 was a very good experience. Considering this was the first time we

sponsored such an event, the interest generated was very good. As a result we decided to make it an annual occurrence, and that we would hold it in the spring. The next History Day is Saturday, April 16th from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.

History Day is an opportunity to let the

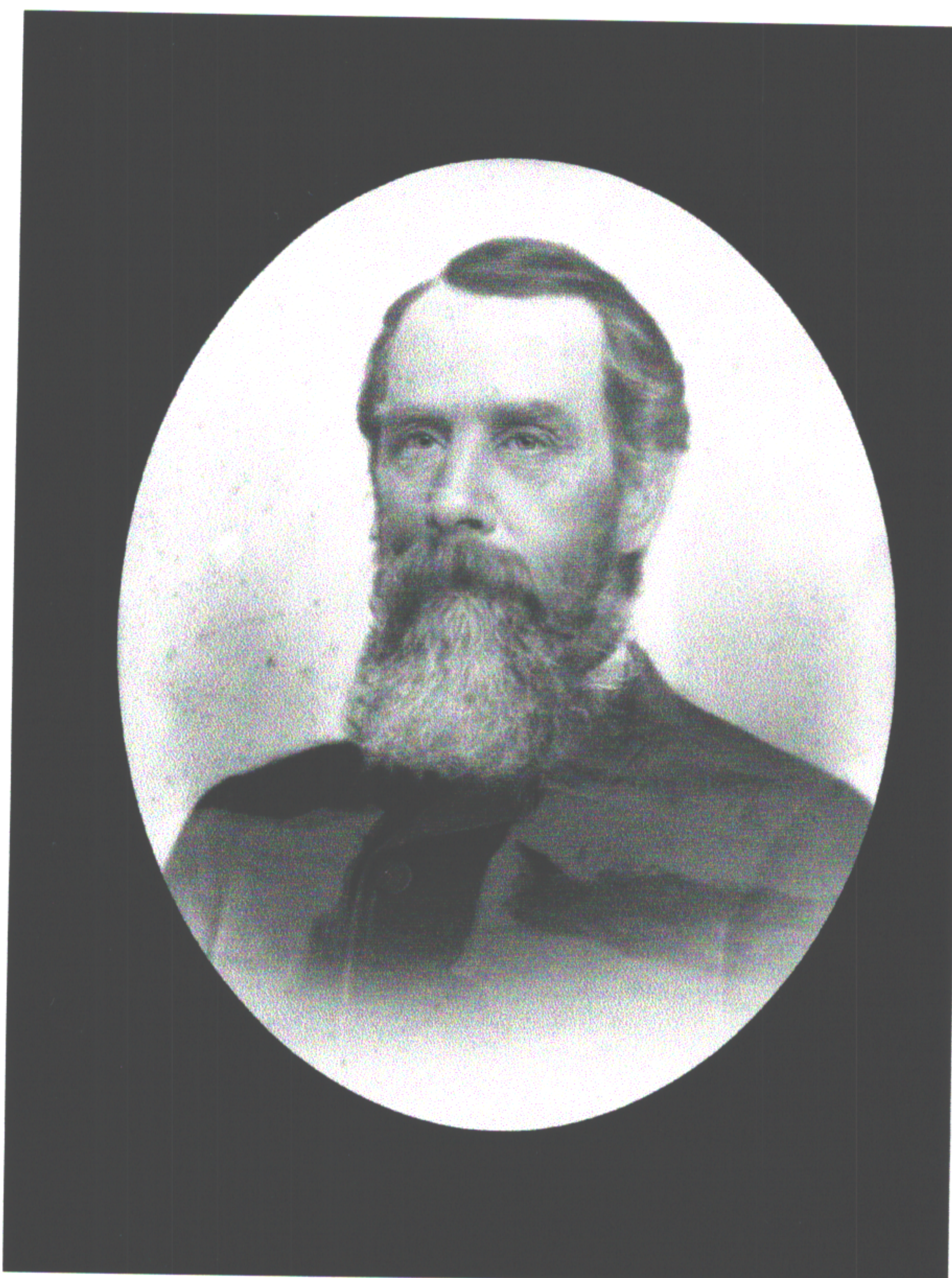


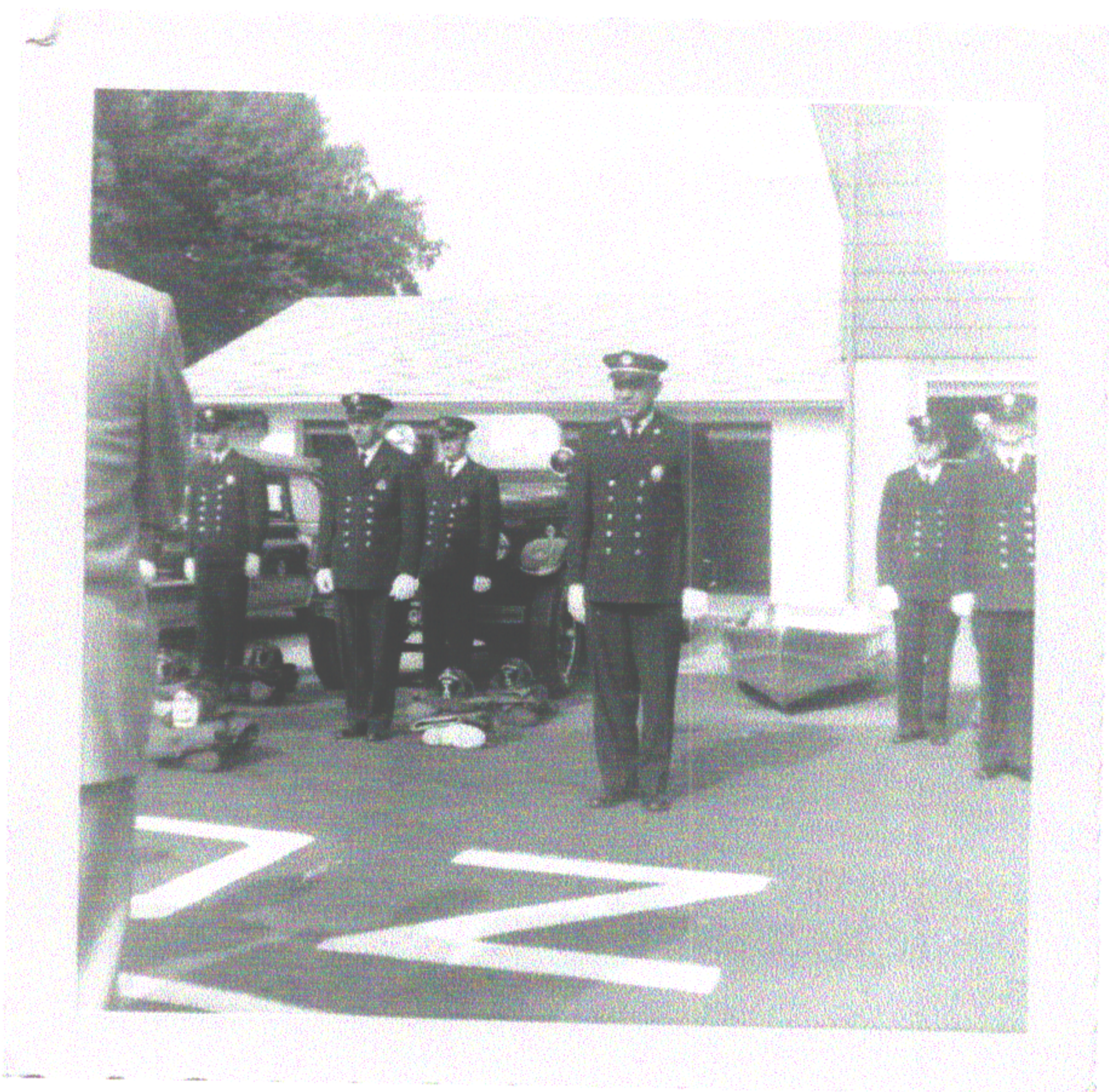
Figure 1: Portrait of Howard Demarest, gift of Anne Kruger at HPHS' 1<sup>st</sup> History Day, October 2004

public know about our Society and its many roles; proper storage and archiving of Harrington Park documents and artifacts; on-going research, restoration, and maintenance of the Old Burying Ground and in the future the Perry



**Cemetery; public awareness of local history and history at-large through our lecture series; a long-range goal for a permanent home for our collection in a Northern Valley Museum; and in general, a common interest and purpose among all members - with lots of good fun thrown-in.**

**The main focus of the day, however, is to collect historical information in the form of documents, photographs, personal**



*Figure 2 Fire Department inspection, May 1959; donated by Pat Ragucci at HPHS' 1<sup>st</sup> History Day, October 2004*

**items, and other memorabilia. We will photograph, electronically record, scan, or copy these items and will return the item to the owner that day. We also ask for any personal recollections which will be recorded and made part of the historical record.**

**We have one computer and scanner, and we could use at least one more computer set-up. If you have the equipment and are available, please let me know. And, if**

**you're not into computers, and would like to be a part of the day, let me know too - we can always use additional helping hands.**

**Something new at our general meetings! We will have a basket on the refreshment table to collect any change you have in your pocket. No, it's not a tip for our hosts. The purpose is to add to our growing fund to build a retaining wall at the Old Burying Ground. We have set a goal of \$100 from our version of "pass the hat" by the June meeting. This is a small, but certainly attainable amount. As the saying goes; "Money begets money." We'll keep you posted as the money pot (or basket) grows.**

**Curious as to where and from whom the "money begets money" quote comes from? If you know the answer, or even if you need to look it up, write down the answer, date and time you wrote it, and bring your possible winner to the February meeting. First person who gets the answer wins a small prize.**

**The Society will soon be on the worldwide web! The town has agreed to let us put up information about the Society, and we are happy to report that Rob Budinich has volunteered to be our webmaster. The site will most likely include our calendar of events, minutes from the most recent meeting, and our newsletter. We are just beginning to develop this site, and it certainly is very exciting to know that our Society and its activities will be available on the web. Lots of good stuff to come from this endeavor, and we thank Rob very much for so quickly and eagerly stepping up to the plate and taking on this**



opportunity. The next time you see Rob; tip your hat to our new webmaster.

Not too early to mark your calendar for the social event of the season. Yes, I am referring to the Society's major fundraiser, which has a tentative date of September 30th. We need official permission from United Water to use their facility, and hopefully, that will be forthcoming. Right now this is the date we have penciled-in, and you should do the same. The last one was a big success, so we anticipate an even greater crowd this time.

Your faithful servant, Gerri Gibney

### Historical Tidbits [Davis Ross]

**Old Burying Ground 1<sup>st</sup> burial?** The last newsletter reviewed the possibility that the 1<sup>st</sup> burial at the Tappan road cemetery was for "GIB" in 1720 or 1723. Ambiguous at best was the conclusion. So whose headstone is the next possibility? That has to be the one marked "Martintie Blawvelt" bearing the inscribed date (when 1<sup>st</sup> recorded in 1910) "April 20, 1732." Later, in 1934, an observer read the day as "28." As fig. 1 indicates, the day of the month has been effaced by damage on the upper right corner of the stone; but the month and year are still legible. The physical evidence on the stone should make this a "slam dunk."

But when one turns to the definitive genealogy of the Blauvelt family [Dorothy A. Moos, comp., *The Blauvelt Family Genealogy*, rev. ed., I (1987)] there is only one Martintie Blauvelt listed (among 4 with first names of "Martina/Martyntje/

Martintie"); she is shown as the daughter of Theunis Blauvelt and Margrietje Blauvelt. Her date of death was April 28, 1832 – an entire century after the date on our stone, if we are reading that correctly. The genealogy goes further, however, by noting that she was buried at Harrington Park (although that headstone was not found in 1910 or subsequent surveys), along with her parents, a brother Isaac and a sister Helen. The 6<sup>th</sup> of 9 children, and 2d of 3 who died very young, Martintie did not survive to be baptized (all of her siblings were baptized within 5 weeks of their birth).



**Figure 3:** *Martintie Blawvelt headstone*

Unfortunately neither headstone of her siblings who were interred at the Old Burying Ground are to be seen today, so we cannot physically compare them to Martintie's. But in 1910, when both were to be seen, each had short verses commemorating their brief lives. Her mother did not die until 1845 and her father not until 1868. Their headstones have fallen; but they are much more elaborate than Martintie's – and like Isaac and Helen, each have verse inscriptions in addition to the usual vital dates. Thus Martintie's stone is more roughly hewn and adorned with less



detail than the others of the Theunis and Margrietje Blauvelt family.

Well, if not Martintie Blauvelt, daughter of Theunis and Margrietje, then who?

Another possibility is Martyntje Demarest, the 1<sup>st</sup> spouse of Abraham Blauvelt. Although the Blauvelt genealogy does not give the date of death for Martyntje, it does note that her husband married the 2d time sometime after the birth of his and Martyntje's last child, Sara, in 1729 and before the birth of his and Rachel's (his 2d spouse) son Daniel, born in late 1733. Thus, the date on the headstone – 4/20 or 28/1732 is consistent with the documentary data for Martyntje Demarest. One problem with this speculation, however, is that the headstone shows “Blawvelt” as the surname. Most of the other headstones are inscribed with the married woman's birth name, although that is not universally the case. But there is more to urge Martyntje Demarest's identity as “Martintie Blawvelt.” Her son Abraham – a revolutionary war veteran – was buried close by to the Martintie Blawvelt stone, as was his wife Altje Kuyper. And Abraham and Altje's daughter Martyntje was in the same vicinity. [Only Altje's remains today.] In 1910 at the date of the 1<sup>st</sup> inventory, the headstones were in a row, with Martintie Blawvelt as the 1<sup>st</sup>, then the granddaughter Martintie Blauvelt, then the son Abraham Blauvelt, and finally the daughter-in-law Altje Kuyper, each in order of death 1732, 1784, 1812, and 1820.

In conclusion, the appearance of the headstone makes the 1732 date more likely than 1832 and the ordered proximity of possible family members' headstones suggests the identity to have been Martyntje

Demarest (1705-1732?). The very substantial differences between the headstone and those of Martintie Blauvelt's siblings and parents, as well as the stone's inscription, argue against this being Martintie Blauvelt (1832-1832).

But we could be wrong . . . .

### Archivists' Corner [Ingeborg Nebel]

While looking through an old newspaper we came across this advertisement from a local grocery store (*fig. 4*) and another news item concerning the Borough's budget (*fig. 5*, next page).

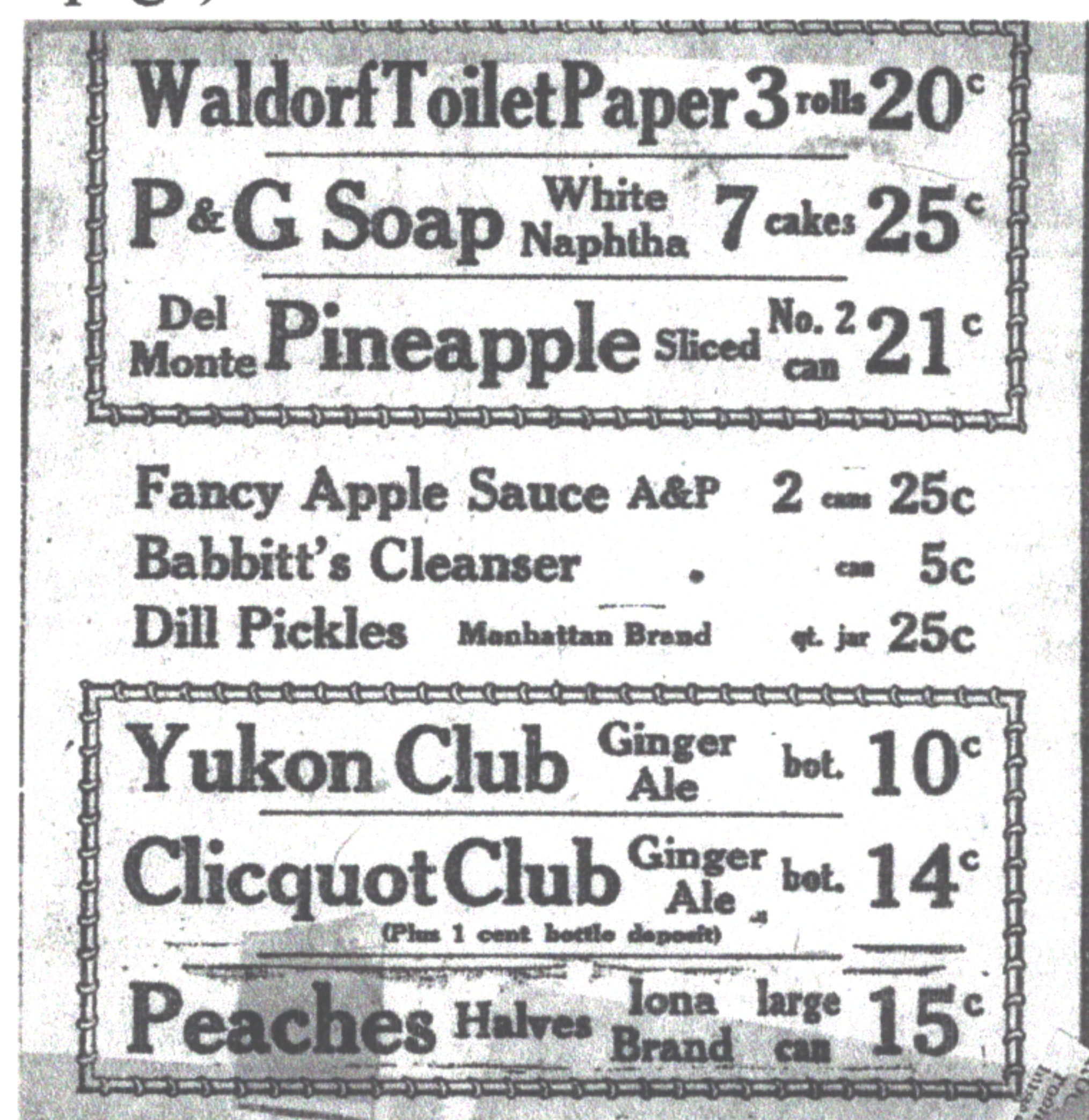


Figure 4 Local grocery store ad, January 1932

We would also like to remind our members that there is a new exhibit at the library: “The Centennial year” arranged by Lynne Warshavsky and donated to the Harrington Park Historical Society. Thanks Lynne!

### Hospitality [Caryl Block]

#### WHAT? ME BRING REFRESHMENTS?

One of the highlights of our monthly public meetings, aside from the wonderful



speakers we have, is our refreshment table. Every month there is an abundant array of cookies, cakes, fruit and other delights, with plenty of coffee, tea and other potables to wash them down with, prepared by Society members who have volunteered to do so. And while it seems like something only a "Martha" can do, the truth is that anyone can provide refreshments for our meetings.

First of all, you don't have to do it alone. Every month we try to have two volunteers for refreshments. For one thing, it helps to lessen the work (and the expense), and it's also a great way to meet new people in the Society.

Second, the refreshments don't need to be extravagant, but, if you are so inclined, let your creativity go wild! Tie your "theme" to the season of the year, a holiday in the month, or even the speaker's topic. But if all you (and your partner) can think of is doughnuts and coffee with a minimum of ambiance, that's great!

Finally, once you've volunteered to do refreshments, what do you have to bring? You are responsible for providing: coffee and tea (including milk, sugar and artificial sweetener for it), finger desserts (cookies, bar cookies, fruit, tea breads, etc.), bottled water or seltzer, and paper products (cups, plates, napkins). There is a coffeemaker available for your use in the kitchenette in the Quantmeyer Room.

So think about being our "host/hostess of the month"; we're still looking for volunteers for April (1), May and June. And don't worry about forgetting what month you've signed up for—I'll remind you by phone or email about a week before the meeting, so you and your partner can plan your "menu." Thanks.

## Members' Corner [Lorraine Wolfangel-Hall]

Many thanks to the following members for renewing their memberships. Please add these names and addresses to your 2004-05 Member List:

Frank, Chris & Bob  
15 Harriot Place  
767-8549  
bpfrank@aol.com

Lolas & Terranova Family  
Phyllis Lolas-Terranova & John Terranova  
Luke, John Jr., Marc  
750-8404  
palterra@aol.com

### Harrington Park Saves \$956 in Borough Taxes

**Council's Appropriations Total \$34,483 and Are \$1,742 Less than Last Year's Amount**

Harrington Park will be required to raise \$20,033 in taxes this year for the expenses of its borough administration as compared to \$20,939 last year, realizing a saving of \$956. Appropriations sum up \$34,483 as against \$36,226, the total for last year, the difference of \$1,742 being offset by a lesser amount of surplus and revenue to be applied against the borough expenses.

The budget and tax ordinance is scheduled for public hearing on Feb. 9th.

The items in the budget as compared to last year's appropriations are as follows:

	1932	1931
Salary and Fee .....	\$3,500	\$3,500
Supplies .....	1,000	1,000
Insurance .....	700	700
Current Interest .....	1,000	1,000
Police .....	3,600	3,200
Fire .....	1,200	1,500
Hydrants .....	3,350	3,200
Lights .....	3,300	3,300
Road Repairs .....	4,000	6,086
Drainage .....	200	200
Shade Trees .....	.....	150
Board of Health .....	900	700
Hospital .....	333	400
Boro. Share of Imp'ts..	2,095	2,363
Int. Asst. Notes .....	250	400
Emergency Note .....	.....	400
Franchise tax cancelled by State .....	.....	202
Assessments Cancelled .....	.....	122
Revenue Deficiency....	2,605	.....

**Figure 5: Borough budget news, January 1932**



***Upcoming Events***

**February: Monday, February 7, 2005, 7:30 PM, Quantmeyer Room, Library Speaker: Ed Moderacki, Teacher "The Baylor Massacre"**

**March: Monday, March 7, 2005, 7:30 PM, Quantmeyer Room, Library Speaker: Genealogical Society of Bergen County, Topic: "Researching Bergen County Records"**

**April: Monday, April 4, 2005, 7:30 PM, Quantmeyer Room, Library Speaker: Ron Goldberger, New Jersey Historical Society, Topic: "Burr and Hamilton"**

**April: History Day, Saturday, April 16th from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. at Borough Hall.**