

# THISTLE



Millburn ~  
Short Hills  
Historical Society

Vol. I, No. 3

January, 1977

WINTER MEETING - The winter meeting of the Historical Society will be held on January 19, 1977, at Taylor Park Recreation Center at 8 pm. Mr. Joseph De Caro, photo-journalist, magazine writer, and lecturer, will present a slide-lecture program on New Jersey's participation in the Revolutionary War, with a special section devoted to the Battle of Springfield. There will also be committee progress reports by several members of the Society.

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DID YOU KNOW that Millburn Township was formed on March 20, 1857, from part of Springfield Township? On that date Union County was carved out of the southern portion of Essex County. The boundary established almost coincided with that of the Elizabeth Township and Borough of the eighteenth century.

Since incorporation, there have been seven changes in the boundaries of Millburn. In 1863, a large section on the east was ceded to South Orange Township. This ceded area is a sizeable portion of present day Maplewood Township, formed in 1922. In 1891, the acreage south of Springfield Avenue between the east and west branches of the Rahway River was returned to Springfield Township. Most other changes have been minor adjustments along Millburn Avenue and Morris Turnpike. Millburn acquired a 1,575 foot strip, 20 to 23 feet wide, along the south side of Millburn Avenue from King's market to the south side of Morris Turnpike for road widening purposes. This includes a portion of Sak's front lawn. To allow cohesive development of the Rippling Brook area adjacent to White Oak Ridge Road, an exchange of land was made with Livingston in 1965. Our straight border with that town thus became a zig-zag.

Detailed references and information for inquisitive researchers are on hand.

TOWNSHIP DAY - The Society is asking the Township Committee for a proclamation designating March 20 "Millburn Township Day." It is hoped that it will become a day on which a variety of Township events, celebrating our legal--if not our actual historical--beginnings, will be held.

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BALLANTINE HOUSE TOUR - A guided tour of the recently restored Ballantine House, adjacent to the Newark Museum, has been arranged for the Society. This fine example of late Victorian architecture was built by the president of the prosperous brewery in 1883. The Museum has re-created the home's grandeur with some original furnishings, luxurious tapestries, and a large table set with period china and silver.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 27.  
FEE: \$2.00.  
Contact: Fran Land, 379-3376, for reservations and carpool information.

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THE MILLBURN - SHORT HILLS ART CENTER cordially invites members of the Society to the following programs to be held at Taylor Park Recreation Center at 8 pm:

March 17, 1977 - A lecture by Sandy Brown on the Fine Art of Victorian Architecture.

April 14, 1977 - A lecture by Arlene Palmer, Curator of Glass and Ceramics at Winterthur Museum, on American Glass and its Heritage.

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DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND the Genealogy Course given by HARRIET STRYKER-RODDA this fall will be repeated in February and March. Thirty years of experience enable Mrs. Stryker-Rodda to make the task of starting a family history an easy one. If you missed the first course, try to join us this winter on Tuesday evenings.

WHEN: Six consecutive Tuesday evenings, starting February 22, 1977, 8-10 pm.  
WHERE: Taylor Park Recreation Center.  
FEE: \$30.00.  
Contact: Alicia Roman, 376-4545 or 376-1160.

THE ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE of the Society has discovered in its research, that the home you have passed many times at 93 Old Short Hills Road, a typical American farmhouse of its era, was built in 1856. It has been occupied by the Albert Blood family since 1890. Recently purchased, the house is being renovated by the new owner.

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WALKING TOURS - The Society has a planned walking tour of the White Oak Ridge area which is suitable for elementary school, scout, and Indian Guide groups. Call Mary McKeon, 379-6039, for further information.

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HELP WANTED - We have accumulated documents, histories, maps, pictures, etc., which need to be catalogued and cross-referenced for more efficient use. If you have training in library skills or research, we need your help! This work is most interesting and rewarding. If interested, please contact Ann Klemme, 376-3970.

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HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS AND COLLECTIONS - To help the Society plan future displays (at the new library, in stores, at Township events), we would like to compile a register of various historical artifacts and collections (dolls, guns, cooking utensils, clothing, etc.) in the possession of Township residents. If you have or know of such a collection, please complete the following form:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS \_\_\_\_\_

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This information will be kept confidential. If you do not wish your name used in connection with the display, we will not do so.

Return the form to Dick Chapman, 17 Ridge Terrace, Short Hills.

HOUSE AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH - The two committees have been meeting jointly. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 17, at 9:30 am. If you have an old house and wish to research its history, please call Roldah Cameron, 376-6518, for information.

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FACTS, FIGURES, AND FINDS - If you have any information that you think would be pertinent to the Society and/or of interest to the general membership, such as...

- ...the site of the first mill,
- ...the owners of paintings by Derrick, a landscape painter who lived and painted in this area,
- ...the family who has owned property in the Township for the longest continuous period,

please contact us.

As editors of The Thistle, we would welcome any suggestions, comments, or criticisms of the Newsletter. A "Letters to the Editors" column is under consideration.

Aline Coles                      467-8894  
Jeanne O'Donnell                467-0368

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