A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE SWEDISH GRANARY TREE RING PROJECT ...AND A DISAPPOINTMENT?

By Joseph Mathews

There is good news in that the Swedish Granary Tree Ring Project has concluded with success: it has determined a positive date for the construction of our beloved rustic little cabin in the field, the Swedish Granary. The disappointing news is that this date—1783—calls into question the very name “Swedish Granary.”

After two New Jersey Historical Commission project grants and four years of research, the dendrochronological team of Professor Edward Cook and William Callahan (for brevity’s sake, I’ll call them C&C) has been able to accumulate enough suitable tree ring data to create a master chronology for the species of tree of which the Swedish Granary is made: Chamaecyparis thyoides or Atlantic White Cedar (or AWC), a wetlands species still common today. As C&C relate in their 2017 “Dendrochronology Report: Creating an AWC historical master chronology and the dating of the Granary”—soon to be published on the CCCHS website, www.cchistsoc.org, such a master chronology was needed in order to crossdate the set of samples or borings extracted from a representative number of the Granary’s logs. I write this as a layperson and my language is imprecise, so I hope you read the “Report” for yourselves and attend the Sunday, May 7th, seminar to be led by Bill Callahan (and perhaps Ed Cook as well) at the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Library at 2 p.m. I think many of your questions will be answered there.

For now, it can be said that C&C have determined, on the basis of their measurements and analysis, that the Swedish Granary dates not from the latter 17th century as the esteemed architects G. E. Brumbaugh and A. F. Ruthrauff speculated in 1973, but from 1783. It might be 1782 or 1784, or even 1785, but that’s the range.

Actually a note of triumph should be struck: it is remarkable that C&C were able to conclude their study so rapidly. A decade would not have been unusual for such a task, but they were working within the constraint of project deadlines and they had the benefit of a field team—mostly Joan Berkey, Jamie Hand, myself, and several others—who helped with local contacts and locations. Moreover, because AWC is a wetlands species, its wet and dry years do not show up as clearly as those of an upland species like oak, for example. Mr. Callahan will no doubt discuss this difficulty and how the project overcame it.

So, starting with the seminar on May 7th and moving forward, we will work out the implications of our now-completed tree ring project: try to understand it and its challenging science, and start to work toward a revision in the interpretation of our humble log structure—which as Brumbaugh and Ruthrauff noted in 1973—“conceals many mysteries.” As usual, please stay tuned to our website, Facebook page, and newsletter for ongoing developments.

SMUGGLING IN COHANSEY

By Andrew Laurence Ingersoll

Smuggling was very common in Colonial Cohansey. Smuggled goods brought through coastal towns were transported via wagon, often concealed by a pile of salt hay, and always at night. Rigid customs regulations were in place in Philadelphia, as well as the three legal ports of entry in New Jersey—Perth Amboy, Burlington, and Cohansey. Cohansey (present-day Greenwich) was a favorite port for “connoisseurs of contraband.” In 1763, Francis Hopkinson, later a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was appointed collector of customs for Cohansey. In reports, he stated that smuggling was very prevalent within his jurisdiction, with rum, sugar, and molasses being the most popular contraband. Tea was another in-demand smuggled good. Even though the Townsend Acts of 1767 had taxed tea, the beverage was plentiful in Cohansey—not British tea, but rather smuggled Dutch tea. With consumption of British tea down, Prime Minister Lord North proposed a scheme that would undercut the smuggled Dutch tea, once again filling colonial teapots with the tea of the British East India Company. Smugglers, however, struck back, spreading word that the British tea had gone rotten in storage, and paying physicians to advise their patients against drinking British tea. The smugglers ploy worked: British tea never again regained its former dominance in North America.

BOOK REVIEW: “STRONG MEDICINE” SPEAKS: A NATIVE AMERICAN ELDER HAS HER SAY: AN ORAL HISTORY


Submitted by Joseph Mathews

This remarkable book is about Marion “Strong Medicine” Gould of Gouldtown in Fairfield Township. She recently passed away at age 94. I had heard her son, Mark “Quiet Hawk” Gould, mention his mother at a talk at Greenwich Presbyterian Church some time back while she was still living. He held up this book and spoke about it for a minute. I wondered about it, but didn’t buy it until after I had attended Marion Gould’s funeral on November 6, 2016. The book was given a prominent place at the funeral and the author Amy Hill Hearth was in attendance there as well. Soon after, I read it and am glad I did: it’s enlightening about Marion herself—her life and her thoughts—and about the places where she lived, including Cumberland County, throughout the 20th century. Her husband, Wilbur, figures prominently in the book: there were several very vivid pages on his World War II experiences.

Marion’s own voice is strong throughout the book which intersperses extended quotations from her with brief chapter by chapter introductions by Amy Hill Hearth. The many family photographs enrich the book greatly. Marion “Strong Medicine” Gould was a herbalist and healer with a penchant for honest speech: thus her name. I was impressed with her honesty, vitality, love of nature, and pride in what she calls “Indian ways,” often evidenced by “random” acts of kindness and sympathy. This book was assigned to all incoming freshmen at Cumberland County College in 2008, the year it was published. Now, almost nine years later, it deserves an ongoing readership.

BOOKPLATES, MARBLING AND SCRAPBOOKS—EXHIBITS SHOWCASING THE EPHEMERA OF THE PAST

By Andrew Ingersoll and Brittnay Ingersoll

The Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Library has three new exhibits on display; one showcasing scrapbooks filled with trade cards and fabric; one on the different types of marbled paper used in books; and, one featuring a variety of different bookplates. Out of the three, bookplates possess the oldest history, also known as “ex libris”, which is Latin for “from the books of...”. Bookplates in the simplest terms are the documentation of ownership of a book by pasting a piece of paper within the book that signifies the owner. Throughout time they have changed in variations with some being highly ornate and others possessing a very simple design or just being the owner’s name.

The second exhibit consists of marbled paper, which dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Marbled paper migrated westward from Asia along the “silk road” trading roots of the Early Modern Period. Europeans first became aware of the craft in Turkey and Persia in the 16th century. By 1600, marbled paper had become popular in Europe. European bookbinders developed techniques for marbling paper, which they kept closely guarded. In the British Colonies of North America, marbled paper was imported from Britain, Germany and France by bookbinders. It was not until ca.1800 that marbled paper was manufactured in the United States. By 1837, a steam-powered marbled paper factory was in operation in Philadelphia, making marbled paper on an industrial level. During the Second Continental Congress (1774-1776), Benjamin Franklin was named to a committee tasked with printing money for the payment of the war expenses of Congress. The committee designed a paper currency which featured marbling on the back. This marbling was intended to discourage anyone from attempting to counterfeit the money. First, large, flat tanks were filled with water. Ink was then poured into the water, and designs were made using a variety of tools. Large sheets of paper were then carefully floated on the surface of the water, where the ink would be absorbed, transferring the design from the water to the paper.

The third exhibit shows items from the scrapbooks of Julia Mulford Porch. During the nineteenth century, women and children would make scrapbooks using trade cards. Trade cards would either be distributed by shops or come with manufactured goods that children and women would try to collect. Using trade cards, the scrapbook owners would arrange the cards to make different designs. Other than trade cards, individuals would also use cut outs from newspaper to fill up their scrapbooks. Julia Mulford Porch did not just fill her books with her favorite paper clippings but also with many different types of fabric pieces as well.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S 2017 LECTURE SERIES BEGINS
WITH HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE COLONY OF NEW SWEDEN ON THE DELAWARE
By Reverend Dr. Kim-Eric Williams
Submitted by Joseph Mathew

Reverend Dr. Kim-Eric Williams began the 2017 Cumberland County Historical Society’s Lecture Series with a fascinating talk on the colorful history of the royal colony of New Sweden on the Delaware. I will try to recount some of his major points here. New Sweden began with the landing of the Kalmar Nyckel at present-day Wilmington in 1638. Commerce with natives in furs was the lure and the private trading company was the business model preferred by the monarchy. Legendary figures like Peter Minuit and the 400-pound giant Johan Printz—or, as the Lenape called him, “Big Belly”—led the colony until its defeat by Peter Stuyvesant and the New Netherland colony in 1655. With its court at Upland or present-day Chester and the eight Old Swedes churches on both sides of the river, the Swedish nation endured beyond 1655 until well into the English period. Around 900 Swedish and Finnish settlers arrived over 18 years, and today perhaps 20 to 30 million Americans can trace their genetic heritage back to them. Probably the colony’s two greatest cultural contributions to America are the log cabin and reciprocal relations with the Lenape. In many ways, the Finns and the Lenape were similar culturally in that both were forest folk. Very few can trace this complex history as well as the Lutheran minister Williams, who has edited a 7-volume hard-cover series of translations of Swedish records, some of which he brought along for sale. A numerous and appreciative audience stayed to ask questions and draw out his informed explanations of matters like the Forest Finns and their penchant for saunas and fire smoke and the Rev. Johan Campanius’s translation into Lenape of Luther’s Small Catechism. The Cumberland County Historical Society thanks Dr. Williams for his well-informed lecture.

DE-INDUSTRIALIZATION IN BRIDGETON
By Andrew Lawrence Ingersoll

At 7 a.m., on the morning of February 16, 1984, the Owens-Illinois plant in Bridgeton closed for good. Glass had been made in that factory for over 103 years. The Clark and Shoemaker Glass Company, founded in 1880, was the first glass house on that property. In 1929, the Owens Bottle Company merged with the Illinois Glass Company to form Owens-Illinois. From then until the plant closed in 1984, Owens-Illinois was a major part of the economy of Bridgeton. Though the factory employed only 630 employees when it closed, the plant had at one time employed over 2,800 people at its height between 1955 and 1976. By the early 1980s, due in large part to increasing automation, the factory’s workforce had been downsized. This was not the only reason for the plant’s closure. However, the State of New York had passed a law requiring deposits on glass containers, a decision that Owens-Illinois officials stated was a major influence in their decision to close the Bridgeton plant. Added to this was a proposal in the New Jersey legislature mirroring the New York bottle deposit law. Though the state legislature voted down the proposal, Owens-Illinois had made its decision. Despite efforts by city officials to change Owens-Illinois’ decision, as well as the suggestion by New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean to convert the plant to the manufacture of plastic containers, the decision was final. In fact, Owens-Illinois refused to sell or convert the plant, stating that, officially, the factory was not closed, but rather, made “temporarily idle.” The plant was never to reopen. In the years following the closing of the Bridgeton plant, Owens-Illinois closed many of its other factories, citing inefficient production, leading to lost profits. Interestingly, the Bridgeton plant had had the best ‘melt to pack’ ratio—90%—of all the factories operated by Owens-Illinois. During the 1970s and 1980s, cities that were once industrial powerhouse were increasingly de-industrialized: Camden, Detroit, Buffalo, and even Bridgeton.


CURRENT EXHIBITS IN THE
WARREN AND REBA LUMMIS
GENEALOGICAL
& HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Be sure to stop into the Lummis Library to see the exhibit of the start of World War I in 1917. It shows a picture and information of Co. K that came from Cumberland County. Also, a helmet and bugle belonging to Warren Q. Adams, Sr., from the Drum and Bugle Corps of the Shoemaker Post has survived and is on display as well as a newspaper photograph of the entire Corps.

In the foyer of the Library is an exhibit of 2017 anniversaries such as the publication of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses, 1517; Purchase of Alaska, 1867; Russian Revolution, 1917; President John F. Kennedy, born May 29, 1917; and the Hindenburg Disaster, May 6, 1937.

Display case of World War I exhibit.
(Photo courtesy of Cumberland County Historical Society.)
STRAIGHT FROM THE HEARTH

By Nancy Applegate

Did you know…?

- Peanuts are native to Brazil taken to Africa by the Portuguese then back to the Americas.
- Thomas Jefferson recorded in his journal in 1794, the yield of his sixty-five peanut hills at Monticello.
- The unique taste of Virginia ham is, in part, because of the diet of peanuts fed to the pigs.

Come to the Gibbon House at the season re-opening on Sunday, April 2, 2017 and get a copy of Colonial Williamsburg’s famous King’s Arms Tavern recipe for “Cream of Peanut Soup.”


By Warren Q. Adams


DONOR: Paul Husted (Tyringboro, MA) Scrapbook of Evelyn Husted Garrison, Memories of Bridgeton.

DONOR: Valerie N. Caufield (Swedesboro, NJ) at behest of Charles McKannan Family. In Memory of Charles L. and Doris McKannan. Copy of 1892 Map of Leesburg by Woodruff T. Hand, Sr. 24” x 36”.


DONOR: Richard Marcus Ayars (Englewood, FL) Ayars Collection of 68 research books.


DONOR: Sara Robbins Hoffman (Phoenix, AZ) Port Norris U.M.E. Church, Gravestone Inscriptions.

DONOR: Alice Saunders (Salem, NJ) Program, A Dedication, Ceremonies Dedicating the NEW WING, Bridgeton Hospital, Bridgeton, New Jersey Saturday, February 22, 1958.


DONOR: Honorable Judge George H. Stanger, Jr. (Bridgeton, NJ) Membership list of the Wide Awakes of Bridgeton, 1860’s.


HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS (Fall, 2016)

October - Gregg Jones and Mark Showers, our official local guides for the annual Halloween haunted walking tours, led a total of 454 visitors on tours down Ye Greate Street during the course of eight nights. History came alive through our storytellers and everyone braved all the eerie stories of Greenwich’s past. Each tour lasted approximately 90 minutes and ended with light refreshments served at the Gibbon House.

November - The Cumberland County Historical Society’s annual business/dinner meeting was held on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at the Greenwich Presbyterian Church. After the business meeting, a delicious ham dinner with all the trimmings was prepared and served by the members of the church. The program for the evening was “A Visit by Thomas Jefferson.” Impersonator, Steve Edeno, historian and motivational speaker, entertained the audience with his one man show and brought Jefferson’s leadership and vision to the forefront. At the end of his presentation, Edeno welcomed questions and was able to answer from all time periods of Jefferson’s life. His performance was captivating to all who attended.

Thomas Jefferson, portrayed by Steven Edeno.
(Photograph courtesy of Jeanne Garrison.)
December – The 48th Annual Christmas in Greenwich was celebrated on Sunday, December 13, 2016 with “A Timeless Tradition” theme. Hundreds of visitors toured the town’s historic homes, churches, museums, stores, restaurants and other historic sites that were all decked out in their Christmas finery.

The 7th Annual Gingerbread Contest was held during the weekend of Christmas in Greenwich. Twenty-five gingerbread creations were judged and on display in Santa’s Workshop. The 2016 “Best in Show” went to Loraine and Michelle Serabian. Listed below are the names of all the participants, by categories. In Santa’s Workshop, many children (and adults) were busy visiting with Santa and sharing items on their “Wish List.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2016 GINGERBREAD CONTEST

Adult (18 years and older)

D. Hedge (Vineland)
Lorraine & Michelle Serabian (Greenwich)

Youth (11 years to 17 years)

Cameron Ruth Agnesino (Port Norris)

Child (10 years and younger)

Carollan Glenn – 8 ½ years old (Port Norris)
Dahlia Glenn – 3 ¾ years old (Port Norris)
Josiah Glenn – 2 ½ years old (Port Norris)
Isabella Bates – 8 years old (Bridgeton)
Koner Colly (9 yrs), Bailey Hunter (9 yrs), Austin Hunter (7 yrs) and Josiah Bond (9 yrs) (Stow Creek & Greenwich)
Kara Serabian – 5 years old (Greenwich)

School

Mrs. Sandy Layton’s 4th Grade Class from the Morris Goodwin School (Greenwich)
(Five gingerbread entries – 24 students (9 and 10 year olds)

Friends

Klint Colly (7 years old) and Logan Richie (11 years old) (Stow Creek)
Dante Mazzeo and Justin Shi (Stow Creek)

Family

Bates Family (Bridgeton)
Cathi & Chloe Metzger (Alloway)
Abi, Emma, Kathy Cohen (Stow Creek)
Elijah, Lilia, Sunny & Troy Smith (Stow Creek)
John, Wendy, Jolin & Justin Shi (Vineland)
Tracey, Charlotte Hunter & Emma Cohen (Stow Creek & Greenwich)

Organization

Inspira Health Network LIFE (Vineland)
Jodhpuri & Jeans 4-H Club (Millville)

Chloe Metzger, from Alloway, with her gingerbread house entry.
(Photo courtesy of Cathi Metzger.)
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS  
January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017  

“SPEAKER SERIES”  
Sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society  
to be held at the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Library - 981 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich, NJ 08323  

Sunday, February 12, 2017 - 2 p.m.  
Author David Veasey will discuss his book New Jersey’s Colonial Architecture Told in 100 Buildings.  
New Jersey’s wide variety of 17th and 18th century extant architecture will be the focus of an illustrated talk by Mr. Veasey. The Cumberland County buildings mentioned in Veasey’s talk and book are the Deerfield Presbyterian Church in Deerfield; the Fairfield Presbyterian Church in Fairfield; Potter’s Tavern in Bridgeton; the Gibbon House, the Swedish Granary, the Richard Wood Store in Greenwich; the Caesar Hoskins Log Cabin in Mauricestown; and the Governor Howell Plantation in Shiloh.  
This event is free and open to the public.  

HEARTSIDE DINNER – Sold out!  
Saturday, February 25, 2017  

“SPEAKER SERIES”  
Sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society  
to be held at the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Library - 981 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich, NJ 08323  

Sunday, March 12, 2017 - 2 p.m.  
Mr. Clyde A. Phillips will discuss the oyster industry of Port Norris. His lecture is entitled “Oystering in the Old Days.”  
Most of Mr. Phillips’ life was centered on boats for the oyster trade on the Maurice River and Delaware Bay. He worked early on in his father’s oyster business, later for Dorchester Shipyard, and was the last foreman and master boat builder at the old Del Bay Shipyard in Leesburg. Later yet, he was the research vessel captain for the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory at Bivalve. He will discuss the oyster industry by means of personal recollections and welcomes questions during his presentation.  
This event is free and open to the public.  

HEARTSIDE DINNER – Sold out!  
Saturday, March 25, 2017  

RE-OPENING OF GIBBON HOUSE  
Sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society  
to be held at the c. 1730 Gibbon House, located at 960 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich, NJ 08323  

Sunday, April 2, 2017 - Noon to 2 p.m.  
Light refreshments will be served.  
This event is free and open to the public.  

“SPEAKER SERIES”  
Sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society  
to be held at the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Library - 981 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich NJ 08323  

Sunday, April 2, 2017 - 2 p.m.  
Mr. Bill Sprouse will speak on his 2013 book, The Domestic Life of the Jersey Devil, or, BeBops Miscellany.  
This event is free and open to the public.  

“SPEAKER SERIES”  
Sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society  
to be held at the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Library - 981 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich NJ 08323  

Sunday, May 7, 2017 - 2 p.m.  
Mr. Bill Callahan will discuss the Final Report for the Swedish Granary Tree Ring Project of 2016.  
This event is free and open to the public.  

46th ANNUAL GREENWICH ARTISANS’ FAIRE AND MARKETPLACE  
Presented by the Cumberland County Historical Society  
to be held on the grounds of the c. 1730 Gibbon House - 960 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich NJ 08323  
Saturday, September 23, 2017  
Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday, September 24, 2017  
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Additional information forthcoming.
ANNUAL GREENWICH HALLOWEEN GHOST WALKING TOURS
Presented by the Cumberland County Historical Society
Meet at the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Library – 981 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich NJ 08323
Dates to be determined.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S ANNUAL BUSINESS/DINNER MEETING
Presented by the Cumberland County Historical Society
Saturday, November 4, 2017
Additional information forthcoming!

8th ANNUAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST
Sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society
Saturday, December 9, 2017
Additional information forthcoming!

49th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN GREENWICH HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR
Presented by the Cumberland County Historical Society
Sunday, December 10, 2017 – Noon to 5 p.m.
Additional information forthcoming!

SANTA’S WORKSHOP
Sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society
Sunday, December 10, 2017 – Noon to 5 p.m.
Additional information forthcoming!

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Cumberland County Historical Society is to preserve and promote the history and heritage of the county through acquisitions, collections, exhibits and research, educational programs and publications for the benefit of current and future generations.

PLEASE contact us if you have recently moved. We will update your information immediately so you may continue to receive our mailings. No need for a formal letter, just send us your new address via email…ccchistsoc@verizon.net.