CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS!

Join us for our 44th Annual
“CHRISTMAS IN GREENWICH”
Sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society

Sunday, December 9, 2012 - 12 Noon to 5 P.M.

Admission: $10 ($5 for children 12 and under)
Obtain your ticket(s) at the Doctor’s Office located on the grounds of the Gibbon House.
960 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich, New Jersey

Tour the historic private homes of the residents of Greenwich…all beautifully decorated for the holidays.
Do your early Christmas shopping at the Artisans’ Market held at the Morris Goodwin School. Enjoy lunch and munch on fantastic goodies at the Morris Goodwin School, prepared by the members of the PTO. Admire the displays of Gingerbread Houses at the Old Stone Schoolhouse. Visit the Gibbon House decked in all its Christmas finery and observe the hearthside cooking in the 1740 fireplace. A must see will be the Richard Wood Store (circa 1773) decorated with fresh boughs of evergreens, popcorn, cranberries, antique and vintage Christmas decorations and ornaments and a wonderful display of children’s toys and games. The ladies at the Greenwich Presbyterian Church will be serving a variety of hot, homemade soups, delicious desserts, snacks and beverages for those hearty appetites. Don’t miss the traditional wreath laying ceremony to be held at the Tea Burners Monument. The Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Research Library will have a special 1862 Christmas display from the Civil War years and a sale of local history pamphlets and books. Don’t miss the opportunity to visit the John DuBois Maritime Museum and the Alan Ewing Carman Museum of Prehistory from Cumberland County. Plus, there will be many other features for your holiday enjoyment.

For more information, call 856-455-8580.

LUMMIS LIBRARY’S 38 NEW ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

By Joseph P. Mathews

Among the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical & Historical Research Library’s most valued and interesting holdings are the 38 archival collections, all of which are available for reading and research by visitors. What follows is a listing of the collections, an indication of their size, and — following that — a brief description of the contents of some of them. They have been collected into standard archival folders and boxes that provide protection and proper labeling.

1. The Training School at Vineland, New Jersey. 1 Box.
2. Bridgeton Fireman Collection. 1 Box.
3. Owens Illinois Collection of Fred Ghedine. 1 Box.
4. John A. Elmer Concerts: Cassette tapes & programs. 1 Box.
5. The Sheldon Family Collection. 4 Boxes.
6. Daughters of the American Revolution. 3 Boxes.
7. Camera & Wheel Society (Bridgeton Camera Society) 8 Boxes.
8. Farmers and Merchants Bank. 1 Box.
9. Patriotic Order of America. 1 Box.
10. The Old Slate (Official Organ of The Pupils' Association of Bacon's Neck School) 1 Box.
11. Chester Robbins, County Superintendent of Schools: Felicitation Books. 1 Box.
13. William A. Mayhew & Son, Cedarville. 1 Box.
14. Willits, Brick, Griffing, Stillwell Family Archives. 1 Box.
17. Cumberland Insurance Group. 1 Box.
18. Isaac T. Nichols Collection. 1 Box.
19. Dr. Thomas H. Brown Archive. 1 Box.
20. Lowell C. Ayars Collection (Organist). 1 Box.
22. Joseph Hancock's Swedish Granary Archive. 1 Box.
23. 2008 100th Anniversary of Tea Burning Monument. 2 Boxes.
24. 230th Anniversary of Tea Burning Archive. 1 Box.
25. 200th Anniversary of Tea Burning. 1 Box.
27. 1908 Tea Burning Monument Dedication Archive. 1 Box.
28. Tea Party 1874 & Centennial Celebration 1876 Archive. 1 Box.
29. Tea Burning Articles Archive, 1924-1998. 1 Box.
30. Martha Bacon Newkirk Archive. 3 Boxes.
31. Thomas E. Hunt Archive. 1 Box.
33. Office of Price Administration Collection. 1 Box.
34. City of Bridgeton Republication Organization Collection. 2 Boxes.
35. Robert A. Hutchinson Collection. 1 Box.
36. Dr. Norman W. Bailey Archive. 6 Boxes.
37. Lee Family Papers. 2 Boxes.
38. Dare-Porch-Lott Family Collection. 5 Boxes.

Each of these collections is unique and unpredictable in its scope.

- The Dare-Porch-Lott Collection (as mentioned in a recent previous Patriot) contains not only the personal papers of a set of inter-married families in Greenwich, but also a small library of books on agricultural topics that were of interest to a well-informed and enterprising farmer like Mark R. Dare.
- The two collections relating to the Owens Illinois Plant (#3 and #32) provide various kinds of information—technical and social—on what was a large and multi-faceted industrial firm that once dominated Bridgeton.
- Brochures, manuals, photos, diaries, correspondence, recital programs, newspaper articles.
- Photos of firehouses, parades, fire trucks, personnel, and fires.
- Centennial brochure 1877-1977.
- Plant photos.
- 1940 scrapbook.
- Sheldon family history, family Bible, photos, genealogical papers, Captain Davis Cone book, and Ruth Sheldon Cone's memoirs.
- Proceedings 1911, 1912, 1913, Roll and Record Book, 1912-1922, Minute Book 1938-1957
CIVIL WAR SERIES: Fall and Winter, 1862
One Hundred Fifty Years Ago
The Saddest Christmas for Bridgeton

The 24th Regiment, recruited during the summer, was ready to leave Bridgeton on September 3, 1862. This was the largest unit yet to leave Bridgeton, and it marched from the Davis House to the West Jersey Railroad Station on Irving Avenue, where it went by train to Camden en route to Beverly, New Jersey. Trained and equipped, it was posted by December 13 at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

General A. E. Burnside, who had replaced General McClellan as U.S. Chief of the Army of the Potomac, had decided to march directly from Washington, D.C. to Richmond, Virginia. United States forces already controlled the Virginia territory between the Potomac and the Rappahannock Rivers. General Burnside's move was to strike across the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg. Here U.S. forces met real Confederate resistance.

Entering the deserted town on pontoon bridges across the Rappahannock, Federal troops ransacked the town. The 24th Regiment was, of course, a part of this advance. Their intention was to capture the area known as Marye's Heights. As they marched forward, firing as they ran, a tremendous barrage of Rebel fire met them. The Confederates were firing from behind a stone wall. The Federal forces were simply "sitting ducks," easy to pick off as they approached the Heights' Federal casualties, dead and wounded were atrocious and continued until sunset when the firing ceased. During the night, the Northern troops re-crossed the Rappahannock to the safety of Falmouth. In the meantime, a hasty effort was made to care for the wounded and account for the dead; and, thus ended one of the worst days of battle for the United States forces.

Weeks would follow in the camp at Falmouth. Christmas occurred during these weeks, and the Christmas scene was sketched by John Keyser showing the desolation. No supplies or certainly Christmas packages arrived then. It was the saddest Christmas. By mid-January, supplies and Christmas items arrived sent by the Ladies' Aid of Bridgeton. But, already at the camp and in Bridgeton, there had been the saddest season. One particular loss of the life of a young officer was particularly wrenching. That's the subject of our next article.
THE UTTER DISAPPEARANCE OF ONE YOUNG OFFICER OF GREAT PROMISE

Compounding the sorrow of that December was the news of the loss of Lieutenant Alexander L. Robeson at Fredericksburg. The young Commerce Street drugstore owner, who left behind a wife and three children, had been very active in recruiting for the 24th Regiment. No trace of him could be found. Extensive efforts were made to ascertain whether perhaps he had been taken prisoner. John Nixon, the Congressional Representative for the Bridgeton area, traveled behind Confederate lines to Libby Prison in Richmond but learned no word of Lieutenant Robeson. Robert B. Potter, journalist from Bridgeton, crossed Confederate lines returning to Fredericksburg in February, 1863 to ask local residents about the young officer. Potter returned from the Confederacy convinced that there was no trace of Alexander Robeson.

The sorrow that comes to Bridgeton as the result of his loss was reflected in the fact that the local GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) Chapter would be named for Alexander Robeson.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEARTH

By Nancy Applegate

Did you know…

♦ A primitive method of roasting meat was to suspend it in front of the fire by a strong string?
♦ In wealthy households, a clock-jack was used which when wound with a key would slowly rotate the roast over the fire?

Come to the Gibbon House during the Christmas house tour on Sunday, December 9th and see if you can find the clock-jack.
ACQUISITIONS 2012
WARREN AND REBA LUMMIS GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL RESEARCH LIBRARY

By Warren Q. Adams


DONOR: Tony Bonfiglio (Greenwich, NJ) 1938, 2 Kroner commemorative coin celebrating the 300th year celebration of the Swedish settlement in Delaware.

DONOR: Nancy Applegate (Greenwich, NJ) John Witherspoon Comes to America.


DONOR: Jonathan E. Wood (Millville, NJ) The Old China Book.


DONOR: Paul J. Ritter, III, Esq. (Bridgeton, NJ) The Story of a Bank, a Family, and a Whole Community; (Colonial Bank, Frank M. Hankins, Jr’s family and Bridgeton area).

DONOR: Barbara Stratton (Stow Creek) Birth & Death Records 1817-1886 kept by Dr. Enoch Fithian for the Township of Greenwich on microfilm.

DONOR: N.J. Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee (Trenton, NJ) Exhibition Catalogue, Gone for a Soldier, Jerseymen in the Civil War.


DONOR: Walter F. Ayars, III (Sommerdale, PA) The Ayars at War.

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.
AN INVITATION TO JOIN the Cumberland County Historical Society - The Society is very active in promoting knowledge concerning the history of Cumberland County and has much to offer its members. The Officers and Trustees cordially invite you to join this outstanding organization. If you would like more information regarding membership to the Cumberland County Historical Society, please call 856-455-8580 or email cchistsoc@verizon.net. You may also visit our website www.cchistsoc.org and simply print out the online application and follow the instructions.

**Membership Fees:**

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<th>Membership Type</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Annual – Under 18 years of age</td>
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CHRICTMAS IN GREENWICH

12 Noon – 5 P.M.
Sunday, December 9, 2012

The Cumberland County Historical Society