GREAT EVENTS FOR THE 40TH ANNUAL
GREENWICH ARTISANS’ FAIRE AND MARKETPLACE

on the grounds of the 1730 Gibbon House, 960 Ye Greate Street

Saturday, September 24th  10 A.M. – 5 P.M.
Sunday, September 25th  10A.M. – 4 P.M.

Rain or Shine – Free Parking

*Tickets are $5 the day of the Craft Faire and $4 if they are purchased in advance. Children 12 and under free.

Events include:

• The Craft Faire at the Gibbon House with many craftsmen returning.
• The Teaburners 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk on Saturday, September 24th at 8:30 A.M., beginning at Morris Goodwin School, in Memory of Mayor Wally Goodwin. To benefit the C. Wallis Goodwin Scholarship Fund, the Greenwich Fire & Rescue Squad and the Daddario Family
• Take a tour of New Jersey’s official Tall Ship…Schooner sailings aboard the A.J. Meerwald both Saturday and Sunday, September 24th and 25th from Hancock’s Harbor Marina.
• And, the Cumberland County Liberty Bell will be on display at the Gibbon House.

*Buy your tickets in advance at the following locations: Quality Printing in Vineland, Steelman’s Photographics & Custom Framing in Millville; Mullica Hill Art Glass in Elmer; and Canvas Bag in Bridgeton. You may also mail $4, per ticket, to the CCHS with a stamped, self-addressed envelope; or come in person with a check to the Gibbon House that is opened Tuesday through Saturday, 1 – 4 P.M.

ASTONISHING LOCAL MILITARY COMMUNIQUE FROM THE WAR OF 1812
Alarming Request for Munitions Found Among the Papers of William G. Nixon

By Jonathan E. Wood

This letter, dated June 20, 1814, describes continuing warfare in the Delaware Bay. It is addressed to Militia General Ebenezer Elmer of Bridgetown and was written by Militia Colonel John Dickenson of Cape May, who was a Revolutionary War veteran. He reported that British barges were landing and boarding American shallopas. They had been beaten back by the local militia. In consequence of this fighting, the local supply of ammunition is “existed” (exhausted). He requests specifically “Powder for artillery,” 300 or 400 dozen musket cartridges and one or two six-pound field artillery with fixed ammunition as soon as possible. He requests, also, a plan for a regular supply of ammunition.

This was just one of the military incidents in Delaware Bay during the War of 1812. Both Delaware and Chesapeake Bays were targets for British aggression. They would terrorize the Chesapeake area with the burning of Washington, D.C. and Georgetown, Maryland that summer.

Earlier in the war, the Delaware Bay alarm had extended up the Cohansey to Bridgetown. There, they anticipated a night raid and had worked out a system of signals up the Cohansey to warn the town. L.Q.C. Elmer reports that one night the alarm actually sounded, the Court House bell rang and cannon was fired. Fear and consternation were much reduced after citizens learned it was a false alarm.
Neighboring Cape May County was much more subject to invasion by British naval forces. However, local participation in the war was highly controversial. Robert Holmes, who is mentioned in this Cape May communiqué, as the bearer of this letter, was their representative in Trenton. He, like other Federalists, was opposed to the war, and Cape May was reluctant to make war preparations. British naval forces came on shore frequently in the sparsely settled county and made off with cattle or sought and found sources of fresh water. Here, the militia were neither numerous nor well-organized. Best known locally was the tale of Humphrey Hughes aiding the enemy in their effort to obtain drinking water. Charges of treason were talked of but never actually brought against Hughes. The other story was that of introducing salt water into Lake Lily to make it unfit for British drinking water.

This all but forgotten war was of great significance for the budding resort of Cape May. That city has memorialized the War of 1812 by naming the oldest streets leading to the ocean for the heroes of that conflict. They are: Perry Street for Naval Captain Oliver Hazard Perry, hero of the Battle of Lake Erie and Jackson Street for General Andrew Jackson, hero of the Battle of New Orleans.

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**A SHORT HISTORY OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S COURT HOUSES**

*By Theodore (Ted) Ritter, Esq.*

*Cumberland County Bar Association Historian*

The first session of the Cumberland County Court was held in 1748 in Greenwich. Later, that same year, Cohansy Bridge (now called Bridgeton) was chosen as the seat of county government.

The first Cumberland County Court House was built in 1752 but burned down only six years later when a fire spread to it from the tavern next door. That wood frame building measured 32 feet long by 22 feet wide and was two stories high. It stood in the middle of what is now the intersection of West Broad and Franklin Streets.

A slightly larger replacement structure, constructed of bricks, was erected on the same site and was completed in 1760.

In 1845, a new brick Court House was built on the northeast corner of Broad and Fayette Streets, next door to the site of the first two court houses. It cost $10,674.43 and served the County for the next 63 years. The clock in the belfry was paid for entirely by the citizens of Bridgeton.

This 1845 structure is the subject of a restored oil painting. The painting was found, forgotten and hidden away, in storage, in the basement of the Court House, by Assistant County Maintenance Supervisor Steve House. Mr. House brought the painting to the attention to Judge Fisher who, in turn, informed Judge Curio.

When discovered, the painting was in marginal condition and needed restoration. That conservation work has now been professionally performed at the expense of the Cumberland County Bar Association.

The artist was a local Bridgetonian, Ferdinand Fisher. The Bridgeton City Directory, from 1910, lists Mr. Fisher as a professional painter whose residence address was 182 Jackson Street (now West Lincoln Street).

The 1845 Court House depicted in this painting was replaced in 1909.

The architects of the 1909 building were Watson and Huckle of Philadelphia and it was they who specified the Indiana limestone exterior.
A SHORT HISTORY OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY’S COURT HOUSES
By Theodore (Ted) Ritter, Esq.,
Cumberland County Bar Association Historian
Continued from pg. 2

The initial round of bids for the construction of the 1909 Court House was rejected by the Freeholder Board. The plans were modified and the job was rebid. On the second round of bids, the low bidder was 39-year old Harry H. Hankins of Bridgeton. Hankins’ winning low bid of $94,475 included the demolition of the 1845 structure.

Mr. Hankins had come to Bridgeton from Dorchester at the age of sixteen. He was apprenticed to a builder named Venable and was paid fifty cents a week, plus room and board. After his four-year apprenticeship, he continued to work for Venable and then worked for a builder named Steelman before striking out on his own.

Harry H. Hankins started the Hankins Lumber Yard in March, 1900, and a few months later recruited his younger brother, Frank M. Hankins, Sr., to manage the lumber yard while Harry devoted his energies to his contracting business.

The cellar for the 1909 Court House was dug out using carts pulled by horses. The loosened dirt was removed from the excavation with ropes and pulleys. There was no hydraulic equipment in those days.

The oak windows were built right here in Bridgeton in the sash shop at the Hankins Lumber Yard.

The clock in the tower of the 1909 Court House was recycled from the 1845 Court House.

The 1909 Court House contained only two courtrooms. Both were entered from the second floor and both had high ceilings with stained glass skylights. The opposing original entrances were located where the second floor waiting room exists today.

Each courtroom had a pair of swinging glass doors in the back of the room through which the judge, sitting on the bench, could observe what was happening in the courtroom across the hall. It has been reliably reported that the two judges, sitting across the hall, facing each other, would sometimes use hand signals to communicate with one another.

Harry H. Hankins died in 1942 at the age of 72 but the business that he started in March, 1900, H. H. Hankins, continues in operation today, under the leadership of Frank M. Hankins, Jr. and his sons, Brent and Bruce.

In 1956, an addition was constructed at the rear of the 1909 Court House, adding an elevator, office space and central air conditioning. That 1956 addition now links the 1909 Court house with the newest section of the present complex, namely, the 1996 addition.

In 1967, a third full-time Judge, William L. Gallner, joined Judges Harry Adler and Arthur Joseph on the Cumberland County Bench. Since there were only two courtrooms in the building, there was none for Gallner.

Architect David E. Connor was hired by the Freeholders and it was he who recommended that the two original courtrooms could be divided horizontally to create two new courtrooms on a new, third floor level on the north side of the 1909 building.

In dividing the two existing courtrooms into four, six large Palladian windows facing Broad Street were blocked-up with limestone, thereby forever changing the classic appearance of the Court House.
A SHORT HISTORY OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S COURT HOUSES
By Theodore (Ted) Ritter, Esq., Cumberland County Bar Association Historian
Continued from pg. 3

Early in 1988, with the cooperation of then Freeholder Director Charles Fisher, Assignment Judge Samuel G. DiSimone formed a committee to study Cumberland County Court House space needs. Judge Paul R. Porreca was designated to be the chairman. The organizational meeting was held on February 23, 1988 and the committee's final report was issued nine months later on November 30, 1988. The Cumberland County Bar Association had three representatives on that committee.

The 1988 space committee's key recommendations were:

- Construction of a court house addition on Fayette Street where two Victorian-era wood frame structures owned by the County then stood.
- The undertaking of a major rehabilitation of the 1909 Court House and the 1956 addition.
- Acquisition and implementation of additional parking.

The committee's first two recommendations were eventually implemented and the newest section of the Court House was dedicated on October 24, 1996 at a special session of the New Jersey Superior Court. In attendance were A.O.C. Director James J. Ciancia, New Jersey Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz and Freeholder Director Douglas H. Fisher, the son of the Freeholder Director who got the ball rolling eight years earlier.

The 1996 Court House addition plans did not include a flagpole. Once this omission was noted, the Cumberland County Bar Association raised funds from its members and paid for the erection of the flagpole that is adjacent to the new Fayette Street Court House entrance. The Bar Association dedicated the new flagpole to the memory of its deceased members.

(Author's note: I want to acknowledge and thank Frank M. Hanks, Jr., Warren Q. Adams and Chuck Griffiths for their valuable contributions to the preparation of this article.)

THE 1772 FOUNDATION PROVIDES GRANT OF $10,000 FOR SWEDISH GRANARY

In her research into the oldest buildings in Greenwich, Joan Berkey became acquainted with the Swedish Granary and the extraordinary story of this building, whose origins lie in New Sweden. The Granary has belonged to the Cumberland County Historical Society since 1974. It has been exposed to the weather since that time and is in much need of repair. The grant from the 1772 Foundation is a Swedish Granary Restoration Plan. It requires matching funds from CCHS. We commend Joan Berkey for her great interest in the Swedish Granary and thank her for obtaining these funds to start the restoration of this much vulnerable of the CCHS holding.

DR. JOHN FEA AND HIS RESEARCHERS RETURN TO THE WARREN & REBA LUMMIS GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL RESEARCH LIBRARY

With four researchers to find new materials regarding the various “Tea Party” celebrations over the years, Dr. John Fea returned to Greenwich and to the Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical & Historical Research Library. Returning this year, were researchers Cali McCullough, Valerie Weaver and Allyson F ea (Dr. Fea’s teenage daughter) and newcomer, Tara Anderson. Once again, they scanned newspapers, diaries, and letters from the years of the Tea celebrations...1874, 1908, 1958 and 1974 to get the flavor of each period. Their enthusiasm and stick-to-itiveness impressed us. And, they did have an evening in Ocean City. We look forward to Dr. Fea’s publication!

HORSELESS CARRIAGE SOCIETY VISITS GREENWICH

On August 2, 2011, approximately twenty automobiles, all built before 1916, came to Greenwich where the Gibbon House, the Maritime Museum and the Prehistorical Museum were open for their visits. The old cars sparkled with much wax and polish. They displayed great amounts of carefully polished brass and operated with ease and with surprisingly quick motors. Their drivers and other occupants expressed their enjoyment of the Greenwich scene. Those who came to admire the ancient autos had a most memorable scene to photograph and to tell about.
CIVIL WAR SERIES: Summer and Fall, 1861
One Hundred Fifty Years Ago

Cumberland County settled into an uneasy wartime condition during these summer and fall months. One large enlisted group, the “Cumberland Greys,” had already departed for war. The sentiment in the early summer was that of bravado and of expecting a quick collapse of Confederate efforts. Representative John G. Nixon made a comment that a group of women armed with broomsticks could likely settle the issue. He had to retract this statement after he learned at first hand the severity of the rebellion. John G. Nixon, like other Congressional representatives, had driven out to Bull Run from Washington on July 27 to see the Confederates receive a thrashing. The tables were turned to a Union defeat and Nixon, with others, had to scurry back to the capital, joined by fleeing Union troops. The fierce struggle North and South had begun with the Confederate victory at Bull Run.

The enlistments in Cumberland County during the fall of 1861 reflected the gravity of the emergency. During these months, first a group of volunteers from Shiloh enlisted in Company “D” 10th New Jersey Regiment. Their community was coming to be known as the home of the anti-slavery movement in Cumberland County. From Greenwich, a group of volunteers enlisted in Company “F” 9th New Jersey Regiment. Thoughts of an easy victory in the war were left behind as it would be an all-out struggle.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY FOR THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER HEARTSIDE DINNERS
by calling the CCHS Office at 856-455-4055. ($60 per person/$100 per couple)
SEATING IS LIMITED AND DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED PER PERSON

Cumberland County Historical Society’s Colonial Chef, Mary Cash, will be preparing savory meals of a bygone era in the 1740 kitchen of the Gibbon House. The smells of dinner will come to life as you sit near the original 9’ fireplace.

Menu for Saturday, October 15th at 6 P.M.: Mixed Salad of Fall Greens with Cheddar Biscuits, Beef Tenderloin, Mess of Peas, Carrot Pudding, Stuffed Eggplant and Pumpkin Custard for dessert!
Menu for Saturday, November 12th at 6 P.M.: Corn Chowder Soup with Cheddar Biscuits, Braised Pork with Apple Stuffing, Mace Green Beans with Almonds, Glazed Parsnips and Glazed Orange Cake for dessert!

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEARTH
By Nancy Applegate

Did you know…?

• The fire in the colonial home burned 24/7, all 12 months of the year?
• Cornmeal or porridge was put in a pot on the back of the fireplace after supper where it would simmer all night and be ready for breakfast at 4 or 5 A.M.?

Come watch us cook in the 9 foot open hearth in the Gibbon House at the Craft Faire
on September 24th and 25th, 2011.

ATTENTION ELEMENTARY TEACHERS
Children’s Program in Historic Greenwich – Fourth and Fifth Grades

The Cumberland County Historical Society offers a children’s program for those enrolled in the fourth and fifth grades. The program provides a guided walking tour through the historic village of Greenwich, a cooking demonstration in the colonial kitchen of the Gibbon House, and a visit to the Prehistorical Museum that contains New Jersey Indian artifacts and fossils dating back to 6000 BC. For information and scheduling of field trips, please call the CCHS at 856-455-4055.

UPDATING OUR RECORDS...
Have you provided your email address to the Cumberland County Historical Society, or let us know if it has been changed?
Due to the rising costs of postage and mailing, CCCHS is embarking on plans to make nearly all of our communication available in electronic versions in the coming months. This would allow us to launch our e-newsletters and other on-line materials via your email. Please send us your email address so we may update our records. Our email address is cchistsoc@verizon.net
For those of you who do not have access to a computer, you will continue to receive the “Cumberland Patriot” and all other information via your current mailing address.
ACQUISITIONS – Warren & Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Research Library 2011

By Warren Q. Adams

DONOR: Gail Phero (Elmer, NJ) Descendants of Henry Phero.

DONOR: Rosemary & Ken Carter (Point Pleasant, NJ) Documents: The Estate of Elnathan Whitekar, 1804; James Clark Accounts, 1805; James Clark Bond, 1807; Tax Collectors Book, Fairfield 1816-1817; Deed, Lewis Hoyt to James Clark, 1824 Probate of James Clark Will, 1832; Sarah Clark Deed to Daniel L. Burt, 1833, Deed of Release, Richard & Batsheba Wood to Sarah Clark, 1837; Bill Sarah Clark to D. L. Burt, 1838: Pension Application for Revolutionary War, 1901.


DONOR: Peggy Hayes Beninati (Millville, NJ) Peter Griner and His Descendants.

DONOR: Jannis B. Barry (Woodstown, NJ) Coulter Family Footprints.


DONOR: William G. Nixon III, Estate Historical Papers and books of Cumberland County History, Ebenezer Elmer, Milatary letter, War of 1812; genealogies of the Jeremiah Nixon, Elmer, Potter and Lincoln Families. Photographs of the various families. Letters and papers of William G. Nixon including information on building the Nixon Residence at 81 West Commerce Street, Bridgeton; Cumberland Bank and Cumberland National Bank photographs and history: J. Meade Landis Archive, purchase and restoration of Potter’s Tavern.

DONOR: Bud & Charlotte Lang, (Greenwich, NJ) Montage of the Greenwich Air Service, including photographs of I. Evans Roork and Alan B. LiCalzi and airplanes. Also, copy of Past Days in the News, August 15, 1940 about the Tea Burners Flying Club meeting.

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CALAER OF EVENTS

| September 24   | Teaburners 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk beginning at Morris Goodwin School |
| September 24 & 25 | 40th Annual Greenwich Artisans’ Faire and Marketplace at Gibbon House |
| October 15     | Hearthside Dinner at Gibbon House |
| October 28 & 29 | Halloween Ghost Walk beginning at the Warren & Reba Lummis Genealogical & Historical Research Library |
| November TBD   | Annual CCHS Business Meeting – Date and location TBD |
| November 12    | Hearthside Dinner at Gibbon House |
| December 11    | 43rd Annual “Christmas in Greenwich” beginning at Gibbon House |

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The Cumberland County Historical Society

Phone: (856) 455-4053

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