



Volume 20, Issue 3

The Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Fall 2016

HISTORIC METUCHEN, New Jersey

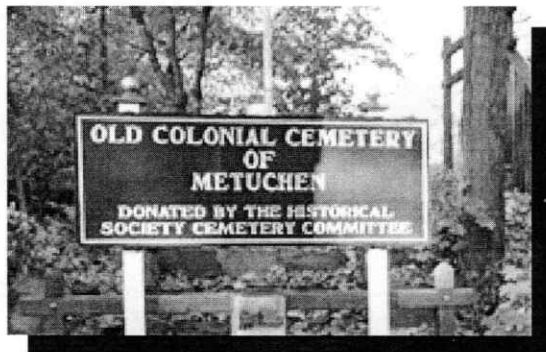
By Tyreen A. Reuter

In a letter to his mother in London, dated “Ye tenth of Octobre, 1720,” John Ayers wrote “Me Tochen is faire and healthy spotte about two leagues from ye bay of Perth Amboy where we landed from our ship. Heare be many little hills which go uppe and down like ye wartes on a toades backe.

Heare also be many fine trees of oake and a kind of nutte, which is in a poddle or muske with many sharp spines. Ye Indians calle them “damps harps” which in their tounge means “needle-nutt.”

Me Tochen is called from ye name of ye chief of this place and meanth “slowe-dog” for that chief is lame and goeth slowly. Ye land heare is redde like a foxe and yt is wet yt sticketh lustily.

Metuchen received its name from the Raritans because of its “short hill” undulating character, and that the recognized head Indian of the neighborhood was by them designated by the Indian name of this locality as Metucheon, or elder of the rolling land.



One of the most important historic sites in Metuchen is the “Old Colonial Cemetery” on Main Street. Established between 1715 and 1730 as the burying ground associated with the Presbyterian Church, it contains 1045 marked graves and 60 unmarked graves. Of these 59 are graves of Revolutionary War soldiers and 7 are “Patriots” who contributed to the cause. For more information, contact www.metuchen-edisonhistoricsoc.org. The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society was founded in 1974 with the primary purpose of promoting an interest in and appreciation of the history of the Borough of Metuchen and of Edison Township.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 10:00 AM

FRANKLIN SCHOOLHOUSE
491 Middlesex Avenue (Route 27)
Metuchen, N J 08840



Historic Old Franklin Schoolhouse is a one-room Schoolhouse constructed Ca. 1807 as Metuchen's first school. It was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1942 and certified eligible for the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places in 1990. It is Maintained by the Borough Improvement League of Metuchen.

Tyreen A. Reuter is hostess and president

**To be excused call Don Peck
732-738-5522 or Fred Mueller
at 908-359-3391.**

**Representatives from Alliance sites Are
welcomed and encouraged to attend.**

YOUR LINK TO THE PUBLIC: The Link is on a quarterly publication schedule. News of major upcoming events for possible placement in the newsletter may be mailed, emailed or faxed to the following address. Any questions, please contact: Donald J. Peck, Editor, The Clausen Company, P.O. Box 140, Fords, NJ 08863 or Tel 732-738-1165, fax 732-738-1618,

IN MEMORIAM

Abram J. Suydam, Jr., of Suydam Farms in Somerset passed away while at home with his family on Saturday August 27. Trustee Emeritus of the Rutgers Board of Trustees, he remained active in business and worked diligently to preserve the Suydam Family farm, a tribute to the family's presence in Central New Jersey since 1713.

RARITAN-MILLSTONE HERITAGE ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 5583 Somerset, NJ 08875-5583
www.raritanmillstone.org

*An organization of individuals,
organizations, and sites working to
promote preservation and understanding of
the rich, eventful, and cultural heritage of
significant historical, educational, and cul-
tural sites located in Central New Jersey*

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The Board of Directors meets on the third or fourth Saturday of March, May, September and November at designated historic and museum member sites in the region.

The Executive Committee
meets in January and June

Our website features our Guide to Historic Sites in Central New Jersey, our newsletter, The Link, and provides links to various important Sites.
www.raritanmillstone.org

DID YOU KNOW?

A pastoral isle in the English Channel holds keys to the origins of our Garden State. Among other things, Jersey, the largest island in a triangular-shaped archipelago in the English Channel, has given our state its name. Positioned between the coast of France and the English White Cliffs of Dover, by air it is only 45 minutes from the gray sky of London. Here the skies are flooded with sunshine and the beaches with palm trees, a perfect isle vacation destination.

PADDLING IN THE RARITAN RIVER FROM CLINTON TO PERTH AMBOY

A sojourn of 50 miles down the Raritan River begins on the South Branch in Clinton. Enthusiasts recently paddled over six non-consecutive weekends this summer from Clinton on July 10 to Perth Amboy on September 17. Paddlers not only enjoyed the peaceful river but saw an eagle every day and kingfishers, too. The river is a source of much of the region's drinking water.

THE PROPRIETARY HOUSE

The Proprietary House in Perth Amboy is exhibiting three late 18th century Hudson Valley side chairs that are perfect compliments to the games table in the Drawing Room. They were formally exhibited at Boxwood Hall, Elizabeth, also a state-owned historic site. The Proprietary House is open each Wednesday for Afternoon Tea and tours and the last Sunday of every month between 1 and 4 pm.

THE KEARNY COTTAGE

The Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Avenue, Perth Amboy on Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 2:00 pm, will host Richard Viet, Ph.D. presenting "Stranger Stop and Cast an Eye: An Introduction to New Jersey's Historic Burial Grounds. This historic home of Commodore Lawrence Kearny is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 2-4 pm.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

Gordon Thomas Ward, a nationally recognized author and paranormal investigator with *Haunted New Jersey* will speak on the topic "*Ghosts: What they are and how to investigate them*" Monday, October 24 at the Woodbridge Main Library at Route 35 (St. George Avenue) and 1 Frederick Plaza in the downstairs meeting room at 7 pm. Light refreshments will follow the program with is free and open to the public.

RARITAN MILLSTONE HERITAGE ALLIANCE

Membership Contribution

- Membership Fees
- Individual \$35
 - Site \$35
 - Household \$50

- Additional Support Levels
- Benefactor \$1,000
 - Patron \$ 500
 - Sponsor \$ 250
 - Donor \$ 100

Name: _____

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Please return this form with your check

To: Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance
PO Box 5583
Somerset, NJ 08875-5583

Thank you!
Visit our website: raritanmillstone.org

The Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance consists of committed individuals and organizations representing sites within the region of Raritan and Millstone systems. In an area that has continually contributed to the strength of the United States, we seek through our programs to promote, protect and preserve an understanding of our rich historical, cultural and educational heritage as we work to be a model for current and future generations by promoting the rich heritage of our American society.



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