

Inside THE BRICK ACADEMY

The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills

October 2020



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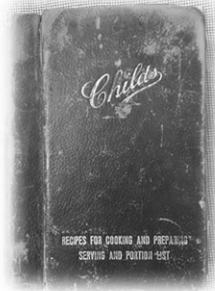
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Childs

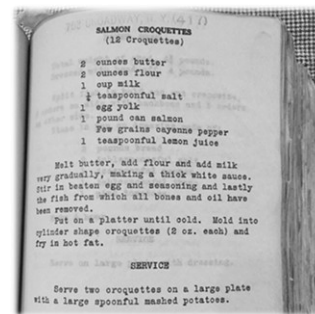
Recipe Book

The Boonton Historical Society & Museum recently donated a generous gift of an original Childs restaurant book entitled *Recipes for Cooking and Preparing/ Serving and Portion List*.

The hardcover, nearly 100 years old, originally belonged to Eugene Schwab and was described as his 'bible' for preparing meals for the Childs restaurant located at 753 Broadway, New York City. There are over 450 pages of detailed recipes for major food groups including Beverages, Breads, Desserts, Eggs, Fish, Fowl, Fruits, Meats, Sauces, and Vegetables. Popular dishes of the time included Bulgazsoon (fermented-milk beverage), Creamed Finnan Haddie (Smoked Haddock) and Cheese, Nut & Savita (vegetable bouillon) Sandwich. The contents also comprise menu construction, kitchen cutlery, weights & measures, merchandise specifications, and service instructions.



Brothers William Childs and Samuel S. Childs, Bernardsville residents, opened their first restaurant in 1889 on Cortlandt St. in Manhattan, focusing on affordable meals coupled with high standards of cleanliness and food safety. The innovative eatery chain, the first to have waitresses and later a self-service cafeteria, reached its peak in the 1920s, with more than 120 locations nationwide serving fifty million meals per year.



The rare recipe book is a window into America's early 20th century era, culture and way of life. Our sincere gratitude to Veronica

Jelic of the Boonton Historical Society & Museum for this welcome addition to THSSH's reference library at the Brick Academy.

William Barry Thomson

Advisory Trustee



The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills is honored to add to its leadership Advisory Trustee, William Barry Thomson. In this newly created position, Barry will offer innovative advice and dynamic perspectives. An accomplished expert in researching and presenting historical information about the Somerset Hills, he will consult with the Board of Trustees to develop an exclusive series of Somerset Hills speaker programs.

Barry was born and raised in Peapack-Gladstone, received his undergraduate education at Drew University and later studied architecture and urban planning at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University.

In his corporate career, Barry last served as Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer of the multinational retail holding company Woolworth Corporation, currently Foot Locker, Inc. headquartered in New York. Since then he has been engaged with architectural and local history projects and has been the author and frequent lecturer on those topics.

The co-author with the late John K. (Jack) Turpin of the two-volume *New Jersey Country Houses: The Somerset Hills*, Barry has also written a number of published articles on various aspects of local history. Over the years, he has served as a director, trustee, or officer of several nonprofit organizations and foundations, and has also been a consultant on various management and corporate governance matters. In addition, Barry has volunteered his services as history consultant for several of the Mansion in May fund-raising projects, sponsored by the Women's Association for Morristown Medical Center.

The trustees welcome Barry and look forward to sharing more information about his new position in 2021.

Welcome New Members!

The Historical Society is pleased to welcome the following members:

Jim Chan
Piscataway NJ

Christine Ellis
Basking Ridge NJ

Shelby Gasek
Gladstone NJ

Michael O'Malley
Willington NC

Elizabeth Pellicane
Glen Gardner NJ

Tom Perna
Bangor PA



Brick Academy
Temporarily Closed

In light of the still-evolving nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Board of Trustees made the difficult decision to keep the Brick Academy temporarily closed until the organization can fully meet New Jersey safety requirements.

The Historical Society looks forward to reopening our doors soon with exciting new plans, and there is a place for you! Volunteer to be a greeter or assist with museum visits, speaker programs, membership socials, school groups, and 2021 Holiday House Tour. Learn how you can volunteer by visiting our website www.tshhs.org, calling 908.221.1770, or connect with us on Facebook - "SomersetHills HistoricalSociety".

*Thank you for your support!
Stay safe during these historic times.*

Thanksgiving

Thanks to Boudinot

More than 150 years after the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians held an autumn harvest celebration in 1621, Elias Boudinot, a U.S. Congressman for New Jersey, initiated a resolution in 1789 which led President George Washington to issue the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the new government of the United States.

The resolution called for the “institution of a national day of prayer and thanksgiving” and for “Thursday, the 26th day of November...to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be.” The decree was primarily designated to mark the adoption of the Constitution by Congress.

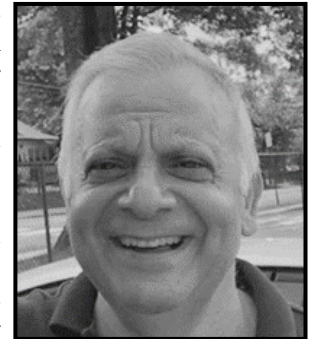
Elias Boudinot was an attorney, Commissary General of Prisoners in the Revolutionary War, President of the Continental Congress (1783), and Director of the United States Mint. He and his wife Hannah lived in Basking Ridge from 1777 to 1784 at a home they built on about 100 acres. The property is currently the historic site of the Boudinot-Southard-Ross Farmstead.

Today Thanksgiving is a Federal holiday celebrated on the last Thursday of November, a day proclaimed by President Abraham Lincoln on October 3, 1863... thanks to Elias Boudinot.

Tom Perna

THSSH Treasurer

The Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome Tom Perna as the new Treasurer of the Historical Society. Tom brings to the position over 25 years of financial and computer experience. A graduate of Bernards High who grew up in Peapack-Gladstone, he has served as the Systems Administrator of Bedminster Township for fifteen years and currently owns a business consulting firm.



A personal interest in history stems from his childhood in the Somerset Hills where Tom's father worked as a stone mason, helping to build the grand mansions, and his mother operated a laundry business serving the property-owners.

Tom is also a Certified Personal Fitness and Exercise Therapy Trainer. He is attached, literally by the leash, to his cherished beagle, Chester. They enjoy five-mile walks daily with Chester leading the way!

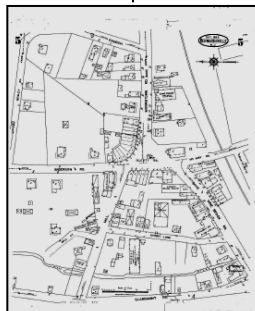
Tom has been a dedicated volunteer as the Treasurer for Slate Belt Church in PA, a position held since 2014. He enjoys helping people and is looking forward to making a valuable contribution to THSSH as a trustee. Tom will serve on the Executive Committee with Chair Sue Zibelli and President Pat Gray.

Sanborn Map Company

John C. Smith, a prominent Somerset Hills landscape architect and member of several local historical societies and historic preservation commissions, has donated a notebook collection of Sanborn Maps of Bernardsville with bordering areas of Bernards Township and Basking Ridge Village. The maps date from 1901, 1909, 1923, and 1930.

The Sanborn Map Company, established in 1867, compiled and published property and land-use maps of United States cities and towns. The maps, rich with valuable detailed information of extant buildings, roadways and property lines were originally created to allow the fire insurance industry to assess the risk of insuring a particular property in U.S. urbanized areas.

The maps are large scale plans of a city or town from a particular year offering detailed information on the use made of residential, commercial and industrial buildings, their size, shape and construction material.



The plans also identify the location of water mains, fire alarms and fire hydrants. Insurance companies stopped using maps for underwriting in the 1960s and the last Sanborn fire maps were published on microfilm in 1977. The company's archives contain over 1.2 million maps of about 12,000 American cities and towns used primarily today for historical research into urban geography and its evolution.

Mr. Smith used these Sanborn maps along with other THSSH archives to create exquisite historical maps of our community including the Somerset Hills in 2009, Peapack/Gladstone in 2012, Bedminster Township in 2013, Bernards Township in 2016, and two of downtown Bernardsville completed in 2019.

The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills is extremely grateful to John for donating this unique map collection.

The Dunster Squibb House

Ten-Year Project Update

Since 2010, Friends of Historic Bernardsville (FHB) and the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee of Bernardsville (HPAC) have together raised over \$1,200,000 from successful historic preservation grants submitted to the Cultural and Heritage Commission of Somerset County, and NJHT, the New Jersey Historic Trust. The property contains several buildings including a main house and cottage/garage/barn/stables building. Utilizing the grant awards, a historic preservation plan/structures report was prepared in 2010 and remaining grant funds have been used to restore both the house and barn structure.

The Dunster Squibb House entails a number of significant periods in Bernardsville's history. The earliest part possibly dates from about 1829, but may be earlier. It was enlarged by the Dunster family around 1852. There were significant renovations performed between 1895 and 1914 during the Edwardian era when Charles F. Squibb owned the property. The family was well known socially in the area and was listed in the New York Social Register well into the 1920's. They also owned horses and "Rode to Hounds" with their neighbors, the Wilmerding's, as well as with many other prominent families. Descendants of the Squibb's sold the property to the Borough of Bernardsville in 2008.

The rehabilitation of the Dunster Squibb Buildings and Property reinforces the historic rural character of the area. The project is an excellent restoration example because of the exceptional location of the highly visual property right on Route 202 just west of Bernardsville's downtown center. The site is also convenient to the residents who will attend and support the future community center programs.

Highlights of major repairs and restoration projects during the past ten years include Structural reinforcement of the main house and barn; Installing a new 350-amp service to the main house; Reroofing the main house, porch, smoke house, barn, garage, and stable; Scraping and painting all buildings; Restoring the exterior doors and windows on the main house; Installing proper drainage systems on the main house; Replacing the east and west chimneys on the main house; Restoring the smoke house slate roof, stone walls, framing, and trim; Replacing the stone retaining wall between the house and smoke house; Constructing a new stone retaining wall along the main house driveway; Clearing of vegetation and overgrowth; and Regrading around the buildings. In addition, there are proposed main house interior reframing and flooring projects for the current year, utilizing a 2019 grant from the NJHT (New Jersey Historic Trust).

"As President of FHB, a Trustee of the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills, and Chair of the Bernardsville HPAC, it has been my privilege to work with not two, but three profoundly talented organizations interested in the history of this amazing area. We are so fortunate to live in an area surrounded by remarkable historic buildings and landscapes. The Dunster Squibb property is an excellent reflection of the Somerset Hills historical ups and downs: financial and otherwise. It has been hard work restoring these rural buildings and landscapes, but then our forbearance is finally paying off as the exterior improvements illustrate. We hope to be able to start using some of the buildings in a year or two for HPAC and FHB meetings," states Daniel W. Lincoln.



Main House Front & Side



Main House Rear Porch



Smoke House



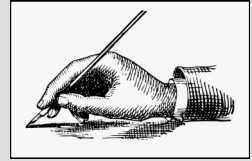
Cottage/Garage/Barn/Stables

The Historical Society
of the Somerset Hills
Founded in 1928

Board of Trustees:

- Sue Zibelli (Chairman)
- Pat Gray (President)
- Tom Perna (Treasurer)
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- Florence Hallgring
- Dan Lincoln
- Kate Lincoln
- Marcella Miccolis
- Ron Zibelli
- W. Barry Thomson (*Advisory Trustee*)

**EDITOR'S
NOTE**



Historical Society members are welcome to submit articles for consideration in upcoming issues of *Inside the Brick Academy* newsletter.

In order to support the Society's mission, articles should feature Somerset Hills area residents, places, objects, and/or documents. Submissions will be subject to editing for content and design. Newsletters are posted online and printed copies mailed in February, May and October.

Please forward articles, including name and contact information, to the newsletter editor: Marcella Miccolis at marcellam@optonline.net or mail to: THSSH, P.O. Box 136, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920. *Thank You!*

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2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

If you have not yet renewed your 2020 Membership ...
please complete this form, make a check payable to THSSH
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Thank you for your continued support!
** Membership Dues and Donations are tax deductible **