



Established: 1758

NEWSLETTER AND ANNUAL APPEAL 2010

**Friends Meeting House and Cemetery
Association of Randolph Township, NJ
Established 1898**

Visit our Website @ www.randolphmeetinghouse.org



Jim Brotherton

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

September 12, 2010

WELCOME to the Randolph Friends Meeting and Cemetery Association Newsletter. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. We are looking forward to having our contractor, Paul Basile, complete the regrading of the property during the fall season. One of our trustees, Richard Irwin, has been very generous in donating funds to complete this project.

We are again making our **ANNUAL APPEAL** for funds to help us keep the Meeting House and grounds in presentable condition. Erected in 1758 the Meeting House is a testament to our remarkable history. We will be actively exploring additional ways to raise funds for the FMHCA at our biannual meeting, scheduled for **Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 11:00 AM** in the Meeting House. I am looking forward to greeting everyone interested in the preservation of this historic site.

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends Meeting House and Cemetery Association.

James T. Brotherton

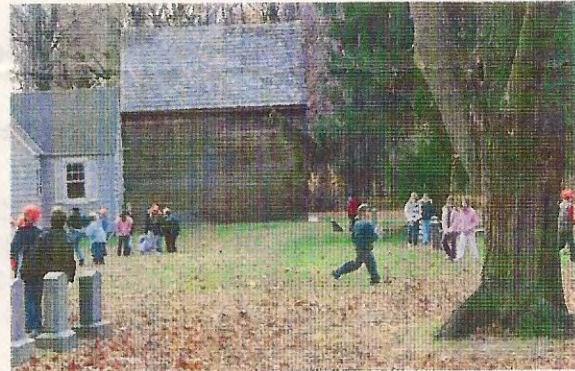
IN MEMORIAM

The membership of the FMHCA is growing older. One of our trustees, Wilma Lewis Sagurton, passed away on Saturday, August 28, 2010. She was 94 years old. Wilma was present at our meeting in June. She and her son, James, have taken an active interest in the association over the years. We will miss her. Our sincere condolences go to her family at this sorrowful time.

In June of 2010, Jack and Miriam Raftery, aunt and uncle of Emerson Hawley, were buried in the cemetery. They were both active members of the FMHCA.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Meeting House and surrounding cemetery continue to be one of the major sites of historic interest in Randolph Township. Below are pictures of local school children enjoying their visit while they learn about the history of their township by exploring the actual building that was constructed before the American Revolution. The building and grounds are still in good condition because of contributions from interested people like you.. Lee Whildin, a resident of Randolph Township and faithful trustee of the association, supplied the photos below.



Another faithful trustee and long-time member of the association is John Ruch. His recent letter, summarizing his experiences, is as follows:

Dear Friends of OUR Meeting House,

Our financial support has produced great progress in the preservation of Randolph Friends Meeting House over the years, and our continued contributions will assure progress is sustained. After all, if we don't make it happen, who will?

My first encounter with the Meeting House was in 1976, when Shelby, John B., Chris and I moved to Randolph from Suburban Pittsburgh. A birthright Quaker, I joined the meeting, was its clerk for a time, and persuaded members to change the name to Dover-Randolph Friends Meeting to increase wider community recognition and appeal.

My attachment was immediate the first time we entered this wonderfully unique place, and it's stayed with me. I've been contributing to our historic building's restoration ever since, because its preservation is as important to the community as it is to the Quakers who worship here. Incredibly, a number of our families have involvements going back generations.

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The first major projects were the roof replacement and iron fence restoration of 1977-1978, and we thought those were tough projects. Peg Steneck became the Association's president in 1984 and began its reinvigoration. A year later we had John Bruce Dodd's comprehensive preservation guide and, fortuitously, retained the Basile Brothers as we committed to "returning the Meeting House as closely as possible to its mid-19th century Colonial appearance." As Peg explained in her book commemorating the Meeting House's 250th anniversary, we realized that "the process will be expensive, and it will take many years."

We should be proud that so much was accomplished during the past 25 years. Most is plain to see, although much structural renewal will always be out of sight. But Peg described all in her 2008 book, and none of us has been surprised that nearly every restoration step has uncovered a need for additional fixes.

Foundation and other grants are increasingly hard to come by. They have helped pay for some projects over the years, but fortunately the Association's never become grant-addicted—and that's a good thing.

So it's up to us to sustain momentum in accomplishing our Meeting House preservation objectives. The most urgent current needs have been discussed at length during Association meetings this past June and last year. **The work to assure preservation of the Meeting House in perpetuity needs your donation now.**

John Ruch has said it all. The association needs active members with ideas as well as financial contributions. Join us on **Saturday, October 16, 2010** at 11:00 AM to find your place in the preservation picture.

The enclosed envelope is for your financial contribution. Thank you.

Scene on Quaker Church Road,
opposite the Meeting House, 2010.
The neighborhood will be changing.



Newsletter Editor: Mary F. Brotherton