

Historic Preservation Commission Update – 03/18/19

Since the publication of 'The Early Settlers of Holland Twp., NJ', in 2012, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has published seven volumes of 'Early Life and Traditions of Holland, NJ': 1880-1885, 1886-1890, 1891-1895, 1896-1902, 1903-1907, 1908-1915 and 1916-1923! These are collections of newspaper articles, historical information, and photos. They are available at the Holland Township Municipal Building Clerk's Office, on Lulu.com, and Amazon.com. Thanks to Kathleen Phillips Sciarrello for the dedication and effort in compiling these wonderful publications!

Thus far, 12 barns have been dated using dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) – 7 ground barns ranging in date from 1794 to 1812 and 5 bank barns dating from 1806 to 1825. Determining precise construction dates of historic barns helps to understand the settlement history of Holland Township, whether any remaining barns were built during the British tenant period and when the Pennsylvania Forebay bank barn form migrated from PA. It is important to decipher as much information as possible from the remaining barns before these 'castles in the fields' are lost forever. This study was funded in part by the NJ Historical Commission. The reports are available on the HPC website:

<http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/early-settlers-2>

As part of the County's 305th celebration, the HPC conducted a tour of the Amsterdam Historic District in March of this year. Since this tour was 'sold out', a second tour is being planned for the fall. You can check for this and all of the exciting 2019 events celebrating Hunterdon's Historic Hometowns and Hamlets here:

<http://www.hunterdon300th.org/2019/events.html>

Our survey and documentation of endangered and/or historic houses, outbuildings and other structures is ongoing.