



The Tewksbury Historical Society

Post Office Box 457
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MARCH 12 MEETING TO HOST W. BARRY THOMSON LECTURE ON ALNWICK HALL – THE ABBEY – 2017 MANSION IN MAY

The Tewksbury Historical Society will host a free lecture by Historian and Author W. Barry Thomson on Alnwick Hall, the 2017 Mansion in May site, on **Sunday, March 12, 2017, at 1 p.m. at the Zion Lutheran Christian Education Building 18 Miller Avenue in Oldwick.** The lecture is open to the public; seating is on a first come first served basis. Doors open at 12:30 pm. Refreshments will be served. The lecture will be preceded by a short Society business meeting. For inclement weather call (908) 832-6734 or check the Society's website at www.tewksburyhistory.net.

Thomson will speak about "Alnwick Hall" / "The Abbey," which will be the site of this year's Mansion in May designer show house fund-raising event in support of the Women's Association for the Morristown Medical Center. Designed and built between 1903 and 1904, "Alnwick Hall" / "The Abbey" is important as one of the last surviving, and one of the best preserved, of the large estate houses that once lined both sides of Madison Avenue from Morristown to Madison, New Jersey, during the so-called "Gilded Age."



He will set the scene of Morristown and Morris Township during the Gilded Age, with a focus on the development of the estates in the Convent and Normandy Heights areas and along Madison Avenue. He will discuss and show some of the other estates, including financier Otto Kahn's "Cedar Court," the Florence Vanderbilt and Hamilton Twomblys' "Florham" estate (now Fairleigh Dickinson), and the Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge estate, "Giralda Farms."

Next he will discuss the builders and first owners of "Alnwick Hall," Edward P. and Rosalie Behr Meany. Edward Meany, a lawyer who, after first developing a railroad network in Mexico, became an important figure in the emerging telephone business as general counsel for the American Telephone & Telegraph Company.

Third, he will discuss "Alnwick Hall's" architect, Percy Griffin and his commissions. Also to be covered will be Griffin's wife, Minnie Clark. She was notable as having been one of the most prominent artists' models throughout the decade of the 1890s. For example, she was the first of Charles Dana Gibson's famed "Gibson Girls" and also posed for many portraits by such noted artists as William Merritt Chase, Thomas Wilmer Dewing, J. Carroll Beckwith and others. She was the model for a couple of important works by sculptor Daniel Chester French. For example, Minnie was the model for French's famous 65-foot-tall

gilded statue of "The Republic" that was the sculptural centerpiece of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Next, his talk will discuss the design and development of "Alnwick Hall" itself, including the building's important stained glass windows. Also to be covered will be the annual musicales that were hosted by the Meany's. These lavish affairs featured musicians from the Metropolitan Opera orchestra and noted singers and musicians of the day, including famed Russian violinist Efreim Zimbalist, father of the television, stage and movie actor of the same name. The Meany's musicales, which were attended by a who's who of society (one of their house guests was the young Wallis Warfield, later to become the Duchess of Windsor). The Meany's post-concert dinners were catered by the noted New York restaurant, Delmonicos.

Lastly, his presentation will cover the lives of the Meany's after they sold "Alnwick Hall" and the several interesting subsequent owners of the property.

After leaving a corporate career in New York, where he last served as Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of the multinational retail holding company, Woolworth Corporation—now Foot Locker, Inc.—Barry has been engaged as a management consultant and has worked on several historic preservation and architectural history projects and as an author and lecturer.

He is the co-author, with the late John K. Turpin, of the two-volume work, *New Jersey Country Houses: The Somerset Hills* (Mountain Colony Press, 2004 and 2005), he has written and co-written several articles on other aspects of the history of the Somerset Hills that have appeared in *The Black River Journal* and other publications, and he has prepared nominations of historic sites for the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to his research and writing, Barry frequently gives lectures on various aspects of architectural and local New Jersey history.



Barry received his undergraduate education at Drew University and subsequently took courses in architecture and urban planning at Harvard University. For two years Barry was a David Rockefeller Fellow, a program sponsored by the New York City Partnership. As he has for many years, Barry serves as a director, trustee or officer of several not-for-profit organizations and foundations, and he consults on management and corporate governance matters. Organizations and foundations for which he has served or presently serves include: The Downtown Alliance (which manages the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Business Improvement District), The Bruno Walter Foundation, The New York Choral Society, The Arc of New Jersey, Friends of P.S. 165, Inc., and The National Retail Foundation. He has also been executive producer of two documentary films, one dealing with the employment of people with developmental disabilities and one concerning the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. mural in Washington, D.C.

Born and raised in Peapack-Gladstone in Somerset County, New Jersey, Barry now resides in New York City and western Massachusetts.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Fred Katnack, Chair of the Nominating Committee, will present a candidate for the office of Vice-President to serve a 2 year term (2017-2019), which will be voted on by the membership in attendance at the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues were due by January 31. If you received a dues statement previously kindly remit payment. If you haven't paid it please bring to the meeting or send in the mail. Thank you for your continued support!

SOCIETY LOSES TWO BOARD MEMBERS

Sadly the Society lost two of its long-time Board members back in January, Janet Schmidling, who served as Vice-President, and Phil Kane, who served as Archivist. They were both mainstays in the organization and will be sorely missed. Both designated the Society as beneficiaries of donations in lieu of flowers. We offer our heartfelt condolences to their families.

SOCIETY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS; TREASURER & ARCHIVIST POSITIONS OPEN

The Society currently has two volunteer openings on its Executive Board - Treasurer and Archivist. Please see the job descriptions below. If you are interested please contact Shaun Van Doren at (908) 439-3054 or tewksburyhistory@earthlink.net with questions.

Treasurer

- Officer of the Society
- Attend meetings of the Society's Executive Board (every other Wednesday at 5 pm)
- Responsible for all financial transactions and records
- Process/sort all checks based on transaction (membership, fundraisers, etc.) and make deposits
- Reconcile monthly bank statements
- Manage Certificates of Deposit
- Prepare income & expense statements for annual and monthly board meetings
- Knowledge of Quickbooks
- Pay invoices and mail payments
- Process and record all credit card payments
- Manage insurance policy renewals and certificates of insurance for events

Archivist

- Executive Board Member of the Society
- Attend meetings of the Society's Executive Board (every other Wednesday at 5 pm)
- Oversee Society's archives of records, documents and items bequeathed to the Society
- Answer phone, email and in-person inquiries on history and genealogical requests
- Assist Tewksbury 3rd & 4th graders finding subject material for Most Historic Place in My Town Essay Contest
- Provide guidance on and assist with cataloging Society's records for its archives

OLDWICK CARRIAGE HOUSE

Our exterior restoration of the Oldwick Carriage House is complete. We extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to Harold Wrede for managing the entire project, bringing it under budget and ahead of schedule. We could not have done this without Harold's expertise, attention to detail and patience. The Society will be holding an Open House in May with refreshments to show off the building. Watch the May newsletter for more details.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

Sandi & Alex Blair	Lebanon
Allene Fay	Califon
Susan Fisher	Hillsborough

3rd ANNUAL OLDWICK TAG SALE

The 3rd annual Oldwick Tag Sale, sponsored by the Zion Lutheran Church, will be on Saturday, April 29 from 8 am to 3 pm with a rain date of Saturday, May 6. The Society will again be purchasing a space and having our sale inside the newly restored Oldwick Carriage House at 5 James Street.

We are looking for clean, quality items to sell so if you have items to donate please stop by one of the dates listed below. We are also looking for volunteers to help sort and mark items as well as sell on the day of the sale. Please let us know via phone or email if you can volunteer. We are NOT accepting electronics more than 3 years old, clothing, or books.

Collection Dates:

Sat. April 1 9 am to 12 pm

Fri. April 7 6 pm to 8 pm

Sat. April 22 9 am to 12 pm

1st BI-ENNIAL TEWKSBURY HISTORIC HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR

The Society has partnered with the Garden Club of the Hunterdon Hills to jointly sponsor the 1st biennial Tewksbury Historic House & Garden Tour, which will be held on Saturday, June 10 from 10 am to 4 pm, rain or shine. The tour will include 5 homes and/or gardens; 4 locations include the 1st floor of the home and garden while the 5th location is a series of extensive gardens. The cost per person is \$ 40 in advance or \$ 50 day of the tickets. Watch the May newsletter for ticket order information. All tickets will be held and are to be picked up the day of the tour at Society HQ 60 Water Street in Mountainville. We need volunteers to be a docent for inside the homes to cover a 3 hour shift. If you are interested please call or email Headquarters.

2017 ART SHOW UPDATE

The Art Show Committee met for the 1st time on January 31st with over 20 people in attendance, all of whom were energetic and excited about this year's show. The Show will be co-chaired by Andy Calamaras and Shaun Van Doren. Pre-planning has begun in all facets of the show, from the prospectus, hanging, opening night reception and more. The next committee meeting will be on Wed. March 29 at 4 pm at Society HQ. All are welcome to attend and volunteer for a subcommittee.

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	LOC.	EVENT
Sun. Mar. 12*	1 pm	Z	Meeting & Program by Barry Thomson on "Alnwick Hall" - "The Abbey."
Sat. Mar. 18	9 am – 1 pm	Flem	How to Search Your Deed at Hunterdon County Hall of Records
Sat. Apr. 1	9 am – 12 pm	C	Tag Sale Receiving at the Oldwick Carriage House
Fri. Apr. 7	6 pm – 8 pm	C	Tag Sale Receiving at the Oldwick Carriage House
Sat. Apr. 22	9 am – 12 pm	C	Tag Sale Receiving at the Oldwick Carriage House
Sat. Apr. 29	8 am – 4 pm	C	3 rd annual Oldwick Tag Sale sponsored by Zion Lutheran Church
Sun. May 7#	1 pm	M	Meeting & Program by David Veasey on Colonial Architecture of New Jersey
Sat. Jun. 10	10 am - 4 pm	V	House & Garden Tour, co-sponsored with Garden Club of the Hunterdon Hills, rain or shine
Sat. Sep. 2	8 am - 3 pm	TBD	Flea Market
Fri. Sep. 29	630 to 9 pm	Z	Art Show Preview & Reception
Sat. Sep. 30 - Sat. Oct. 7	Various	Z	Art Show Open
Sun. Nov. 12	5 pm	F	Covered Dish Supper & Program
Sat. Dec. 2 & Sun. Dec. 3	10 am to 4 pm 11 am to 3pm	O	Antique Show

*** Note this meeting is the 2nd Sunday of March and will be held at the Zion Lutheran Christian Education Building.**

Note this meeting is the 1st Sunday of May.

Location Codes:

- M Society Headquarters, 60 Water Street, Mountainville
- C Oldwick Carriage House, 5 James Street, Oldwick
- F Fairmount Presbyterian Church Community House 247 Old Turnpike Road
- Flem Hunterdon County Hall of Records, Main Street, Flemington
- Z Zion Lutheran Christian Education Building 1 Miller Avenue, Oldwick
- O Old Turnpike School 173 Old Turnpike Road