

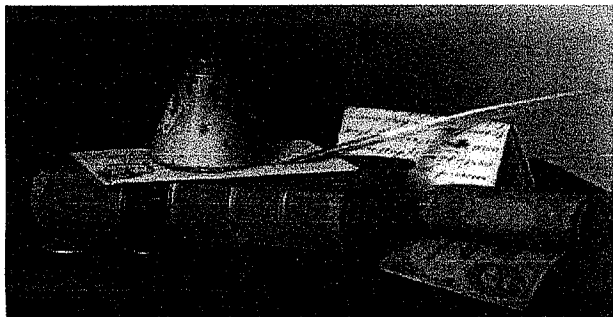
Squan Village Historical Society

~~Bailey-Reed House Museum~~

105 South St., Manasquan, NJ 08736

Tel. & FAX 732-223-6770

Newsletter - August 2011



“History is the witness of the Times,
The Torch of Truth,
The Light of Memory,
The Teacher of Life,
The Messenger of Antiquity.”
“Author Unknown”

The Squan Village Historical Society recently received into our permanent inventory four Ledgers recording information covering the years of 1758 to 1847! The recorded information in the Ledgers begin with William Pearce and his father-in-law, Robert Green, then to his son, Benjamin Pearce, and finally to his Grandsons, Benjamin Davenport Pearce and Robert Pearce. There are records of “shoo” repairing, General Store listing of products and borrowed cash, arithmetic work of a young man, and precise record keeping for a local Poor House.

I have also included interesting information on Artist Edgar Lewis Pearce and Writer and Author Ruth Branning Molloy, who are other members of the well known Squan Village Pearce family.

The members of the Society graciously thank Pearce Family descendant, Anthony Van Dorn Smith, who carefully carried the precious Ledgers across country to donate them to the Bailey-Reed House Museum. I am sure you will enjoy reading about this very interesting Squan Village history.

~~Calendar of Events~~

- August No Regular Monthly Meeting
August 13 Big Sea Day
Sponsored by the Squan Village Historical Society, this annual event is held at Squan Beach. Come and join in the fun!
Aug. 14th - Rain Date
- August 14 Museum Opening
Special Display
“Old Time Kitchens & Cookery”
- Sept. 11 Museum Opening
Special Display:
“Old Time Kitchens & Cookery”
- Sept. 14 Annual Society Picnic
Note: Time change to 6:00 PM
Picnic held in our 1800s Barn
Reservations are Necessary as we must know what covered dish you would like to bring as well as to provide seating for the number of expected guests. Thanks. Please call 732-223-6770 or 732-223-1733.
- Oct. 9 Museum Opening
Display: “Toys of Yesteryear”
- Oct. 12 Regular Monthly Meeting
Program: Wreck “John K. Shaw”
Speaker - NJHDA President
Dan Lieb
- All Museum openings are Sundays from 1 to 4 PM on the second Sunday of every month. We are also open every Monday & Thursday from 1:30 to 4 PM. All regular Monthly Meetings are held at the Bailey-Reed House Museum and begin at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted. There is a speaker, light refreshments, and a brief business meeting. All are Welcome!



~~~President's Desk~~~

We had a nice sunny day for our Craft, Antique & Flea Market. Many thanks go to my co-chairman, Janice Lavance, and our many workers that made this event a success.

Our June meeting with Dan Lieb was cancelled due to the excessive heat. His program on the John K. Shaw shipwreck has been rescheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.

Squan Village Historical Society's scholarships were awarded to Sara Robinson and Ryan Casey. Our best wishes go to them as they enter college.

Our gardens were absolutely beautiful for the Sea Lavender Garden Club tour. We had a great many visitors and they enjoyed the lemonade, cookies and touring the museum. Thanks go to our garden chairman Janice Lavance, husband John, Don and Nancy Sherman, Barbara Reynolds, Betty Anderson, Betty Randolph, Connie Watkins, Tom Keiderling, and Wayne Bailey.

Big Sea Day is on August 13<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Our annual picnic will be on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. Reservations are needed.

Have a healthy, happy summer.

~~Betty Bailey, SVHS President~~

~~~Museum Chairman's Desk~~~

Much needed spring cleaning of the Museum was completed by Jan Lavance, Don Sherman, Tom Keiderling, Betty Bailey, Wayne Bailey, & Barbara Reynolds.

My thanks go to all the volunteer Docents and bakers who helped make our Victorian Socials a tremendous success.

June brought the Manasquan Elementary School 4th graders to the Museum during the time of the high temperatures. All children who visit the Museum are a joy and find so many interesting and "new" things to learn about and find that our past is a nice place to visit.

Our unique display "Old Time Kitchens and Cookery" will remain until September. Come visit and see devices and utensils that were used 150 years ago or find items that will bring back memories from your youth!

The February 2012 Newsletter will be about "Squan Women from the Past." If you have any interesting information you would be willing to compile and contribute about a Squan woman who had a role in our local history, please get in touch with me by November 1st of 2011. Thank you.

~~Barbara Reynolds, Museum Chairman~~

Membership Renewal or Application ~ 2011

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Special Interests _____

Able to participate as active member _____

Renewal/Individual **\$15.00**

New Member/Individual **\$15.00**

Life Membership/Individual **\$100**

Mail a check to: Membership Chairman

Squan Village Historical Society

PO Box 262, Manasquan, NJ 08736

Sources: Pearce Family Ledgers (Anthony Van Dorn Smith), Pearce-Branning-Molloy Family Archives, Wall Historical Society, Family Tree Genealogy (Internet), Atlantic View Cemetery, Monmouth Connection, Pearce Compilation (Gloria Thompson), Atlas of NJ Coast (Woolman-Rose 1878), Price-Pearce Bible Records, Penny Magazine (1837), Over the Counter & on the Shelf, History of Monmouth (Ellis), Everyday Life in the 1800s (McCutcheon), Bible Records (Genealogy of NJ Vol. II)

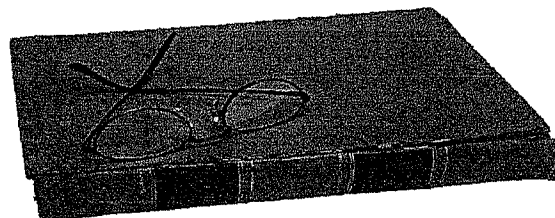
Congratulations and Welcome to
New Members

Indie Shea Ken Mountford

New Life Member

Jim Fagan

Betty Anderson, Membership Chairman




~~~William Pearce~~~

**William Pearce - Father - B 1735 D 1799**  
 Married - Martha Green (1<sup>st</sup> wife) 1755  
 Married - Lydia Tilton Curtis (2<sup>nd</sup> wife) 1766  
 A Son of the Marriage  
 Benjamin Pearce  
 B - 1772 D - 1855  
 Married - Elizabeth Newberry

**Book # 1 - Dated 1758 to 1806**

As there were four "books" in this acquisition, I have numbered them with relation to the earliest dates. The first few pages of this cloth covered, hand sewn 8 x 13" book contained hand written Bible passages.

In researching the history of this family, I found that William Pearce first married Martha Green who was the daughter of Henry and Rebecca Green. This information explained the connection between William Pearce and the 1758 Ledger that had the heading on the pages written after the Bible passages of

"Henry Green, Father Green - Debtor  
 Mending Shoos."

All currency is listed in pounds, shillings, & farthings. There are actually 82 pages giving information from the years of 1758 to 1759.

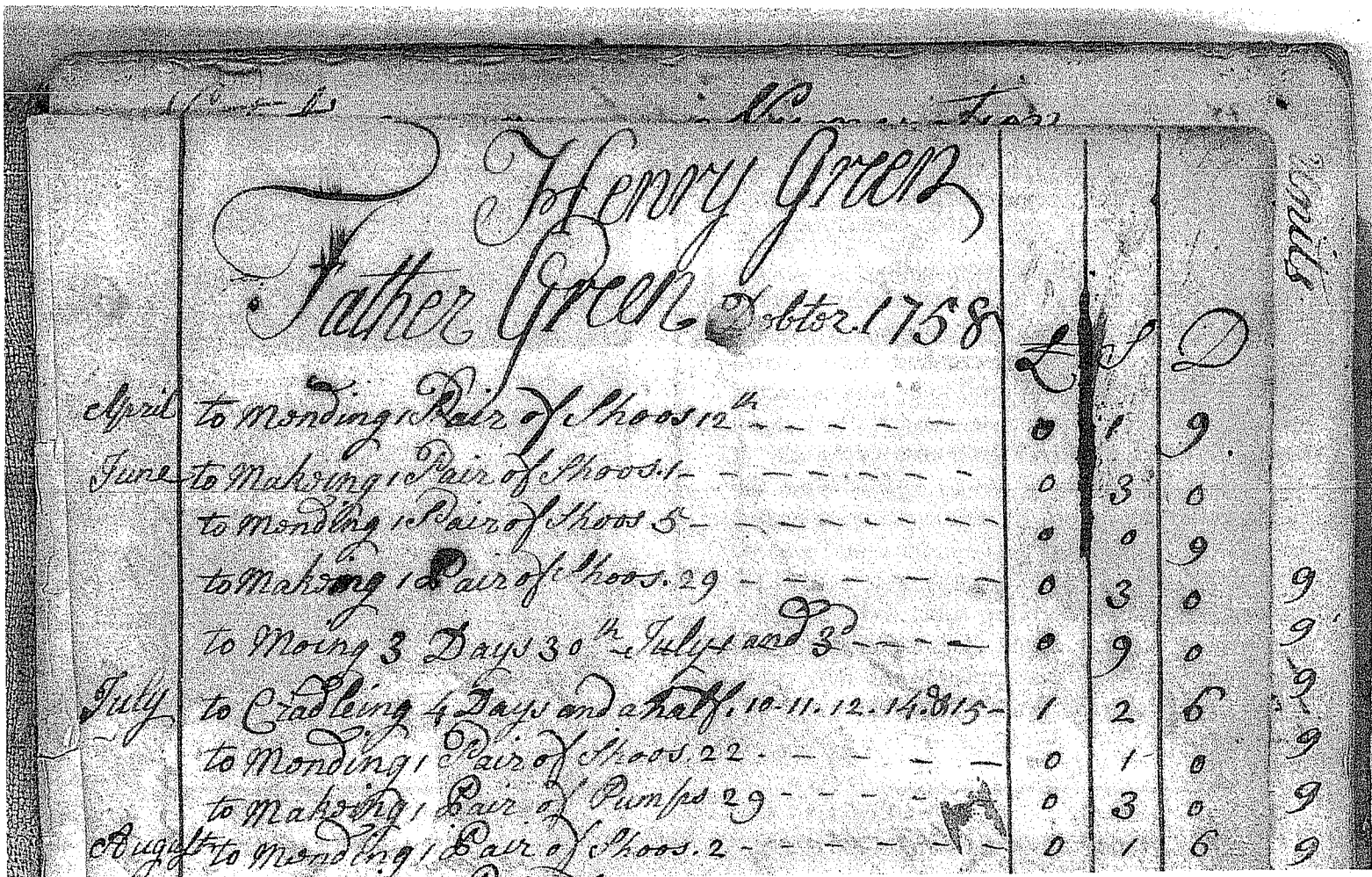
Examples follow:

*Account of Wood Choping - Benjamin Pearce,  
 Asher Pearce, Nisbet Mount  
 Account of "Shoos" Repair - Jofoph Cook  
 Account for "Shoos" Repair John Wooley*

General Ledger Account - John Bailey - Debt  
 "To part of a days work I began about 10 o'clock Price 1 Shilling, 6 farthings."

The Ledger contained accounts for mending shoes, carting wood, and schoolwork as well as settled accounts of William Pearce's Estate and agreement for Pearce land.

William was the first school teacher in the Squan Village area as well as a farmer and believed to have had this General Store in during the mid 1700s.



~~~Benjamin Pearce~~~

William Pearce - Father B 1735 D 1799
 Married - Lydia Tilton Curtis (2nd wife)
 A Son of the Marriage
Benjamin Pearce
 B 1772 D 1855
 Married Elizabeth Newberry

Book # 2 Dated 1810 to 1823

This 8 x 13" Ledger was hand sewn with a cardboard cover. The front of the book states:
Benjamin Pearce His Book of Accounts made in year of our Lord 1810.

The accounts recorded give a wealth of information and give accreditation to the time periods of members of local families in this area. The first eight pages cover 1810 to 1812 and list items sold in his General Store. Then the book was reversed making the back then the front and that section covers the same time period, however, with items of sale being apples, whiskey and the accounts for carting wood.

The names of families purchasing items at Benjamin's General Store in the early 1800s will be very familiar to you today: William Van Scike (Schoick), David Newberry, Asher Pearce, James Morris, Amos Tilton, Thomas Claton, Samuel Longstreet, Squire Longstreet, James Sherman, James Osborne, Thomas Errickson, Abram Osborne, and Asher Curtis to name but a few.

It was interesting to read the names of our Bailey Family recording that in the year of 1810, our John Bailey paid a "debt for spokes and filler stuff for wheel at 7 shillings 6 pence" and in 1814 Benjamin Pearce received from said John Bailey and Peter Bailey, his son, money for their whiskey account!

Handwritten on one page is the following:
"Peter Bailey did say that if he did catch or if any person on his oyster bed that he has been plaitin, that he would shoot them in the presents of Jacop Luker, William Suttin and Luis E. Pearce." Seems as if someone had been plundering his special area.

Of course we know that the people named in the ledger lived during this time period, however, to get a glimpse into their daily lives makes them even more real to us.

General Store

Benjamin Pearce's General Store appears to have carried products and services that a family would ever need or would want.

| | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| Salt Hay | Tanned Hide | Sugar |
| Fly Plaster | Peace of Rope | Hoops |
| Buttons | Fishing Boat | Waggon Box |
| Tobacco | Turpentine | 5 gal sider |
| Mosbunkers | ¼ day plowing | Iron |
| Crow Bar | Plowshear | Qt. Whisk |
| Molasses | Pounds of Cotton | Fish |
| Spikes | Shingles | Cash Money |
| | Mending Shoos | |

Note: All spelling is transcribed as originally written.

| | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 25 | John Bailey dr for one Peck of salt | 0.1.8 |
| 26 | Joseph Longstreet cr for wool | 0.11.9 |
| 26 | Joseph B Herbert dr for one fleas of wool | 0.17.11 |
| 26 | Joseph B Herbert cr for cash | 0.1.10 |
| 26 | Joseph Longstreet dr for cash | 0.2.0 |
| 29 | John Bailey dr for half Fording of groves | 0.0.5 |
| 29 | Joseph Longstreet dr for two yards of cambric molton | 0.10.0 |
| 30 | William Vanscike dr for one dithe stone | 0.1.0 |

~~Benjamin Davenport Pearce~~

William Pearce - Father B 1735 D 1799

Married Lydia Tilton Curtis (2nd wife)

A Son of the Marriage

Benjamin Pearce B 1772 D 1855

Married Elizabeth Newberry

A Son of the Marriage

Benjamin Davenport Pearce

B 1810 D 1878

Married Caroline (Curtis) Moore

Book # 4 - Dated 1840 to 1847

This 6 1/2 x 15" Book has professional binding, is hard cover and hand sewn. The front of the book simply states: "Pearce"

Benjamin D. Pearce was Secretary of the Poor House Association and kept precise records of all transactions. The accounts in this Ledger consist of the records of a Poor House also called Almshouse possibly located around Shark River, held up to 25 paupers and was funded by the Townships of Howell, Dover, and Middletown. Squan Village was still a part of Howell Township until 1851 when we were a part of Wall Township when they broke away. We then remained a part of Wall until Manasquan was incorporated in the year of 1887.

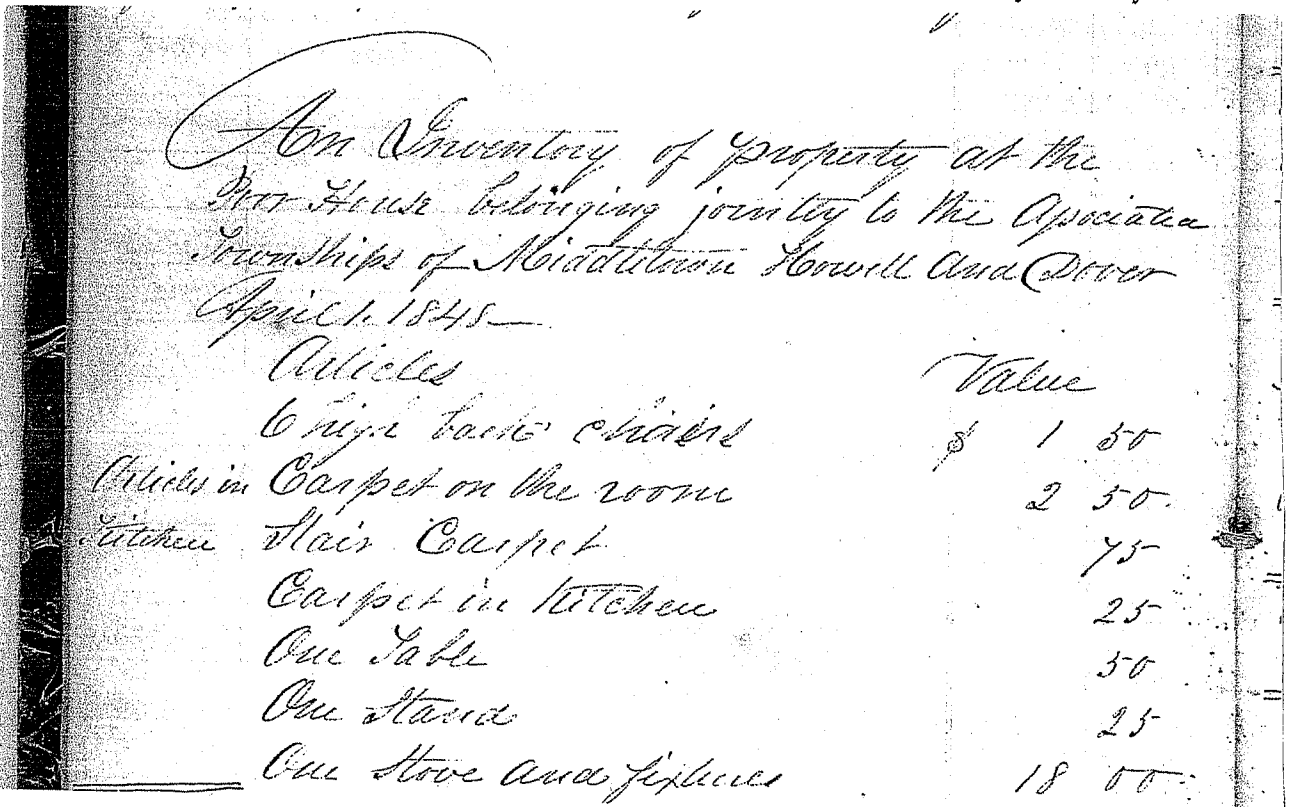
The NJ Legislation enacted a bill in 1798 to officially authorize construction and operation of county and municipal Poor Houses. The accounts listed in Benjamin D. Pearce's Ledger

included salary paid to the House Steward (\$200 per year for he & his wife), Pauper's board per day, cash paid from the Townships, bills paid, and the names of Paupers that lived in the home. It also lists a very interesting accounting of the home's inventory.

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**Benjamin Davenport Pearce** was a man of many interests and many talents starting as a school teacher in Shrewsbury, was appointed commissioner of Wrecks and was a marine reporter for the NY Sun and NY Tribune. He opened a store in Squan in 1839 at the place where the Errickson & Wainwright Building was located and also carried on a lumber business in a small way. He was commissioned as a Justice of the Peace from 1855 to 1875 and built the first three life-saving stationhouses on Squan Beach.

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 The **Bailey-Reed House Museum** has the great fortune to have ancestors of the original Pearce Family as members of the Society and they have all graciously contributed to our **Pearce Family Reference** material. I personally thank Anthony Van Dorn Smith who donated the four treasured Pearce Family Ledgers. I also thank Pearce ancestors Ellen Bentsen, and Brenda Palley for their vast amount of historical information from the Pearce Family Archives.

The Society thanks you.



Letter from Benjamin D. Pearce to his brother,
Robert Pearce, who was then about 30 yrs of age

Squan Village May 22nd 1847

Dear Robert,

Yours of the 14th is here received and now before me. I am very glad to hear you are well.

Try to keep good company. This is as easy as to keep bad. Be careful in the choice of females particularly. You are now taking a station in society where you may as well select you a partner to suit you. You have now the advantage of Judging of yourself as 19 to 24 men seldom make a good choice in matters of matrimony but take a wife by chance rather than by good Judgment.

Trust the temper and disposition of those you are dealing with. You have held the advantage of good luck since you have been in your present employment. Be careful of reputation. Let no dishonesty be formed in your dealing. Try to inform yourself in all branches of business you are in. Always speak your sentiment to those with whom you converse with due deference and respect to their more mature judgment. Never indulge in gaming. This is a growing evil. Never speak of religion in a light manner. Men of religious principles are generally more depended upon than those without them.

Always be careful to speak the truth. This will do wonders for a young man. Lead no one in your secrets. Few can be relied upon. I may differ from what I have wrote but that is no reason you should. The friends join in love to you and wish you all the good luck this world can give.

I remain Your Affectionate Brother

Benjamin D. Pearce

This letter was sealed with red wax! At the time of the writing, Benjamin, born in 1810, was age 37 and his brother, Robert, born in 1817 was 30.

Book # 3 - Arithmetic

The 8 x 14" book had a cardboard cover, was hand sewn and was dated 1833. The cover read: "Robert Pearce, Squan County of Monmouth, New Jersey 1833" The book contained 97 pages of Robert's school arithmetic. Robert Pearce B 1817 D 1889



Edgar Lewis Pearce - Artist

B 1885 D 1954

Edgar Pearce has left a legacy of paintings that he created over many years. Born to a family of Ship Captains he captured the sea himself in his beautiful paintings. He honed his craft when attending the Pennsylvania Museum School of Art and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. His parents were Lewis Henry Pearce and Ellen Jarrell Pearce. He created in oil and water color as well as with his camera during the first part of the 20th century. Below his rendition of 105 South Street completed in 1930 when the home was owned by Aaron and Linda Reed.



Ruth Branning Molloy

B 1910 D 2002

Ruth was the Granddaughter of Lewis Henry Pearce and Ellen Seward Jarrell. In past Newsletters you would have read her summer newspaper called "Beachcombers" and also some of her wonderful poetry regarding her 100th birthday. She spent most summers of her youth in a cottage called "The Leslie House" located over the three bridges. Her thoughts about one summer in the early 1900s: "The Brielle Road to the beach was once a long stretch without houses after you crossed the last bridge. Sometimes horses and buggies rode down it, sometimes people walked it, or kids on bicycle rode it, all on their way to the ocean." Again the Pearce Family's deep and caring love and connection with the sea.

The Pearce family members can list general store owners, school teachers, poets, artists, ship captains, newspaper reporters, entrepreneurs, writers, and property owners among their ancestors. I thank all those gracious family members who have shared their Pearce history with us in order to preserve Squan's past.

"The History of the world
is the record of man in quest of his daily bread and butter."

Hendrik Van Loon

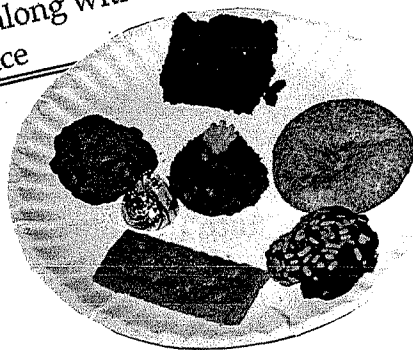
~ Victorian Socials - 2011 ~

The Squan Village Historical Society's
Recipe for a Happy Afternoon
~~Ingredients Needed~~

Pick a lovely spring afternoon
Then mix with a group of Sweet Young Ladies
Dressed in pretty costumes
Sitting at flower decorated tables
Sipping cool fruit juices that are
Poured into pastel colored china cups.
Spread with gentle Victorian table manners
Add a delicious selection of baked treats
Stir constantly with happy smiles
Cool with pretty Parasols,
And sprinkle in some cute treats for fun.
Enjoy for over an hour.
"Learning History is Fun"



Selection of Snacks along with
Cups of Juice



Junior Docents

Left to Right

Indie Shea, Sara Ferraro, Jackie Phillips,
Mary Lou Becker, & Tori Ferraro



Tables set for a lovely
Afternoon.

2011 Theme Room "Old Time Kitchens & Cookery"

276 Girl Scouts came over a 2 week period in April of this year and after the Museum tour and cookies and juice, each young lady received a pretty apron to take home. Plans are in the process for 2012 with a different theme and I have 10 troops already signed up for next spring!

The above photo shows my 5 most darling Junior Docents who volunteered for each and every Social for two weeks. As I have said before, they are responsible, they are knowledgeable, they work well with younger girls, they dress in 1850s costume, and they are in the 8th, 7th & 5th grades! It is my very great pleasure to work with them.

The Junior Docents that first volunteered many years ago to help with the Victorian Social Tours are now in college! Great children...Great Parents.

Squan Village Historical Society

President Betty Bailey Vice President Joyce Burrows Treasurer Ray Pettit
Recording Secretary Nancy Sherman Corresponding Secretary Barbara Reynolds
Trustees Carol Fagan Rich Dunne Jan Lavance Tom Keiderling Karen Naghski Betty Anderson
Committee Chairpersons: Membership Betty Anderson Museum Barbara Reynolds
Flea Market Jan Lavance & Betty Bailey Holiday Decorations Connie Watkins
Program Rich Dunne Refreshments Joyce Burrows Big Sea Day Committee
Grounds Tom Keiderling Garden Jan Lavance Carriage House Don Sherman
Web Site Suzanne Shea, Sandscripts Newsletter Editor Barbara Reynolds