OUR NEXT MEETING: Be Prepared! On Monday, January 17, 2011 at 7:00 PM, at the Haddon Heights Public Library – 608 Station Avenue, the Haddon Heights Historical Society will host a talk by Stanley Lipson on the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts in America. This year-long celebration commenced on Feb. 8, 2010. Serving nearly 4.1 million youth between the ages of 7 and 20, with more than 300 councils throughout the United States and its territories, the BSA is the nation’s foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. The Scouting movement is composed of 1.2 million volunteers, whose dedication of time and resources has enabled the BSA to remain the nation’s leading youth-service organization. For more about the BSA, visit them at www.scouting.org. Additional details about 100 Years of Scouting in America can be found at www.scouting.org/100years. Admission is free. All are welcome. Bring a Boy Scout !!!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: Welcome to a new year with great promise and plans for your Historical Society. First of all, 2011 brings four new and exciting programs for our quarterly meetings. You have already read that the Boy Scouts are coming, along with their 100 years of history, with January’s speaker, Stan Lipson. In April we will host Marc Mappen, the former executive director of the New Jersey Historical Commission, who will speak on his book, There’s More to New Jersey than the Sopranos. Marc is an old friend of mine, and he’s a great speaker! In July, we will have a presentation on Bartram’s Garden, the oldest botanical garden in the nation, followed by a Schuylkill river tour to Bartram’s Garden later in the summer. On October 24th (Note the Date Change), we will welcome local historian Ed Cattell, who will share the story of his ancestor, Jonas Cattell, and his run to Red Bank that changed the outcome of the Revolutionary War. Our thanks to Fred Missimer and Peter Hill, our Programs co-chairs, for their efforts lining up such a great year of speakers!

This year around town will also see the installation of 12 “Centennial Home” Markers, and 5 new interpretive historical signs if all goes as planned. These signs, funded through generous charitable contributions we have received in memory of Lynn Latiman, will highlight the histories of the public drinking fountain (near CVS) and the four pre-Revolutionary War houses in town. Special thanks goes to Marshall Hatfield who has secured the funding to promote this initiative. Yes, I guess the only other thing we need is to see you at our meetings, and this will definitely be a great new year!

See you on Monday! Scout’s Honor.......... Margaret
THE SEARCH FOR THE JERSEY DEVIL. On October 23, 2010, an intrepid group of 18 Haddon Heights Historical Society members and assorted friends and family met up with Russell Juelg, Activities and Education Director of the Pinelands Preservation Trust, on a nighttime hunt for the legendary Jersey Devil. The designated meeting site was a campground in the Wharton Tract near the Carranza Memorial. Under a brilliant October full moon (perfect for spotting the ‘devil’), the party met at the appointed time of 8:00 PM. Russell had a campfire going in no time, and the anxious explorers preceded their quest for the phantom of the pines with the requisite hot dogs, marshmallows, and s’mores. The group wondered whether the aroma of the food would lure the creature closer. As the snacks were eaten, Russell set the proper mood with spooky tales of encounters with the Jersey Devil over the years.

Then the hunt began in earnest... In single file, all 18 in the party (the count of those who went into the woods) followed their guide along winding trails deep into the forest primeval. Luckily, the moonlight was so bright that the flashlights of the group were almost unnecessary. Yet, the lunar glow sculpted many a strange shadow across the paths and ravines traversed. It also cast the rails of the long-forsaken “ghost” railway the group found in an eerie, otherworldly shimmer. By 10:00 our trek ended back at the campsite where the night began. Though no one spotted the Jersey Devil (or would admit to it), all agreed that the outing was exciting and fun. What better way to make folklore come alive than to visit the place that gave it birth?

For the record, the Historical Society members in attendance were Marshall Hatfield and Jan Ewing, Pete and Elena Hill, and Fred and Cathy Missimer. Photos courtesy of Past President Peter Hill can be seen below.

Thanks to Fred Missimer for preparing this account of that spooky evening (once his hands stopped shaking!)
BOY SCOUT WORLD JAMBOREE 1929

As we explore the history of Boy Scouting in America, Peter Hill generously offered to share with us a small glimpse into that history from a personal vantage point. Peter’s father, George Hill was one of the sixty-thousand Boy Scouts from around the world who participated in the 1929 World Jamboree in England. Peter provided the letter to the right, as a memento sent by his father to his aunt and uncle back home. What an experience that must have been, and just two months before the stock market crash; leading us into the Great Depression. I hope you find it interesting.

YOUR MEMBER”SHIP” HAS COME IN...

Actually we hope it does come in. Happy New Year! With each new year, we encourage members to review their commitment to the Historical Society and renew their memberships. To see if you need to renew for 2011, just look at the address label on this newsletter. “EXP 2010”, means you are due for renewal for 2011. You also probably received a mail reminder. Please complete the form below.

SMILE...YOU’RE ON CANDID CAMERA: I am sure many of us remember those words which opened the television show hosted by Allen Funt. Well, we are looking for our own candid camera man or woman. The Historical Society needs someone with a digital camera to take photos at our meetings and events, so we can share them with our members and website. If interested, please contact the Board.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL 2011 Haddon Heights Historical Society

Name__________________________________________________________________________________________
Address_______________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone (H)_______________________ (W)____________________ E-Mail_____________________________________

Type of Membership: _____ Single- $10.00    _____ Household- $15.00

I would also like to make a tax deductible donation to the Haddon Heights Historical Society, in the amount of $______.

NOTE: Annual Membership dues are due at this time. Please bring this completed form and payment to the next Historical Society Meeting. If you prefer to mail in your dues, please send to: Haddon Heights Historical Society, P.O. Box 118, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

August 1, 1929

Dear Aunt Margaret and Uncle Harry,

We had a safe trip across the ocean and now we are at the Jamboree. Luckily nobody was seasick and we had lots of fun on the ship. We landed Monday the twenty-second. We stayed in London three days and we have been traveling all through England and Scotland ever since.

There are sixty thousand scouts here from all over the world. One thousand five hundred of these are Americans. It looks like the biggest British with all the costumes from Arabia, China, Italy, Turkey and all the other countries. There are some Indian Indians here who do dances which are very weird.

We go to Scotland for a week after our two weeks are up. I have to write to every forty people that all try to write to me again. Remember that is all the eggs and I hope you have a good summer as I am.

Love,

George
Just a reminder...The Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Please keep us in mind as you plan your charitable donations.

THANKS for listening ... I know you are out there. We need more members interested in becoming active so we can keep this thing going for future generations! Drop me a line. Let us know your recollections and memories of our town. Share some history!

Ken Funkhouser, Editor

Haddon Heights Historical Society
P.O. Box 118
Haddon Heights, NJ
08035