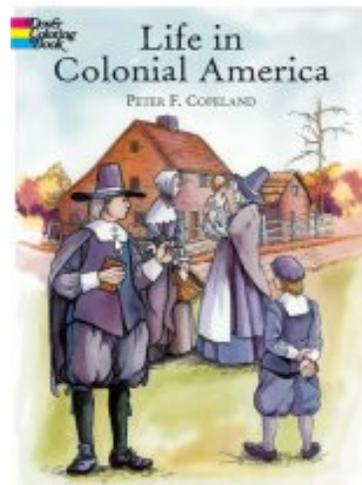


## The Colonial Fair at Bragg School

*Contributed by Marla Jackson*

On Friday, March 18th, the 4<sup>th</sup> Graders at Bragg School held their Colonial Fair. The time was 1736 and our town was called "Black River." The children assumed the roles of Colonial settlers living here at the time. While some of the first names were "created," the surnames were actual family names of people living here at the time, and recognized even today in the street names of our town. From research on the community, the children learned what it was like to live in Black River and what people did at the time--there were farmers, tradesmen, scholars, ministers, doctors, tavern owners, the militia, iron workers and others. There were wives and children and schools. They discovered that the settlers of Black River came together as groups of families from churches in Easthampton and Southold, Long Island, unlike settlers in other communities that came individually or as a family.

Each 4<sup>th</sup> Grader wrote a diary of what the days in Black River might have been like for their settler. At the Fair, they set up a "town," with the gristmill, taverns, churches, schools, the militia, weavers, etc. It was wonderful to see the inventive ways the groups assigned to a particular location designed and built their place. The children put together some very



inventive costumes, using whatever "modern-day" clothing they had. As I strolled around, I listened to each settler tell me about what they did. Many stops included a food that represented the times or their location. I particularly enjoyed the apple pie at one of the taverns.

My favorite discussion was with one girl, the "wife of a tavern owner." She explained that her day started before her husband's, when she got up to fix the fire and make breakfast. It described her day of child care, cooking for the visitors and clean-up after the children and her husband went to bed. I think she must have really appreciated how difficult life was, because at the end of her presentation, she simply said: "Boy, was I tired!" I could really sympathize!

Heather Ronco (L), Liz Gugliemini (L)

## Chester Carnival Memories, assembled from Facebook postings

*Thanks to Joan Case for maintaining the CHS page!*

- Always liked the carnival when it was on Main Street.. Definitely a classic "small town USA" feeling!
- Spent a lot of money on that game. I also won a black and white TV on a wheel Ted Eible was running.
- It's so strange that the "prize" is cigarettes!
- I can't remember how many hours were spent trying to sneak into the BEER TENT!"



"We found that a picture of George Washington was the best ID to get in the beer tent!

- That's my father who was a long time Mayor of Chester in the background wearing a white shirt and belt. He and my mother Jane raised donations for the parade every year. Chester had one of the best in Morris County!"

Carnival, 2011



## Fresh from the Garden News

*contributed by Alison Dahl*



→We are so sorry to be losing the talents of our loyal and dedicated Archives Chairperson and former CHS President Carol Zaikowski. Carol's obligations keep her from continuing the leadership and guidance we have long enjoyed, helping the Society wade through and make sense of its vast and mostly disorganized array of things, papers, maps, and etcetera. Under Carol's aegis, the Society began the painstaking and important task of identifying the treasures of Chester's past that were bequeathed and entrusted to its care. The Society is deeply indebted to Carol for giving us a start in the right direction. **We plan to thank Carol, and recognize and honor her contributions, dedication, and hard work, at our picnic in August.**

→The Chester Historical Society's **Carmen Smith History Room** is changing places with the Young Adult Reading Room in the Chester Library. The change is being made to optimize use of the facility and to provide office space for the library's new part-time **"Local History Librarian"**. The CHS looks to this new professional resource for guidance and assistance with its research, archives, preservation, conservation, genealogy inquiries, and community outreach for all things locally historical. Board member Marla Jackson is spearheading coordination efforts between the CHS and the Library.

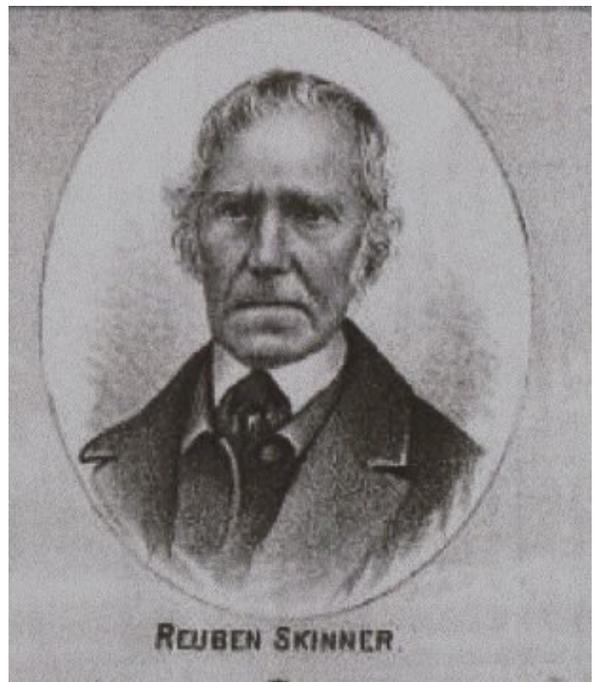
→The CHS contributed financial support to further planning for an **Integrated Trail Ecosystem Plan (ITEP)** for the Chesters, co-chaired by CHS Board member Ed Ng. Part of the ITEP proposal will identify, map, and interconnect Chester's historic sites throughout its parklands, downtown sidewalks, County and State trails, and back roads. The plan incorporates local history with current economic and ecological resources that comprise the local "ecosystem."

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"I have attached a picture of my 4th Great-grandfather Reuben Skinner. He was married in Chester to Sarah Coleman in 1794 by Lemual Fordham and was the son of James and Rachel (Lanning) Skinner. He and Sarah left Chester in 1807 and lived their remaining days in New Haven, Huron County, OH. James and Rachel lived in Covert, Seneca County, New York.

The picture is from the book, "History of THE FIRE LANDS, comprising Huron and Erie Counties, Ohio with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of the Prominent Men and Pioneers" by W.W. Williams, published 1879. I do not know how old he is in this drawing, but he lived to be 86."

***Submitted by Sharon Runner of Keizer, Oregon.***



# Richard Murray, Craigmear owner

Richard Thomas Murray Sr. of Chester, owner of the Craigmear Ski Area for more than two decades, died Saturday, May 27, 1995, at home. He was 62.

He was born in Queens, N.Y., and lived in Newfoundland for 16 years before coming to Chester five years ago.

An entrepreneur, Mr. Murray was the president and owner of Craigmear Ski Area in Newfoundland for 21 years.

In 1965, he and his wife Dorothy acquired 80 acres with a ski area on it.

The resort had been founded in 1937 when Hugo Meury and his wife, Kay Craig, made Craigmear the first ski area in New Jersey.

Mr. Murray was a sergeant in the Marines during the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; three sons, Richard, Scot and John Udell; four daughters, Amy Udell, Lori Joyce, Sheri Silverman and Don-

na Kurtz; two brothers, Thomas and James; a sister, Marilyn Reilly, and 10 grandchildren.

A Mass of the Resurrection was offered Wednesday, May 31, at St. Lawrence Church, Chester. Interment was private. Arrangements were by Bailey Funeral Home, 8 Hilltop Road, Mendham.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Love Fund for Erica Olsen Inc., 32 Homestead Lane, Lincoln Park, N.J. 07035.

OBSERVER-TRIBUNE, THURSDAY, DEC. 17, 1987

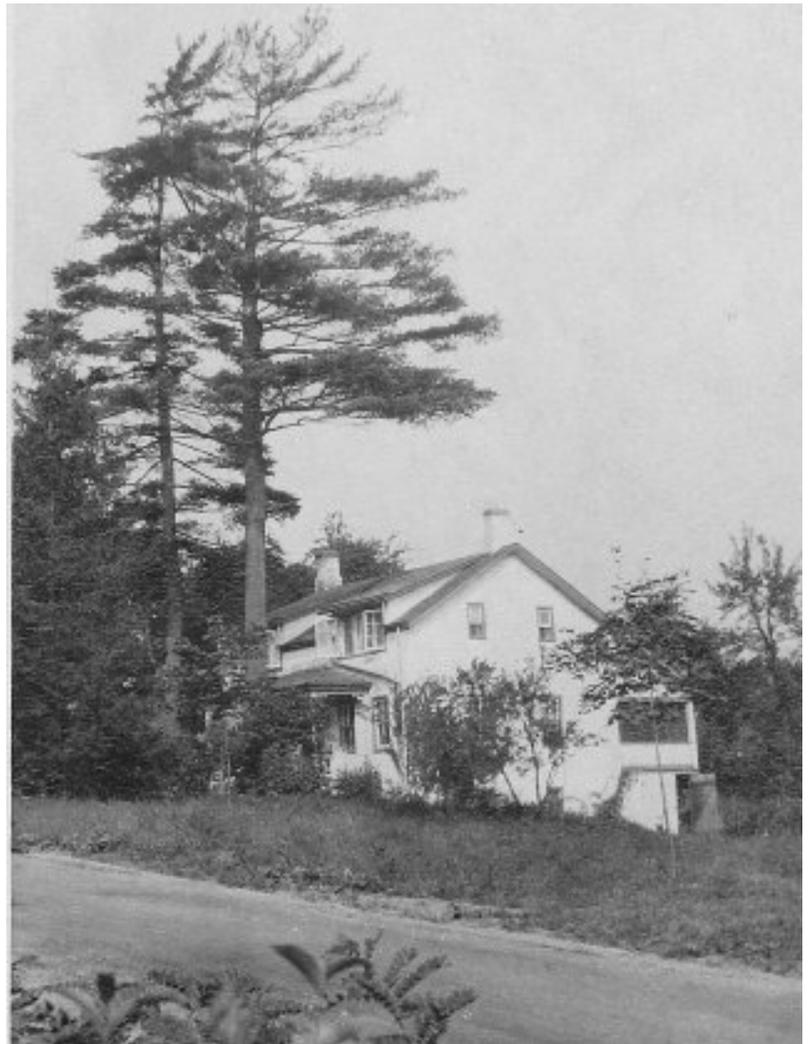


**60th Wedding Anniversary**

(Photo by Bill Pond)

Ruth and Willis Larison celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Monday at the Chester Midday Friendship Center Christmas party at the Chester Community Presbyterian Church. In 1944, the Larisons bought their renowned restaurant, Larison's Turkey Farm, on Route 206, Chester.

From the Observer Tribune. Thanks to Peggy Oswald!



**Asdal residence, 76 Route 24. Circa 1905.**