

HHHS PasTimes

Howell Heritage & Historical Society

Meetings 4th Friday, 7 pm, Ardena Baptist Church Gym, 593 Adelpia Rd. Howell

April 2026 Newsletter

Message from HHHS President

Spring is finally here!

At our last HHHS meeting we had about 11 people attend. It was a good turnout. Debbie Frost gave a wonderful presentation about D.A.R. Daughters of the American Revolution. We were shown how to find histories of early Americans and track our own genealogy. Thank you Debbie, great job.

The Schoolhouse & MacKenzie look like they are getting ready for our Nation's 250th Birthday.

As an update on MacKenzie we will hopefully have city water soon. Lots of positive talk at the last meeting & some improvements will happen to both of our jewels.

I will follow up meeting with our town administrator to see about financial assistance from our township. We had a fire inspection for the school and MacKenzie, both passed fine. The fire inspector commented on how impressed he was with the condition and curb appeal of both historic sites. Great job everyone.

See you at our next meeting,

Thanks to all,
Jude Meehan, President

Upcoming Events – Join Us

MacKenzie House Museum & Library Open House

427 Lakewood Farmingdale Road, Howell

Sat., **April 18, 2026**, 1pm to 4pm

Membership Meeting

Enchanted Gardens Folklore **presented by Virginia Kryzanowski**

Ardena Baptist Church Gym

593 Adelpia Rd.

April 24, 2026, at 7pm

Ardena School House Open House

Sun., **April 26, 2026**, 1pm to 4pm

Old Monmouth Weekend

Saturday, May 2, 2026, 10AM-5PM

Sunday, May 3, 2026, Noon to 5PM

Both MacKenzie and Ardena will be open

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Ways to reach HHHS

Our Website

www.howellheritagehistoricalsociety.org

By email

HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com

By snail mail:

Howell Heritage and Historical Society
2 Ardmore Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

Follow us on Social Media for the latest HHHS events!

Facebook

Howell Heritage & Historical Society of NJ

Have a piece of Howell history to share?

If you have historic photos, local snapshots, or intriguing Howell-related topics, please email them to howellheritageandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com Attn: **Margaret Winkelman**. Along with each photo, **please include a brief write-up** sharing any details, background, or stories connected to it.

We'll post submissions periodically on Facebook to spark conversation and help keep our local history alive.



The above QR code will take you to our Facebook page.



Old Ardena School Update

Our treasured School house has served Howell since 1855. It has served many purposes through its 171 years. It was just one of many schoolhouses, serving the community, at a time when transportation was quite limited. Over the years, various schools were built throughout the community. Some of those school buildings still exist. Some are now single family homes, others, such as the original Southard School, now the Grange on Route 9, house community groups.

Our Open Houses give visitors the opportunity to understand the past and make connections to life today. Children went to school, in 1855, just as they do today. The goal then was students would learn to read, do arithmetic, and use their skills to learn about the world, just as children do today in our much larger multi-room schools.

Each of the many schools had families making sure their children attended school. Looking at maps from the 1800s, pictures of the many schools before 1938, and school ledgers (attendance records) you can learn a lot about the families that called Howell home.

For general questions or scheduling of a private tour of Ardena # 2, the School Committee members are: Anne Hartmann, Debbie Frost, Margaret Winkelman and Vicky Arose

MacKenzie House Museum & Library Update

We are all so happy to finally witness the arrival of spring! In just three short months, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of our country. Our beloved MacKenzie Museum is a lot younger in years, only since 1805. But, if you come to visit us, we are all decked out in patriotic red, white and blue to celebrate our country's milestone.

We try to inform about the significant past occupants of MacKenzie Museum, including two prominent families...the Nesbits and the Prickitts.

We are proud to unveil pictures of the seventeen black soldiers who served under Capt. Prickitt in Florida during the Civil War.

So, come and learn about their story, and how their photos ended up, all these years later, in the Smithsonian's permanent collection.

Our 250-year history is rich and diverse. See how our Howell ancestors have added their history to our American dream.

For general questions or scheduling of a private tour, you can contact the MacKenzie Museum committee members at:

howellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com

Larry Lastra, Ron Alessi, and Leigh Shaffer

Our HHHS 2026 Officers

President: Jude Meehan
Vice President: Margaret Winkelman
Secretary: Debbie Frost
Treasurer: Leigh Shaffer
Trustee: Catherine Schwier
Trustee: Donna Terkildsen
Trustee: Vicky Arose

**Old Monmouth Weekend is coming,
May 2-3
Celebrating America's 250th**

A Weekend in Old Monmouth is an annual two-day event, which will take place on Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 3 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. where over 50 Monmouth County history sites open their doors to visitors and waive their admission fees.

We will be participating in this event and welcome assistance from all our Howell Heritage and Historical Society members, to greet visitors and share their unique knowledge about our buildings

and town. An hour or more is welcome, since both sites will be open both days. You may also want to set aside some time to visit the other sites throughout Monmouth County. The tour books will be available at both the Ardena and MacKenzie for you to use to complete your own tour of Monmouth County History.



Adelphia School Story by Ann Malsbury

Children walked to school or rode in the wagons driven by their fathers or another family member. Some of the more wealthy families had cars and the children were driven to school. The district had bus routes by the 1920's and '30's. My uncle Bill Patterson was one of the first bus drivers in Howell and his daughter, Ruth Mauser followed in his footsteps driving a bus when she was older. The older children in a family were responsible for their younger brothers' and sisters' safety and wellbeing while at school. As the school attendance grew, Adelphia housed the older children and the younger ones went to another building. At one time the upstairs of the old firehouse was used as classrooms.

Mrs. Edith M. Griebing was teacher, principal, and later, superintendent of schools. She lived on Howell Station Road (now Howell Road) across from Bennett Road in the white farmhouse. She is in the back row of the 1926 photo of students taken outside Adelphia School.

It was not unusual for several members of a family to be in the same class as their siblings as students moved ahead at their own pace. In one class in Southard there were 13 Estelles- all related as siblings or cousins. Adelphia had the Roe family, the Reed family, the Wagner family and the Eckman family. All these families had many children who filled up the school.

As the children walked to school, it was not always by the road. They may have cut across

the fields if the owner did not mind and this made the distance shorter especially in the cold winters.

The teachers actually took care of the children during school hours, being responsible for not only academics but lunch, injuries, recess, comportment, etc. They did not allow disrespect which would be an improvement to today's schools.

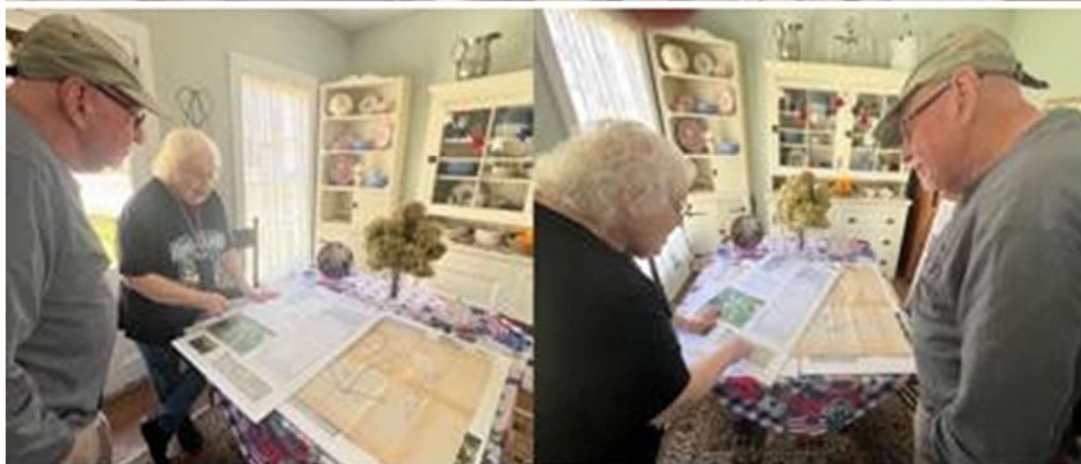
The Adelpia School is now a private residence. As you enter Adelpia traveling west on Adelpia Road the first house on the right just past the entrance to Surrey Downs was the Adelpia School. You will notice how much different it looks than when it was a schoolhouse. There are additions, more windows, and the roofline is quite different.



Adelpia School, class photo, 1926, taught by Mrs. Edith M. Griebing, who was the first principal of Howell Consolidated School and later served as the superintendent of schools in Howell Township, NJ.

Available at Ardena School # 2 are various school registers, from the early 1900s, with information on the students in attendance.

March Celebration - Abner Thorp – Revolutionary Quartermaster – Local Resident



Inscription on Abner Thorp's Headstone

"Abner Thorp, born on the 22nd February 1731. He entered the service of his country in the Quartermaster's Department in the year 1776 and remained actively employed in the Army to the close of the War of the Revolution. He was an ardent and devoted Whig and the personal friend of the father of his country. At the close of the War, he retired to his farm in Monmouth County, where, in the discharge of every parental and social duty and in the enjoyment of a living faith in the Mercies of his Divine Master, he continued to dispense his benevolence until his pure spirit was summoned home on the 4th of December 1812, in the 82nd year of his life."

O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things; his right hand, and his holy arm, both gotten him the victory. Psalm 98:1



March Meeting Minutes: March 27, 2026

HHHS Recording Secretary: Deborah Frost

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Jude

Flag salute and moment of silence led by Debbie

Program: Debbie spoke about her experience with the DAR

Finance: Some HHHS members met with the Administrator to inquire about help with expenses
Leigh has been doing well with the grants.

Mackensie House: Jude will check the line to the septic tank. Landscaping will be done and once the water is working, the house can be power washed. Winterization was discussed.

Schoolhouse: Children were impressed with the candy in the eggs that were given out during their visit with Peter Rabbit. Ardena School would like a presentation for 5th graders concerning Revolutionary ideas.

Library: Ron is thankful for Ellen's donations of furniture. Jude suggested we put something in the Howell Times about the Boosters.

Donna's music: During the month of May, Donna plans on playing the pump organ for guests at MacKenzie House.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Larry, 2nd by Frank.
Motion to accept Secretary's Report by Vicky, 2nd by Frank

Refreshments were provided by Lynn and Debbie.



