



Village Inn Englishtown, N.J.

MATCHAPONIX JOURNAL
Battleground Historical Society
P.O. Box 61, Tennent, NJ 07763
www.thevillageinn.org February 2011

FEBRUARY MEETING

FRIDAY, February 25th, 7:30 pm AT THE VILLAGE INN. located at the corner of Main and Water Streets, Englishtown, N.J.



Oral history interview from the Center of World War II Studies with former Englishtown Mayor and former Monmouth County Freeholder Ted Narozanick. Mr. Narozanick is featured in a DVD of his service in the Army on Normandy Beach during World War II for which he was awarded the Bronze Star. We will be showing portions of the DVD and Mr. Narozanick will speak about the events depicted on the DVD.

VILLAGE INN NEWS

SOUP'S ON

This year we will be hosting our Colonial Soup Day on Sunday, March 20th, 2011. The ticket donation will be \$15.00 per person. Since last year's two seating times were a great success, we have scheduled two seating times again this year. The seating times are 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm. Please mail donation fee, number of guests and seating time requests to:

The Battleground Historical Society
P.O. Box 61, Tennent, N.J. 07763

We will accommodate seating time requests on a first received basis. Tickets will be mailed only after receipt of payment.

We will need several volunteers to make soup and desserts and work this event. We will be offering four different soup and sandwich selections and two different dessert selections in addition to beverages. We will be setting up the soup day table and chair arrangements after the business portion of the February meeting. This event is an important fundraiser for the Society. PLEASE VOLUNTEER to make this year's Colonial Soup Day another great success. If you can help, please call Amy Calandriello at 732-888-6061.

CHEF TALK: HISTORY OF SOUP: AMERICAN SOUP

While some colonial Americans may have eschewed soup, most evidence indicates that soup was an important culinary component at least of the corresponding upper and lower classes in the United States. Even before cookery books were published in America, newspapers, magazines and travel accounts mentioned broth and soup as well as recorded recipes. William Parks, a colonial printer in Williamsburg, Virginia, published the first cookbook in America in 1742. It was based on the fifth edition of E. Smith's *The Compleat Housewife* and included recipes for Soop Sante, Pease Soop, Craw Fish Soop, Brooth, Soop with Teel, Green Peas Soop, and several bisques. Susannah Carter's *Frugal Housewife* contained an entire soup chapter presenting nineteen soups. In addition to British cookbooks published in colonial America, surviving cookery manuscripts attest to the importance of potage, broth, and soup in America' At least among the upper class.

While American culinary traditions were based on English cookery as the above manuscripts attest, many other national and cultural groups influenced the new nation. For instance, German immigrants had influenced culinary matters in America since the late seventeenth century. Pennsylvania-Germans liked soups and were particularly famous for those based on potatoes...According to food historian William Woys Weaver, the Pennsylvania-Germans took their commitment to soups seriously. Soup was a "symbol of community, of religious fellowship, and even communion." In two course meals, soup was the first; in one pot meals, soup was the only dish.

Soup was not neglected by American cookbook writers. While the first edition of Amelia Simmons's *American Cookery* (Hartford, 1796) did not contain soup recipes, it did note that

parsley was "good for soup." The second edition of this work, published in the same year in Albany, counted recipes for soup made of a beef's back, veal, and lamb's head and pluck. (Pluck: the heart, liver, windpipe, and/or lungs of a slaughtered animal).

Not every American knew how to make soup. The first known American cooking pamphlet focused solely on soups was written by Emma Ewing, *Soups and Soup Making* (Chicago, 1882). She believed that soup was "convenient, economic and healthful." As an article of diet, it ranked second in importance only to bread, proclaimed Ewing. Soup making was "justly entitled to a prominent place in the science of cooking." Scientifically prepared, soup was "easier of digestion than almost any other article of diet." However, she warned that it "must not be a weak, sloppy, characterless compound, nor a crude, greasy, inharmonious hodgepodge. The defects of unsavory, unpalatable, indigestible soups may be concealed, but cannot be removed by the excessive use of salt, pepper and other spices and condiments." Ewing believed that soup "must be skillfully prepared, so as to please the eye and gratify the palate."

Soup was an important part of most Americans' diet by the end of the nineteenth century. As a dish that was both economical and nutritious, soup was prepared for men in prisons and the military, and offered without charge at lunch in saloons. As it was simultaneously inexpensive and considered a gourmet dish, it was just right for all Americans.

Village Inn Events and Open Dates - 2011

March 20	Colonial Soup Day
April 30 & May 1	County Weekend In Old Monmouth
	Featuring Open Hearth Cooking
May 30	Memorial Day
June 18 & 19	During the Battle of Monmouth
	Reenactment

Battleground Historical Society Monthly Meeting Dates

**February 25, March 25, April 22,
May 27, September 23, October 28**

All monthly meetings are held at the Village Inn, located at the corner of Main and Water Streets, Englishtown, N.J. All meetings are open to the public. Check our website for our activities: thevillageinn.org

Reminder to all members: It is time to pay your 2011 membership dues. For those of you that have already paid, we thank you for your promptness. We count on all our members to keep current. Please keep in mind your dues help to fund the operating expenses of the Village Inn and the programs and events we offer. This year membership cards will be mailed to all members upon receipt of their dues.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE EACH YEAR ON JANUARY FIRST
DUES ARE \$20.00 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL AND \$30.00 FOR A FAMILY AND
\$125.00 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Family Membership _____ Individual _____

Make check payable to Battleground Historical Society. Mail to P.O. Box 61, Tennent, NJ 07763

OFFICERS OF BATTLEGROUND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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