President’s Message
by Marilyn Anastasio

The South River Historical & Preservation Society would like to thank you for your interest, help, and support. South River’s rich history will be maintained at the South River Museum on Main Street.

South River residents who paid the ultimate sacrifice for us are listed on the monuments in front of the museum. In their memory, we are having the monuments restored and preserved. We look forward to you joining us in this endeavor.

Christmas at the Museum

Thanks to the efforts of Karen Satterthwaite and Ann Rafano the museum looked truly festive for the holidays. Featured were antique toys and a feather tree kindly donated by member Eleanor Eppinger.

PROJECT RESTORATION:
SR War Memorial Fundraiser Slated for March 21st

In fitting tribute to those who served in the Armed Forces from South River and died in service, the war memorials had been erected. Time and weather have taken their toll on these monuments.

In an effort to raise funds to restore and maintain these structures, a special event will be held SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2004, 2–5 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Whitehead Avenue. Reservations are available at $5.00 per person. A reservation/donation form is inside this newsletter.

The program planned includes a display of memorabilia from WWII, WWI, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam Conflict, a sharing of memories, as well as music and light refreshments. Local veterans and enlisted personnel are welcome to attend in uniform.

The American Legion has generously donated their hall for the affair.

Anyone interested in donating or loaning memorabilia, participating in the program, etc. should contact Joann Smith-Goepfert at 732-254-2341 or Donna Rafano at 732-254-7322.

“Lest We Forget”… Join us in this worthwhile project.
November 19th Annual Meeting Highlights— Celebrating 15 Years!

Forty-three members ventured out on the cold, rainy night of November 19, 2003 and were treated to a catered dinner and program celebrating the Society’s 15th Anniversary.

Guest speaker was SR H&PS member Walter Mrozek. Through photos and memories shared, we learned what life was like in South River in the first half of the 20th century. Mr. Mrozek recalled brickyard workers who resided there. They didn’t speak Polish, Russian, Italian, or Hungarian!

Mr. Mrozek presented the Society with a medallion, a program, and a Book of Thanksgiving commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the St. Mary of Ostbramba Church which was celebrated November 16, 2003. The business portion of the evening followed.

Other interesting highlights of his discussion include:

- Four of the original founding trustees of the SR H&PS were in attendance: Martin Adler, Dick Meyers, Art Lendonsky and Elaine Sicknick.
- Marilyn Anastasio and Hank Booraem, Ann and Robert Rafano.
- South River had bootleg rumrunners. They used a burned out brick factory and transported goods in and out by boat.
- There are now only two brick company houses still standing.
- Over the years, areas of South River engendered by the immigrant population: “Little Poland,” “Russian Section” (called that because they didn’t speak Polish, Russian, Italian, or Hungarian)!
- They were “Little Poland,” “Russian Alley,” “Hunkytown,” (Italians and Russians) and the “English Section” (called that because they didn’t speak Polish, Russian, Italian, or Hungarian)!
- Bissett’s Pond was excavated for clay tunnels into New York.

In Memoriam

The Executive Board and members of the SRH&P Society offer our condolences to the families of:

- Florence C. Price
- Daniel L. Golden
- Leo Cannon
- Joseph A. Jablonski
- Anton Josefowicz
- Peter Kondratyk
- John Krasinski
- Albert Krempeck
- Leonard R. Langfeld
- Michael Lawrick
- Michael B. Lonczak
- Kenneth W. Mark
- Stephen Medwar
- Andrew Orsag
- Joseph Panciera
- Joseph J. Pinski
- Walter Polkikuhu
- Joseph Polgar
- Alex K. Poloz
- John Reho
- Kenneth N. Scherer
- Joseph R. Seppi
- Sheldon Shenefine
- Walter Silowka
- Joseph L. Stasik
- Louis Sobe

The South River WWI Memorial

This soldier’s monument was made by the L.L. Manning Co. in March of 1926 and cost $1,089.00. Abrozone plaque was made for the doughboy in May of 1926 by J.E. Swimmer Bronze Works at the cost of $395.

The inscription on the dough boy reads as follows:

IN MEMORY OF ALL THOSE OF SOUTH RIVER N.J. WHO IN THE SPIRIT OF SELF SACRIFICE ENROLLED THEMSELVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY 1914 WORLD WAR 1919

PROJECT RESTORATION:

Time to take a closer look at South River’s War Memorial Monuments...

The South River World War II, Korean Conflict and Vietnam Conflict Memorial

This monument was inspired by a roster of soldiers who perished in WWII that was given to the South River War Memorial Free Public Library Association in 1949. In 1956 Ted Appley, then Borough Attorney, requested permission to erect the monument on the front lawn of the library.

The inscription on the monument reads as follows:

A GRATEFUL COMMUNITY HOLDS THESE NAMES IN HONORED MEMORY. THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES IN WORLD WAR II AND THE KOREAN WAR FOR OUR WAY OF LIFE. GRANT THEM ETERNAL REST. GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT AMAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS ST. JOHN 15:13

WORLD WAR II—

CHARLES ANASIEWICZ
MILTON ARMSTRONG
STEPHEN W. BALAZS
EDMUND P. BRATUS
THOMAS BOVE
THEODORE BOYT
CHESTER CISLO
EDWARD DABROWSKI

KOREAN CONFLICT—

MICHAEL J. DIETRICK
PETER DWAREWSKI
JOHN FISEZI
RICHARD FISHER
ADOLPH GERSTACKER
FRANK T. GOJOWICKI
JOSEPH GONDER
HARRY S. GRODZKI
EDWARD GWODIEWICZ
JOSEPH HORKVATH
JAMES J. HILL
JOSEPH A. JABLONSKI
ANTON JOSEFOWICZ
PETER KONDRAVKY
JOHN KRAVIECKI
ALBERT KREMPECK
LEONARD R. LANGFELD
MICHAEL LAWICKI
MICHAEL B. LONCZAK
KENNETH W. MARK
STEPHEN MEDWAR
GEORGE MEYER
ALEX OCKAYTE
ANDREW ORSAG
JOSEPH PANCIERA
JOSEPH J. PISKINSKI
WALTER POLKIKUHA
JOSEPH POLGAR
ALEX K. POLZ
JOHN REHO
KENNETH N. SCHERER
JOSEPH R. SEPPI
STEPHENV. WETZEL
WALTER SILOWKA
JOSEPH L. STASIK
LOUIS SOKO

The inscription on the bronze plaque reads:

DIED IN SERVICE
WISLENTY BONCAREWICZ
FRANK FRANDSEN
DAVID GECELIK
STEVE LEVANDOSKY
THOMAS LYONS
CONRAD SCHMITT
WILLIAM A. SCHMITZ
JOSEPH A. SHEPSCO
MICHAEL SHULPEK
HENRY WENZEL
JOHN YARAMCHUCK

KOREAN CONFLICT—

WILLIAM A. CECKOWSKI

VIETNAM CONFLICT—

GEORGE EPPINGER
AARON GLYNN
ANDREW IVAN
RONALD WYATT
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Guest speaker was SR H&PS member Walter Mrozek. Through photos and memories shared, we learned what life was like in South River in the first half of the 20th century. Mr. Mrozek recalled brickyard workers were recruited from abroad, often from Poland and Russia. His father was one of these recruits. He was given a house near the river and worked for Bissett’s Brick Company. During that time, Bissett’s Pond was excavated for clay for brick making.

Other interesting highlights of his discussion include:

- There are now only two brick company houses still standing.
- Glazed bricks made by South River’s American Enamel Brick & Tile Company were used in building the tunnels into New York.
- Over the years, areas of South River came to be known by nicknames engendered by the immigrant populations who resided there. They were “Little Poland,” “Russian Alley,” “Hunkytown,” (Italians and the English Section) (called that because they didn’t speak Polish, Russian, Italian, or Hungarian!)
- South River had bootleg rumrunners. They used a burned out brick factory and transported goods in and out by boat.

Mr. Mrozek presented the Society with a medalion, a program, and a Book of Thanksgiving commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the St. Mary of Ostrabrama Church which was celebrated November 16, 2003.

The business portion of the evening followed.

- Marilyn Anastasio and Hank Dziemian have agreed to continue serving as Vice-President and Secretary in their current positions as President and Treasurer, Karen Satterthwaite and Jo Ann Devlin have agreed to serve as Vice-President and Secretary respectively. Four new Trustees were installed: Martin Adler, Dick Meyers, Art Londensky and Elaine Sicknick.


The South River WWI Memorial

This monument was inspired by a roster of soldiers who perished in WWI and was given to the South River War Memorial Free Public Library Association in 1949. In 1956 Ted Appleby, then Borough Attorney, requested permission to erect the monument on the front lawn of the library. The inscription on the monument reads as follows:


**T H E Y G A V E T H E I R L I V E S I N W O R L D W A R I I AND THE KOREAN W A R.**

**F O R O U R W A Y O F L I F E.**

**G R A N T T H E M E T E R A L R E S T, G R E A T E R L O V E H A T H NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT AMAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.**

**S T. JOHN 15:13**

**W O R L D W A R I I—**

CHARLES ANASIEWICZ
MILTON ARMSTRONG
STEPHEN W. BALAZS
EDMUND P. BRATUS
THOMAS BOVE
THEODORE BOYT
CHESTER CISLO
EDWARD DABROWSKI

**W O R L D W A R I I—**

MICHAEL J. DIETRICK
PETER DWARESKI
JOHN FISEZI
JOHN FISHER
ADOLPH GERSTACKER
FRANK T. GOLOJEWSKY
JOSEPH GONDEK
HENRY S. GRODZKI
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JAMES H. HILL
JOSEPH A. JABOLONSKI
ANTON JOSEFCOWICZ
PETER KONDRATYK
JOHN KOWSCHYY
ALBERT KREMPECK
LEONARD R. LANGFELD
MICHAEL LAWNICK
MICHAEL B. LONCZAK
KENNETH W. MARK
STEPHEN MIDVAR
GEORGE MEYERS
ALEX OCSKAYE
ANDREW ORSAG
JOSEPH PANCIERA
JOSEPH J. PISINSKI
WALTER POLKIKUHA
JOSEPH POLGAR
ALEX K. POLOZ
JOHN REHO
KENNETH N. SCHERER
JOSEPH R. SEPI
SHELDON SHEINFINE
WALTER SILOWKA
JOSEPH L. STASIUK
LOUIS SOKE

**KOREAN CONFLICT—**

WILLIAM A. CECKOWSKI

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The inscription on the dough boy reads as follows:

**I N M E M O R Y O F A L L T H O S E OF SOUTH RIVER N.J. WHO IN THE SPIRIT OF SELF SACRIFICE ENROLLED THEMSELVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY 1941 WORLD WAR 1919**

**PROJECT RESTORATION:**

Time to take a closer look at South River’s War Memorial Monuments...


Looking back at the past

Walter Mrozek reminisces about his childhood memories on the South River.

The inscription on the bronze plaque reads:

**D I E D I N S E R V I C E**

WILSENLEY BONCAREWICZ
FRANK FRANDSEN
DAVID GECIELIK
STEVE LEVANDOSKY
THOMAS LYONS
CONRAD SCHMITT
WILLIAM A. SCHMITZER
JOSEPH A. SHEPSCO
MICHAEL S H U P L E K
HENRY WENZEL
JOHN YARAMCHUCK

NICHOLAS L. SUSKEVICH
HAROLD O. THOMAS
CLIFFORD VANDERHOOF
ELMER VAN ZANT
STANLEY WAXMUNDSKY
HUGH L. WETZEL
CASMIR WILCZYNSKI
CHARLES WILSON
STANLEY L. WOOD
BERNARD YATES
MICHAEL ZALEWSKI
MICHAEL P. ZAUNIEROWICZ

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South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.

Visit our website at: www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/

2004 SRH&PS APPLICATION FORM

Please check one:  [ ] New  [ ] Renewal  [ ] Gift (from_____________________)  [ ] Cash  [ ] Check  (Please make check payable to “SRH&PS, Inc.”)

Please print your name clearly as it should appear on membership listing:

Name: (Mr., Mrs., Ms.,) ___________________________________________________________  Phone: (____)________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________  City __________________________ State ________ Zip Code __________

Additional contribution (optional) $________________________  [ ] Family  [ ] Adult(s)  [ ] Students $1.00  [ ] Business/Corporate $25.00  [ ] Lifetime (Individual) $250.00

Total amount enclosed: $________________________

Send your application and dues payment to: Candice Lewandoski

60 Hillside Avenue
South River, NJ 08882

[ ] My company has a matching gift program. My company:______________________________________________________________

[ ] I’d like information about volunteering at the Old School Baptist Church Museum

[ ] I suggest you send a copy of this application to: ________________________________________________________________

[ ] I would like to donate an additional amount of $__________ towards the restoration of the SR War Memorial Monuments

My company’s address: ________________________________________________________________

As a tax-exempt corporation, the SRH&PS, Inc. is eligible to receive matching gifts. If your employer participates in such a program, please send matching gift forms with your membership donation. The Society’s fiscal year is January 1 to December 31.

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[ ] I would like to donate an additional amount of $__________ towards the restoration of the SR War Memorial Monuments

Please make my donation in honor of/ in memory of ___________________________ who served in the _______ war/conflict

ANNUAL DUE CATEGORIES

[ ] Adults* $5.00  [ ] Students $1.00  [ ] Family* $15.00  [ ] Business/Corporate $25.00  [ ] Lifetime (Individual) $250.00

* For multiple memberships, please list additional names on back of this form

[ ] Cash  [ ] Check  (Please make check payable to “SRH&PS, Inc.”)

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