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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP
DUCK CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
May, 1963

Since our organization in the spring of 1960, for the purpose of securing "The Lindens" from destruction, the Society has made steady strides in the fulfillment of its objectives. This report will seek to show the gains made during the past three years and to acquaint the members with problems confronting our organization.

"The Lindens"

1. The Public Archives Commission has not only leased it to our Society for restoration and public display, but has also furnished the two front rooms with authentic eighteenth century period pieces, such as would have been used by a "miller".

2. The Restoration Committee has continued its work. The chimney in the Empire dining room has been opened and rebuilt again through the roof; while in the cellar excavation is underway to lower the depth of the cellar by two feet six inches and bricking the cellar floor.

The building must be kept in regular repair. This necessitated the rewiring of the Empire-Victorian section and the installation of outside recepticles and floodlights. Under this catagory came the replacement of posts and sill under the overhang which protrudes from the "old" kitchen.

3. Our tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Young (Mary and Clyde), have not only cooperated in the restoration but have also donated time and money to such projects as painting, extra lawn care and general improvements.

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4. Our Accession Committee acquired several small items, the most notable being three soup plates in the Delaware Pattern.

Old Plank House

1. This building, from the Colonial period, was transferred to to the Society by action of its owners and the Town Council of Smyrna.

2. The State Archives, with the help of other interested individuals, numbered and catalogued each plank in the building, after which it was dismantled, moved by the State Highway Department and reassembled to a site adjacent to "The Lindens".

Old Brick Store

The Society has not taken any new steps toward the acquisition of this historic building, which lies off the beaten path.

McClements Farmhouse

This building and the lands around it were purchased from Mr. McClements by the United States Government for its expansion program for the Wildlife Refuge at Bombay Hook. The Public Archives Commission has been successful in working with the Federal Wildlife Service to preserve this building with its excellent woodwork.

The Friends Cemetery (Quakers)

This debris strewn burial ground has been cleared, cut and cleaned. It offers a respectable site for the deceased. Since its clean-up several persons have used its tombstone markings in their quest for ancestry and unique epitaphs.

Programs

The Society during the last two years has presented to its membership and other interested persons a variety of historical genera.

It is the purpose of this section of the report to again publicly thank all those persons and organizations who have participated in our programs.

Membership

Although our Membership Committee has been working hard, we must at this time note a decrease in membership. As of this date we have the following members:

Life	9
Organization	1
Contributing	6
Sustaining	3
Active	175
Total	194

Finances

In addition to membership, we have received rent from "The Lindens", donations in time and materials from the Youngs, contributions from our open house at Aspendale, money from the two antique shows and income from two "Duck Creek Days" sponsored by the Society.

Publicity

Full newspaper coverage was obtained for all Society activities. We also received radio coverage for the two antique shows. In conclusion of this section of the report, the Society extends to all, who have so generously contributed and shared, a heartfelt thanks.

Earlier we wrote about some problems facing the Society. The problems are not many, but they are important. A society cannot function unless it has members. The problem, in this case, is to secure more membership. If you have not joined, will you do it today? If you have joined, will you ask a relative, a neighbor, a friend or a

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business associate to join, or will you help us by suggesting ways and means of membership promotion?

The second problem that presents itself is one of activity. If you join, and is you reside within a travelling distance of Smyrna, will you please attend the quarterly meeting as publicized? Will you "lend a helping hand" when asked or will you serve on a committee? Vibrant, active membership transforms a sleeping society into an awakening organization for community service.

A poet once wrote:

"If you bring the one next to you,
And I bring the one next to me,
In all kinds of weather
We'll all work together
To see what can be done;
So
You bring the one next to you,
And I'll bring the one next to me,
In no time at all
We'll have them all
So bring them, bring them
One by one."

The third problem is finances. This is a major one facing us. The responsibility for the upkeep of "The Lindens" is ours. Last winter the heating system became disrupted. Investigation showed that the system was inadequate and in need of major repair. This must be done in order that we may retain our fine tenants. Your board has authorized this work, pledging the rent receipts for payment. However, this method is apropos to an old folk saying "We are working to pay for a dead horse." Our problem is to obtain $1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) for the expressed purpose of not working to pay for a dead horse. There are other needed repairs to the property to which

we also must attend, namely, roofs, spouting, guttering, grading, replacement of brick walls, siding for the Empire-Victorian section, replacement by reproduction of a window and casement in the brick section, refurbishing the center staircase, and in the not-too-far future, the restoration of the "cld kitchen."

To help meet all three problems, the Society is sponsoring a FLEA MARKET. This is a "first" for the Society and a "first" for the First State. For two years we have sponsored an antique show from which we received $500.00 (five hundred dollars) the first year, and $200.00 (two hundred dollars) the second year; last year. Our profits were smaller last year because of extensive advertising and fewer patrons.

This year the FLEA MARKET is being held to raise at least $350.00 (three hundred fifty dollars) towards the goal of one thousand dollars. You can help us reach the minimum goal and push toward the maximum by your participation in this event.

By-the-way, a FLEA MARKET is a combination antique show, rummage sale, festival, and bargain counter all wrapped in one and held out in the open. This is house cleaning time. If you have any reusable articles which could be put to good use, why not donate them to the Society so they may be sold to get a profit. Telephone Mrs. Andrew (Lola) Cole, 653-8402; Mrs. Ernest (Beulah) Blendt, 653-7510; Mrs. Laura Myers, 653-7007, or Miss Mary Holland, 653-9553. Perhaps you haven't anything to donate, then come to buy. If you cannot purchase anything, perhaps you could work in the Society's booth. If you cannot possibly do any of these things, then perhaps you could send a

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small contribution to our treasurer.

"NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS!!"

This FLEA MARKET will be in Smyrna on Route 13, Memorial Day, May 30th. In case of rain, it will be held Saturday, June 1st. Come to have a good time.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Duck Creek Historical Society will be held 7:30 P.M. Sunday, June 23, 1963 at the Century Club in Smyrna. Officers and Directors will be elected and an interesting program will be arranged. Please plan to attend.

Signed:
Officers and Directors
Duck Creek Historical Society

Attached is your membership renewal for the fiscal year July 1, 1963 through June 30, 1964. Indicate your desired membership and forward with check or money order to Duck Creek Historical Society, attention of Henry C. Webb, Smyrna, Delaware.

Name

Address

Individual		Organizational	
Life	$100---	Sustaining	$100 or more---
Sustaining	25---		
Contributing	10---	Active	10-----
Active	2---		