

Friends of Historic Vineland

Spring Edition



Kite Flying On Founder's Day

It will be here before you know it—Founder's Day. The emphasis is on fun, especially for the kids, who will learn the history of Vineland and history in general. What better way of having them learn about the Civil War than watching an actual battle, or learning about some of the Vineland "greats" by actually talking to them and having "them" tell you what they did? We can all use a good dose of "Pride in Vineland."

Again this year we will have Northern and Southern Civil War camps with soldiers and all their gear. But, this year, on Friday night, May 7, we are featuring "a night by the campfire" where visitors can come to the Training School site at Main and Landis and visit the soldiers at night time, sing some songs around the camp fire, hear how they spent their leisure time, and how they prepared for battle. Then you can walk over to the historic Maxim Cottage and see pictures and hear stories

about the history of the Training School. After, you can have a spot of tea prepared by the Civil War Ladies. A short video highlighting the history of the School will be shown while you slowly sip your tea.

On Saturday, the kids can come for their usual activities-packed day. There will be training for those that want to join the army, nursing training if they want to join the Nursing Corp., horses for those who want to be in the Cavalry, and discharge papers after they are done with their service. The Art Alliance will again help the kids make a kite that they can fly on the field. This year, the kites will be a bit more elaborate (bigger and better each year!!)

There will be Civil War skirmishes, but the big battle will take place at two o'clock. Bring your ear plugs if you can't stand the noise. Those cannons are big and noisy!

A variety of crafters will be present selling their wares, but there will also be those who demonstrate how they make their wares; mixed in with a whole bunch of historic characters.

We can go on and on with all the other things that will take place, but why not come out and see for yourself?? It should be fun.

PS: We can use more crafters who sell their goods; we also welcome businesses that would like to set up a booth, and we want more food vendors. If you are one of them, or know of any, please contact Linda Schimmel at 856 794 8653.

***Found-
er's***

Day

May 8

From

10 AM

To

4 PM!

Fun

For

The

Family!

Join

Us!!!



*The Old Saw Mill At Down's
Town, Now Long gone*

Tales Of Vineland And Beyond By Frank De Maio, M.D.

When Landis decided to create a Landis County, he decided to start a new town by the name of Landisville that would be the new County Seat. Naturally, when Landis bought all the land that he did which eventually became Vineland, and Landisville, there were some roads and people already there and it might be interesting to consider some of those things. We have often discussed Vineland, so maybe it's time to talk a little about Landisville.

We must first mention that Minotola was there before Landisville. Landisville came later.

One of the earliest settlers was Dominick Martinelli who became a very successful business man. His brother Andrew had a hotel and boarding house. But Dominick had a real estate business, a department store, a saw mill, machine shop and a plumbing and steam fitting business.

Another pioneer was Mr. Cavoli who built the first saw mill in town along with a large store and home and had a blacksmith shop and wheel and wright shop in connection with his mill.

Mr. Leonelli also had a general store and wheel and wright and blacksmith shop. (The original use of the word "wright" referred to wood.)

And let us not forget Mr. Archibald Cook who came from Vineland and started a lumber business. He would drive every day to his lumber yard in Landisville. The Cook's remained in Landisville to provide a solid involved family to the town.

Do any of you old timers from Landisville remember Mr. Phillips who became the principle of Landisville School? He actually came to Landisville from the Philippines

Most have forgotten the glass factory that existed in Landisville near Central Ave. of Minotola. It was started in 1887. It did not last long due to labor difficulties.

One of the major industries of the area was to cut wood and convert it to charcoal. There were literally hundreds of charcoal burners' huts in the area. These huts were very crude and the men that lived in them were—well, let's say they did not know how to dance the minuet. When paid, they had to go to Millville, Malaga, or Bridgeton to buy their cornmeal, tobacco and whiskey to tide them over till the next paycheck. The charcoal was crushed and then taken to Philadelphia with ox teams where the charcoal was burned. Later horses were used to pull the loads.

The principal clearing was that of the Andrew Sharp farm on Main Road near Park Ave. Main Road was then called Horse Bridge Road because of the legend that a British soldier had lost a horse on the road during the Revolutionary War.

In the early days, there were bears, wolves, panthers, and wild cats and their cries could be heard in the wilderness. It was an Eden for birds, as well as for gnats and mosquitoes. Mink and otter could be trapped in the streams. There were also wild turkeys, geese, pigeons, and pheasants, as well as fruits and nuts in the woods, which could be used to help support the early settlers.

The oldest landmark of Buena was the Midway Tavern, midway between the shore and Philadelphia. It was first built in 1779 by a Mr. John Campbell. The road then was Tuckahoe as it crossed The Tavern was first call "Campbell's Tavern" until the Mexican War at which time it was given the name



President Taft In Vineland 1912

Maule's Bridge Road (now called Wheat Road).

The Tavern was first called "Campbell's Tavern" until the Mexican War at which time it was given the name of "Buena Vista." Later the "Vista" was dropped and it was called "Buena."

The tavern was for many years a Relay House for the stage lines that crossed Tuckahoe and Maule's Bridge roads where the tired horses were exchanged for fresh ones.

The Tavern saw some historic times and we can just imagine guests sitting about and telling tales of the Revolution, the war of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Civil War.

The Tavern burned down some time around 1945 (can someone recall the exact date??) and was replaced by the present building that bears absolutely no resemblance to the original building.

The Reed family is one of the originals of Buena and the family started with a Mr. Reed who was a lawyer.

Friendship church in Landisville was built 1808.

Aquilla Down bought 3000 acres in the heart of the wilderness and built the first house and barn in the area. Their descendants continued to live in the area and gave the name to the area that is now called Down's Town. A mill was built in the area in 1862. It had a very tall chimney of 50,000 bricks. It was only recently taken down. This was probably the first mill in the area that did not use water power, but rather used steam, and many people would come to watch, wonder, and marvel as it cut wood.

The Pancoast Mill had been built many years before and with it the dam that made Pancoast Mill lake.

In 1885 Mr. Landis bought 3500 acres of wild land

east of the Panther Creek and annexed it under the name of New Italy. The central road had two bronze monuments resting on native ironstone pedestals placed half a mile apart: one was a panther and the other was a female figure of Cornucopia. The district was dedicated to Italian settlers.

Eighteen days after the defeat of General McDowell at Bull Run, Charles K. started Vineland on August 8, 1861. The engineer drove a stake in the ground to mark the center of the town plot which was to be one mile square, and then Landis cut down the first tree.

The third annual fair of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society was held in the autumn of 1866 and the famous Horace Greeley delivered the address.

In August 1874, the new High School was dedicated and President Grant himself came to the affair and spoke a few words. Taft came in 1912 when he ran for president.

In July of 1872 a fire broke out on Landis Ave. between the Boulevard and 6th street and burned down 7 business structures. After this, the first "hook and ladder" company was formed. This was their name for a fire company. Also, cisterns were sunk to contain water to fight any future fires.

The largest industry in Vineland was that of making shoes, mainly for women and children. The largest factory of that industry was that of the Charles Keighley & Sons located on 6th and Montrose streets. It contained 51,000 square feet, employed 450 people and could produce 1500 pairs of shoes a day.

During the early days of Vineland, the Italian settlers grew grape in large quantities and with it made wine. Large quantities of it were shipped to New York. Also, because of the ban against selling liquor in Vineland, Mr. Welch developed a system of preserving grape juice that could be used for religious ceremonies. This led to the Welch Grape Juice Company. By 1896 it had 60,000 gallons of juice stored in it's vaults which was about two thirds of the production of grape juice of Vineland, most of it grown by the Italians of this area.



Bill Mazza (In Top Hat)

Bill Mazza is one of the newest members of the Friends. He is a radio announcer on station 92.1, also known as Cruisin' 92.1. The station has been in operation since the late 70's. It features music of the 50's, 60's, and 70's. The announcers are Andy Volvo, Frank Gerace, Dave Fleetwood, and Jerry Blavat. Bill has his show on Saturday from 4 to 6 PM and calls it the

Bill Mazza Jute Box. It features music of the 50's and 60's. Those that love this music call it "Doo-Wop." (No, he's not referring to Italians although most of the singer who made the recordings were Italians!!!)

Bill has been in the radio business for 36 years. He started in the military, unofficially doing radio shows for the wounded soldiers in Viet Nam. When he came

back to the states, he started with commercial radio in Georgia. He then worked in various stations in North Jersey. He had his own station in 1982 and ran it for 15 years. He moved to Vineland in 1997 and has been working in this area since.

Bill is now an integral part of the Friends and has taken over the job of announcer during the Founder's Day events. His talent and sound system has been a very valuable contribution to the activities. During the event, he has carried out live broadcasts and interviews from the field with various local officials and individuals. He also provides the music and announcements.

His latest effort is to have a series of spot announcements concerning historical events on the radio highlighting Vineland. Many of the facts are those that have been mentioned in our newsletters.

So, tune in to 92.1 FM and enjoy DOO-WOP moments during the year, and Founder's Day on May 8, from 10 AM to 4 PM featuring Bill Mazza!

***IN MEMORY OF PETER DI STEFANO, ALIAS
MATHEW BRADY, OUR INTREPID PHOTOGRAPHER.
PETE WAS ONE OF OUR FIRST MEMBERS. HE TOOK
MOST OF OUR PICTURES. HE WAS ALWAYS HAPPY
TO EXPLAIN PHOTOGRAPHY TO THE KIDS. HE WILL
BE MISSED.***

***DO YOU WANT TO JOIN??
TO BE A MEMBER***

- BENEFACTOR.....\$100
- SPONSOR.....\$50
- FAMILY.....\$35
- INDIVIDUAL.....\$30
- STUDENT.....\$5

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE:
"FRIENDS OF HISTORIC VINELAND"
The Friends have no connections with the Vineland
Historical Society or any other society!

Name: _____

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