



Inquiring Minds Want To Know!

You asked and we answered! Below are some recent questions posed to the Society by young, inquisitive historians. If you have a local history mystery question, please contact us at info@metuchen-edisonhistsoc.com!

What's the deal with the Rhinoceros near the Halsey Street Lot?

"Sante Fe Sally," the 2,000-pound concrete and steel rhino arrived on Calvin Place, near the Halsey Commuter lot, in early 2002. It belongs to a company with offices there, and whose owner collect anything Rhino. They bought "Sal" from an art gallery in New Mexico around 1991 and had it shipped here. For several years it sat outside Friendwell Plaza in Edison before moving to Metuchen.



Who is buried at the cemetery on Route 27 and Lake Avenue?

No one is buried there, as it not a cemetery! Memorial Park, on Middlesex Avenue near Lake Avenue, was established as a public park in 1925-1926 to honor Metuchenites who served in World War I. It has been redesigned and new memorials have been added to honor those who have served in more recent conflicts.

Who is Tommy and why did he have a pond?

"Tommy" refers to David Graham Thomas, one of the Thomas brothers that moved to this area around 1850. His house, until very recently, sat on the corner of Graham Avenue and Spring Street. His family gave the pond to the town in his honor. Interestingly, before Mr. Thomas owned the pond, the farmer who it belonged to used it to wash his sheep!



In 1888, the Ladies Aid Society of the First Presbyterian Church put together a cookbook of their favorite recipes. Dr. Mason, a good friend of Thomas A. Edison's, included some "after dinner reading" and history. The Society sells reproductions of this very interesting little book, called "Crumbs of Comfort," for only \$1.00. Here are a couple recipes you might find intriguing!

Welsh Rarebit

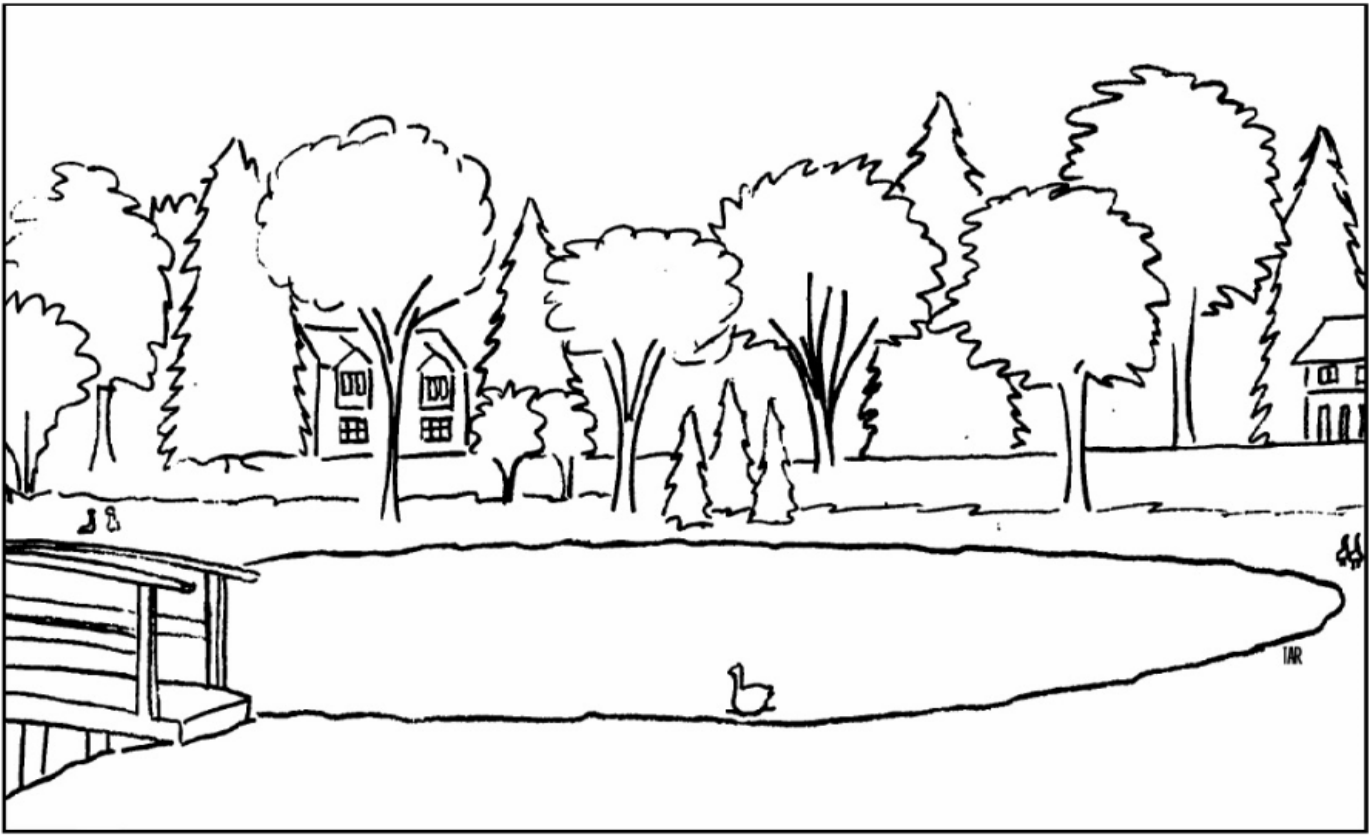
One teacup chopped cheese, one teacup of milk, one egg, butter size of a butternut; boil milk, butter, and cheese until a smooth paste. Add one egg well beaten, turn at once upon slices of toast. *Submitted by Mrs. J.B. Emery.*

Tea Cake

One cup sugar, two and a half cups flour, one tablespoonful butter, one cup milk, one eggs, two and a half teaspoonfuls of Royal Baking Powder. Dissolve butter in a little hot water, beat fifteen minutes, and bake in small cakes or a loaf. To be eaten hot, with butter. *Submitted by Mrs. Erastus Freeman.*

COLORFUL HISTORY

Tommy's Pond on Lake Avenue in Metuchen



Edison Township School Names

Continued from Page 1

Lindeneau Elementary School, named for the Lindeneau neighborhood established in that area in the very early 1900s. What does "Lindeneau" mean? We aren't entirely why it was called "Lindenau," but it seems to be the name given to the area by a builder of the homes there. It and may be for 'Lindenau,' a town located between Berlin and Leipzig in Germany which is known for its woods, wildlife, and 800-year-old castle. Perhaps a German landowner or builder was thinking of that area of their homeland and started calling the neighborhood by that name. If we find out for sure, we will share an update! History Mysteries do still exist!

Martin Luther King Elementary School, named for American Christian minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement.

Menlo Park Elementary School, named for the Menlo Park section of

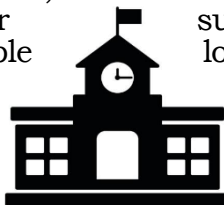
Edison, where Thomas A. Edison famous laboratory was located. The Menlo Park section was named after an area of California that itself had been named for the Menlo, a village in County Galway, Ireland.

Thomas Jefferson Middle School, named for the 3rd United States President (1801–1809).

Washington Elementary School, named for George Washington, the 1st United States President (1789 – 1797). The Washington Park development is also named for the President.


























Woodbrook Elementary School, named for Woodbrook Farms, a large and very successful dairy farm that had been located in the area.

Woodrow Wilson Middle School, named for the 28th United States President (1913-1921). Wilson was also the 34th governor of New Jersey.



Metuchen-Edison Historical Society Kids BINGO

For an answer key and more information about the BINGO spaces here, visit the BINGO page on our website at metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org.

	B	I	N	G	O
1	 Visit the Duck Pond & Victorian Gardens.	 Read a book written before you were born.	 Find out what famous Magician lived in Redfield Village.	<p>FREE</p>  <p>SPACE!</p>	 Flap your wings outside 252 Main Street!
2	<p>FREE</p>  <p>SPACE!</p>	 Visit NASA.gov and search for Astronaut Mark Polansky.	 Eat Ice Cream across from the former Costa's Ice Cream Factory.	 See if you own a stuffed animal made by Gund.	 Walk by Metuchen's First School.
3	 Name a play or movie you would like to see at the Forum Theatre.	 Take a picture of Metuchen's oldest house.	<p>FREE</p>  <p>SPACE!</p>	 Visit the birthplace of recorded sound.	 Download a Nannykids at the historical society's website.
4	 Rearrange the letters in METUCHEN to make new words.	 Take a picnic to East Jersey Old Town Village.	 Draw a picture of the house where John Ciardi lived.	 What was the Moss School called before being renamed?	<p>FREE</p>  <p>SPACE!</p>
5	What color is the house where General Washington & Alexander Hamilton ate breakfast? 	<p>FREE</p>  <p>SPACE!</p>	 Read the poem "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer.	 Use the swings at Olmezer Park.	 Come up with an invention!