

## Osborn Descendants Unveil Portraits of Local Ancestors

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood held a reception and unveiling of portraits of Aaron and Harriet Osborn on June 3 at the Osborn Cannonball House Museum. The museum is located at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains.

Aaron Osborn was the grandson of Jonathon and Abigail Osborn, who built the circa 1760 house that is now the museum and the historical society's headquarters.

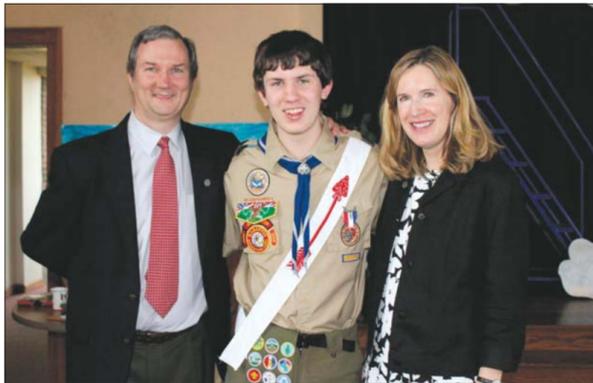
Aaron was the oldest son of David and Charlotte Miller Osborn. He and his siblings lived in a house on the corner of Park Avenue and Front Street that is now the Village Green. He married Harriet Manning in 1810 and they moved to Plainfield, where Aaron ran a country store and stage line. Aaron became the third Postmaster in Plainfield. The couple had seven children in their 17 years of marriage. They both died young; Aaron in 1827 and Harriet in 1829.

Painted by the well-known portrait artist Micah Williams, the two portraits are now recognized as his earliest known oil works, as he is primarily known for using pastels. The portraits are fragile and currently only

in fair condition, and the historical society is seeking to preserve them. Winterthur Museum/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation has agreed to assess the portraits and make recommendations as to their conservation needs. Decisions for their conservation will be made at a later date, when all the research has been completed.

Professor Bradner W. Coursen, a direct descendant of Aaron Osborn, obtained the portraits 25 years ago. They had passed down through multiple generations, from Aaron and Harriet's youngest daughter, Margaretta (Margaret) Drake, through the Drake, Bunnell, Meyer and Coursen family. Bradner Coursen donated them and they were returned to Scotch Plains.

Twelve Coursen family members – direct descendants of Aaron and Harriet Osborn – unveiled the portraits. In the museum's colonial garden, 18th-century food made by many of the historical society's members was offered. Also on hand were some Scotch Plains governing body members, Society members and friends. Guests enjoyed refreshments, including punch and homemade ice cream.



**PINNACLE OF SCOUTING...** Matthew Gates, a member of Boy Scout Troop No. 77 of Westfield, is honored June 24 on becoming an Eagle Scout. The Eagle is the highest rank in Boy Scouting. His Eagle ceremony was attended by fellow troop members, family and friends, Congressman Leonard Lance (R-7th), Westfield Fourth Ward Councilman Keith Loughlin and Gayle Lechner, president of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield. Matthew's Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project involved cleanup and landscaping at the Claire Brownell Memorial Wildflower Garden, located on the property of the Westfield Historical Society. He is pictured with his parents, Daniel and Karen Gates.

## Matthew Gates of Westfield Achieves Eagle Scout Status

WESTFIELD – Boy Scout Troop No. 77, sponsored by the Vestry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield, honored Matthew Gates with the rank of Eagle Scout in a ceremony held June 24. The Eagle is the highest rank available in Boy Scouting.

Matthew's Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project involved cleanup and landscaping at the Claire Brownell Memorial Wildflower Garden, located on the property of the Westfield Historical Society, the Reeve House and Cultural Resource Center on Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

The work began with the removal of ivy from the property. Concrete was then poured to form bases for two new metal benches so they could be bolted down for security. A retaining wall was built for the side of the path, which was leveled and laid with gravel. The garden now has a planting area, steps, a gravel path, low retaining walls and two custom-made metal benches and is ready for planting by the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield.

Matthew raised half of the total cost from donors, including The

Moody's Foundation, Two River Community Bank, Christine Cosenza State Farm Insurance and the Westfield Service League. The remaining funds were raised through proceeds from the Rake and Hoe Garden Club's December Deck the Halls House Tour.

Matthew's project won the First Place National Distinguished High School Service Project Award from National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Matthew thanks all of the volunteers and donors to his project, his family, as well as his Eagle Advisor Dean Roth and all past and present troop leaders for their time and contributions in helping him achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Matthew is the son of Daniel and Karen Gates of Westfield.

Outside of Scouting, Matthew is Web Editor-in-Chief of the Westfield High School (WHS) newspaper, *Hi's Eye*; a member of the National Honor Society, a Transition Project Leader, a member of the high school track team and a member of the WHS Model United Nations delegation. He is a member of the WHS Class of 2013.



**FAMILY PORTRAIT...** John Coursen, on the left, and Scott Coursen, on the right, with their families, celebrate the unveiling of portraits of their ancestors, Aaron and Harriet Osborn, at the Osborn Cannonball House Museum in Scotch Plains June 3. The Coursens are pictured with the portrait of Aaron, Aaron's grandparents, Jonathon and Abigail Osborn, built the little house that now serves as the museum and home base of the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

## Senior Citizen Committee Plans My Fair Lady Trip

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains Senior Citizen Committee will sponsor a trip on Sunday, September 16, to the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank for a matinee performance of *My Fair Lady*, produced by Phoenix Productions, Inc.

The bus will leave from the Scotch Hills Country Club parking lot in Scotch Plains at 12:30 p.m. and return about 6 p.m.

For those interested in having dinner out, arrangements have been made with Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains to reserve a section for theatergoers to

sit together. Menu selections and beverages ordered will be charged to the individual diner.

Registration for residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood will commence on Monday, August 13, and the following Monday, August 20, for others. All registrations must be made in the recreation department, located at 430 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, during business hours.

Since the Township of Scotch Plains underwrites the cost of trips sponsored by the committee, the cost of tickets for orchestra seats is \$26 for residents and \$30 for others.

## Westfield Library to Hold Kitchen Gardens Program

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Memorial Library will present a program on growing one's own kitchen garden on Wednesday, July 25, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street.

Karen Camden, who has taught computer courses at the library, will give the presentation. She will discuss how to grow everything that is needed in the kitchen: herbs, vegetables, fruits and seasonings.

This program will be free and open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. MURAL cardholders belong to libraries that

are part of the Middlesex Union Reciprocal Agreement Libraries. For participating libraries, check the Westfield Memorial Library website, [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org). To register for the program, visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org) and click on the Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, option 0.

Library hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday. The library will be closed on Sundays until September 23.

For more information, call (908) 789-4090, visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org) and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter, "Library Loop," or stop by the library for a copy of its award-winning quarterly newsletter, "Take Note."

## Train and Toy Show Due August 11 and 12

AREA – Greenberg's Train and Toy Show is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, August 11 and 12, at the New Jersey Expo Center in Edison. More than 85,000 square feet of operating railroads and toy trains will be on display and for sale. The show is expected to draw attendance of over 6,000 people.

The event also will include demonstrations and clinics scheduled throughout the weekend. There will be seminars on topics like starting a layout, developing scenery and maintenance. The hobby market will feature thousands of model and toy trains from the leading manufacturers. For youngsters, Thomas the Tank Engine will be on sale, plus everything needed to start their first layout.

Admission is \$7 and is good for both days. Children age 11 and under may attend for free. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit [GreenbergShows.com](http://GreenbergShows.com).

## POLICE BLOTTER

**Westfield**  
Monday, July 9, Virginia DeWitt, 54, of Plainfield was arrested at Scotch Plains police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield warrant for \$750. Further investigation revealed she had another warrant, from Clark, for \$467. She was processed and held pending transport to the Union County jail.

Monday, July 9, Ronald Whitehead, 50, of Newark was arrested at the Essex County jail on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant for \$239. He was transported to the Union County jail in lieu of posted bail.

Monday, July 9, Stanley Guillaume, 22, of Linden was arrested at Linden police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield criminal warrant for \$375. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released on posted bail.

Monday, July 9, Ralph Rotondo, 21, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant for \$170 pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at East Broad and Elmer Streets. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on posted bail.

Tuesday, July 10, Michael Lee, 20, of Scotch Plains was arrested pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at West North and Edgewood Avenues and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS)/less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on his own recognizance.

Wednesday, July 11, Irvin Hill, 51, of Neptune was arrested on an outstanding no-bail Essex County Sheriff's warrant during a motor vehicle stop on the 1100 block of West South Avenue. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and turned over to the Essex County sheriff.

Wednesday, July 11, Raymond Moore, 30, of Plainfield was arrested at the Somerset County jail on an outstanding Westfield criminal warrant. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting \$175 bail.

Wednesday, July 11, a business on the 600 block of West North Avenue reported a shoplifting incident that escalated to a robbery after the suspect pushed a store employee while attempting to flee the scene. While monitoring security cameras, store personnel observed the suspect concealing merchandise. As the suspect attempted to exit the store with the stolen merchandise, a loss prevention officer stopped her. The suspect dropped some merchandise and then pushed the officer as she fled east towards North Avenue. The suspect is described as a black female, 30 to 40 years old, with long braided hair, wearing a black dress with multi-colored striping. Accompanying the woman was a black female juvenile, approximately 7 to 10 years old, wearing a yellow shirt and dark-colored shorts. The matter remains under investigation.

Thursday, July 12, Stefan C. Boyett, 27, of Springfield was arrested during the investigation of a suspicious motor vehicle on school property after hours on the 900 block of St. Marks Avenue. Boyett was wanted on an outstanding Irvington warrant for \$500. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and turned over to the Irvington Police Department. Boyett also was issued a summons for being on school property after hours.

Friday, July 13, Varetta Hayes, 56, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) following a motor vehicle stop at South and Central Avenues. She was released to a responsible adult.

**Mountainside**  
Wednesday, July 11, Geoffrey J. Pridgeon, 53, of Piscataway was picked up at the South Plainfield Police Department on an outstanding warrant out of Mountainside.

Friday, July 13, a resident of Evergreen Court reported that she received a phone call from an individual claiming to be a Microsoft technician in regards to a potential virus on her computer. According to police, the suspect remotely accessed the victim's computer to determine if the computer had a virus, and now her computer is not working correctly and the phone number the suspect gave her is a non-working number.

Friday, July 13, a resident of Dunn Parkway reported a suspicious phone message left on her machine in which two males were heard talking and one stated, "She didn't like my offer. I did tell her." The reporting person thought the individual said, "I did kill her," but police confirmed otherwise.

Friday, July 13, a patron of a Route 22 movie theater reported that she had accidentally left her purse on the seat in the theater and when she returned, it was gone.

Saturday, July 14, Patrick M. Hanrahan, 19, of Piscataway was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Green Brook in the amount of \$500 after police found him soliciting without a permit. He was processed and released.

Monday, July 16, an employee at a church on Central Avenue reported that someone discarded a mattress without permission in the dumpster used by the church. According to police, two used tires also were found on church property. Department of Public Works employees disposed of the tires.

**Scotch Plains**  
Monday, July 9, a resident of Terrill Road reported that a neighbor yells obscenities at her and parks her motor vehicle in front of her house.

Tuesday, July 10, a resident of Country Club Lane reported that sometime overnight someone entered his unlocked motor vehicle, which was parked in the lot, and removed several DVDs valued at approximately \$100.

Wednesday, July 11, a resident of Hunter Avenue reported that sometime overnight someone broke the front window of his house with a rock.

Thursday, July 12, Steven Strazzulla, 23, of Piscataway was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana after a motor vehicle stop on Ravenswood Lane. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Friday, July 13, a resident of Roberts Lane reported that someone entered her residence by breaking a rear window and removed an undetermined amount of jewelry.

Saturday, July 14, police responded to a motor vehicle accident in the municipal parking lot Farmer's Market at approximately 8:50 a.m. According to police, an 88-year-old Fanwood resident backed out of a parking space and put her foot on the gas instead of the brake pedal. Police said she struck several parked cars as well as chairs and tents. An 18-year-old Berkeley Heights resident was struck while she was sitting in a chair and was taken to Overlook Medical Center in Summit with a foot injury, police said.

Saturday, July 14, Sylvia Fuller, 49, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Woodland Avenue on an outstanding \$1,300 warrant issued by the Perth Amboy Court. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Sunday, July 15, M.D. Warren, 55, of Scotch Plains was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Park Avenue on an outstanding \$500 warrant issued by the Fanwood Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Sunday, July 15, Edwin Luna, 34, of Union City was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 on an outstanding \$1,189 warrant issued by the Scotch Plains Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

**SCHMIEDE**  
**TREE EXPERT CO.**  
**908-322-9109**

Complete Insured Tree Service

[WWW.SCHMIEDETREE.COM](http://WWW.SCHMIEDETREE.COM)

**LAW OFFICES OF**  
**ROBERT G. STAHL, LLC**

**Criminal Defense**

Robert G. Stahl, Certified Criminal Trial Attorney

White Collar Criminal Defense  
DWI & Municipal Court

220 St. Paul Street, Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-301-9001 [www.stahlesq.com](http://www.stahlesq.com)

**Westfield Veterinary Group**

*We Now Make House Calls!*

Westfield Veterinary Group and Wellness Center

**Open 7 Days**

Dr. Richard Maus, DVM

\*Serving nearby towns. Call for more information.  
562 Springfield Avenue ~ 908.232.1048

**LAWRENCE A. WOODRUFF**  
Attorney-at-Law

General Practice  
Estate Planning and Probate  
Divorce and Mediation

201 South Avenue E.  
Westfield  
654-8885

Eve. and Sat. Appt's