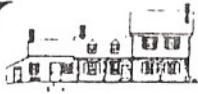


THE SPY HOUSE MUSEUM



- The Shoal Harbor Marine Museum*
- The Barber Shop*
- The Leedsville Store*
- The Penelope Stout Museum of the Crafts of Man*

December 31, 1992
 119 Port Monmouth Road
 Port Monmouth, NJ 07758

Gertrude Neidlinger,
Curator

TOURISM AT OUR FEET, ALONG THE BAYSHORE.....

Under and around the Spy House Museum, Historical Site on both the State and National Registers of Historical Places, Psychics, Investigators and Scientists have found Pirate Tunnels and a family Money Tunnel. The facts have been sent to the N.J. Heritage Department and we are awaiting their nod to "Go for the Gold".

The Spy House Museum, in Port Monmouth, high above the waters of the bay, is made up of four Early American One Room Houses. Built and added to over the years by generations of the family, it is also known as THE WHITLOCK, SEABROOK, WILSON HOMESTEAD.

House one was built by Thomas Whitlock, who has been named as the first Permanent resident of New Jersey. In 1648, living across the bay in Gravesend, on the Lord and Lady Moody land grant from the King, he sailed over to trade with the Indians. Looking back across the water he was reminded of the southwestern part of the British Isles, where the great Seafaring families lived. (His father sailed with Sir Francis Drake, another uncle was Admiral Hawkins of the Royal Navy and two other uncles were Judges under King Charles and King James, all three families used the same Crest.) When the foundation was built, they moved in when they came to trade. The house was completed in 1663. It had a garet for storage and space for the children.

The second house was less than six feet away, and was built for the second wife, Mary Compton Seabrook, a former neighbor in Gravesend, whose husband was killed by the Indians, when they moved to Westchester. She was left with two boys and a girl to care for. After all of the Whitlock children had grown and moved away, Thomas joined the two houses, giving the "Widow Seabrook" Whitlock, the largest home overlooking the bay. Because of the mud flats which made the waters shallow, he called his plantation SHOAL HARBOR. In those days the land extended a mile out from the present shore.

When Daniel Seabrook grew up, he wanted to be a Planter. His step-father sold him 202 acres, which he paid for with his share from the sale of his family home in Westchester. He built his home near the road, less than fifty feet from the Whitlock Homestead, in the late 1600's. When Thomas Whitlock died, in 1703, Daniel, raised his one room home on cut tree trunks. He hitched the Oxen to the house and rolled it to the East side of the Whitlock-Seabrook House. When Daniel died in 1730, the Homestead was enlarged again by a nephew. He rolled a Dutch house #4 that was built about twenty-five feet away from the Whitlock home by a friend who had sailed north from the islands to live near the Whitlocks and

their successful shipping interests.

At that time the Dutch, in New York, were burning the homes of the families who had moved to the "Territory" across the waters to farm the rich lands along the rivers. They could no longer TAX them for the King. Thanks to the Whitlock-Seabrook families and others in Middletown, the Dutch bought land in the area known as the Mountaine Fields, (Red Hill Road), and the Poplarey Fields, (Holland Road) creating the village of Holland. While the Dutch house faced the water, the nephew took the east side and back off Uncle Daniel's house, added a window and wall space on the south and a window and fireplace on the east, making the Whitlock-Seabrook Homestead a beautiful rectangular Home.

Into the Whitlock-Seabrook-Wilson Homestead history came Captain Charles Morgan, a Merchant. His family had arrived from Wales in the 1600's. Captain Morgan left the plough and took to the sea. In time he was "elevated" to Privateer by the King, making him a "Part-time-Pirate". Two-thirds of his " Booty", stolen from the Spanish, Portugese or other ships at sea, went to the King, and the one third left was his to keep. He made himself the protector of the Whitlock Shipping interests, and they never lost a ship to the Pirates.

Wanting larger and more remote headquarters for his pirate operations, he "sold" young Thomas Seabrook the idea of turning over to him the Whitlock Homestead and Plantation (The first Land Grant on record in the N.J. Archives), and in exchange, he would give him a Merchant Ship, so that he could become a Merchant and perhaps a Pirate too, once he was made a Privateer. Young Seabrook received the Ship, but when questioned by his parents about his "deal" with the Pirate Captain, he admitted he had agreed to give Capt. Morgan the Homestead and Plantation , when he inherited it. Mr. and Mrs. Seabrook Senior, quietly wrote letters, now on record, stating Thomas, was to receive NOTHING, in their wills," because he had already received his". Thus the Pirate never knew he could not have the house and plantation, nor did young Seabrook know his "deal" was dead.

The Captain moved his pirate crew and mooring site to Shoal Harbor from Keyport. Without protection, there was no police force or army to turn to, the Seabrook family lived as hostages in their home. Pirate Morgan designed a maze of tunnels which his men dug 7 to 9 feet deep. Smitten with young Seabrook's lovely wife, Ann, he burried "gifts" of gold and silver bars, china, gold chains, emeralds, gold and other treasures in the tunnels. According to the pirates who haunt the Homestead, they were all drowned at sea. Captain Morgan keeps yelling, "GET OUT" "THIS IS MY HOUSE, GET OUT"

With the story of the Pirates from local Seniors twenty-two years ago, I learned, they had heard through village Oral History. I accepted the assistance of excellent local psychics to investigate. Two psychics with the F.B.I. left me speachless with lists of treasures and artifacts their psychic minds could see. Local psychics reported Ship's Logs, Maps, Arms and Ammunition and architectural changes. I turned to a Scientist, Dr. Bruce Bevan, Geo-Physicist, to use his ground-penetrating Radar machine, to locate the exact positions of the tunnels. Immediately following the receipt of his map and findings, under the waterside lawn showing three tunnels, a fourth was located by our friendly Medium Frank. Then we had a visit from the President of the N.J. Parapsychology Society, who was amazed at the number of Spirits in the house, there must be close to 40. Jane Doherty, asked for permission to return and "Channel" the old Seaman in the "Spy-room".

I agreed, and wrote about twenty-five questions for him to answer. They were all about Piracy, because I too was convinced we had the first factual find and perhaps a Pirate Lair on the property.

The seaman identified himself as Robert the Pirate First Mate on Captain Morgans' Ship. He answered all of my 25 questions in a fine speaking voice, but he was most remorseful about his life as a Pirate, and regretted his wicked life. Jane's Channeling brought us warnings about the old dangerous tunnels and information about the valuables hidden in "cubby-holes" along the tunnel on the left of the door.

Hearing about our Haunted House and investigations, "Sightings" one of the top 10 TV shows, requested a video tape and made their own investigation. After calls from the Hollywood based company we found a date when the Museum building could be closed for their video taping, it turned out to be the day of the Great Storm. Flood waters were 4 to 6 feet deep and everyone in the area was evacuated. By Monday water had drained out into the creeks at low tide and they made it through bringing a generator to give them lights. Fox 5 TV airs the program on Friday, January 8th at 9 p.m.

I am fortunate to have John Cavallo, Director of the Center of Anthropology and Archaeology at Rutgers State University, to direct our Dig, as soon as we receive permission from the state. I have set up the Spy House Development Fund, for this Heritage project. New Jersey has stories and ledgens about Pirates, but no factual FIND. Now after 22 years of creating and running a Folk Museum in the Whitlock-Seabrook- Wilson House, I know we have that find along our Bayshore under our feet.

I have raised \$3,000. to date and I am seeking Matching Funds and Donations for the project. This will give New Jersey a new chapter of History. All checks are to be made payable to Spy House Development Fund, and sent to The Spy House Museum
119 Pt. Monmouth Road
Port Monmouth, N.J. 07758
Attention: Gertrude Neidlinger
Curator/ Exec. Dir.

N.B. My GOAL is to have the tunnels made safe and sound with electricity running throughout so that this can become a tremendously successful Educational treat and one that will bring Tourism to the Bayshore.

Gertrude Neidlinger