



The Hopewell Valley Historical Society
Presents

***CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF THE
100th Mercer County 4-H Fair***

***Thursday, June 14, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
Howell Living History Farm Visitor Center
70 Woodens Lane, Hopewell Township, NJ***



Photograph courtesy of Howell Living History Farm

As part of celebrating the 100th Mercer County 4-H Fair, it is appropriate to look back at the times and early activities that led to its creation. This talk is by Howell Living History Farm historian and HVHS President Larry Kidder. He tells the story of the changing nature of agriculture that led to changes in rural life in the early 20th century. New opportunities in towns and cities resulting from the industrial revolution, combined with a focus on celebrating rural life and finding ways to make farming a viable lifestyle, led to the creation of educational opportunities for all ages and especially the young. The 4-H programs that we know today grew out of that movement. In Pleasant Valley, one of the earliest and very successful programs for young people in Mercer County developed into the Pleasant Valley Calf Club during the second decade of the twentieth century. One activity of the club was putting on a community wide agricultural fair in the summer, which was held at the rural school house in the center of the Valley. The Calf Club and other youth clubs devoted to aspects of rural life became part of the growing 4-H program and the annual county 4-H fair. Today, the Mercer County 4-H Fair is held in central Pleasant Valley near where those early Calf Club Fairs were held.

The program is free and open to the public, and appropriate for all ages. For more information, visit www.hopewellvalleyhistory.org.