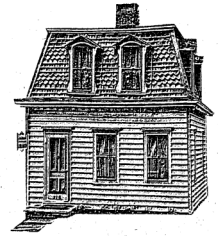


THE JEFFERSON JOURNAL



THE GEORGE
CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Fall 2011

Volume 3 Issue 3

President's Message

As the seasons change we turn our thoughts to pumpkins, snowflakes and the upcoming holidays. How quickly we forget what a turbulent summer we've had when the temperatures begin to plummet. This becomes a time to give thanks and consider our blessings. The Society wishes first to give thanks to Mayor Felter, Members of the Town Council and Township Administration for their continued support. We are very fortunate to have such backing. Secondly, thanks to the dedication of our volunteers. Volunteers don't get paid because we couldn't afford them. Members continue to transform the Museum into a building that reflects its period in history.

Every Sunday open house continues to bring visitors from all over the state and country. They marvel at the details of the house and its furnishings and are delighted with the tours given by our costumed and trained docents. Our Museum is probably the most photographed building in the surrounding area because of its own charm and the beautiful surrounding gardens.

The Society continues to thrive with the addition of new members, genealogy research and additions to our collections. There is so much on the horizon for the society and the township.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

Christine Williams

President

Director's Highlights - Carol Keppel - At Home at the North Pole

Have you ever wondered what Santa's slip-pers look like? What newspaper he reads at the end of a long day working in his workshop? His favorite kind of tea? Well, you'll be able to learn first hand. This year's theme for Museum Christmas will provide all the answers. Our little building will be transformed into the Claus House by the clever hands, not of elves, but through a combined effort of our historical society members as well as our own garden club members. Each room will fill our imaginations with the sights, sounds, and scents of life at the North Pole. **Christmas**

in the Village is Dec. 3rd, but the museum will be open on the 4th as well, or you may call for a special visit during the month. The project is a huge one, and we have many levels of participation, so please let us know if you have time to help make our props, decorate, bake for the Shoppe, or spend time during open hours as guides. Everyone has always found it to be a time of creativity and friendship, and a source of pride as we support the holiday spirit of our community. We hope for *your* support too and look forward to greeting you at Santa's place!

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Calendar of Events

J.T. Historical Society/Museum:

October 4th - Tuesday

Museum Christmas planning meeting
Museum 7:00 pm "At Home at the North Pole"

October 6th - Thursday

More Ghosts of J.T. Program
Camp Jefferson 7:30 pm

October 9th - Sunday

Museum Open 1-4 pm
More Ghosts arrive at the museum and "Evolution of Photography"

October 31st - Monday

Time - TBD
Museum Haunting
George Chamberlain House (Museum)

November 3 - Thursday

General Membership Meeting
Election of Officers
Camp Jefferson 7:30 pm

November 19th - Saturday

Outside Decorating for Museum Christmas 11 a.m.

December 3rd & 4th (Sat/Sun)

Museum Christmas weekend
(see JTHS website for additional details)

www.jthhistoricalsociety.org



Museum Christmas

Saturday, December 3rd 10 am - 4 pm

Sunday, December 4th 12 pm - 4 pm

“At Home at the North Pole” will be this year’s theme.

You will not have to travel far this year to get to the North Pole!

Volunteers are always needed to help decorate inside or out. Please

contact one of our co-chairs to get involved:

Robert Shaw 973-697-9176 or Pat Cincotta 973-697-1605 or

Email Roberta at gardener1@jthistoricalsociety.org

2012 Nominations and Elections of Officers

(as per the JTHS By-Laws)

Any member in good standing is eligible to run for office.

Nominations from the floor will also be entertained at the general meeting on November 3rd. Nominations will be closed and voting will proceed that evening.

(please see enclosed flyer for details)

Curators Corner - Lynda MacDonald

So many leaves blew down during hurricane Irene that my lawn was covered. It reminded me of the days when we used to rake them out to the edge of the road and burn them. Yes, that was a long time ago when I was just a kid. We used to tuck an apple or a pear underneath to roast for awhile . . . Mmm! The smell of the smoke didn’t bother my allergies back then. The neighbors were doing the same thing up and down the road and would wander over to chat while we kids ran back and forth.

I’ll bet they did the same thing here in the village, and for safety, they had the river right here just in case. Elizabeth and the women would chat about what they had “put up” in their fruit cellars . . . Jellies and jams, applesauce, pears, baskets of potatoes, squash, boxes of dirt filled with carrots, bushels of apples and corn. Won’t go into how that was accomplished, but I did help with it once! And once was enough!

I still do make jellies and jams when I can get the fruit . . . Amazingly the stores still sell the jars and rings and things. I even have a hand-made iron ring on a wooden platform to hang a jelly bag to drip . . . My grandfather was a very clever blacksmith. So fall is here and Christmas is near . . . Old and new, it is a nostalgic time, and always brings back good memories. Guess I’ll go check on the dandelion wine I made last spring . . . Someone expects to get a bottle for Christmas!



Archivist - Jana-Lee Bair - Winter Preparation

Fall is a time for speedy preparation. Winters were long and cold in Jefferson Twp. and by now the men had at least 9-10 cords of wood cut, split and stacked for a small cabin and were still at it. They were also preparing the livestock to winter over. You had to have enough food for them for the entire winter as well. By mid summer the gardens and woods around us were producing foods and berries that could be canned and dried for the winter ahead. In late August and early September the kitchens of Jefferson Twp. would be busy canning everything they possibly could. Before the advent of speedy refrigerated transportation, fruits and vegetables were seasonal, so you only had available what was grown locally. It was a challenge to grow and preserve enough to last the entire winter, especially if the weather did not cooperate. Canning was one of the primary ways to preserve foods in the mid to late 1800s and home canning has become popular again, in fact your Archivist makes and cans a few things. Below is one of my holiday favorites, Cranberry Conserve.

A conserve is a mixture of fresh fruit, dried fruits and nuts.

- 2 Quarts Cranberries (3-12 oz. bags)
- 1 Cup Raisins
- 2 Oranges
- 2 Lemons
- 6 Cups Sugar
- 1/2 Cup Walnuts (optional)



Grate rinds before juicing (do not use white pith of rind). Combine grated rind and juice of oranges and lemons and rest of ingredients. Cook until thick, clear and dark wine color. Temp must reach the gel stage of 220° F.



The bewitching hour is growing near so dust off those broom sticks and prepare the cauldron for the eyes of newt! Once again we will be haunting the museum and handing out candy in coordination with Fire Company No.1 children’s Halloween party.



Society News & Announcements

Membership

We want to make sure you receive your newsletter in a timely fashion. If your address is not correct, please contact Christine Williams at: president@jthhistoricalsociety.org

All Historical Society, Museum & Garden Club updates are sent via email. If you wish to receive these updates, send your email address to Christine Williams at: president@jthhistoricalsociety.org

Did you know that JTHS is a member of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey? To find out more visit their website at: www.LHSNJ.org

New Members

Please welcome the following new members:

Daniel Baram and Bonnie Berg

New docents:

We would like to welcome two new museum docents to our dedicated staff. Roberta Shaw and Bonnie Berg have successfully completed our main training as well as the necessary six hours as understudies with our experienced guides. We'll certainly benefit from their interest and enthusiasm. Thank you both.

Member News

David and Roberta Shaw are proud to announce the marriage of their son Christopher to Jennifer Murphy On October 15, 2011. The wedding ceremony and reception will be held at the Chateau Hathorn in Warwick, NY.

Appointments

Pat Cincotta has been appointed Shoppe Manager for Miss Elizabeth's Shoppe.

Donations

This year, please consider JTHS when making your annual charitable donations. Donations are tax deductible.

What's the Dirt? - Museum Garden Club - Roberta Shaw, Master Gardener - The Cornucopia

The cornucopia, literally translated as the "horn of plenty", is a hollow horn-shaped container overflowing with fruit, vegetables and flowers. The origins first came to us in Greek Mythology. One of the most notable references of the cornucopia is the horn of the goat Amalthea, in which her horn broke off and nourished the suckling young Zeus. Another myth recounts Hercules wrestling with the river god Achelous in which he wrenches off one of his horns. The cornucopia also became at-



tributed to several of the Greek and Roman deities, especially those associated with harvest, prosperity and spiritual abundance.

Today, the cornucopia is a symbol of an abundant harvest and has become associated with our modern day Thanksgiving. Each year my wicker horn filled with flowers graces my dining room table. It is a reminder of the early thanksgivings celebrated by our forefathers, the strug-

gles and hard winters they endured, and the fight for the freedoms that we enjoy today. It is also a reminder for us to be thankful for all that has been bestowed upon us, our family, friends and good health and fortune. The Historical Society's cornucopia is overflowing with the richness of its membership, the dedication to preserving the history of our community and the friendships we have made along the way, for which we give thanks.

"Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus" - Robin Trevor, JTHS Member and Editor

Christmas is the time when young children prepare and send their special requests to Santa. Yes, there is a Santa Claus. This question was asked by Virginia and answered. "Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus" is a famous historical editorial that appeared in the September 21, 1897 edition of *The Sun* of New York. Virginia O'Hanlon (1889-1971) at the age of eight asked her father if Santa Claus really existed. As with all children, Virginia had reached the age when her friends were telling her that Santa Claus did not exist. I think we have all encountered this point with either our children or grandchildren. Possibly even George and Elizabeth Chamberlain encountered this with their grandchildren.

Virginia's father suggested she write to *The Sun*, the prominent New York newspaper of the day. He told her that "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so". Francis Pharcellus Church was the editor at the time, a former civil war correspondent. Church's quick response was printed

as an unsigned editorial to Virginia's inquiry as follows (in summary): "Virginia, your little friends are wrong . . . They do not believe except what they see. Yes Virginia



there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist and you know that they abound and give to your life the highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary the world would be if there were no Santa Claus or no Virginias".

May you all receive those special gifts requested of Santa Claus this year!

Jefferson Township Historical Society

“Committee for ‘76”

315 Dover-Milton Road Jefferson Township, NJ 07438

Museum Hours:

First Sunday of the Month

1-4 pm or by Appointment

973-697-0258

Visit our website:

www.jthistoricalsociety.org

For additional information email us at
info@jthistoricalsociety.org

Jefferson Township Historical Society

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First Vice President
Carol Keppel

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Mary Parr

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Museum Director
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Assistant to the Curator
Jana-Lee Bair

Archivist/Genealogist
Jana-Lee Bair

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Robin Trevor

Society Historian
Robert Keppel

Jefferson Township Historical Society
315 Dover Milton Road
Jefferson Township, NJ 07438

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2011 Membership Form

I would like to become a member/renew my membership:

Type of membership: (Circle Type requested)

Individual \$ 15.00 Business \$ 100.00

Family \$ 25.00 Life \$ 250.00

Sustaining \$ 75.00 Patron \$ 500.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I am a current member and would like to make an additional donation in the amount of \$ _____

To be used towards the following:

◇ General Fund

◇ Scholarship Fund

◇ In memory of: _____

Please make checks payable to:

Jefferson Township Historical Society

315 Dover Milton Road

Jefferson Township, NJ 07438