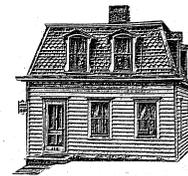


Happy
New
Year!

THE JEFFERSON JOURNAL



A PUBLICATION OF THE JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
"COMMITTEE FOR '76"

Winter 2010

Volume 2, Issue 1

Inside This Issue:

- President's Message
- Director's Highlights
- What's the Dirt?
- Curator's Corner
- Society News & Announcements
- Archivist

Calendar of Events

J.T. Historical Society/Museum:

January 3rd

Museum Closed

February 7th

Museum Open 1-4 pm

Valentine theme display

March 4th

General Meeting

Camp Jefferson 7:30 pm

March 7th

Museum Open 1-4 pm

Easter theme display

Save the date!!!

May 22nd More Updates to come!
Ceremony and Reception to
Celebrate State and National
designation (see information inside)

President's Message - Jefferson Township Museum - Christine Williams

So many newspapers and broadcast news specials spend hours coming up with "the year in review" type programs. I know I watch the specials and read those features and it does help remember what has transpired since that last New Year's toast. Being in the historical society business we are always reviewing the past. Looking back at 2009 is no exception. Our accomplishments this year such as a quarterly newsletter, a website,

packed to capacity programs and placement on the State and National Registry of Historic Places are testimony to our membership. The Museum, a living representation of life in early Jefferson has been visited by hundreds of people this past year. Those visitors walked through the rooms, looking with delight, listening to the history given by society docents dressed in period costume. The Museum and its surrounding gardens continue to be the gem of

the township. Congratulations to those elected and appointed officers and trustees. You all continue a tradition that spans decades. Congratulations to all new members. You have joined a dedicated group whose individual talents and knowledge are given freely. With such an active group, future plans for the Museum and Society are very ambitious. Take advantage of your membership by joining the upcoming projects noted in our newsletters.

Director's Highlights - Enroll in Our First Docent Training - Carol Keppel

It's been a joy to note that our visitor attendance has been steadily growing over the past several years. There has been an increase in acquisitions as well and new information about the building's history. In order to keep our small staff of veteran docents up-to-date and add to their ranks with members both interested and well-informed, we're offering docent classes starting this month. Please do not let the term scare you, a docent is a trained volunteer museum guide.

Historical Society members are invited to meet at the museum on Sunday, January

31 and February 7 at 4:15 pm for a two-part training program. Each session will last 45 minutes and *both* are required to receive the completion certificate and designation as Docent Intern. Participants will "shadow" veteran guides for three Open House events and then receive their badge as a Chamberlain House Docent. Our guides won't be required to wear period costumes but we will offer suggestions if they are interested. There is no charge for this training but class enrollment is limited to 10 trainees.

With our recent designation as a State as well as National Historic Site, we are carefully

reviewing our facilities, our collections, and our education programs. We believe this training will help us inform our guests accurately and uniformly, and reflect our regard for the George Chamberlain House and the Society. We'll also be able to be open more than one day a month! We hope you join us for this event.

Please contact me at 973-697-5328 or
carolkeppel@optonline.net
to register by January 24.

What's the Dirt? - Museum Garden Club - History of the Rose - Roberta Shaw, Master Gardener

The rose, a symbol of love, beauty, war and politics, is 35 million years old according to fossil records. The Sumerians created the first written record of the rose in 3000B.C. Garden cultivation began approximately 5,000 years ago in China. There are over 150 species of the genus *Rosa*.

During the Roman Empire, the rose was used for medicinal purposes, perfume, and as confetti at celebrations. Large public rose gardens were established by Roman nobility.

The conflict known as the "War of the Roses" took place during the fifteenth

century. The rose was used as a symbol for the factions fighting to control England. The white rose symbolized York, while the red rose symbolized Lancaster.

During the seventeenth century, roses were in such high demand that they were considered legal tender by royalty. They were often used for barter and payment. In the early 1800's, Napoleon's wife Josephine established an extensive collection of roses at their estate just west of Paris. Her rose garden was the setting for a watercolor collection by Pierre Joseph Redoute.

"Les Rose" is still considered to be one of the finest records of botanical illustration.

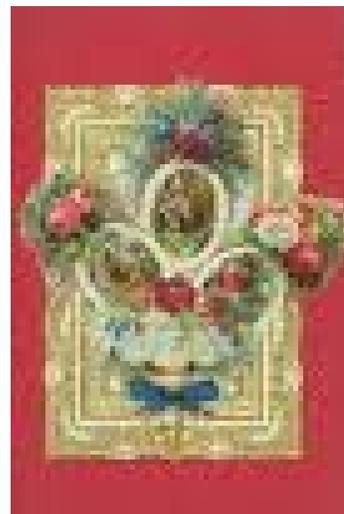
It wasn't until the late eighteenth century that cultivated roses were introduced into Europe from China. Most modern-day roses can be traced back to this ancestry. These introductions were repeat bloomers, making them unusual and of great interest to hybridizers, setting the stage for breeding work with native roses to select for hardiness and a long bloom season. Many of these early efforts by plant breeders are of great interest to today's gardeners.

Be My Valentine



Soon the stores will be filled with valentines., the traditional day on which lovers express their love by sending valentine's. Did you know that the sending of a valentine was very fashionable in nineteenth century Great Britain?

In the United States, the first mass produced valentines of embossed paper lace were produced in 1847 by Ester Howland. Ester, shortly after receiving her first English valentine, was fascinated with the idea of creating similar valentines. She imported the paper lace and floral decorations from England. The Golden Age for artistic, sentimental valentines was from the period of 1840-1860. Ester began taking orders and was surprised by the demand. She recruited friends and the business grew into a thriving business grossing \$100,000 annually. She retired in 1881 by selling her business to George C. Whitney Company. Esther Howland is credited with several innovations in valentine design.



"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors and let each new year find you a better man. -Benjamin Franklin

Curator's Corner - Lynda MacDonald, Curator

I hope everyone loves "our house". I know I do. When I drive by our corner I always look and sigh and say Ahhhh, OUR HOUSE. I've been reading the report from the State, written when they were working on our historical footprint for the State Registry of Historic Places. Guess what? We have a rarity! Yes, we are RARE. Now, some of us in the membership have always been rare, but I'm telling you that OUR HOUSE is rare. Here's why: The George Chamberlain House is a Second Empire-style building, built circa 1878-1880. Evidence suggests that it was built based on a design from an ar-

chitectural pattern book, the likely source being a Supplement to Bicknell's Village Builder, an architectural book of the time. Since these books were widely published, this made Victorian styles - especially the Second Empire Style - wildly popular. Whole neighborhoods were built in this style since the roof type allotted more room upstairs. Mine Hill boasts some. In Bicknell's book there is a \$1,500 mansard-roofed cottage, the least expensive design. As our house was to be built in a rural area, it makes perfect sense to guess that our house is a less expensive adaptation of

this pattern. Of course, it is not exact. Our house is built into the hillside, for one thing. Wondering why our house is a rarity? The Simple Mansard Roof subtype of the Second Empire-style (to which the George Chamberlain House belongs) accounts for as little as 20% of the Second Empire-style houses. It is the ONLY ONE existing today in Jefferson Township!! We are RARE!! Take a good look at our house when you go by-it really is something SPECIAL. Stop in to find out more.....

Society News & Announcements

Membership

We would like to thank the two Life Members of JTHS that made generous donations to our society totaling two hundred dollars.

Nancy Chamberlain has received the "Block R Award" from Rutgers University for her long outstanding alumni work

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

Giving (Donations are Tax Exempt)

The JT Society is not solely supported by membership dues. Therefore the society always welcomes needed donations. Checks payable to JT Historical Society can be sent to the Jefferson Township Museum, 315 Dover-Milton Road, Jefferson Township, NJ 07438

All Historical Society, Museum and 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

News

Major Stephen G. West, USMC, son of Richard and Donna West, is currently serving in Afghanistan. He will be stationed there until October 2010.

Please continue to keep all those currently serving in our armed forces in your thoughts and prayers.

I
It is certainly not our intent to exclude anyone, so please if you know of any membership news that you would like to share, please email Robin Trevor at Trevor30@optonline.net

We would be happy to publish it in our next issue.

Archivist - Jana-Lee Bair - The George Chamberlain House

Our museum, the George Chamberlain House, has had many dates and sometimes people associated with it. Your archivist decided to look at the Chamberlain Genealogy, the paper work submitted to the state for the historic registry and other primary source records and this is what I was able to put together. There was a man named Abraham Chamberlain, his family had lived in this area since before the American Revolution. In 1835 he purchased the Davenport Mills, a 30 acre tract that was part of Milton in Jefferson Twp., NJ. Abraham had a son, Amos who also worked in the mill. When Abraham passed away Amos took over running the mill. Amos had several children, his oldest son was George Chamberlain.

George Chamberlain was born in Milton on 11 June 1839. He married Ruth Elizabeth Speaker on 18 July 1874. Ruth was the daughter of Jacob P. and Hannah Mary Speaker of Macoupin, NJ. They lived in Milton, but not in this house. In 1878 a small part of the mill tract was sold to George Chamberlain by his parents. The house (our museum) Empire style (French) with a simple mansard roof. This is the only example of this Style in Jefferson Township.

In addition to owning and working in his mill, George also taught in several of the local schools and passed the Bar in 1865. He and his wife had three sons, Raymond

Chamberlain, born 30 May 1875 in Milton. Archie Chamberlain born 14 July 1878 in Milton and Archie Chamberlain born 19 July 1887 in Milton. Archie died 6 April 1889 (he was probably the only one born in the house).

The house was occupied by several Chamberlains and then was rented out. In September of 1960 it was leased by the Jefferson Township library. The building remained as the library until the new library was opened in 1980 and the building was then turned over to the Historical Society.

What's with the Baby?

The baby new year symbol began in Greece around 600 B.C. The baby was used in an annual ritual honoring Dionysus, the God of wine, symbolizing rebirth as the spirit of fertility. Christians originally denounced the pagan custom but later re-evaluated its position.

The Baby New Year symbol is the most popular symbol of the New Year's Eve celebrations. The baby evolves into an elderly bearded man or "Father Time", representing the current year coming to an end and hands his duties over to the next baby new year. Thus the new year!



Welcome All!

It is a new year and we would like to welcome all of our members as well as their friends, relatives and neighbors to visit our museum known as the Chamberlain House. Please keep in mind when you visit that our house is a museum and therefore we DO NOT allow food or drink to be partaken inside our home. Also please do not touch the artifacts and displays. We want to ensure its beauty for many years to come.

National Register of Historic Places

It is with great joy that we announce that "our house" has been officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places as of December 2, 2009. The George Chamberlain House is now on the State as well as the National Register of Historic Places.

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

President
Christine Williams

Vice President
Carol Keppel

Second Vice President
Nancy Chamberlain

Treasurer
Donna West

Secretary
Mary Parr

Editor
Robin Trevor

Webmaster
Richard West

Trustees

Greg Brown
Georgeanna Lewis
Gloria Mikowski
John Scheri
Clifford Williams
R. Richard Willis

Museum Director
Carol Keppel

Assistant to the Director
Marilyn Reitzel

Curator
Lynda MacDonald

Assistant to the Curator
Jana-Lee Bair

Archivist
Jana-Lee Bair

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

Affix Label Here

tear off here

tear off here

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