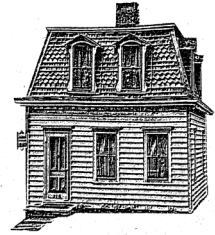


THE JEFFERSON JOURNAL



THE GEORGE
CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



Winter 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Volume 3 Issue 1

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Director's Highlights | 2 |
| Ackerson Coal Company | 2 |
| Archivist | 2 |
| What's the Dirt? | 2 |
| A Winter Remembrance | 3 |
| Society News/Announcements | 3 |

President's Message - Christine Williams - The State of the Society

January is usually the month when the President of the United States gives the State of the Union Address. The Governor gives the State of the State and even mayors give the state of their cities addresses. Why not the State of the Jefferson Township Historical Society? It is also the month when new officers take their respective offices and new appointments are made.

My fellow members, the state of the Historical Society is excellent in all areas. The Society is financially solvent thanks to conservative management of Township monies and donations. Membership continually increases in number with new active members joining almost every month. I am honored to accept another term as Society President and have a head full of new ideas. Congratulations to the following elected officers: Carol Keppel, First Vice-President; Nancy Chamberlain, Second Vice-President; Mary Parr, Secretary and Donna West, Treasurer. Congratulations to the following elected and appointed trustees: Greg Brown, Georgeanna Lewis, John Scheri, Cliff Williams, Keith Trevor and Roberta Shaw. The Society extends its gratitude to retiring trustees Gloria Mikowski and R. Richard Willis. The following members have been appointed: Carol Keppel, Museum Director; Marilyn Rietzel, Assistant to the Director; Lynda MacDonald, Curator; Jana-Lee Bair,

Assistant to the Curator; Jana-Lee Bair, Archivist and Genealogist; Robin Trevor, Newsletter Editor; Richard West, Webmaster; Bob Keppel, Society Historian; Pearlann Johnson, Publicist and Eileen Grady, JT School Liaison. My personal gratitude to all who work tirelessly for the good of the Society and the Museum.

The Jefferson Museum has been entrusted to the Society. This past year the entire basement has been restored to resemble the original kitchen. A thriving gift shop (Miss Elizabeth's Shoppe) makes its home in the kitchen. I can't say it often enough that our crowning achievement was to have the building entered into State and National Registry of Historic Places. The celebration that ensued will remain in our memories forever. The Town Fathers have also graciously given us a trailer to be used as a temporary office located at Camp Jefferson. The trailer is currently under renovation to suit the Society's needs.

Hundreds of adults and children from our own township as well as all over the country have toured the Museum. Hundreds have attended the Society's and Garden Clubs programs. Members have certainly fulfilled the Society's purpose to maintain the Chamberlain House as a

historic site for future generations and to preserve and promote the history of Jefferson Township.

Calendar of Events

J.T. Historical Society/Museum:

- January 2th**
Museum closed for updates, repairs & minor renovations
- January 6th**
Executive Board Meeting
Time & location (to be announced)
- February 6th**
Museum Open 1-4 pm
- March 3rd**
JTHS Meeting
Camp Jefferson 7:30 pm
- March 6th**
Museum Open 1-4 pm
- April 1st or 8th?**
Museum Open 1-4 pm
- May 2nd**
Museum Open 1-4 pm
- May 7th**
Garden Club 10 am-4 pm
4th Annual Plant Sale
- June 5th**
Museum Open 1-4 pm

Director's Highlights - Carol Keppel - Christmas Magic at the Museum

December 2010 Open House will be well remembered for the delightful interpretation of "A Storybook Christmas" by members of the Garden Club and the Society. The theme unfolded room by room as visitors learned about pieces of literature that would have been popular during the time of the family's residence. The parlor literally chimed with the lines of Longfellow's poem, Christmas Bells. The parlor brimmed with Victorian decorations inspired by Dickens' story, "The Christmas Tree". Upstairs, the bedrooms reflected the merriment of "Twas the Night Before

Christmas", a selection from The Wind in the Willows, and Hans Brinker. The hall way recalled the wit and talent of Thomas Nast, whose drawings of Santa Claus delighted so many. Directed by co-chairs Roberta Shaw and Robin Trevor, these team members spent untold hours creating our wonderland: Jana-Lee Bair, Ursel Braun, Pat Cincotta, Maria Chrobok, Kathy Damerel, Diane Dewar, Joan DeYoung, Ellen Fuchs, Paulette Graziano, Lynda MacDonald, Diane McNulty, Patti Otto, Marilyn Rietzel, and Mary Wilton.

Museum Christmas also owes great thanks to the docents and guides that welcomed our many guests, whether inside the rooms and the Shoppe, or outside heating cider, we are so glad these dedicated members were a part of it: Jana-Lee Bair, Greg Brown, Nancy Chamberlain, Alan Chomiak, Joan DeYoung, Ellen Fuchs, Pearlann Johnson, Lynda MacDonald, Diane McNulty, Dave Shaw, Roberta Shaw, Robin Trevor, and Marilyn Rietzel. A special thank you to our Shop keeper, Christine Williams and of course Ms. Claus, Donna West.

Ackerson Coal Company - Christine Williams, President

In the past many homes were heated using coal. The Ackerson Coal Company on Dover-Milton Road was established in 1936. Harmon Ackerson and family members would buy coal in Pennsylvania, bring it back to Jefferson Township and sell it from the Dover-Milton Road site. The operation continued until the 1960's. The residence is presently the home of

Society President Christine Williams and her husband, Clifford. Stop by our Museum and see our parlor coal stove that is on loan from the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society.



Archivist - Jana-Lee Bair - Winter Survival

Times are easy today, we have modern amenities such as heat and running water in our homes and grocery stores for food. Back when the Chamberlain family inhabited our museum it was not so easy, there was no heat, but the stove in the kitchen and no water, but what was available outside the backdoor. For all the families in Jefferson back then it was a year round battle for survival. One item of abundance in town was timber, and to prepare for a Jefferson winter one would be collecting, cutting, chopping and stacking wood during all four seasons. You needed almost ten cords of wood to heat a small cabin for one winter. Now that is a lot of wood! The same was true for food. While the men and boys were dealing with the wood, the woman and girls were primarily in charge of the garden. Most families grew and canned most of their own food and that food had to carry you through the winter until you could grow more. The woods in the Jefferson area were logged for charcoal to support the iron industry in the 1700's, then it was logged again in the 1800's when the Morris Canal was in operation.

What's the Dirt? - Museum Garden Club - Roberta Shaw, Master Gardener - Root Cellars



Before refrigeration, root cellars were an essential way of keeping root vegetables fresh through the cold winter

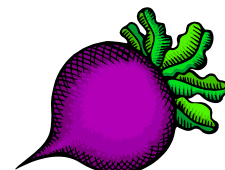
months. A root cellar uses the earth's naturally cool, stable temperatures to store the perishable fruits and vegetables. Most root cellars were dug into the side of a hill or knoll. As you

travel through town, you may still see evidence of these structures.

Fresh vegetables and fruits last different lengths of time when stored in a root cellar. Among vegetables, potatoes probably last the longest and apples last longest among fruit. Other good keepers include carrots, cabbage, beets, onions, sweet pota-

toes, winter squashes, pumpkins and turnips.

The resurgence of today's home vegetable garden has sparked the renewed interest in modern root cellars.



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 www.president@jthistoricsociety.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: www.president@jthistoricsociety.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

Donations

Donations of \$100-\$249

- ◆ Nicholson Family on behalf of their daughter
- ◆ Dr. & Mrs. Cliff Williams

Donations of \$50 - \$99

- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Keith Trevor

Donations of \$25- \$49

- ◆ Jay & Bonnie-Jo Dunham
- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mikowski
- ◆ Barbara Westerguard

Donations of \$1 - \$24

- ◆ Debbie Georgens- In memory of Robin Scott Georgens (age 11)

News

Major Stephen G. West, son of Richard and Donna West, has returned home!

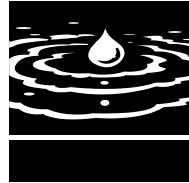
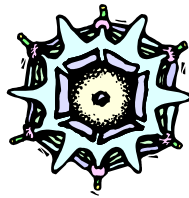
Appointments

Roberta Shaw as Trustee

Eileen Grady as JT School Liaison



The Editorial Staff would like to wish all our members a purrrfectly Happy New Year!



HOW MUCH SNOW DOES ONE INCH OF WATER EQUAL?

- 10 inches of average snow
- 4-5 inches of heavy, wet snow
- 15 inches of dry, powdery snow

Safe Ice Thickness



- 3 inches . . . Single person on foot
- 4 inches . . . Group in single file
- 7.5 inches . . . Passenger car (2 ton gross)
- 8 inches . . . Light truck (2 1/2 ton gross)
- 10 inches . . . Medium Truck (3 1/2 gross)
- 12 inches . . . Heavy Truck (8 ton gross)

“A Winter Remembrance” - Nancy and Horace Chamberlain - JTHS Members

In post World War II of the late 1940's, a group of Jefferson teenagers had a ski run on the present site of Milton Terry Associates on Chamberlain Road. The teenagers extended the hill by building up an area of rocks and soil to create a 3-4 ft jump in the middle of the hill. A great time was had by all that day.

The equipment used by the teenagers for this type of skiing included two skis with leather straps to hold your feet to the skis, no fancy binding and no fancy ski boots! In spite of what we

would consider “primitive” skiing conditions, We can't remember anyone suffering a broken bone. It is hard to believe that we all survived.



THE HORACE CHAMBERLAIN SR HOME on Chamberlain Road in the early 1950's.



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

First Vice President
Carol Keppel

Second Vice President
Nancy Chamberlain

Secretary
Mary Parr

Treasurer
Donna West

Webmaster
Richard West

Museum Director
Carol Keppel

Assistant to the Director
Marilyn Reitzel

Curator
Lynda MacDonald

Assistant to the Curator
Jana-Lee Bair

Archivist/Genealogist
Jana-Lee Bair

Trustees
Greg Brown
Georgeanna Lewis
Roberta Shaw
John Scheri
Clifford Williams
Keith Trevor

Publicist
Pearlann Johnson

JT School Liaison
Eileen Grady

Editor
Robin Trevor

Society Historian
Robert Keppel

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

Affix Label Here

tear off here

tear off here

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