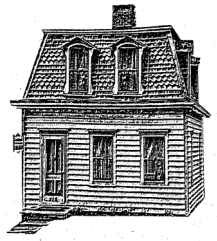


THE JEFFERSON JOURNAL



THE GEORGE
CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Winter 2012

www.jthistoricalsociety.org

Volume 3 Issue 4

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Archivist | 2 |
| Curator's Corner | 2 |
| What's the Dirt? | 3 |
| Society News/Announcements | 3 |

Calendar of Events

J.T. Historical Society/Museum:

January 5th - Thursday

Executive Committee Meeting
Camp Jefferson 7:30 pm

January 8th - Sunday

Museum closed for cleaning & repairs

February 5th - Sunday

Museum closed for cleaning & repairs

March 4th - Sunday

Museum Open 1-4 pm

March 8th - Thursday

General Membership Meeting
Camp Jefferson 7:30 pm
Program: Macy's Thanksgiving Day
Parade Balloon handling
Presenter: Katherine D. Bowers,
NJ DAR State Historian
(program will begin after regular meeting)

President's Message - Remembering Winter

As soon as the last flake falls, we seem to expect the roads to be cleared down to the blacktop. Our DPW workers do accommodate us to that end. If you've lived here for thirty years or longer you have different memories of winter. There was a time when cinder and sand was put on the roads and you drove slowly after you put chains on your tires.

Winter was a time to enjoy life in Jefferson Township. Snow was not a four letter word; my husband and I realized that when we moved here almost forty years ago. We shoveled, salted and sanded our driveway while our neighbors were sleigh riding and snowmobiling. We may have been city folks, but we caught on fast. We took trash can tops and went screaming down Lambertz' driveway. We learned to enjoy the winter. We learned to ice skate. Joe and Gloria Mikowski have shared wonderful memories of ice skating with friends like Nancy, Cliff and Joan. Gloria would pack marshmallows, cookies, and of course hot dogs. These would be cooked on an open fire as the skaters warmed themselves. There might be other families skating, but everyone came to Mikowski's fire for the treats. We learned to take evening walks during snowstorms and make snow angels. We skied at Snow Bowl. We bundled up and watched the ice boats on Lake Hopatcong. Jefferson Township is a wonderful place to live in any season, but winter here has its own special charm.

Christine Williams

President

Director's Highlights - Carol Keppel - This Old House - Ours!

Our 1870's house has seen a great deal of use in the last several months. Busy gardeners, curious visitors, eager scouts, ardent decorators, shoppe vendors and buyers, and members busily pursuing their allotted tasks have all been trooping through. This bustle is healthy for the Society and the museum itself, but can take a toll on the fabric of the building. The heavy humidity of this fall's weather caused a strain on our doors and windows too. As we look to preserving the well-being of the structure, we'll need to plan for some serious restoration. We may actually contact the professionals at *This Old House* on PBS to see if they have any suggestions on how to make

Director's Highlights (continued)

repairs that are sensitive to the needs of an historic home. We are also looking for suggestions on how to clean and finish the stone walls of the cellar and floor. Such a process will produce a fresh, safe environment as we begin to create a more viable storage area in that part of the lowest level. Any suggestions you may have regarding these needs will be very welcome, as well as your help during spring cleanup when we'll touch up some of the exterior trim around the doors, sills, and our new storm windows. You can share your ideas on our website or visit in person. Best wishes for a warm and cozy winter season in your own home.

Curator's Corner - Lynda MacDonald - Postcards

Most of us have Christmas put away now, but still have all those lovely cards laying around to re-read and maybe answer a note. Do you know when the very first commercial Christmas card was produced? John Calcott Horsley designed it in London in 1843 at the suggestion of Sir Henry Cole. Possibly about 1,000 were made and sold for 1s each.

By the 1880's thousands of cards were being sent through the mail. Most were in the form of a postcard with lovely colored graphics. Illustrations of children dressed as miniature adults were popular, as well as birds, especially robins. Many cards were religious in nature, many showed homey scenes of mothers sewing, families dining together, pastoral scenes. In the Victorian era, Father Christmas was first depicted as an old man, wearing blue, green, yellow; then as time went by he became the jolly fat red Santa of The Night Before Christmas.

Now it is 2012. HAPPY NEW YEAR! Postcards for the New Year were very popular in Victorian times. Many featured transportation-- bicycle riding ladies and gentlemen, railroad engines, automobiles, and early flight. The opportunity to take a balloon ride at a traveling show was high excitement. Postcards featured balloons of all shapes and sizes. When the telephone began to enter the realm of everyday life, it, too, was found on cards. One can trace the emergence of many new inventions just by collecting old postcards.

Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving....all can be found in full colored splendor on post cards. Children, animals, clocks, hearts and flowers, patriotic flag waving, soldiers, sailors, love poems, crass jokes, cartoons, good luck, best wishes...all can be found with a little poking around. There are some very popular and expensive artists such as Raphael Tuck and Ellen Clapsaddle, but there are many that are lovely and fun and not so costly. Of course, the more unusual, the more expensive. Maybe you will get hooked on a new collection this year. Maybe you want to find cards pertaining to Niagara Falls, or Gettysburg, your old hometown, or Easter rabbits. Most dealers keep their cards in alphabetized boxes...what's your pleasure? Have some fun and spice up your new year with the thrill of the hunt!

Archivist - Jana-Lee Bair - Revolutionary Patriot

As many of you know, your Genealogist has been climbing the Chamberlain family tree and I have found some interesting things among those leaves and branches. For this installment we will talk about the Revolutionary War. It looks like George Chamberlain's great grandfather, Benjamin Chamberlain Jr., born 1747 in CT, died 29 Nov 1816 in Sparta, NJ served in the PS-NJ. This stands for the New Jersey Patriot Service; they were basically your local militia.

His grave is located in the graveyard of the Sparta Presbyterian Church and is marked by the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution).



Benjamin Chamberlain's tombstone

The DAR, whose motto is "God, Home and Country", make it their mission to locate these graves and mark them. The DAR is very involved in historic education and preservation. They also maintain and run several boarding schools and a college for under-privileged kids. The DAR also helps immigrants learn English and are involved in adult literacy campaigns. These ladies also attend the swearing in of new citizens and see to the needs of our veterans both here and abroad.

The JTHS is proud to have several daughters as members. They are: Jana-Lee Bair, Carol Keppel, Lynda MacDonald, Mary Parr, Martha Scheri and Robin Trevor.

The DAR is open to any woman, age 18 or older, who can prove lineage descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution. A Patriot does not need to be a male who fought as a soldier. There were many women who helped win the war as well. The DAR considers material aid, monetary donation, providing food, sheltering troops, making clothing, nursing/doctoring troops, spying and milling grain as contributing to the greater cause of winning the war. Some regiment drummers were only 8 years old!

Shoppe News

Pat Cincotta, our Miss Elizabeth's Shoppe Manager, has been taking her job to heart. After many hours of work, Pat has transformed the Museum kitchen into a working viable gift shop. The shoppe is looking for vintage or craft items for consignment. Also, any local artist's work would be welcome as well.

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@jthistoricalsociety.org

Congratulations to our 2012 Officers:

Christine Williams, President

Carol Keppel, First Vice President

Nancy Chamberlain, Second Vice President

Donna West, Treasurer

Mary Parr, Secretary

A special thank you to the following for their donations:

Emil & Margaret Babich

Florence Gray

John & Jane Fredericks

Jack & Rose Kelly

Paul Kleim

Robert & Shirley Nicholson

John & Martha Scheri

Keith & Robin Trevor

Peter & Barbara Westergaard

Cliff & Christine Williams

Kurt Gardenier Builders, LLC

Member News - Mark W. Hueber, Air Force Airman First Class, son of Marjorie Hueber-Burns graduated training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Shirley Nicholson for her recent surgery.

Gloria & Joe Mikowski on the recent passing of her mother Myra Shaw.

Roberta & Dave Shaw's son & daughter-in-law as a fire has taken their home and their belongings.

What's the Dirt? - Museum Garden Club - Roberta Shaw, Master Gardener - Forcing Paper Whites

Paper whites (*Narcissus tazetta papyraceus*) are the most common bulbs used for forcing flowers indoors. Unlike other Narcissus, paper whites do not require a period of chilling. Follow these simple instructions and in a couple of weeks you will be enjoying the fragrant blooms.

- Select a shallow container; a 4" deep by 10" wide dish will hold approximately 8 paper whites.
- Fill the container with a bed of pebbles or marbles.
- Place the bulbs nose up and gently press them into the pebbles. Add additional pebbles around the base of bulbs until just the shoulders are visible.
- Add just enough water so that the level is even with the top of the pebbles. Place the container in a cool, bright area, avoiding direct sunlight.
- When roots develop and the stems reach 2" tall, move the container to a bright, sunny location. A southern exposure is best.
- When the plants begin to flower, move them away from direct sunlight and place them where they will receive indirect light. This will help prolong the blooming period.

Snow Bowl Ski Area - Robin Trevor, JTHS Member and Editor



"Jefferson Township Year Round Recreation Capital". Jefferson offers many winter activities from ice fishing, ice skating, to sledding and skiing. Yes, skiing . . . maybe not now but it was part of our history that some may remember. Snow Bowl was our ski area, located in the Milton section right next to our present day middle school. It was created by Frank Johnson, a Princeton,

NJ psychiatrist . When it opened in 1962 it boasted 2 double chair lifts, 2 T-bars, trails, snowmaking and a base lodge with an outdoor heated pool!

Mild winters in the early 70's, combined with the advent of larger mountain range facilities such as Great Gorge and Vernon Valley slightly north, caused the demise of our local Snow Bowl. Although it has been closed for some time now, you can still see the main trail running down the face of the hill. It is public parkland and you are permitted to enter at your own risk. More detailed information and old photos may be viewed at:

www.skiernet.com/snow-bowl.html



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

Society Officers

President
Christine Williams

First Vice President
Carol Keppel

Second Vice President
Nancy Chamberlain

Secretary
Mary Parr

Treasurer
Donna West

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

Appointed Positions

Museum Director
Carol Keppel

Assistant to the Director
Marilyn Rietzel

Curator
Lynda MacDonald

Assistant to the Curator
Jana-Lee Bair

Archivist/Genealogist
Jana-Lee Bair

Editor
Robin Trevor

Membership Chair
Kathy Damerel

Publicist
Pearlann Johnson

JT School Liaison
Eileen Grady

Shoppe Manager
Pat Cincotta

Society Historian
Robert Keppel

Webmaster
Richard West

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

Affix Label Here

tear off here

tear off here

2012 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