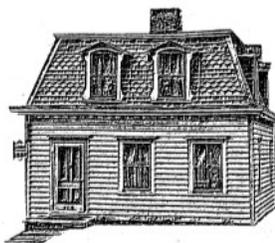


# THE JEFFERSON JOURNAL

HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDENS



THE GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Newsletter of the Jefferson Township Historical Society

[www.jthistoricalsociety.org](http://www.jthistoricalsociety.org)

Spring 2014

## In This Issue

President's Message .....	1
Director's Highlights .....	2
Area Events .....	3
Miss Elizabeth's Shoppe .....	3
Garden News .....	4
John Hedges, Potter .....	4
Linda J. Barth, Author .....	4
Society News and Announcements .....	5
Membership Form and Donations .....	5

## President's Message

### MUSEUM KITCHEN and OUT BUILDINGS HISTORY

The gift shop is in the original kitchen of the house. It shows what a kitchen could have looked like from the 1870's to 1900's. Kitchens of this period were relatively small no matter how large the house. There was a sink and a drain board with water pumped from a well. In this house the sink was where the showcase is presently located. In grander homes, kitchens were for cooking only; washing activities would be done in the scullery which was a separate room or building. There would be free-standing shelves to display dishes. Most kitchens had a pantry which was used for storage of dishes, staples, canned goods and preserves, cleaning equipment and cooking equipment.

The dumbwaiter from the dining room originates in the kitchen to bring food upstairs for dinner. A dumbwaiter is a small freight elevator invented by George Cannon, NY in 1883. It has a movable frame in a shaft, dropped by a rope on a pulley and guided by rails. The Museum's dumbwaiter was restored during the original renovation of the Museum in 1984-86.

The floors are original oak, having had layers of tile and asbestos removed in 2012. Ease of cleaning in the early part of the 20th century became paramount because of rampant diseases. As a result, most wood floors at the time were covered using linoleum.

The wall color has been researched after finding a small section on the wall. In many kitchens of this period the walls would have been whitewashed; sometimes dyed with a blue coloring thought to repel flies.

The enamel table, representative of the period, would have been used for informal family meals. A rocking chair would also have been an appropriate piece for a kitchen. Early cooking was done on a "heating stove" which was replaced in the early 1900's by the type of stove which is in the Museum.

(Continued on Page 2)

### 2013 - 2014 Calendar of Events

Apr 6	JTHS Museum Open House 1 - 4 PM Poetry Reading
May 1	JTHS Program 7:30 PM, Camp Jefferson Author Linda Barth
May 4	JTHS Museum Open House 1 - 4 PM
May 10	Museum Garden Plant Sale 10:30 AM - 3 PM LHF Block Party 10 AM - 5 PM
June 1	JTHS Museum Open House 1 - 4 PM John Hedges demonstration
July 6	JTHS Museum Open House 1 - 4 PM
July 27	JTHS Annual Pool Party 3 PM - dark
Aug 3	JTHS Museum Open House 1 - 4 PM

## Director's Highlights - Historical Research Continues

By Carol Keppel

The Society has long enjoyed its collaboration with our fine Township library. Even our very beginnings are linked. The Riker library in the Milton section first greeted the public at large in the very building that is now our museum. Over the years, both our displays and the historic records we maintain often require in-depth research to ensure authenticity. Director Seth and his staff have consistently been of great help and a pleasure to work with. Associate Director Sandy, Supervisor Pat, and Research Librarian Christine have been reliable, enthusiastic partners in our many activities. Many staff members have enjoyed being a part of our showcase projects as well.

Currently, Ms. O'Brien is gathering information about the author Laura Ingalls Wilder and her renowned series about pioneer life in the Northern Woods and the Great Plains. The books encompass the last quarter of the 1800's. Our own "Little House", now the Museum, found the Chamberlain children growing up at the very same time. Though they lived in valleys and along waterways, they too played in fields, attended school, and helped with family chores, much the same as the Ingalls children did. Our curator and staff are sure to have fun with this one!

We are presenting a poetry reading featuring the fairy poems of Wilder. Ms. O'Brien will be at the museum on Sunday, April 6 at 2:30 pm to entertain us and add to our pleasure in the return of spring. Come to the Museum to see our new "The Little House in the Valley" displays. You will be delighted to explore the parallels between the two families, and learn even more about home and community life long ago. Many thanks to the Library for making this possible.



Laura Ingalls Wilder



Replica of a dugout home where Laura lived temporarily when she was 7 years old.

## President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

The kitchen stove was not only used for cooking, it was also a source of heat for the house. The stove (shown in Ladies Home Journal 1901), a gift to the Museum, is where it would have been during the time Miss Elizabeth cooked for her family. It was probably fueled by wood or charcoal, the latter being very prevalent in the valley. It is Circa 1920.

The Hoosier Cabinet was designed and manufactured around the turn of the century by the Hoosier Manufacturing Company of New Castle, Indiana. It was designed to hold and organize spices and various staples. One distinguishing feature was the flour-bin/sifter, a tin hopper that could be used without removing it. A similar sugar bin was also available. Several glass jars were manufactured for the inside: coffee, tea, salt and several for spices. On the inside were measurements, sample menus and helpful household hints. The enamel surface provided a more sanitary area for food preparation. The Hoosier remained popular until the 1920's when built-in cabinets began to replace them.

Miss Elizabeth would have had a kitchen garden where she would have grown herbs for cooking and medicinal uses. Herbs would be harvested and dried after the growing season. There was a wash house and an ice house where the present parking area is located.

The "river" as it was referred to at the time, now called Russia Brook, was dammed near the bridge to form what was locally known as Chamberlain Pond. It was used in the summer for swimming and ice harvesting in the winter. The dam broke in the 1940's during a hurricane. (Wesley Ackerson shared a story of a letter written by his mother, Mae Chamberlain telling him of the hurricane and the dam breaking. Wesley was in the European theater during WWII at the time.) Remnants of the dam can be seen from the bridge and the parking area. The raceway remains.

Every home had an ice box enabling the family to preserve food all year round. Ice blocks were placed between layers of straw and rugs then stored in the ice house to be used in the warm weather. The outhouse was at the rear of the house on the right side (if standing looking at the house from the road).

The neighborhood well house was across the street, known at the time as Main Street. It was next to a post office and general store.

Come enjoy and shop in Miss Elizabeth's Shoppe.

Christine Williams, President

[president@jthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:president@jthistoricalsociety.org)

## MISS ELIZABETH'S SHOPPE

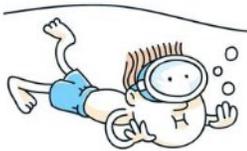
Miss Elizabeth's Shoppe is fully stocked with many new items for spring and summer. For the first time, there are Victorian paper dolls and paper doll books appropriate for all ages (even children). There are beautiful pottery pieces from John Hedges. The Shoppe has only a sampling of his large collection of work. In keeping with the Museum's theme, there are Laura Ingalls Wilder books and gifts. Several books on local history have been added to the collection and are available for sale. As always, there are vintage pieces, lovely bath items and a selection of unique gifts.



### "Lake Hopatcong Block Party"



On May 10, the Lake Hopatcong Foundation will sponsor a "Block Party." It will be held at the Lake Hopatcong State Park in Landing from 10 AM – 5 PM. The Jefferson Township Historical Society will be represented in a booth thanks to George & Kathy Damerel, Keith & Robin Trevor and Carol & Bob Keppel. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization whose goal is the betterment of the lake.



### J.T. Historical Society

#### Summer Party

July 27 3 PM - dark

Annual Summer Pool Party  
Christine & Cliff Williams  
309 Dover-Milton Road

Please bring a covered dish or dessert  
And of course your swimsuit and towel!

RSVP to Christine at  
[president@jthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:president@jthistoricalsociety.org)  
or 973-697-8675

### What's Happening in other Societies ...

#### Boonton Historical Society & Museum

210 Main St., Boonton (973) 402-8840

[www.boonton.org/community/boonton-historical-society](http://www.boonton.org/community/boonton-historical-society)

#### Upcoming walking tours

rain or shine; meet promptly at 10 AM

**Apr 19** – Boonton Iron Works & the Morris Canal led by Joe Macasek; meet at the Post Office on Main Street

**May 17** – The Park Residential District led by Gail Yorkston; meet at the Gazebo in Grace Lord Park

Participants will receive 15% discount coupons for use at select local eateries and merchants, valid on Walking Tour days only. Suggested donation \$5 for non-members. The Historical Society and Gift Shop (210 Main St, Boonton) will be open from 12 – 4 PM on Walking Tour days.

**"A Century of Stage & Screen in Boonton"** Join them the 1st Friday of every month for this continuing exhibit resuming May 2 thru October 3, from 4 - 9 PM.

**Saturday, May 3 – Tea at the Miller-Kingsland House,**  
445 Vreeland Ave, Boonton

Two seatings (12N and 4 PM) – reservations required; limited seating. Tickets are \$30 each. Delicious sandwiches and delectable desserts served by costumed hosts. Donna West has reservation forms.

**Mount Tabor Historical Society** (973) 586-1564

[www.MountTaborNJ.org](http://www.MountTaborNJ.org) for directions

Open the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday from 12 – 4 PM

**Tuesday, April 22 – 7:30 PM** – at the Bethel, Mount Tabor

**Astrology: Guide to Royalty and Presidents**  
An introduction to astrology presented by Doria Gambino, professional astrologer. Find out how birth information, the signs and the planets, can be used to understand success in life; discover hidden talents and overcome obstacles. Learn how the alignment of the heavenly bodies influenced the lives of historic figures of the Victorian Era. Bring your curiosity and an open mind.

**Roxbury Historic Trust** (973) 927-7603

Drakesville Historic Park, 209-211 Main St., Ledgewood

<http://www.roxburynewjersey.com/trust.htm>

Open the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday from Apr thru Dec

Next open house: Apr 13 from 1 – 4 PM

Continuing exhibit, "HEELS, WHEELS and KEELS – Three centuries of travel through Roxbury" illustrating transportation from the time of the Lenape people to present day. Also view a delightful corner exhibit titled "HIDDEN FACES Lenape Life in the 1800s."

## JOHN HEDGES FEATURED ARTIST

John Hedges is the featured artist at Miss Elizabeth's Shoppe for the next three months. His style of pottery has roots in his heritage. The pottery will be on display and for sale at the Museum gift shop. At the June 1 Museum Open House, Hedges will be demonstrating his work. He will be throwing on his potter's wheel on the Museum patio from 1 – 4 PM.

Hedges holds a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, Three-Dimensional Design from Manchester Metropolitan University in England as well as a Diploma in Three-Dimensional Design from the Royal Berkshire College of Art and Design in England. Hedges took second place in the Kleinwort Benson Prize for Original Design. The award was presented by HRH The Prince of Wales, Pewter Live 1993. A piece of his pottery was selected to honor Sir Terrence Conran, Pewter Live 1995.



*"For me, pottery is a link to the past. My pots are predominantly inspired by English pots of the Medieval Period, and as such they are robust and fully intended for hard work."*

## Jefferson Township High School Student Produces Interactive Map

Kate Stoppiello has produced an interactive map visualizing where each stop of the Underground Railroad existed in New Jersey. Kate contacted the historical society requesting to link her map to the historical society's website. This was recently completed thanks to webmaster Richard West.

To view, click on the **Links** section of our website:  
<http://www.jthistoricalsociety.org>



## Garden News

By Roberta Shaw, Trustee & Master Gardener

### Garden Club Events:

Annual Plant Sale – May 10

10:30 AM – 3:00 PM

The Garden Club is planning a private garden tour for members only. Date to be announced (sometime in late June). As a group, we will tour some of our own members' gardens, ending at the Museum's garden where we will enjoy a reception with light refreshments. If you would like to have your garden included in the tour, please contact Roberta Shaw at:

[gardener1@jthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:gardener1@jthistoricalsociety.org)



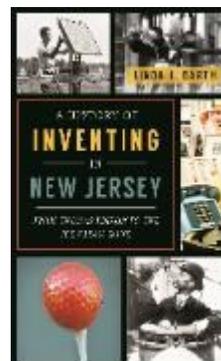
### JTHS Presentation

Linda J. Barth began her writing career after twenty-five years as a fourth-grade teacher. In her first post-retirement job, she served as curator of a canal museum in the village of Griggstown, along the Delaware & Raritan Canal.

For over two decades, Linda served on the board of the Canal Society of New Jersey and with her husband Robert, has led canal tours throughout the Northeast.



Linda has written two books about the D&R Canal for Arcadia Publishing (*The Delaware and Raritan Canal* and *The Delaware and Raritan Canal at Work*). Her children's picture book, *Bridgetender's Boy*, was published in 2005. Her 2012 book, *Hidden New Jersey*, from Charlesbridge Publishing, is filled with fascinating facts about New Jersey and illustrated by the talented artist Hazel Mitchell.



On May 1, at 7:30 PM at Camp Jefferson, Linda will talk about "The Garden State: Where Ideas Grow", and present her latest book, *A History of Inventing in New Jersey*, which was released in 2013. Books will be available for purchase and signing at that time. **Please join us.**

# Society News & Announcements

**REMINDER:** Please remember to let us know when you have changed your address and/or email. Many of our announcements are now emailed to save on postage. Send your changes or additions to:

Christine Williams at: [president@jthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:president@jthistoricalsociety.org)



**Prefer to receive your newsletters ELECTRONICALLY?**

Just send an email to: [editor@jthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:editor@jthistoricalsociety.org)

**Subject: electronic newsletter**

and we'll add you to our new electronic newsletter distribution list for the next issue! If we don't receive an email, your next newsletter will arrive by U.S. mail as usual.

tear off here

tear off here

## Member News

Welcome new members Tracy Franz-Garrity and Christine Cassidy-Cavanaugh.

**Victorian Society** – JT Historical Society has renewed its membership in the Victorian Society which is a national organization.

### Arthur Brown Donates Collection

Arthur Brown has graciously donated the original manuscript of his father Hector H. Brown's hand written "Cemeteries of Jefferson Township." This is not just a wonderfully interesting piece of history, it is an invaluable resource. Members are presently scanning and documenting all of the information for future reference.

## 2014 Membership Form

**I would like to renew my membership. Dues are annual and are due in the month of January.**

Please check type of membership:

- |                                  |          |                                |           |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="radio"/> Individual | \$ 15.00 | <input type="radio"/> Business | \$ 100.00 |
| <input type="radio"/> Family     | \$ 25.00 | <input type="radio"/> Life     | \$ 250.00 |
| <input type="radio"/> Sustaining | \$ 75.00 | <input type="radio"/> Patron   | \$ 500.00 |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**

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

**I would like to make an additional donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

To be used towards the following:

- Preserve Jefferson Fund
- General Fund
- In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Board of Trustees**

Greg Brown  
Pearlann McManus Johnson  
John Scheri  
Roberta Shaw  
Clifford Williams

## **Officers**

**President**  
Christine Williams  
**First Vice President**  
Carol Keppel  
**Second Vice President**  
Kathy Damerel  
**Secretary**  
Mary Parr  
**Treasurer**  
Donna West

## **Museum Hours**

First Sunday of the Month  
1 – 4 PM or by Appointment  
Phone: 973-697-0258

### **Appointed Positions**

<b>Museum Director</b> Carol Keppel	<b>Publicist</b> Pearlann McManus Johnson
<b>Assistant to the Director</b> Annie Wilton	<b>JT School Liaison</b> Eileen Grady
<b>Curator</b> Lynda MacDonald	<b>Shoppe Manager</b> - Open Position -
<b>Assistant to the Curator</b> Dianna Filan	<b>Society Historian</b> Robert Keppel
<b>Archivist</b> Christine Cassidy-Cavanaugh	<b>Membership Chair</b> Kathy Damerel
<b>Genealogist</b> Jana-Lee Bair	<b>Webmaster</b> Richard West
<b>Editor</b> Robin Trevor	

