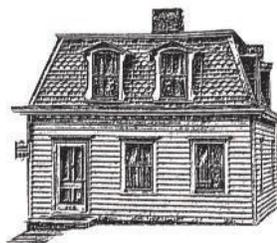


THE JEFFERSON JOURNAL

HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDENS



THE GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Newsletter of the Jefferson Township Historical Society

www.jthistoricalsociety.org

Winter 2013

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President's Message

A Look into "Miss Elizabeth's Closet"

Ruth Elizabeth Speaker was the wife of George Chamberlain, the first residents of what is today the Jefferson Township Museum.

Living in Milton Village, Elizabeth would have been a homemaker with much of the responsibilities of the household. She would have shopped at the general stores. Very much like other ladies of the Village, she probably sewed her own clothes and ordered accessories from catalogs. What her attire looked like when she attended church or social functions has to be compiled from the fashion of the times and the location. The period of time in which she lived in the house fits into the latter part of the Victorian period. Did she enjoy seeing the fashions of the socialites in the large cities? What would have been in Lizzie's closet and the closets of other ladies of that era whether living here or in the city?

2013 Calendar of Events

Jan	JT Museum Closed
Feb	JT Museum Closed
Feb 7	Executive Board meeting (installation of Officers)
Mar 3	JT Museum Open House 1-4 PM
Apr 7	JT Museum Open House 1-4 PM
Sep 22	JT Historical Society Presentation "Miss Elizabeth's Closet" A runway show, champagne reception and luncheon

On Sunday, September 22, 2013 we will view a span of fashions at a very exciting event sponsored by the Jefferson Township Historical Society at Casa Bianca, "Miss Elizabeth's Closet". It will be a runway show featuring fashions of the era along with a champagne reception and luncheon. The ticket price is \$40. Save the date, mark your calendar, spread the word, and support your Society.



Christine Williams, President

president@jthistoricalsociety.org

Director's Highlights – A Family Tree

By Carol Keppel

Learning about one's roots has been very popular in recent times, but is nothing new to many of us. Some have learned about our families' past through oral history, some are lucky enough to have old diaries, and even a few own published works detailing the lives of ancestors.

When the Society received the custodianship of the Chamberlain House, we realized there were a lot of questions about who these folks were, the family that first lived in the home. Decades later we found many of those answers in a library reference book on the family history. Still questions remained. In order for us to recreate a realistic image of the home in its original form, we needed to know what they were like, what they did for a living, what they did for fun, what they valued and how they themselves were valued.

We were able to create the post of Genealogist when Jana-Lee Bair joined our team. An avid historian and accomplished ancestor hunter, she began to supplement our information about George Chamberlain and his bride Ruth Elizabeth Speaker. At last, the answers began to emerge. You've read some in previous newsletters.

The flow of information increased as Mrs. Bair steadily pursued her studies and this fall, she presented the Society with a *three-inch* binder of the family tree of this couple. This significant body of research is in the staff office and is the definitive source of information for our staff who are often asked about the people who lived in the house and their relatives. "Who were the children?" "What did they do when they grew up?" "When did they leave Jefferson?" "Where did they go?"

You're welcome to review its many pages and see how a professional organizes this vast quantity of data. You may engage her services to help you learn more about your own ancestors. Then, you too, can appreciate the skills of our special lady, Jana-Lee!

Curator's Corner – Prized Possessions

By Lynda MacDonald

Someday you may come into possession of a very special piece that belonged to a member of your family. It may be valuable or it may have sentimental value only. Whichever is the case, it is really important to document your new possession. Recently my sister and I had to sort through and divide our mother's things. She had a love of antique cherry furniture. (I inherited that love.) I was thrilled when I got to bring home Mom's big cherry stepback dresser. I knew that my folks had refinished it long ago and that it had been in my grandmother's apartment when I was growing up. Before that it was in her old farmhouse up West Brook.

I was very surprised to find, going through an old photo album, a picture of this dresser sitting on the front porch of a very old and unfamiliar farmhouse. It turns out that the house belonged to my great-grandparents who lived in Bovina, NY. My grandparents were married in Bovina, lived there for a few years, then buying their own farm, moved by horse and wagon down to Walton. The dresser had to have been on that wagon. My dad was a young boy. He and his younger brother had to drive the herd of cows down through the fields and woods. He told me it took almost two days. They slept in a field overnight.

I have made a list of all the homes my dresser has resided, including the people, towns and a story or two. I put a copy of the old picture with this list in the top drawer. Next time the dresser travels to a new home, its story will go with it. Hopefully the story will continue for a long time to come.



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Just send an email to: 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.

Please check your address; if it is not correct, please contact Christine Williams at president@jthistoricalsociety.org

Preserving Your Photographs

By Jana-Lee Bair, Archivist

One of the greatest legacies that can be passed down through the generations is our photographs, old and new. There are several steps we can take to help preserve our photos. Photos taken before the 1990's were printed on paper that contained acid. This may speed up the disintegration rate of the photo. If you have old photos where the edges are all flaking off, this is probably why. Another enemy of all photos is direct sunlight (UV light).

There are ways to help slow down the "aging" process. Store photos in acid free albums and make sure if photos are facing each other that they are in plastic sleeves. This prevents the faces of the photos from rubbing against each other. Never store photos in an attic or basement due to temperature and humidity extremes. Do not store albums near direct sunlight or near a heat source.



Another preservation technique is in a brightly lit room using a digital camera with the flash off, take pictures of your pictures. By doing this you have now made a digital copy that you can upload on your computer. From here you can make a copy of them on a flash drive, SD card or CD-ROM. Store this in a safe deposit box or somewhere else, just not in your house.

Additional information on preserving your photographs can be found at the following link: <http://www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/storing-photos.html>



Historical Society Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected officers for the Society. These officers have been elected for a two year term in compliance with the new By-Laws. The officers will be installed February 7, 2013 at the Executive Board Meeting.

President..... Christine Williams
 First VP Carol Keppel
 Second VP Kathy Damerel
 Secretary..... Mary Parr
 Treasurer Donna West

Membership Renewal

Thank you to all those members who have already renewed their annual membership for 2013. Membership expires at the end of December 2012. If you have not yet renewed your membership, a form is printed on the back of this newsletter.

We need your support. Your support helps the Museum as added income for general operations and to offer programs. Your donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.

Please consider us at this time of giving.

Exchanging Gifts

The practice of exchanging gifts began during the reign of Queen Victoria when the middle class people started making hand-made toys that were then given to children for free on Christmas Day.



Photo by Bob Keppel

We could use your HELP

Our Society is in need of volunteers! We can always use some extra hands or additional input. No contribution is too small. You may have a talent or professional background that could be valuable to the Society. The following Historical Society projects will be on-going through the winter. Please consider joining one or more of our groups.

- 1) Morris County website of historical sites and buildings
- 2) By-Laws Committee Policies and Procedures
- 3) Organization of slides
- 4) Organization of post cards for future digitization
- 5) "Miss Elizabeth's Closet" Event

Please contact the President at president@jthistoricalsociety.org to express your specific interests or talents

What's the Dirt? - The Perennial of the Year

By Roberta Shaw, Master Gardener

The "Perennial of the Year" program was introduced in 1990 by the Perennial Plant Association. Each year the Association showcases a standout perennial. Perennials are chosen for their wide range of growing climates, low maintenance, seasonal interest and pest resistance.

The 2012 winner, *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost', was chosen for its tolerance to shade, forget-me-not like blue flowers and resistance to deer. Its silver leaves brighten a shady area from spring to fall. They are a complement to companion plants such as hosta and ferns or can be used as a front border in a shade garden.

In the fall of 2012 the winner was chosen for the "2013 Perennial of the Year". And the winner is...*Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum', commonly known as Solomon's Seal Variegated. This native perennial is a wonderful addition to a shaded woodland garden, growing gracefully alongside astilbe, lace cap hydrangeas and heuchera. The stems which arch at the top reach a height of 12-24 inches and its spring flowers have a lily-like fragrance. The stems are also beautiful in a cut flower arrangement.



Victorian Christmas Traditions

Christmas Cards - An old tradition still observed today. Cards evolved from English children writing customary greetings to their parents. Printed cards became such a success it spread from England to the rest of the UK and then to the rest of the world.



We would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!!

2013

PRESERVE JEFFERSON !

The Preserve Jefferson History campaign has received many donations from residents and businesses. We would like to thank all those who have supported our efforts to purchase the Old Norman Store.

- A. Arvidson, M. Babich, E. Bair, J. Bair, J. Baron, G. Bauckham, R. Birmingham, A. Bonito, K. Bowers, J. Breckenridge, G. Brown, J. Burdi, C. Callender, J. Carolan, H. Chamberlain, N. Chamberlain, L. Cloitre, G. Coulthard, K. Damerel, J. DeYoung, C. DeWar, D. Dunn, Eastern Propane, J. Elam, A. Felter, M. Ferrito, J.H. Fredericks, R. Fuchs, J. Gogick, A. Heitzman, D. Hess, G. Horacek, M. Hueber, C. Johnson, D. Johnson, Jefferson Dairy, R. Kallas, W. Katz, T. Keiting, R. Keppel, P. Kleim, Lake Hopatcong Historical Society, L. Lees, G. Lewis, J. Liddy, P. McManus, L. MacDonald, A. Maciorski, D. Machuga, M. McGreal, P. Mikowski, L. Morris, C. Morrissey, A. Muller, G. Mundrick, N. Nederfield, E. Noone, M. Nugaris, J. Palko, Jr., C. Parr, D. Petrone, B. Porter, F. Punturieri, R. Rietzel, V. Rolstad, L. Rossin, D. Rutsch, R. Sabo, V. Sardo, N. Savino, J. Scheri, K. Schwarz, D. Shaw, C. Solomon, M. Taylor, B. Szegethy, T. Tanis, E. Tomlinson, A. VanHouwe, N. Walsh, L. Wasserman, M. Weiskott, R. West, B. Westergaard



Society News & Announcements

Membership

- Updated By-Laws

MEMBERS ACCESS CODE

The By-Laws revision has been completed.
 Please access the revised and adopted
 By-Laws online at jthistoricalsociety.org.
 Go to membership code and type in **315DMR**
 For additional information email us at
info@jthistoricalsociety.org

REMINDER: Please remember to let us know when you have changed your address and/or email. Many of our announcements are now emails to save on postage. Send your changes or additions to: Christine Williams at president@jthistoricalsociety.org

Member News

Please welcome our newest member Robert Hynes.

Good and Welfare – Please keep the following members in your thoughts as they recuperate: Eileen Grady, Ron Rietzel and R. Richard Willis.

Many thanks to Nancy Chamberlain for her years of service as our Society’s 2nd Vice President.

Museum Christmas – Once again the house was decorated in its holiday splendor as “A Woodland Christmas”. See the photos in this newsletter.

Please check out our website in the “Slide Shows” section for photos from the weekend. We may have had our most visitors ever!

Please visit us at www.jthistoricalsociety.org

Check out the “News and Events” section.

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2013 Membership Form

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

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
Georgeanna Lewis
John Scheri
Roberta Shaw
Keith Trevor
Clifford Williams

Officers

President
Christine Williams
First Vice President
Carol Keppel
Second Vice President
Nancy Chamberlain
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

Museum Director Carol Keppel	Publicist Pearlann Johnson
Assistant to the Director Marilyn Rietzel	JT School Liaison Eileen Grady
Curator Lynda MacDonald	Shoppe Manager - Open Position -
Assistant to the Curator Jana-Lee Bair	Society Historian Robert Keppel
Archivist/Genealogist Jana-Lee Bair	Membership Chair Kathy Damerel
Editor Robin Trevor	Webmaster Richard West

