



Gaslight News

September 2010

Historical Society of Riverton

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Founded 1970

Riverton, NJ 08077

Incorporated 1978

<http://www.alicepaul.org/images/alice%20banner.jpg>



Alice Paul toasting (with grape juice) the passage of the 19th Amendment. August 26, 1920

Help HSR and Alice Paul Institute mark the 90th anniversary of a woman's right to vote

7:30 pm presentation in Riverton School Media Center

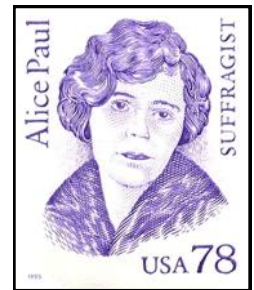
Join the Historical Society of Riverton on Monday September 27th at 7:30 p.m. for a timely program with a powerful message commemorating the 90th anniversary of American women's suffrage and celebrating the 25th year of the Alice Paul Institute (API) in Burlington County. Our program is free to the public and will be held in the Media Center of the Riverton Public School at Fifth and Howard Streets in Riverton.

Lucy Beard from the Alice Paul Institute will lead the program about the courageous leadership of suffragette Alice Paul and local efforts by API to promote women's

history and leadership development programs for girls.

At the age of thirty, Alice Paul, from Mt. Laurel, NJ, led a national campaign to win the right to vote for women with the passage of the 19th amendment of the constitution in August of 1920.

Established in 1985 to commemorate the centennial of Alice Paul's birth, the Alice Paul



The Alice Paul Stamp was issued on August 18, 1995.

See ALICE PAUL on 3

Riverton School's 100th Birthday helped focus attention on preserving history

Mr. Tracy Brown and Mrs. Nancy Phares Brown trekked in from Ohio to hold the Riverton School alumni banner in the parade, July 3, 2010.



All through the last months preceding this year's annual Independence

some of us, at least— images from Riverton's bygone days.

Mrs. Anna Marie Wolfschmidt Stavelly, a longtime

resident of Riverton now living in Delran, noticed in a newspaper that Mrs. Mabel Kloos was giving a presentation at the school on the its history. This prompted her to contact Mrs. Kloos and offer some



Undated restored photograph of original location of Wolfschmidt's Barbershop at 513 Main courtesy of Mrs. Anna Marie Wolfschmidt Stavelly

See HISTORY on 2

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Day observance, anticipation had been building for the plans which were taking shape for alumni of Riverton School to march in the parade. As events taking place with students at school gained momentum, news coverage and publicity drew attention to efforts to encourage the public to help add to our store of information about the community. The following examples are representative of a number of "new"— to

http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_xnOZP-qWRs/SbZFaF-micI/AAAAAAAAAZs/lmVOES-ClJKs/1600-HAlice_Paul_stamp.jpg

Renewed interest in historical items fueled by school's 100th anniversary

HISTORY from 1

photos of her brother's barber-shop for loan to be scanned.

From Town Historian Mrs. Betty Hahle's "Yesterday" column in the November 1986 *Gaslight News* comes this information: "The 1890-91 directory printed by the *New Era* noted... Wolfschmidt's 'new tonsorial parlor' ...offered the latest brands of cigars and all kinds of chewing and smoking tobacco, and snuff."

SPEND YEARS AS BARBERS

The Wolfschmidt Barber Shop at 521 Howard street, Riverton, is another of the really old local institutions. The business was founded back in the year 1873 by William Wolfschmidt, father of Emerson Wolfschmidt.

During the year 1929 the shop was moved to new and more modern quarters at its present address. The shop is run by Emerson Wolfschmidt and Edward Moorhouse both of whom have spent their life in the trade.

New Era, Nov. 2, 1939

In May, Mr. Harry Richman of Thomas Avenue telephoned and offered to allow some Riverton School class photos of his dad, Horace Richman, now passed, and also some team sports photos to be scanned for the Historical Society.

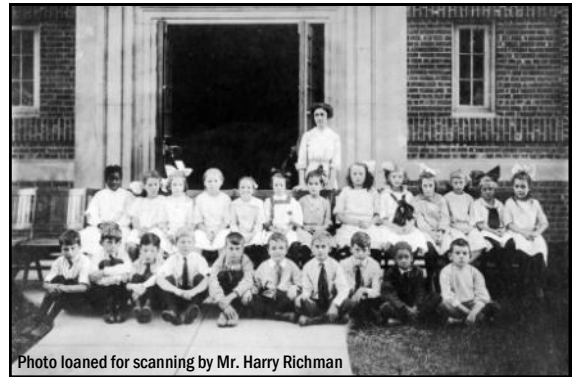
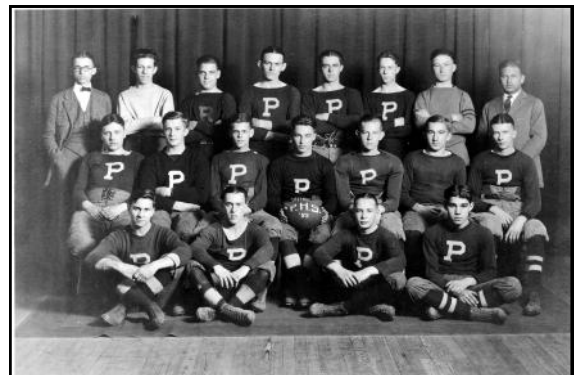


Photo loaned for scanning by Mr. Harry Richman

Riverton Public School c. 1910 No note of the teacher's name or grade, but the brick school must still be pretty new—no light fixtures are yet mounted beside the doors.

Young Master Horace is 4th in from the left in the front row. The teacher looks a bit apprehensive as she contemplates the year ahead with her twenty-three charges.

The next photo of the Palmyra High School football team of 1922 has names on the back—some of which are surnames still known in the area today. Certainly, some



PHS FOOTBALL TEAM 1922 LEFT TO RIGHT
TOP ROW: Latch,-?,-?,-, Kersey, Probsting, Graham, Joyce, Coach Ivory
2ND ROW: English,-?-, Sullivan, Boal, Richman, Wagner, Lutz
FRONT ROW: Baxter, Palphyman, Becton, Wood



Wolfschmidt's Barbershop Howard Street location, Emerson Wolfschmidt, Jr. at first chair on right; Edward Moorhouse at third chair on left. A haircut costs 35¢ and a shave is 15¢. Who are the young men in the chair this day in August 1925 at 5:34 p.m.?

Several more eighth grade graduation photos were offered for scanning including a curled up and cracked Class of 1961 photo belonging to Tracy Brown who now lives in Ohio. He emailed a scan of it to me and a "Photoshopped" print was waiting for him when he and the former Nancy Phares, now

Mrs. Brown, drove in to visit friends and wound up leading the Riverton alumni segment of the parade.

48 Baby-boomers required a panorama photo in order to fit in everybody.



Riverton Public School - Class of 1961 - retouched photo

RPS Class of '61



Tracy Brown's scan sent from Ohio to Delran via email attachment

See HISTORY on 5

Women's suffrage resulted from actions of heroines like Alice Paul

ALICE PAUL from 1

Institute declares that, "Alice Paul was the architect of some of the most outstanding political achievements on behalf of women in the 20th century. Born on January 11, 1885 to Quaker parents in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, Alice Paul dedicated her life to the single cause of securing equal rights for all women. Few individuals have had as much impact on American history as has Alice Paul. Her life symbolizes the long struggle for justice in the United States and

around the world. Her vision was the ordinary notion that women and men should be equal partners in society." In her name, the API works to fulfill its mission to honor her legacy, preserve her home, and develop future leaders.



<http://www.alicepaul.org/images/Alice-marcel.jpg>

Lucy Beard brings impressive presenter's credentials to our meeting. She served the Alice Paul Institute for six years as program director where she shared the Alice Paul story on travels around the world from California to Iran and Azerbaijan, a former Soviet republic. In addition, Ms. Beard spoke before the Berkshire Conference in Claremont, California on the subject of Women's History, Global Conversations. In 2007 Lucy Beard left API to serve as the director of education at the Cliveden of

the National Trust, a Revolutionary War house in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. She currently serves as Director of Education and Outreach at the venerable Union League in Philadelphia.

As Hicksite Quakers, the Paul family believed in gender equality, education for women, and working for the betterment of society. Ms. Paul earned degrees from Swarthmore College, the University of Pennsylvania, Washington College of Law, American University, the London School of Economics and the University of Birmingham.

The Riverton connection is that Alice Paul's cousins, Beulah and Susanna were lifelong residents of Riverton, NJ, and the three cousins shared their last days together in retirement at Moorestown, NJ. Miss Paul died in July 1977, yet her legacy lives on today in New Jersey due to the tireless efforts of the Alice Paul Institute. Tours are available of the family home, Paulsdale farm in Mt. Laurel. Paulsdale is located at 128 Hooton Road, Mount Laurel, NJ, 08054. Find out more at <http://www.alicepaul.org>

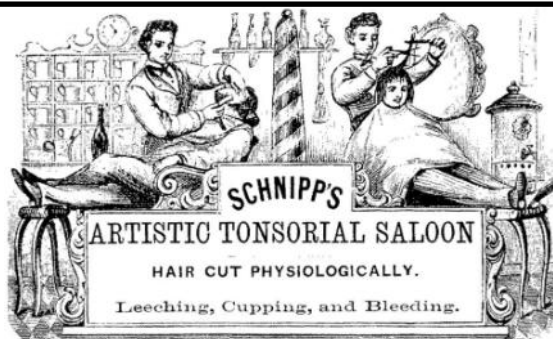
- GERALD WEABER



Alice Stokes Paul, well-known women's suffrage leader, was born and spent her childhood years in this three-story farmhouse in Mount Laurel. A National Historic Landmark, it is now the headquarters of the Alice Paul Institute.

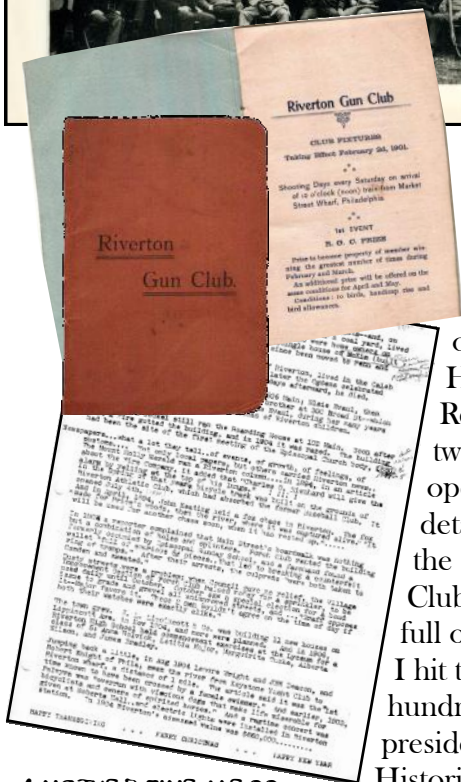
<http://www.niowomenshistory.org/Paulsdale.htm>

Come early to the meeting on September 27th and see a brief slide show of many of the photos in this issue in addition to the presentation on Alice Paul. Bring a friend, view the show, and join this fray into Riverton's past. No experience needed.



How I spent my summer vacation

Below, publications of the Riverton Gun Club active from 1877-1906 and one of approximately 100 historical articles written by Town Historian Mrs. Betty B. Hahle over a course of more than 30 years.



No longer needing to spend August afternoons planning how to enliven a lesson on Mesopotamia for sixth graders since I retired from teaching, I turned my attention instead to seeking buried treasure.

HSR President Gerald Weaber and I secured the key to the Area 51 of the Riverton Free Library—the basement—and examined the holdings of the Society stored there for safekeeping.

Here are some nuggets I brought back when I was panning for gold there in anticipation of preparing a PowerPoint and lecture on the topic. I had already scanned every page of the rare Riverton Gun Club History book last summer.

Recently I also found in our files two small booklets regarding the operations of the gun club. One details the rules of the club and the other is called Riverton Gun Club Fixtures. In a manila folder full of back issues of *Gaslight News* I hit the mother lode—no less than a hundred articles written by past president, past editor, now Town Historian Mrs. Betty B. Hahle. I

found that the Riverton Gun Club was mentioned in at least seven of her aptly named “Yesterday” columns.

To be sure, there are many other items of note such as vintage maps, photos, postcards, various publications, and even a bottle collection, all carefully catalogued in boxes, drawers, and file cabinets. However, I resolved to record every one of those fact-filled columns by scanning them and using OCR software to change the images to text.

Would that it were that easy. At best, optical character recognition software can only be as accurate as a clear, crisp original allows. The software was baffled by creased papers or faded type and, as a result, large passages required manual typing.

A cool thing about making all of the columns into editable text is that the content then becomes searchable. In a jiffy one can locate more than twenty columns about bicycles. In transferring the scanned pages to text I found myself reading information about so many topics that were new to me.

Given the subject women’s suffrage for our September meeting, it is appropriate to cite this passage from Mrs. Hahle’s February 1995 research.

“On Friday, January 29, 1897 The New Era ran a long editorial supporting women's suffrage. Long, indeed, for it measured 23 inches long, in fine print...

Opponents of voting privileges for women claimed that ‘infants, idiots, and women are all represented by men.’ Dr. Janney, owner and editor of *The New Era*, wrote ‘In what a category to place women!’ He said that although infants and idiots were mutually incompetent and simply wards of the people, women ‘have mental ability equal to men.’ He wrote at length and with eloquence...

Opponents also claimed that women would become ‘unsexed’ by voting. Janney countered that if a woman has a tendency to get on a low plane of life, she’ll do it with or without a vote. And he added that if people so feared corruption from voting, they should take the right away from men, who were already corrupt...”

Clearly, there is much more rich material to be mined from those pages which could be enjoyed by readers who missed them the first time around.

ANOTHER FINE MESS

We are in the process of building a new HSR website which may be partially active by the time that you read this. Or not.

We have high hopes and expectations for this endeavor but meager resources to commit to the task.

Your patience shall be rewarded with a more robust website which is better able to serve the organization. Note the easy new web address: rivertonhistory.com

HISTORY from 3

reader is thinking about now, “Hey, there’s my grandfather!”

A number of eighth grade graduation photos were “discovered”, and although many



Photo loaned for scanning by Mr. Ed Gilmore
RPS - 8th Grade Class of 1917
Rebecca White seated 4th on the right

still prove elusive, we are encouraged that more will be found when ones like this turn up, loaned by Mr. Ed Gilmore.

Closing this column is the donation of over a dozen snapshots chronicling the construction of the Riverton War Memorial in 1945 by Mrs. Alice Cook Costello, now living in Burlington.

She writes that her father, Mr. William W. Cook, “spent many hours in the planning and the construction” (of the monument).



Forms for laying the foundation of the War Memorial in 1945
Mr. Wm. W. Cook standing at left

Mr. William H. Harris of Cinnaminson Street has vivid memories of his time as a ten-year-old boy running errands for the men working and of Mr. Cook’s enthusiasm for the project. When it was time for lunch they sent William to Karl Frank’s store (now Cioci’s Deli) to buy ½ lb. bologna, ½ lb. cheese, and a loaf of Bond bread from which they made their sandwiches.

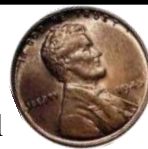


New Era, Nov. 2, 1939

When the concrete foundation was poured, Mr. Cook is reported to have taken a penny from his pocket and

thrown it in “for good luck.”

These photos and other items related to honoring veterans will have a special space provided on the website redesign which is currently underway.




Mr. Harris leads his *William Henry Harris First Class Brass Marching and Concert Band*, July 3rd, 2010.

When the concrete foundation was poured, Mr. Cook is reported to have taken a penny from his pocket and thrown it in “for good luck.”
- William H. Harris

Sincere thanks to all who have helped add to our knowledge base. Please know that any items which you may donate or loan to the Society will receive great care. We look forward to the time when the HSR has a venue in which the public can have greater access to archived materials.

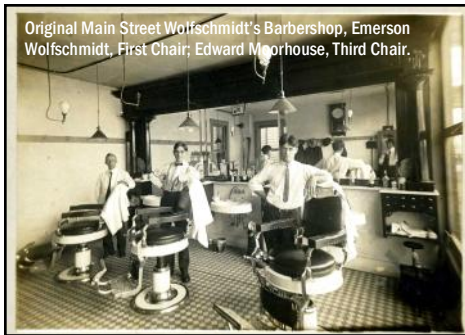
- JMc 

COMING ATTRACTIONS
★ URGENTLY NEEDED ★
READERS OF THE
Gaslight News
are requested to submit to the
Historical Society of Riverton
any information, photos, collectables, or sundry items related to
Riverton Gun Club
LIPPINCOTT BOATWORKS
or
F.C. COLE DAIRY
so that we may more thoroughly research these topics for
A FUTURE ARTICLE OR PRESENTATION
A
KINDLY CONTACT
Mr. John McCormick, Editor
ANY AMOUNT GREATLY APPRECIATED
856-764-1551 jmccormick@comcast.net

⑥ THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

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Do you have any vintage photos, postcards, maps, ephemera, or recollections to share which you would allow to be highlighted in an upcoming issue or a future program? Please contact Mr. McCormick directly in order to make arrangements. 856-764-1551 jlmcormick@comcast.net

Visit the dynamic HSR website at <http://gaslightnews.homestead.com/> for information regarding events, past issues of *Gaslight News*, membership information, links to Riverton School's Riverton Project, slide shows of vintage images, and more.

Readers: Find inside a feature article on suffragette Alice Stokes Paul, notice of the Sept. 27 meeting at RPS, a column listing historical items that have come to light, and my Back-to-School essay, "How I Spent My Summer."

Ahead of the Times

As this scan from a 1939 issue of the *New Era* attests, Riverton was forward thinking regarding the issue of women voting. Find more inside about the efforts of Alice Stokes Paul and attend our September 27 meeting to view the presentation outlining her role in the struggle for winning voting rights for women during the early 20th century.

A petition form for Woman suffrage was printed in several 1909 issues of *The New Era*. The forms were intended to be sent to members of Congress asking a constitutional amendment. Nov. 2, 1939

There are many great pictures inside which may get you in a nostalgic mood. For a better and much bigger view on the projection screen in the Media Room at Riverton School, come a bit early on September 27th and view a short slideshow of many of the images in this issue.



Undated photo—Please bring any opinions Sept. 27

Gaslight News

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

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