



Gaslight News

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Founded 1970

Historical Society of Riverton, NJ

Incorporated 1978

HSR wears the green on St. Pat's Day



McDermott's Handy is an accomplished Irish band which traces its origin to a 1977 tribute to a beloved County Leitrim fiddler.

Sainte! On Monday, March 17, at 7:30 PM, in conjunction with the Porch Club, the Historical Society of Riverton presents a family-friendly event to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a free concert at the Porch Club. Back by popular demand will be the husband and wife duo of McDermott's Handy --Kathy DeAngelo and

Dennis Gormley, who have been performing Irish music together since 1978. They are considered one of the premier traditional Irish music bands in New Jersey.

Duo is handy with many instruments

Ireland is the only country in the world with a musical instrument (the harp) as its national emblem. From the time the Celts arrived in Ireland in 5th century B.C. with their harp-like instruments, harp music has been linked with Celtic history: warriors and scholars, pagans and poets, conquerors and conquered.

In addition to the harp, McDermott's Handy performs on the fiddle, guitar, flute, whistle, bouzouki, banjo, mandolin, bodhran, bass and keyboards. Their concert will be a melodious blend of lively dance tunes, sing-a-long songs, and poignant stories.

Kathy DeAngelo has been playing the Irish harp since 1984 and traditional Irish music since 1971. She is a well-respected teacher

of Irish music on the harp and fiddle. Kathy directs the Delaware Valley Celtic Harp Orchestra and has been producing harp concerts in the Delaware Valley for a number of years. She has 2 CD's and has published a music book of traditional music arranged for harp. The NJ Council of the Arts awarded her a Folk Arts apprenticeship grant for study on 18th century Irish harp repertoire with noted Irish harper Grainne Hambly.

Dennis Gormley has been a fixture on the Philadelphia folk music scene for over twenty years. He's a multi-instrumentalist who has performed and been recorded in almost every folk genre. Dennis has played bass, guitar and keyboards in numerous other bands, including bluegrass with the Lewis Brothers, jazz and swing music with the Jack McGann Swing Band, bass with Steve Goodman, and country music with Saul Broudy. He has been performing traditional Irish music since 1978 when he began playing with McDermott's Handy. Dennis also teaches Irish music exclusively on tinwhistle, flute and guitar.

The band's founding --a tribute to honor a master fiddler

Mc Dermott's Handy is a living memorial to Ed McDermott, a fiddler from County Leitrim, who emigrated to America in 1915 and inspired young people with his music. One of those young people was Kathy, introduced to Ed McDermott in 1971 by Dr. Dick Levine (founder of the Middletown Folk Festival in New Jersey). She became his steady accompanist and they performed together until his death at 81 in 1977.

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January presentation well attended



HSR President Priscilla Taylor welcomes those attending the presentation of vintage Riverton images on January 28th.

PHOTOS BY GERALD WEABER



Note: Regretfully, I was unable to show a number of rare images from the collection of historian Paul W. Schopp that night because of technical problems on my part. I hope to show them at a future meeting.

-John McCormick

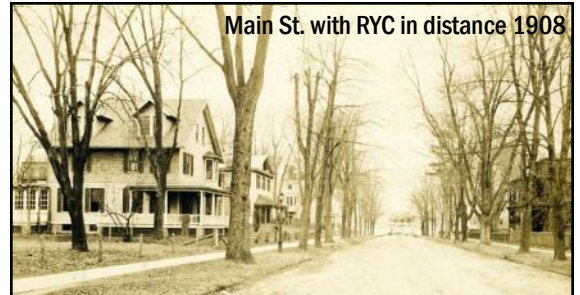
Opening with a poem called "Do You Remember?" and closing with an appeal for viewers to help preserve local historic images and information, returning presenter John McCormick expanded on the topics covered last year with new acquisitions to his "virtual" collection.

Readers will recall that Mr. McCormick's actual physical collection of maps, photos and postcards may be small but his large "virtual" collection is the result of, as he puts it, "the kindness of friends, acquaintances, and a few strangers." Those in attendance could see that many individuals had lent items to be scanned, and that often items needed photo restoration.

People brought items to be scanned on the night of the meeting and sometimes items even show up in the school mailbox like the Class of 1963 Riverton School photo that Mrs. Helen Brown lent (see p. 6).

On the Friday after the presentation Mr. Ed Gilmore visited Mr. McCormick's classroom after school to invite him to see his collection of postcards. The resulting scans turned out to be a remarkable

addition to the collection of images that Mr. McCormick will be able to offer for viewing. Here is a preview of some of those stunning images which Mr. Gilmore has so generously provided. -JMC



Ed McDermott and Kathy DeAngelo perform at the 1976 New Jersey Folk Festival at Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ. This was Mr. McDermott's last NJ Folk Festival performance.

McDermott's Handy to perform March 17

GREEN from 1

Kathy organized a tribute to "Mac" for the '77 New Jersey Folk Festival and many of the young people he had taught came to honor him. The musicians called themselves McDermott's Handy - in Mac's honor. There has been a McDermott's Handy ever since.

Seating at the Porch Club is limited and will be available on a first-come basis. Refreshments and light snacks will be served. Dancing is highly encouraged as is

wearing of the green.



Go to the performers' website for more biographical details on the pair, upcoming events, more about "Mac" and how he came to America on a steamer in 1915, and even sound clips from several CD tracks.

<http://www.hslc.org/~gormley/>

-PRISCILLA TAYLOR
HSR President

(Biographical information courtesy of McDermott's Handy)

Genealogy and Internet Searching: A Beginner's Guide

PART ONE OF A
TWO PART ARTICLE BY
MRS. PATRICIA SOLIN



Hannah Mecray Marcy, born March 28, 1888, married to George Whitner Rogers on Thursday May 5th 1910

In the *Burlington Watchman* (v.2, n.4, Jan: 1990), there was an excellent article on "How to Research Your Property." It was a step-by-step process of how to find information about a house - from property title, to checking the Book of Deeds, to searching the Grantee Index.

But what of the families who lived in your home? Genealogy research can take you to libraries, graveyards, and other places to find names and dates. To begin this research, you need not go further than the Internet. It is amazing what can be found on Internet websites without cost, using simple search techniques. Using this easy

formula, and trying many family names, I was able to quickly research one of the former owners of our house in Riverton, Alexander Marcy, Jr. and his wife, Mary Ann Mecray Marcy and their family.

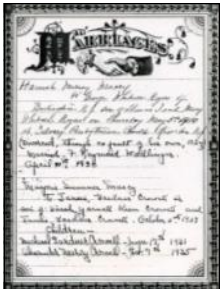
Step One: Collect Names: A Deed and Family Bible

I had some help with names and dates, making my first step an easy one. Our deed cited that "A. Marcy, Jr." had purchased a home at 406 Main Street on February 18, 1887 for \$7,500. When my husband Barry and I purchased the home from Mr. Marcy's son-in-law, James Gardner Crowell, Jr. on April 22, 1983, Mr. Crowell insisted that he give us his wife's family Bible. As a librarian respectful of the family genealogical records held in the Bible, I had the birth, marriage and death inserts copied on acid-free paper and sent to the Burlington County Historical Society, as well as the New Jersey State Library. I had two highly authoritative sources for names, a wealth of names and dates.

"...with basic Internet search techniques and perseverance, you can locate so much that is already in the public domain, either from a computer in your home or at a public library."
- Mrs. Patricia Solin

This is what I found from the family Bible:

On the cover leaf of the Bible: "Bible presented to A. Marcy Feb 7th, 1884 by Virgil MD Marcy"



Family history:
Alexander Marcy, Jr., August 7, 1859 to May 1, 1934
Mary Ann Mecray Marcy, January 8, 1864 to January 13, 1928

Children:
Alexander Marcy, 3rd, January 29, 1885 to April 30, 1890
Hannah Mecray Marcy, March 28, 1888 to (not listed)
Alexander Marcy, 4th, August 3, 1891 to October 9, 1896
Marjorie Sumner Marcy, February 27, 1894 to (not listed)
Reuben Sumner Marcy, September 30, 1898 to June 11, 1901

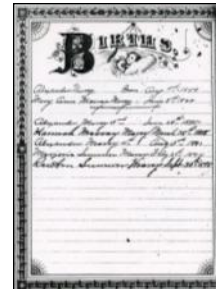
Marriages

Hannah Mecray Marcy to George Whitner Rogers of Burlington NJ son of Thomas J. and Mary Whitner Rogers on Thursday May 5th 1910 at Calvary Presbyterian Church, Riverton NJ. Divorced, 1924.

Married F. Raymond Wadlinger April 10th, 1930.

Marjorie Sumner Marcy to James Gardner Crowell, Jr., son of Sarah Yamall Keen Crowell And James Gardner Crowell. October 5th, 1929.

Children: Michael Gardner Crowell, June 17th, 1931 and Alexander Marcy Crowell, February 7th, 1935.



Patricia Solin has been a Riverton resident with her husband, Barry and four children for over 24 years. An HSR member and currently serving as Vice President of the Riverton Free Library Association Board, she is probably best known for her ten years as school librarian and initial administrator of the website at Riverton Public School.



PHOTO BY PAT SOLIN

406 Main Street - former Marcy family residence and now home to the Solin family.

Why pay a genealogist when there are so many free Internet resources?

SEARCH from 3

Step Two: Choose an Internet Search Engine and Create Your Search Strategy

I chose to use Google a powerful search engine to help me hunt for material on the Marcy family. I decided to make the search as simple as I could, using the names gleaned from the family Bible, starting with Alexander Marcy.

For my search strategy, I simply choose to link the first and last names, using quotation marks. This *neighboring* will tell the search engine to select the names only when they are nestled together rather than scattered within a link. Neighboring helps retrieve articles that most relate to whatever words are placed in the quotations. So for my first search, I decided to try "Alexander Marcy" to see if I would find the Riverton resident. I did the same for several other family members. Sometimes I found several links to identical names, but they were not from Riverton. The solution to linking the names to the town of Riverton was to neighbor the first and last names with quotation marks, and add Riverton to the search. It would look like this in the search prompt:



Be sure to try variations on the name. I tried Alex Marcy, Mary Ann Macray, Marjory Mecray Marcy, and the like.

Step Three: Look for Authoritative Websites

After researching several of the names, I was able to find many websites that had family names listed - from census records, newspaper articles, medical journal articles, ship records, and even a listing of a family member who fought in the American Revolution! But not all material on the

Internet was accurate or from a verifiable source; check your website sources and beware of material that is anecdotal.

Using what I found online, I was able to create a small, limited history of the family using free Internet sources from my own home. From the deed and the family Bible I knew that when Alexander Marcy, Jr. and his wife purchased their home in Riverton, he had one child. Could I find where his family had resided before coming to Riverton? What was Marcy's profession? Could I find information about him and his wife? Who was Virgil, the man who gave them the family Bible? What of A. Marcy, Sr., since our previous owner was a Jr.? The next article will describe what I found and at which website.



In the next issue the author will explain the Internet search techniques and public domain articles about Alexander Marcy, Jr. and his family which helped to construct an interesting insight to their history.

country to research family history. But with basic Internet search techniques and perseverance, you can locate so much that is already in the public domain, either from a computer in your home or at a public library.

Good hunting!

-MRS. PATRICIA SOLIN



"Not all material on the Internet was accurate or from a verifiable source."

You can pay to have someone create a genealogical record for you, or you can use websites that require a fee, or you can travel the

Mary Mapes Dodge, *St. Nicholas* Magazine, and Mrs. Marcy's Pansy Club



Mary Mapes Dodge, author of *Hans Brinker*, also edited *St. Nicholas Magazine*

Brinker, or the Silver Skates.

St. Nicholas was the subject of a feature article on December 29th, 2003 in the *National Review* which described the thrill of being a child in the late 19th century "when the arrival of the latest issue of *St. Nicholas* occasioned the same sense of excitement now reserved for the latest Harry Potter sensation". Millie Benson, who wrote

under the pen name Carolyn Keene was the author of the Nancy Drew series. And she was first published in 1919 at the age 12 in the New York magazine, *St. Nicholas*.



Nineteenth century *St. Nicholas Magazine* image.

A mother wrote to the Editor of *St. Nicholas* in 1901 of a very successful reading club- the "Pansy Club", made up of little girls from six to fifteen years old. Here are the rules:

From 1873 to 1940 the *St. Nicholas Magazine* was published with pages full of wonderful stories for children. *St. Nicholas* was first edited by New Jersey's own, Mary Mapes

Dodge, who may be best known as the author of *Hans*

Brinker, or the Silver Skates.

Rules of the Pansy Club

1. Every member shall pledge himself to read fifteen minutes each day from one of the books on the list.
2. Any member failing to read the allotted time, unless prevented by illness, must pay a fine of a penny a day.
3. The only excuse acceptable is, when one is too ill to read or be read to.
4. Every member who has not been fined once from November 1st to May 1st shall receive a book as a reward.
5. Sundays are not included in the reading days.
6. New members may be received until November 15th, providing they read fifteen minutes extra for each day after November 1st.

The annual dues of the Club are twenty-five cents, and are payable by November 1st.

Names and dues should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. A. Marcy, Jr. Riverton, New Jersey.

Mrs. A. Marcy, Jr. of Riverton, New Jersey was the wife of Dr. Alexander Marcy, Jr.,

was a prominent New Jersey physician whose home and adjoining clinic still stand at 408 Main Street in Riverton. Last June 2007 The Historical Society of Riverton used Dr. Marcy's clinic to exhibit clothing, maps and other artifacts

during the second Victorian Day festivities in Riverton. The Marcy clinic is now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Cherico of Riverton.

Mr. Gerald Weaber, past vice president of the Historical Society of Riverton, former editor the *Gaslight News*, and the webmaster of our Web site, is a frequent contributor to these pages.



"...the arrival of the latest issue of *St. Nicholas* occasioned the same sense of excitement now reserved for the latest Harry Potter sensation."
-*National Review*



Dr. Marcy's clinic was next door to his residence described in the previous article on Internet Searching by Mrs. Patricia Solin

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON
 Post Office Box # 112
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 856-786-6961



Riverton School Class of 1963—Mrs. Helen Brown sent in this photo after noticing that her son's class picture was missing from the wall display at school. As we approach the 100th birthday of the current school building in 2010, only about half of the classes are represented. For more info go to <http://www.riverton.k12.nj.us/alumni7.html>

1913 Riverton Athletic Assn. Football Team
 Photo courtesy of Mr. Ed Gilmore



⑥ Readers:

Do you have any pre-1950 photos, postcards, maps, ephemera, etc. which you would allow to be highlighted in an upcoming issue or a future program? Please bring them with you on March 17th or contact Mr. McCormick directly in order to make other arrangements. 856-764-1551 jlmccormick@comcast.net

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

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Famed Riverton Athletic Assn. Bicycle Track

Photo courtesy of Mr. Ed Gilmore



It's good to live in a little town,
 And cherish memories,
 Romances of old houses,
 Legends of old trees.

These streets were once just shady lanes,
 The pavements graveled ways,
 We remember Roberts General Store,
 The Lyceum, and its plays,

The bicycle track and steamboats are gone,
 The Faunce Shad Fishery on Cook's wide lawn,
 The bell that rang with the steamer in sight,
 The water carnival one summer night,

The blacksmith's shop and Quigley's stage,
 All belong to another age,
 The beautiful horses and carriages, too,
 The field where daisies and buttercups grew,

The *John A. Warner* stopping at the pier,
 The ice-boat coming up each year,
 Skating on the river, sleigh rides, too,
 When the *old* Country Club was new,

The board walks and the rag man's call,
 We went to school at Berkely Hall,
 This street was once called *Lovers' Lane*,
 Hand in hand we wandered here,

Cows pastured in a nearby field,
 A little stream ran cool and clear,
 The lamp-lighter and the organ man,
 Our grandchildren will never know,
 But we remember how it was,
 In those dear old-days of long ago.

-LENORE WRIGHT SHOWELL
 (1885-1966)