

Gaslight News

February 2011

Historical Society of Riverton

vol. XXXXI, no. 1 (#143)

Founded 1970

Riverton, NJ 08077

Incorporated 1978

<http://rivertonhistory.com/2011/02/gaslight-news-november-2010/>



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Mr. Francis Cole's 31 min. video and hands-on tour of refurbished HSR website on next agenda

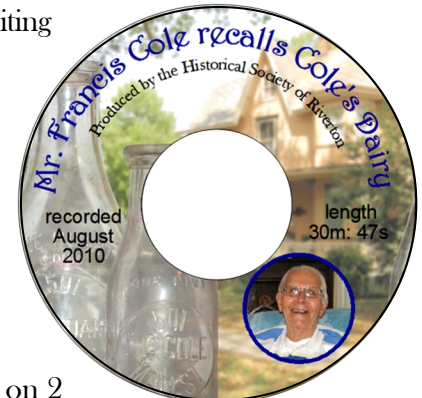
Please plan on attending an HSR sponsored program in the Riverton School Media Center on Thursday, February 24, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. with a dual purpose—a screening of Mr. Francis “Franny” Cole’s 31 minute oral history video and a hands-on tour of the newly redesigned Historical Society of Riverton website.

Readers of the *Gaslight News* may recall the feature article of the [November 2010](#) issue about Franny Cole’s personal recollections of his family’s dairy business, particularly his stint as a young man delivering milk during the Depression. A video recording made in Mr. Cole’s Palmyra home in August 2010 formed the

basis of that article. Subsequent research confirmed details of what Mr. Cole related and also uncovered additional relevant information that helped complete the print version of the story.

The DVD video is the result of editing Mr. Cole’s August interview and then incorporating title frames and credits,

completed Cole Dairy video production on DVD



See FEB 24 on 2

Titanic Dinner Menus



RMS Titanic First Class Dinner Menu April 14, 1912

Hors D'oeuvre Varies
Oysters
Consomme
Omelette
Salmon, Mousselet Sauce, Cucumber
Filet Mignon Lili
Sauté of Chicken, Lyonnaise
Vegetable Marrow Fricassee
Lamb, Mint Sauce
Roast Duckling, Apple Sauce
Sauté of Beef, Chateau Potatoes
Green Peas
Creamed Carrots
Boiled Rice
Purée of Potatoes

Pinch Potatoes

EVENT PHOTOS - SUSAN DECHNIK



New Leaf 12/26/10 PHOTO JMC

Eliza Dupree served up Titanic menu at the New Leaf Tea Room Nov. 30

Fictional survivor of the 1912 sinking gave personal & historic account of the disaster

Participants enjoyed tea and an array of desserts at the beautifully appointed New Leaf Tea Room, November 30th, to hear historical re-enactor, Alisa Dupuy’s alter-ego Eliza Blackwell Dupree, recount her agonizing experience when the “unsinkable” ship sank in 1912.

Ms. Dupuy’s research into the topic was evident as she related her fictionalized first-person account in a charming English accent and sophisticated manner. Sometimes even offering



Ms. Dupuy Mrs. Phyllis Rodgers

a humorous anecdote to jar us from dwelling too much on the gruesome calamity, she described events from a personal human perspective as well as a historical one.

As much a character in the play as Ms. Dupuy herself was the stunning costume she wore which included an elaborately detailed gown, long white gloves, a lace fan, and a long white fur collared overcoat topped by the most magnificent millinery imaginable.

Find out more about the Victorian era Eliza Blackwell Dupree and more than a dozen of Alisa Dupuy’s other historically themed personas at

<http://www.historicalteas.com/>

- JMC



Ladies' & Gentlemen's Accessories of Past Eras the topic of March 23 meet



Ms. Kate Butler's experience, interests, and education have well-qualified her to bring her entertaining and engaging lecture presentations to clubs, historical societies, and various organizations, as well as private parties throughout the PA, NJ, and DE area.

ALL PHOTOS - © DECOTIQUE

Kate Butler of <http://www.decotique.com/> will introduce those attending the March 23rd HSR meeting to the intriguing topic of unusual and hard-to-find antique collectibles in a captivating program entitled, "*Ladies' & Gentlemen's Accessories of the Past Victorian, Edwardian, and Depression Eras.*" Ms. Butler will entertain and delight historical society members with a trunk filled with ladies' and gentlemen's accessories and fashion tales from the past century and beyond.

session will last until all participants show their items and have all their questions answered.



Authentic 1920s Flapper Cloche
Condition: used
Size: 20" - 21"
Manufacturer: United Kingdom Original

The free program, open to the public, will take place on Wednesday, March 23, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center at [Riverton Public School at Fifth and Howard Streets, Riverton](#). Light refreshments will follow the presentation.

Ms. Butler brings into play her extensive practical experience as former media relations coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania, her interests in research and writing, her successful career as a historian, professional speaker, online shop owner, and moderator of several online discussion



Antique Victorian Steel Cut Miser Purse 1850s

Ms. Butler invites members to bring a vintage accessory or apparel item to be examined by her and share in an animated discussion about changing fashion trends across generations since the American Civil War. Her interactive lecture and "show & tell"

See **PAST ERAS** on 4

F.C. Cole Dairy pint milk bottle
We still are very eager to hear from any reader who might have any paperboard Cole Dairy milk caps, letterheads, bills, or other typical ephemera.
rivertonhistory@usa.com



One meeting with a dual purpose—to view a uniquely Riverton oral history vid & take escorted tour of HSR's website

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transitions, dissolves, graphic overlays, and theme music from the 1920 (Mr. Cole's birth year) Victor recording by famous Irish tenor John McCormack. Permission for the use of the copyrighted recording from Turtle 78 RPM Jukebox (<http://turtleservices.com>) is gratefully acknowledged.

Mr. Cole's vivid narrative, describing all aspects of the F.C. Cole milk dealing business, serves as a direct connection to a time when Riverton, and indeed most of America, depended upon local tradesmen, retailers, and merchants for the majority of their daily basic needs. Internet shopping and driving to a suburban mall was decades

away for these citizens. The interview is sure to become a treasured addition to the HSR archives and a reminder of that bygone era.

The second item on the agenda for Thursday evening is a directed introduction to the newly redesigned HSR website, followed by some browsing of the site according to interests of the audience, using the computers in the school library.

Not only is our current website at a new provider's address, it is bursting with more content than the former situation could render, thanks in great part to a new WordPress template which Mr. Michael

See **FEB24** on 3

HSR website poised for growth as it receives major upgrade from former RPS student Mike Solin

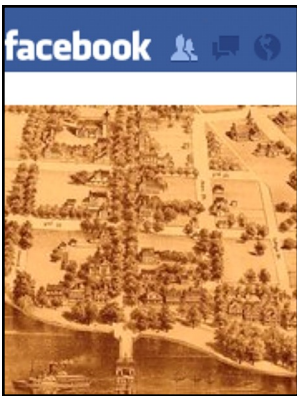
FEB 24 from 2

Solin adapted to fit our purposes. Mr. Solin shrewdly found a reliable Internet provider to service our non-profit organization's account for free. In early planning discussions the phrases "free hosting," and "unlimited storage and bandwidth" further convinced me to undertake the time-consuming move.

In a classic "student becomes the master" scenario, Mike Solin, my former student from Riverton School, and now an adult working for a computer firm, took what was going to be a simpler refresh of the previous website and completely transformed it into a more engaging and robust website. Mike is to be congratulated for taking on this voluntary assignment and for performing beyond our expectations.

The work has been a collaboration. First, we "stood on the shoulders of giants", as we simply reloaded the great quantity of work contributed by those HSR members who started and maintained the website before us. Mike's mother, Mrs. Pat Solin, helped with the tedious task of uploading and tagging files to the template which Mike had customized. President Gerald Weaber's photograph of a delightful folk art painting by Riverton author and artist, Anne Knight Ruff, became the centerpiece for the masthead on the homepage.

I even get to blog. Not entirely understanding what that meant, I was determined not to be left behind by the social network set. I joined [Facebook](#) with Mike's help and connected it to our HSR site.



You'll see a directed group tour

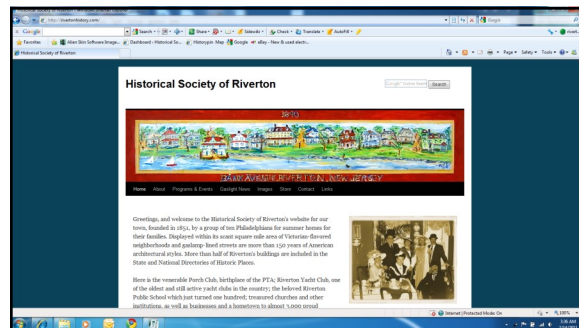
of the website in order to familiarize you with its various parts. Then you may partner at the library's twenty-some computer terminals, in order to browse the website in more detail as your interests dictate.

The *Programs & Events* tab links to past presentations going back to 2000; the *Gaslight News* tab links to back issues to 2007 (more to come); the *Images* tab connects to many regional related images; and the *Links* tab connects to many other websites which may be of interest. Those of you with Facebook accounts may want to scroll down to the bottom of the page to connect and check out that.

The site is by no means finished. Instead, it is, as they say, a work in progress. We invite you to join in the work as it solicits the participation of its readers to make comments, offer opinions, make corrections, join in discussions, and share information and images.

Our hope is that the improved HSR website will become a valuable resource for Rivertonians of all ages, near and far; for research, for reminiscing, for reconnecting with acquaintances, as well as for helping to continue to expand our knowledge and preservation of local history.

So school is back in session and the teachers are in, kids. Bring a notebook and pencil if you wish, and maybe a flashdrive, if you want to save something from the computer. There will be handouts and maybe a snack for recess, but don't worry — no pop quizzes.



screenshot of the new HSR homepage at <http://rivertonhistory.com/>




Would you like to catch up friends and family with what is going on in these pages?

Extra copies and back issues of GN are available for sale at the New Leaf Tea Room and Gift Shop in Riverton.

Even easier, find recent issues posted on the HSR website where they can be viewed as PDF files.

An added feature is that e-mail addresses and web addresses are hot links.

Place your mouse cursor on the [blue text](#), press **CTRL** + , and your internet browser will open and take you to the spot.



JMC 



March presenter to exhibit and discuss antique accessories of men and women

Remember to bring a vintage accessory or item of clothing for Ms. Butler's informal evaluation

PAST ERAS from 2

groups as she shares with others in informative and entertaining lecture presentations.

Inspired by her love of vintage and antique treasures, Kate created <http://www.decotique.com/> and its sister site, <http://www.artdecotique.com/>. Spurred by the loss of her step-daughter, Jessica, in 2007, Kate donates ten percent of Decotique's proceeds to [The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation](#).

Kate spends much of her time at auctions, estate sales, and traversing country back roads throughout the tri-state area and beyond seeking out and researching rare and unique antique treasures with which to develop new lecture topics—one she is currently researching is on the Depression



DECOTIQUE
Antique Flapper Cream Satin Evening Dance Shoes
Circa: 1920-1930
Condition: Pre-owned
Size: Approx. 9.5"
Manufacturer: Unknown

Era and how it influenced fashion in America.

For a stimulating evening of learning new things in the company of others mindful of historic preservation, check out that trunk in the attic, and plan on celebrating the arrival of spring by engaging in this worthwhile

program on March 23.

A brief HSR Board meeting from 7:00–7:30 p.m. will precede Ms. Butler's presentation.

- GW



Classic Edwardian Beaded Reticule Purse
Condition: Used
Size: Body 10" w x 7" h
Manufacturer: Original



Antique Brass Cigarette Case
Condition: Pre-Owned

ALL PHOTOS - © DECOTIQUE

Our web address has changed. Visit the dynamic HSR website at <http://rivertonhistory.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 recap of Eliza Dupuy's Nov. 30 Titanic presentation at The New Leaf Tea Shop. Included also are invitations to attend a Feb. 24 screening of Franny Cole's oral history video and a Mar. 23 program on Victorian, Edwardian and Depression Era accessories.

Gaslight News

is a publication of the Historical Society of Riverton and is published four or five times per year.

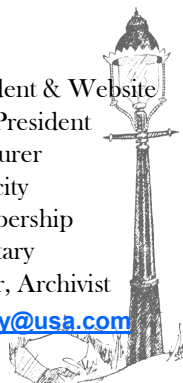


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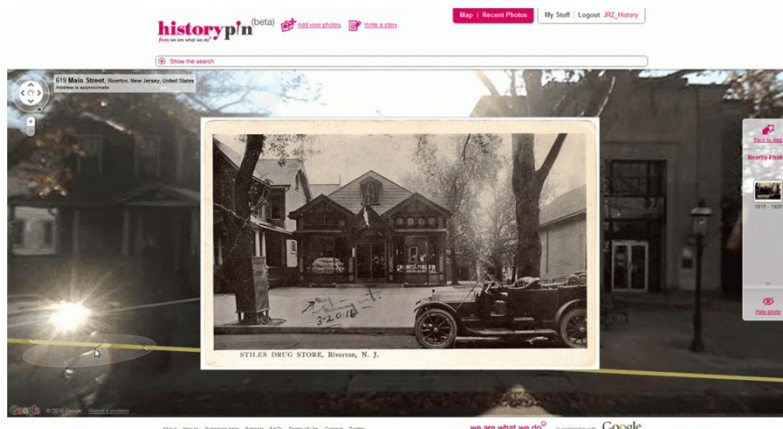
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The masthead banner for our website, derived from a delightful folk art painting by Riverton author and artist, [Anne Knight Ruff](#), evokes the charm and vitality of our richly historic borough and serves as your invitation to explore it further with us at <http://rivertonhistory.com/>.

Historypin Street View screenshot6

By John McCormick | Published January 30, 2011 | Full size is 1597 x 875 pixels | [Edit](#)



Readers of the HSR website Jan. 30 blog entry, "[Whoa, this is heavy!](#)" learned how users can upload vintage photos and overlay them on to Google Maps with [Historypin](#).