



Gaslight News

November 2011

Historical Society of Riverton

vol. XXXXI, no. 4 (#146)

Founded 1970

Riverton, NJ 08077

Incorporated 1978



Riverton Marker - Broad & Main, near Zena's - Sep '07. The HSR plans to place more signs to tell the Riverton story. Where would you like to see new signs placed? Go to rivertonhistory.com to cast your vote. PHOTO CREDIT: JMC

Marking Time in Riverton: Preserving and Promoting Local History

HSR plans new educational and preservation initiatives which merit member support

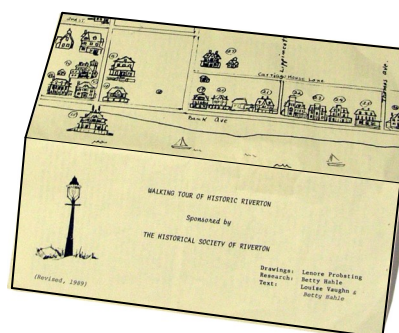
The Historical Society of Riverton plans new initiatives to educate its members and the public about Riverton's historic importance through placement of additional historic markers, the creation of an updated Riverton Walking Tour, and the production of oral histories from interviews of local residents.

Your tax-deductible donation will enable the HSR to create true lasting value for our town and help us share the rich history of Riverton with the next generation through the following activities.

Central to the plan is the revision and updating of the Riverton Walking Tour, authored by HSR

members Mrs. Lenore Probsting and Mrs. Louise Vaughn in 1981. Over several months the women researched and illustrated two versions of the Walking Tour—an adult rendition and a children's "can you find..." adaptation. Mrs. Betty B. Hahle collaborated with the pair on a 1989 revision of the Walking Tour.

Building on that firm foundation, we plan to compose at least two updated Riverton Walking Tour maps to guide Riverton School students, residents and visitors through Riverton's points of interest both above and below the railroad tracks.



Riverton Walking Tour, rev. 1989: a foundation to expand upon PHOTO CREDIT: JMC

See **MARKING TIME** on 2



HSR's Museum-for-a-Day at the New Leaf is sure to edify and entertain all

Treasures, collectibles, photos, and artifacts appear for a rare public exhibition

In cooperation with the Riverton Free Library's Candlelight House Tour on Saturday, December 3, 2011, from 4-9 p.m., the Historical Society of Riverton has secured a section of the elegant and historic New Leaf Tea Room & Gift Shoppe for a rare exhibition of selected holdings from its archives.

Meanwhile, local shops, galleries and Christ Episcopal Church will be open, and the Porch Club will be showing the *Romance of Riverton* DVD. A pdf file for

the 2011 Candlelight House Tour Program Booklet is available on the Borough website as well as on rivertonhistory.com.



New Leaf Tea Room - 606-608 Main Dec. 2010 PHOTO CREDIT: JMC

See **MUSEUM** on 3

In this issue

MARKING TIME IN RIVERTON: NEW INITIATIVES MERIT MEMBER SUPPORT
- GERALD WEAVER

1

HSR's MUSEUM-FOR-A-DAY AT THE NEW LEAF DEC. 3
- JMC

1

THE STATE OF THE BLOG: RIVERTONHISTORY.COM
- JMC

4

COMPUTER
TIP

View the pdf file for this newsletter on your computer and all of the blue highlighted underlined terms become links. Just place your mouse cursor over the blue words and press **CTRL** plus click to follow link.



Kindly post your 2012 dues to:
**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF RIVERTON**
Post Office Box # 112
Riverton, NJ 08077

Your Contribution to
MARKING TIME IN RIVERTON
will help preserve & promote
LOCAL HISTORY



Check out
historypin.com
and look for
several Palmyra,
Riverside,
Moorestown, and
Riverton vintage
postcard images
uploaded by the
screen name
JRZ_History



The Marking Time Project may instill a passion for history in a new generation

MARKING TIME from 1

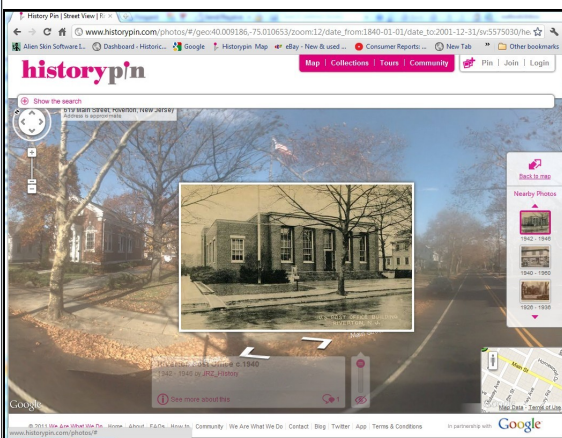
Oral histories, biographical sketches, paintings of important structures by artist Donna Malloy, and additional content related to the Walking Tour will be accessible on a feature-rich multimedia on-line version at rivertonhistory.com with articles, photographs, and video clips.



An oral history on DVD: Mr. Francis Cole recalls Cole's Dairy, recorded August 2010 tells first-hand of the raw milk depot that once operated at 5th & Main PHOTO CREDIT: JMc

We are excited about the potential to add to the vintage images stored on Historypin, a not-for-profit website, which in their own words, is a way for people "...to come together, from across different generations, cultures and places, to share small glimpses of the past and to build up the huge story of human history."

There, users upload vintage photos and coordinate them to their present-day locations via Google maps. Then anyone may use the free service to view what a place looked like back then, as well as now.



This Historypin screenshot shows a postcard of the former US Post Office at 613-615 Main which served until May 2009.

There is even an app which gives your iPhone or Android device the ability to explore collections on-the-go, not just for Riverton, but for places around the globe.

The multi-year project further aims to engage local volunteers and civic organizations in creating and erecting local roadside markers to educate the public about the historic importance of the people, organizations and buildings in Riverton.

The historic markers will bring to life selected destinations listed on the self-guided walking tour. Our program will partner with local residents and groups to create historic markers like the first marker erected by the Historical Society of Riverton in the town center describing the 1851 founding of Riverton. The cost for just one historic marker is approximately \$1800.

Finally, the HSR will encourage and assist community members in producing oral histories from interviews with local residents whose remarkable memories about past events and experiences reveal a bygone era in Riverton. We shall share these memoirs with students and the community. In addition, we shall continue the recognition program at Riverton Public School naming an eighth grade student to receive the Betty B. Hahle Award for Excellence in History which includes a plaque and a US Savings Bond.



Whom shall we interview for an oral history? Nominations are open at rivertonhistory.com. If nothing else, Riverton's history is the story of its people, their challenges, achievements, and how they dealt with them. By that definition, **everyone** has a memoir worth relating.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

As the first Walking Tours neared completion, Betty Hahle wrote in the in February 1981 *Gaslight News*:

We live in a changing world. Our towns, so much the same over the years, are in reality changing constantly—often without our even being aware of what has happened until one day we notice with surprise what has disappeared, or appeared...

Not all things of historic interest can, or should, be saved, of course. But neither can we afford to lose our heritage through ignorance or indifference.

We need to know and appreciate what we have, and to share this knowledge and interest with newer residents and property owners in our community, and with our children. In this way, the best of our local heritage will be preserved and enjoyed more thoroughly today, and in the future by others yet to come.

Look for the included reminder slip to pay your dues for 2012—our 42nd—and please consider adding a contribution to help in accomplishing the goals stated above.

- GERALD WEABER



Named Town Historian by Borough Council in 1995, Mrs. Betty B. Hahle said tracking down the borough's history is like "doing a puzzle. There's always another piece."

The Library's Candlelight House Tour and allied events are sure to put you in a holiday mood

MUSEUM from 1

Take a respite from touring the six beautifully decorated homes and stop by the New Leaf at 606 Main to see our display of collectibles, artifacts, photographs, ephemera, and historical clothing as well as historical preservation literature and continuous showings of our popular historical presentations on two laptop computers.

Historical Society Board members will be available as your Museum-for-a-Day Guides. Learn about the various incarnations of the New Leaf's century-old building as a

butcher shop, a furniture store, and an apothecary as you enjoy live music, refreshments, and the elegant yet cozy atmosphere of South Jersey's #1 Tea Room.

Shop for gift items for your local history enthusiast such as reproductions of local maps, reprints and enlargements of vintage photos, back issues of the *Gaslight News*, *Ruff Copy*—Anne Knight Ruff's nostalgic tales of growing up in Riverton, Bill Washington's *Historic Riverton* book, *The Romance of Riverton* DVD, HSR Gift Memberships, and more.

-JMc



Save the Date

Saturday
December 3, 2011
4-9:00PM

Riverton Library
Candlelight House Tour



\$15 tickets available at
The New Leaf,
Riverton Free Library
Beneficial Bank

also...

BE SURE TO VISIT THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF RIVERTON'S

Museum for a Day

AT

THE
NEW LEAF



Ezra Perkins, provision dealer, erected the house at 606 Main in 1889 and then built a smaller building on the right side at 608 Main as a butcher shop, circa 1900. Together they comprise today's New Leaf Team Room & Gift Shoppe. IMAGE COURTESY OF LORRAINE GAMBONE. True story—Mrs. Gambone literally rescued the original photo from the trash and thoughtfully brought it to our attention. How many more irreplaceable bits of Riverton's saga have been lost?



The state of the rivertonhistory.com blog


Come see what we can't fit into the *Gaslight News*



The website for the Historical Society of Riverton underwent a complete overhaul about this time last year and I ventured into the uncertain waters of the blogosphere on January 20, 2011, with my first blog, or web log, *[Illuminating Riverton's Past](#)*.

of a few private collectors or securely locked away in the Society's archives where few people can see them. People move away taking their collections with them, and historically important items may later be discarded. With the passage of time, history may be more dimly lit rather than more clearly revealed. Here, with your help, I hope to better illuminate some of those incomplete parts of our historical record.

Now, eleven months and 50 blog posts later I am gratified with the great amount of information about Riverton and the region that viewers have so generously contributed to our constantly expanding online archive.

Please visit rivertonhistory.com soon to read back issues of the *Gaslight News*: view PowerPoints, slide-shows, and video clips, plus hundreds of vintage images of Riverton and other towns in the region: catch up on [Programs and Events](#), stop at the [Riverton Veterans' Page](#), leave a comment or suggestion if you wish, and help us make some Riverton history. - JMc 

In that inaugural web log I wrote:

Much of the physical material upon which we depend for understanding Riverton's past, such as maps, photos, postcards, documents, and text from various primary sources, is often in the hands

Visit the growing 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, video clips, our blog, and more.

Readers: Evaluate President Gerald Weaber's enterprising plan for re-energizing public interest in Riverton history and, if you are able, help the HSR achieve its goals with a generous donation. Read about the Society's Museum-for-a-Day Dec. 3 at the New Leaf.

Gaslight News

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

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

Post Office Box # 112

Riverton, NJ 08077

856-786-6961

Gerald Weaber, Jr.	President
Phyllis Rodgers	Vice President
Paul Daly	Treasurer
Susan Dechnik	Publicity
Nancy Hall	Membership
Charlotte Lippincott	Secretary
John McCormick	Editor, Website

E-mail/Web: rivertonhistory@usa.com
<http://rivertonhistory.com/>



A look back at the last 7 blog posts

[WHO WILL YOU LOOK UP IN THIS 1928-1929 RIVERTON-PALMYRA PHONE BOOK?:](#) See Carl McDermott's 18-page phone book, a video clip of 1926 telephone operators, and Bell Tel. ads.

[THANKFUL FOR A POSTCARD GRAND SLAM AND MUCH MORE:](#) Nick Mortgu sure scored one when he got a 1905 RPPC with a steam locomotive, a station, a trolley, *and* an automobile.

[TRAINS, BOATS, PLANES, AND FIRE ENGINES PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOS. F. YEARLY:](#) Mary Yearly Flanagan shares over 20 pictures from her grandfather's photo album. Great stuff!

[EXPLORE THESE HI-RES PHOTOS OF A PROCESSION AT BROAD & GARFIELD:](#) Step into these two Palmyra scenes and look for clues to help decide what the pictures portray. Courtesy of CMcD

[THANK YOU TO MOORE'S POSTCARD MUSEUM FOR OVER 90 ADDITIONS TO HSR'S ONLINE POSTCARD ALBUM:](#) While answering a request for an image of an Ocean City hotel, I lucked into this blog which resulted in the author sending us over 90 pics.

[JOS. F. YEARLY'S PHOTOS RECALL THE J.T. EVANS COAL & LUMBER BUSINESS:](#) See photos, newspaper clippings, and maps.

[JUST IN - OVER 30 NEW VINTAGE IMAGES OF RIVERTON:](#) See Nick Mortgu's choice Riverton postcards. Some rare ones here.