

Gaslight News

January 2014

Historical Society of Riverton

vol. XXXIV, no. 1 (#155)

Founded 1970

Riverton, NJ 08077

Incorporated 1978



"Long Abraham Lincoln a Little Longer" by Frank Bellew. *Harper's Weekly*, Nov 26, 1864, p. 768

Celebrate Lincoln's Birthday at The Bank on Main with the HSR; there will be cake

Meet Mr. Lincoln as portrayed by acclaimed actor/historian Bob Gleason Feb. 12 at 7p.m.

The Society is pleased to present an *Evening with President Abraham Lincoln* on the occasion of his 205th birthday, as dramatized by renowned actor and historian **Bob Gleason**.

Where: [The Bank on Main](#), 604 Main Street

When: Feb. 12, 2014 at 7 p.m. Admission \$5. Students accompanied by an adult admitted free. Pre-registration recommended but walk-ins are welcome as space permits. Call: (856) 786-0323.

This program will focus on the formative years of our 16th president through his courtship and marriage to Mary Todd, the beginnings and development of his abolitionist view point, his first trip to Congress and how he raised himself up from his humble beginnings to become the man who heroically issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

[Mr. Gleason](#) has portrayed The Rail-Splitter, as well as nearly 150 other historical figures, at venues public and private from coast to coast since 1980.

While many may know of broader aspects of Mr. Lincoln's role in the preservation of the

Union and as an Abolitionist, Bob Gleason's nuanced interpretation of this enigmatic man is the result of a much deeper study.

An ardent historian with a personal library of over 200 books on Lincoln, Robert Gleason holds a degree in Theater Arts from West Chester University, and has appeared in over fifty plays and musicals.

Through his association with the American Historical Theatre, Mr. Gleason has performed at the White House Visitor's Center, Ford's Theatre, the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, Constitution Hall, the National Constitution Center, Independence Hall, plus many schools, museums, historic sites and libraries throughout the United States.

Thus equipped with a historian's knowledge, an actor's creativity, and broad experience he employs audience interactivity to dramatically explore the personal side of this complicated historical figure.

Bring a friend and join us.

-JMC



In this issue

LINCOLN AT THE BANK ON MAIN FEB 12 - JMC	1
THIRD GRADE VISITS HSR MUSEUM - JMC	1
DOWNTON ABBEY FUND-RAISER MAR 2 - JMC	2
MUSEUM FOR A DAY RECAP - S. DECHNIK	3
MEMBERS SHOW THEIR SUPPORT - JMC	3
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS? - JMC	4

Riverton School Third Graders visit the Museum for a Day at The New Leaf

It's a rare chance for students to glimpse the past before the Museum folds for another year



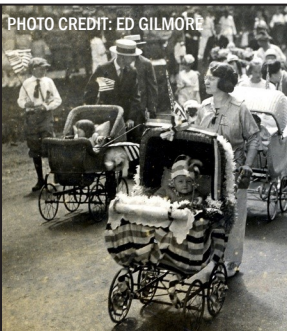
The *HSR's Museum for a Day* (held at the New Leaf on Saturday, December 7 in conjunction with the Candlelight House Tour) actually played again to a full house the following Wednesday as Third Graders hiked over from Riverton School to experience Phyllis Rodgers' version of a Please-Touch-Museum.

See RPS on 2



PHOTO CREDIT: MISS DURANTE

Kaylee pushes a baby carriage, or perambulator, as it was known years ago.

PHOTO CREDIT: ED GILMORE
A plethora of prams in a WWI era Riverton patriotic parade

RPS from 1

The New Leaf proprietor, former Riverton School teacher, and current HSR President welcomed the students. After they had the opportunity to browse, hear explanations, and even try on some of the clothing, Mrs. Rodgers gathered the group to give a short history of the town.

Then she held up some of the articles on the "Can You Guess?" table where she displayed everyday items from the past and asked if anyone could identify how the item was used.

An old grater, hat pins, kitchen items, a china crock used to collect hair, an iron that would be heated on the stove, a hair crimper, and folding fans drew some creative guesses. The

Dressed in knickers for the event, Michael holds a vintage outfit for a boy.
PHOTO CREDIT: MISS DURANTE

students' reactions showed their appreciation and interest.

Gibson Girl, c.1900



Later, the students mentioned in their thank-you notes to Mrs. Rodgers what impressed them.

Ryan Ann wrote, "The lady's bathing suit felt scratchy. It must have been heavy on them when they got out of the water." Austin learned "...they used to sell milk in glass bottles."

Seeing glass milk bottles, old fashions in clothing, and hearing about Riverton's past from Mrs. Rodgers, with its trolleys, steam locomotives, horse-drawn carriages, paddwheel boats, and of course, Dreer's Nursery gave the children a memorable glimpse into our town's history that is not in their textbooks.



- Susan Dechnik



F.C. Cole Dairy distributed fresh milk from its bottling depot at 501 Main Street, c1900-1940
PHOTO CREDIT: JMc



Downton Abbey Inspired Tea comes to Riverton March 2 for a HSR fundraiser

Forgot to book your Viking River Cruise and English castle B&B? Here's something to do.

STOP WHINING and find something TO DO



Violet Crawley, Dowager Countess of Grantham



Popular re-enactor and professional storyteller **Alisa DuPuy** returns to the New Leaf for a very special reserved seating **Downton Abbey Inspired Tea** on Sunday, March 2, 2014, at 1 p.m. Admission \$45.

New Leaf proprietor Mrs. Phyllis Rodgers promises guests a full Afternoon Tea plus games, trivia quizzes, prizes, and surprises themed to the massively successful British period television drama series set in the early 1900s.

A portion of your prepaid \$45 ticket benefits the Historical Society of Riverton. Please call now to reserve your place. (856) 786-0323.

The exclusive menu includes flavorful tea sandwiches in-

spired by Downton characters, the New Leaf's signature sweet crumbly scones, delectable desserts, and of course, potfuls of tea brewed from the finest loose-leaf gourmet teas.

Men and women guests for this unique experience are encouraged to wear costumes, hats, hairdos, and accessorize as they please.

Find out more about Alisa DuPuy and the more than thirty real-life and fictional characters she plays at theladiesofhistory.com

- JMc



Alisa as
The Dowager Countess
PHOTO CREDIT: BILL BROWN



If you missed the Museum at the New Leaf Dec. 7, check rivertonhistory.com

A virtual visit is the next best thing to seeing the real exhibition; donations always welcome

The Riverton Free Library held its biennial *Candlelight House Tour* on December 7 so the Society capitalized on the chance to display for the public some of our seldom seen artifacts, courtesy of Mrs. Phyllis Rodgers, owner of the New Leaf.

After HSR members devoted so many hours over several days in preparation for the exhibition, the few hours available for actually viewing the Museum for a Day from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. flew by in a blink.

We brought out some familiar chestnuts such as Dreer's Nursery items, our vintage clothing collection, and the Riverton Gun Club history book.



We thank Mr. Carhart for his extraordinary generosity in donating this quantity of Yacht Club material to the Society. Included are blueprints for building a Duster, two reels of 16mm movie film taken of the 1949 Duster Championship, and various newspapers, photos, Yacht Club publications, and regatta programs dating back to the 1930s.

One new addition to the display was a whole slew of Riverton Yacht Club items that former resident *Marty Carhart* sent us in 2011. The RYC will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2015, so the Society is greatly indebted to Mr. Carhart for adding to our collection in such a substantial way.

Lacking a physical museum in which to display these and other mementos, we shall try to photograph and scan them so that website visitors can get a closer look. Our hope is that rivertonhistory.com will develop more into a place in which visitors can collaborate by contributing comments, scans, photos, articles, etc.

The online *Riverton Veterans Album* is now greatly enlarged with the addition of many newspaper clippings and photos culled from the Newspaper Digitalization Project. *Nancy Hall* and *Elsie Waters* were held as captive audience at the New Leaf premiere showing. As they watched, they gave a running color commentary of everyone they knew or knew of—and that was most of the people on the slideshow. You can see it at rivertonhistory.com on the [Riverton Veterans](#) page.

Please visit our website for more photos and details and see what else you missed at our [Museum for a Day](#).

- JMc



ABOVE: HSR Board members spent many hours selecting items from our collection for this one day exhibit. L-R: Cheryl Smekal, Susan Dechnik, and Aggie Kennedy stage the antique clothing. PHOTO CREDIT: JMc



Nancy Hall and Elsie Waters screened the updated Riverton Veterans Album slideshow. PHOTO CREDIT: JMc



COMPUTER TIP

When you open this issue as a PDF file on the HSR website, all of the blue highlighted underlined terms become links.

1. place your mouse cursor over the blue words ...
2. ...wait for it to change to a pointing hand and...
3. left-mouse click to follow the link.



Members show support in many ways

Board Members manage HSR affairs; members support with dues, donate items; patrons give beyond

There are many ways to support the Historical Society and each one is vitally important to the success of the Society.

Board Members strive to manage the organization's affairs including recordkeeping, finances, publication of the newsletter and website, and program offerings. Donors contribute gifts of information or objects that help further reveal Riverton's

past. The general membership provides basic financial support, and the economic contributions made by a few generous benefactors greatly improve our options for securing quality presenters and programs.

Not to sound too PBS, but we quite literally would not be the same without you. Your support helps keep our message going on the web, in print, and at meetings.

- JMc





A review of the our last several website posts perfectly illustrate how rivertonhistory.com is gradually developing into a meeting place for research and discussion about our favorite town.

Ideas and images from *Elsie Waters*, Jim Gardner and Action News, *Bill Hall*, a Jan. 14, 1900 *Phila. Inquirer* article, *Mary Flanagan*, and a Feb. 11, 1917 *New York Times* article each contributed to the post of January 10, *History Repeats Itself as Ice Jams the Delaware River*. Three Facebook visitors liked it.



Detail of stereoview of ice jam at Riverton Yacht Club, Jan. 1920
IMAGE CREDIT: ELSIE WATERS

Snow Day 2014

created the most buzz, at least as measured by the ten Facebook likes. *Elsie Waters*, *Richard Flach*, and *Bay Ruff* contributed facts and pictures to the cause for that post.

Michael Cattell

kindly commented through Facebook that the photo caption should read Riverton, not Palmyra, and he sent a convincing [YouTube link](#) of his handiwork as proof.



Gertrude Wright, 1914
IMAGE CREDIT: RICHARD FLACH



413-415 Elm St., Riverton 2014
PHOTO CREDIT: M. CATTELL

That fortuitous exchange resulted in Mike offering to use his animated morphing technique to dramatically compare new and old pictures of other locations in Riverton. We'll report back as the project develops.

A New Year's Potpourri displayed some recently acquired items and incorporated

material from eBay sellers, *Keith Betten*, *Michael Robinson*, *Jeff Cole*, *Harlan Radford*, *Nick Mortgu*, and yours truly.

Nick Mortgu

is one of several collectors of local history artifacts and ephemera who have provided many rare scans of images from their collections that the Society would not otherwise be able to obtain.



Main Street, Riverton, 1907
IMAGE CREDIT: JMc



Riverton Free Library, 1909
IMAGE CREDIT: NICK MORTGU

For news and developments in between issues please go to rivertonhistory.com.

And if *you* are on Facebook, we need all the friends we can get. Please feel free to contribute when you have a comment, question, or want to correct the record.

- JMc



Help make our growing HSR website at <http://rivertonhistory.com/> more collaborative with your comments and contributions. Check in for information on events, past issues of *Gaslight News*, vintage images, a veterans' page, our blog, and more.

Readers: Inside this issue read about the programs slated for Feb. 12 and March 2, 2014. First, Abe Lincoln visits and then tea with Lady Violet. See what you missed at the Museum for a Day and check in on the HSR website content.

Gaslight News

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



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

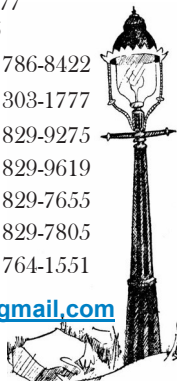
Post Office Box # 112

Riverton, NJ 08077

AREA CODE 856

Phyllis Rodgers	President	786-8422
Pat Bruner	Vice President	303-1777
Cheryl Smekal	Vice President	829-9275
Susan Dechnik	Vice President	829-9619
Paul Daly	Treasurer	829-7655
Pat Solin	Secretary	829-7805
John McCormick	Editor, Website	764-1551

E-mail/Web: rivertonhistory@gmail.com
rivertonhistory.com/



In 2011, *Riverton's Military & Veterans Affairs Committee* installed 48 more names on the *Riverton War Memorial* after it revised the eligibility criteria. In 2012 and 2013 another 21 and 15 veterans' names were included respectively.



The 18 year-old sailor pictured above served on the *USS Little Rock* during 1945-1946 and later carried his bride across the threshold to the apartment next to Freeman Hunter's store on Main Street in 1950. A resident of Riverton ever since, the War Memorial Honor Roll caught up with his name in 2012.

For over 30 years his place of business on Main Street has been housed in a relocated church chapel. Recently, he lent this photo so it can be included in the next update of the *Riverton Veterans' Album*. If you have not guessed his name yet, look below.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Alfred W. DeVece, or Freddy DeVece

FORGOTTEN SOMETHING?

We thank those members who have renewed dues for our 2014 fiscal year. We have 156 members (including 31 Life Members), 35 of whom have not yet paid. Please check your mailing label—if there is a "life" or "2014" next to your name, membership dues are current.



I HATE IT WHEN THAT HAPPENS

Finally, those of you who bind your back-issues of the *Gaslight* may have noticed that your Editor bugged up the nomenclature of the volumes in Sept. This is correct.

vol. XXXXIII, no. 1 (#150)	Jan 2013
vol. XXXXIII, no. 2 (#151)	Apr 2013
vol. XXXXIII, no. 3 (#152)	Jun 2013
vol. XXXXIII, no. 4 (#153)	Sep 2013
vol. XXXXIII, no. 5 (#154)	Nov 2013
vol. XXXXIV, no. 1 (#155)	Jan 2014

- JMc

