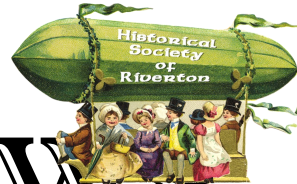


# Gaslight News



March 2017

Historical Society of Riverton

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Founded 1970

Riverton, NJ 08077

Incorporated 1978

**W**ith the approach in April 2017, of the [centennial of the US entry into World War I](#), the *Gaslight News* publishes this second in a series of three articles to honor the courage and sacrifice of those who served, as well as to depict the way it was here on the home front.

"On the Home Front" explores the role played by individual citizens, organizations, and institutions in support of the war effort. With energy, and a commitment to sacrifice for the good of their country, the Riverton community came together to help win the war.

## ON THE HOME FRONT

This second installment of a three-part series of articles by Patricia Solin recognizes contributions of Rivertonians to World War I.

### FORTY REGISTER FROM RIVERTON, PALMYRA AND CINNAMINSON

Thirty-seven Men to be Called to Camp Dix During Period of June 24 to 28

The registration on June 5 of the men arriving at the age of 21 since the last draft, resulted in the signing up of 181 in this District, No. 2.

Forty from Riverton, Palmyra and Cinnaminson have been enrolled, which include the following:

Riverton—Fred R. Smoth, James B. Elliott, Jr., Elzie Stanford, Otis W. Myers, Thomas G. Holmes, Harvey W. Frank, Francis C. Cole, Jr., Louis F. Lowden, Jr., Joseph J. McDermott, W. M. Bennett, John Wilder, Leo Aloysius Ganges, Raymond Kendail, Lilman H. Ranson, Augustus Harris, Edwin J. Sharp, George H. Welgel, Almand Myers.

*Palmyra Record*, June 14, 1918, p1.

The third registration in September of 1918 expanded the ages for men between the ages of 18 through 45. Riverton sent its young and

It is amazing what Rivertonians can do when the community is called to action.

With the Selective Service Act of 1917, three registrations for the draft occurred for all men between the ages of 21 and 31.

The third

middle-aged men to serve in Europe in the Great War. With so many young men at war, women took up the challenge to do their part.

Among the 116 persons from Riverton listed in *The New Era's* Honor Roll during World War I, were four women who volunteered as nurses—Helen Elsie Biddle, Edith S. Coale, Amanda Faunce, and Edith Holvick.

Faunce was an Army nurse whose duty began in May of 1917, serving 23 months with the University of Pennsylvania Hospital Unit No. 10.

### AMANDA FAUNCE WAS ARMY NURSE

Served Two Years in France Administering to the Sick and Wounded Soldiers



AMANDA FAUNCE

*The New Era*, July 2, 1931

See **HOME FRONT** on 2



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## President's Message

Phyllis Rodgers outlines this season's agenda

Greeting HSR Members:

THANK YOU for endorsing our mission by renewing membership for 2017 and for cash gifts from C. Miller and Joan Biddle, Paul Grena, and Paul Schopp. We welcome Keith Fencil to the Board.

There is simply TOO MUCH going on with the Society for one newsletter issue to contain,. For more details please check with [rivertonhistory.com](http://rivertonhistory.com).



Phyllis Rodgers  
Preservation  
Awards Night  
2-16-17

SAVE the DATE for these upcoming events:

In partnership with the Riverton Free Library, the Society presents **The Golden Age of Silent Film & Hollywood Regency** by Kate Butler, Thursday, March 23, 2017, at 7pm. Ms. Butler will examine memorabilia of old Hollywood including cosmetics and toiletry items, hair products, grooming instruments, now-banned



Kate Butler ([Decotique.com](http://Decotique.com))

See **MESSAGE** on 3



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# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

## "V" BUTTONS AND FLAGS ARE READY

Most Striking Emblems of All  
Loans to Be Used in  
Last Campaign.

Buttons for subscribers to the Victory Liberty Loan and pennants for their homes and places of business are ready for distribution throughout this district. When the three-week campaign begins, April 21, every locality will be supplied; every buyer who shares this last popular loan of the war will be able to wear his badge of honor.



The "V" buttons are the most striking of all that have been devised in the five campaigns. They are of dark blue with a white "V" in the center. About the letter are the words "Liberty Loan."



The window honor emblem for the home carries a large blue "V" under the word "subscriber" in red. Another emblem with "100 per cent" enclosed in a circle will be hung in homes.

### Household



where all have subscribed. The industrial home flag is square with a border of red, and will be awarded any business institution where 75 per cent or more of the employees subscribe.



The community honor flag which goes to every city or town upon obtaining its quota has a large "V" upon a white background with a border of red.



For this loan there has been made a "Beginning to End" honor flag, to be awarded to every city and town which has raised its quota in all five campaigns. It carries five blue stripes on a white background, the fifth stripe crossing the others in a diagonal line. There is a deep border of red.

## HOME FRONT from 1

Often in personal danger, and sometimes having to take protection in the trenches that surrounded the Army hospital, her dedication, skill, and longevity in her duty was rewarded in 1931 as the only Riverton female WWI veteran to receive a Riverton service ring.

The women of the Porch Club were busy. Their agenda included helping to "combat any disadvantages that the school might have," to "promoting high democratic ideals outside the school." From organizing a convention on war relief to promoting women's suffrage, the Porch Club was involved with supporting families and women at home.



Mrs. Alexander Marcy Jr.

**Mrs. Mary Ann Mecray Marcy**, wife of the town's physician, acted as committee chair for both the NJ Congress of Parents and Teachers, and New Jersey's Red Cross.

Under her direction, the organizations raised \$2,235 to buy a fully-equipped Army ambulance for the NJ Ambulance Unit as well as arrange for the donation of the remaining funds to help the "suffering children of Belgium."

Red Cross sewing clubs created Muslin Boxes which included 1,122 muslin bandages, crinoline and flannel bandages, along with pajamas, bath robes, socks, and slippers. Riverton resident, **Captain Franklin D'Olier**, entreated his neighbors to "Please knit as hard as you can, socks, sweaters,



Col. Franklin D'Olier, July 5, 1920  
PHOTO: ROBERT KNIGHT

and then more socks and sweaters! I am sleeping in my campaign hat and overcoat, and writing with my gloves on."

Statewide, families were asked to conserve. "We must win this

war by saving food ... Every ounce of meat saved, every slice of bread utilized to the best advantage, means victory for America and its Allies." Our homemakers were encouraged to have a meatless day and a wheatless day each week so to save these staples for the troops.

With their men serving overseas, many women were asked to join the workforce. As one newspaper article stated, "all may not be able to do field work," but women could assist the war effort to raise funds, such in in selling War Bonds, or to help do "intelligent and useful things for the amelioration of suffering humanity." At the end of the article was added, "men are invited to join."

In May of 1919, the "Women's Committee on the Victory Loan has raised \$112,000, the Men's Committee, \$20,000."

Men who were too old to serve overseas also volunteered. One group of men

## WE CANNOT ALL KILL AN ENEMY BUT CAN FEED THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR US

Every day in the week is "less" something. The schedule announced by the Federal Food Administration that is being followed in the home of every patriot is:

**Monday—Wheatless all day. One meal meatless.**  
**Tuesday—Meatless all day. One meal wheatless.**  
**Wednesday—Wheatless all day. One meal meatless.**  
**Thursday—One meal meatless. One meal wheatless.**  
**Friday—One meal meatless. One meal wheatless.**  
**Saturday—Porkless all day. One meal wheatless.**  
**Sunday—One meal meatless. One meal wheatless.**

*Palmyra Record, March 1, 1918, p1.*



*Americans All! Victory Liberty Loan, c.1919* An allegorical female figure of America stands in front of an American flag, holding a wreath over an "Honor roll" that lists last names from different ethnic groups, recognizing that soldiers from diverse immigrant groups had participated in the war.



created an aviation league to train aviators for military duty should the United States be invaded by a foreign power. Over 100 men joined this Riverton organization to preserve safety on the home front.

Riverton's Home Guard recruited young men for defense, equipping them with rifles and machine guns. Officers received swords and directed the men on drills, hikes and maneuvers.

**Riverton Free Library** asked for books for soldiers, which were collected by the Boy Scouts and sent overseas. Editors of *The New Era* generously sent free newspapers to Riverton servicemen.

**1600 Books Given to Camp Dix**  
Special to *The Inquirer*.  
BURLINGTON, N. J., April 6.—Over 600 books have been given to the soldiers and sailors by this city and 1000 books from Riverton.  
*Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 7, 1918 p6.

Community Hut was established at the Parish House of **Christ Episcopal Church**.

In the military, the term "hut" usually refers to a wooden or metal structure for billeting troops. First built in London, such recreational huts were constructed to provide a home away from home to soldiers and military personnel. YMCA volunteers served at thousands of huts in Europe and America.

## AVIATION LEAGUE IS BEING FORMED

**Riverton Organization Already  
Has 100 Members Enrolled.  
Will Seek State Aid**

*Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 11, 1917, p4.

**HOME GUARD RECRUITING**  
Riverton Enlisting Men From 18 to 21 for Military Training  
Special to *The Inquirer*.  
RIVERTON, N. J., Dec. 16.—Efforts are being made by the Riverton Home Guard to enlist in its ranks every young man in the city between the ages of 18 and 21 in order that such citizens may have become efficient in military training should the draft be extended to these ages.

*Philadelphia Inquirer*, Dec. 17, 1917, p2.

To ensure that those service men "who have already returned and those who are on the way home may find rest and recreation," the Commu-

Opening December 10, 1918, *The New Era* claimed it was the first in the US. That night Riverton's Hut was... "Tastefully decorated" with American and Allied colors, it offered refreshments and "interesting entertainment," for its "returning warriors."

Entertainments and amusements offered at the Hut included dancing to jazz bands, vocal and instrumental performances, games, magic and comedy acts, singalongs, and professional plays.

For those who opposed the bearing of arms, such as the Society of Friends, they endorsed the "conservation of food and the establishment of centers for the drying and canning of fruit" and other non-combative service. Quaker, Dr. Joshua Janney of Riverton, commented that "the question of resistance is one for each to decide in his own heart."

We are proud that, with energy and a commitment to sacrifice for the good of their country, especially for those who were serving overseas, the Riverton community came together to do their part to help win the Great War.

- MRS. PATRICIA SMITH SOLIN



## COMMUNITY HUT IS HUGE SUCCESS

**Social Centre During War When  
Everybody Rubbed Elbows  
In Common Cause**

*The New Era*, Dec. 13, 1918.

## FRIENDS DISCUSS WAR AT MEETING

**Young Men Urged to Get Into  
Service in Non-Combat-  
ant Capacity**

*Trenton Evening Times*, August 23, 1917,

### MESSAGE from 1

toxic products, and report on famous immigrant cosmetologists Max Factor and Helena Rubinstein. Sure to be illuminating!

Preservation Awards Night on February 16, 2017, was a big success. Presenters **Keith Betten, Michael and Colin Cattell, Alan Lilholt, and Ryan Lippincott** all did a great job, and it was so nice to have **Dan Campbell's** charming daughters



The audience reacts to a presenter's renovation woes.

here to give Dad's comments. We thanked **Elsie Waters** and **Aggie Kennedy** for serving on the Board and viewed Mike Cattell's amazing Then & Now video. Attendance was wonderful — about 60 with many new faces. Conversation and cake after made it a party. Space here does not permit more, so see photos, the evening's slide show, and photos on our [website](#).

A presentation in collaboration with the Porch Club at the **Porch Club, 7pm on April 18**, serves as a prelude to a grand **Bicycle Weekend June 10-11** (details TBD). **Bicycling in Riverton: Then and Now**, by noted Wheelman **Gary Sanderson** and **Carlos Rogers** looks at the history and development of the ubiquitous two-wheeler, Riverton's now-gone velodrome, and the origin of the Historic Riverton Criterium, now in its seventh year.

Best to all,  
Phyllis Rodgers  
856-786-8422.



# Firehouse gang brings original bell back home

Lifetime HSR member Marty Carhart reached out across the miles to donate the original bell that summoned early firefighters

In a Jan. 30 email we received an offer we couldn't refuse from Ezra "Marty" Carhart III.

*Need your assistance in checking whether the Riverton Fire Co. or the Historical Society have any interest in a original fire-company bell. It was replaced at the fire company in the early 1900s. The bell has the following cast marking: JAMES P ALLAIRE. NEW YORK.*



PHOTO CREDIT: DEB LENGYEL

Marty's father, Ezra Carhart, was the Riverton Fire Company's Fifth Fire Chief from November 8, 1932 - June 11, 1935. Over time, Marty has generously donated [many RYC and sailing items](#) plus his father's fire chief uniform buttons.

WOULD WE!  
I passed this hot-potato to Deb Lengyel, who eagerly coordinated a visit to the Carharts in Emmaus, PA to retrieve the bell.



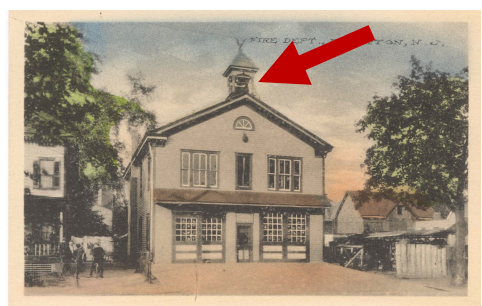
PHOTO CREDIT: DEB LENGYEL

She explains on her [FB page](#):

*A group of us were able to retrieve it today from Emmaus, PA, with the help of the Carhart family and a few of our members, including myself, Robert Yearly, Dan Baker, Greg Bondarenko and Wayne Neal.*

*The fire company plans to have a permanent installation of the bell in the front of the firehouse soon. Stay tuned for future details.*

- JMc



vintage postcard, Riverton Fire Co.

CREDIT: SCAN FROM BETTY HAHLE'S COLLECTION

Mike Solin implemented two improved features—a search feature and Events Calendar. Find information regarding events, past issues of *Gaslight News*, membership information, links to Riverton School's Riverton Project, slide shows of vintage images, and much more.

Readers: Find inside the 2nd installment of Pat Solin's articles on Riverton's role in WWI. Phyllis Rodgers highlights upcoming events. Deb Lengyel & Crew return a Riverton artifact to the firehouse.



Palmyra PRR Station, one of several new finds since last issue. CREDIT: JM

## Gaslight News

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[rivertonhistory.com/](http://rivertonhistory.com/)



## You might want to see this.

Roger Prichard has done a great community service

*"Surely there are still old photos, printed material, and information waiting to be found and shared here."*

Roger Prichard, HSR member and [Riverton Steamboat Landing Foundation](#) volunteer with a particular set of skills (for a historian, that is), must have seen my above plea when it appeared in Issue#166 in a piece inviting readers to explore old local newspapers online.



Riverton Station

depicting more than 40 extraordinary scenes and portraits taken over several years about 1887.

He was not alone in lamenting the loss of this historic structure. The impending demolition of the [Clothier Carriage House](#) at 3rd and Main compelled him to photograph the building before it was gone.

Clothier Carriage House PHOTO: ROGER PRICHARD

Just posted here on [rivertonhistory.com](http://rivertonhistory.com) are two files containing photos and insightful commentary that Roger very generously compiled. Each, though different, help fill in more pieces to the puzzle that is Riverton history.

He recently scanned the so-called [Lindsay-Fidler Album](#) of original photographs in possession of the Riverton Free Library

