



HSR Meetings 7pm Nov. 16 and Jan. 17 Riverton Library

Gaslight News

rivertonhistory.com

November 2017

Historical Society of Riverton

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Founded 1970

Riverton, NJ 08077

Incorporated 1978

Beekeepers' President



Richard D. Barclay

"Richard D. Barclay, of Riverton, president of the Beekeepers' Association, who is presiding at the session of the organization, is the largest keeper of bees in this state. He has more than 400 colonies. President Barclay today discussed "National Bee Disease Control Problems..."

Trenton Evening Times,
Jan. 14, 1926.



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Barclay recognized the need for bees

The nationally noted apiarist increased crop yields by renting bee colonies to farmers

This profusion of wildflowers on the riverbank may have achieved its primary goal of providing a space for pollinators such as bees and butterflies to thrive, but a bonus was that it also served as a colorful foreground in many photos captured there this summer.

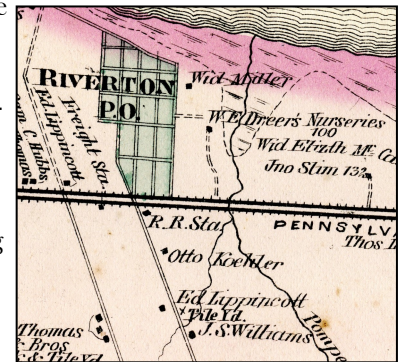


Perhaps you know that pollinators are an important part of plant reproduction and that many native bees and butterflies are declining due to the decline of pollinator plants they need to survive.

Long before scientists coined the term [colony collapse disorder](#) in late 2006 to describe the sudden mass disappearance of the majority of worker bees in a colony, **Richard D. Barclay** was one of the first in New Jersey to realize the need for bees to pollinate food crops.

The Journal of the Eastern Apicultural Society of North America (Winter 1986) hailed Barclay as one of the first in New Jersey to realize the need of honeybees for pollinating blueberries, apples, cranberries, peaches, cherries, and other crops.

In 1901, while still a teen, Barclay took over the management of bees on the Lippincott farm, working them on school vacations, and building up a



1876 Cinnaminson map detail

See **BARCLAY BEES** on 2

President's Message

President William C. Brown Jr., bullet points recent Society developments



- On Veterans Day, around 10:00am, the VFW and American Legion will perform a ceremony and place wreaths at the Riverton Veterans War Memorial, located Broad & Main Sts.
- Thank you for your continuing support through your 2018 membership and donations which are so critical to the Society's mission. Look for a form in this mailing.
- In connection with our recent series of arti-

cles on World War I by Mrs. Patricia Smith Solin, we present *Woodrow Wilson and the Great War*, a captivating one-man show set in the turbulent days leading up to World War I.

Riverton Library
Thursday
Nov. 16
7pm
Free admission
Seating is limited



Professional actor [Neill Hartley](#) portrays [Woodrow Wilson](#), lawyer, professor, university president, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and 28th US President

- BILL



BARCLAY BEES from 1

large apiary, or a place in which bee colonies are kept.

By the 1930s, he would own the largest apiary in the East and established himself as a national authority on bees.

Born in Conshohocken, PA, young Dick Barclay had a tough time of it, having lost his father at age seven. He and his mother lived with relatives for a time. His mother passed when he was fourteen, and he went to live with maiden aunts in Philadelphia where he attended William Penn Charter School.

Admitted to Penn State College in 1902, Riverton became his home base when he spent summers and vacations with his uncle and aunt, Charles and Hettie Miller at 104 Lippincott Avenue.

As an undergrad, Richard Barclay consumed all literature he could on bees and pollination, and he delighted in showing visitors his observation beehive in the dormitory window.

In August 1903, he traveled to apiarists in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, writing of his experience in the September issue of *American Bee Journal*.

In 1904, while still a senior, he lectured on the infant science of pollination in eastern Pennsylvania for the Farmers Institute. His address, "Practical Methods in Bee-Keeping" received "universal commendation," according to a report of the Pennsylvania State Bee-Keepers Association.

Also in 1904, he served on the executive committee of the newly formed Pennsylvania State Bee-Keepers Association, addressed the organization's first convention on "Education in Apiculture," and authored Pennsylvania State College Cor-

respondence Lessons on beekeeping. That same year he traveled to St. Louis World's Fair to demonstrate as an expert at the US Government Exhibit.

He earned his degree in 1905, with the distinction of having been the youngest graduate in the history of the college. Graduate studies followed, and Penn State awarded him his Master of Science degree in 1908.

Next, he planned to start a commercial spraying operation for orchardists to combat various insects and diseases, but before left for Harrisburg to ask for guidance from a zoologist, he stopped by Lippincott Farm in Riverton to check on his hives.

There he reached an epiphany and conceived the idea for a commercial pollination service instead.

The next spring he offered a small number of colonies to area apple farmers and his efforts soon bore fruit — literally. The crop yields proved spectacular.

The young entrepreneur increased his inventory and peddled his novel service that summer to more farmers, renting out colonies of bees annually for use as pollinators of fruit tree blossoms.

FOR SALE.—20 colonies in 8-fr. hives tested Italian queens, good worker combs, Hoffman frames, inspection certificate if desired, \$20.00 each. May delivery. Richard D. Barclay, Riverton, N. J.

Gleanings in Bee Culture, April 1920, p239.

A by-product of the pollination service during the spring growing season was the harvesting of honey that followed.

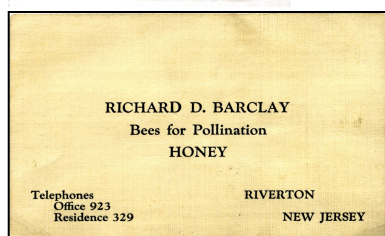
He placed advertisements in newspaper and trade periodicals for selling his honey as well as for beekeeping supplies.

In 1914, he married **Theresa Spackman** and they lived at 205 Lippincott Avenue. His household grew to include the couple and their four children, Walter, Emily, Richard, and Elizabeth.

Dreer Nursery engaged Barclay in 1929, to put three colonies in a field of special strain scarlet sage. The result was that they gathered nearly three times the amount of seed from the field with bees than was gathered from a larger field with no honeybees.

As the business developed, he concentrated on

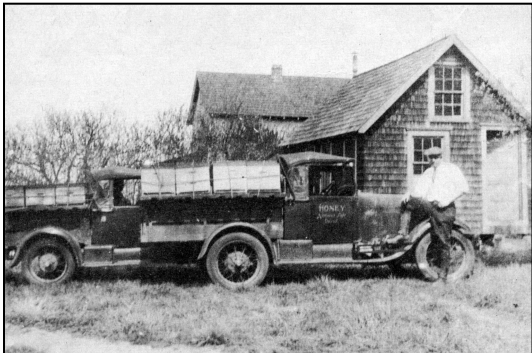
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undated business card
DONATION FROM: Nancy and Bill Hall

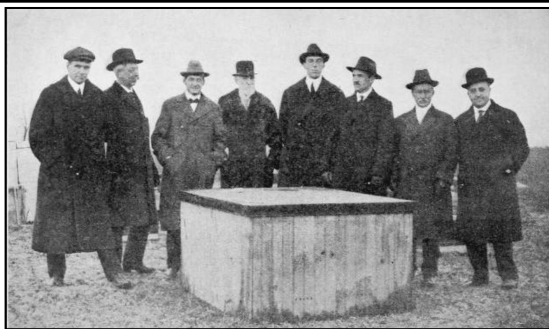


Mules moved colonies in 1910. Barclay pictured on ground *Gleanings Bee Culture*, Oct 1971, p359



Barclay pictured with two pickup trucks, 1929
Gleanings Bee Culture, Oct 1971, p360.

either apple or blueberry pollination in the spring (since the same colonies could not be used in both), moving hives near cranberry bogs in June,

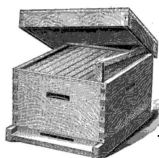


Gleanings in Bee Culture, March 1917, p182.

A FEW NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS L-R. Richard Barclay, C.D. Cheney, J.L. Dubree, W.A. Veseillus, Corsom Poley, E.G. Carr, C.H. Root, and W.E. Thorndyke of NY

Commission and the local Rotary organization. He held positions on the NJ State Board of Agriculture, as well as in NJ and PA state and national beekeeper associations.

At his sudden death at 58 in 1938, his commercial pollination enterprise, a NJ "first", had operated for over thirty years, grown to a thousand colonies rented for pollination, and produced 10-20 tons of honey annually.



typical bee colony 1918

- JMc



Face the music with Sandy Marrone at Jan. HSR meet

Sandy Marrone, owner of the world's largest private sheet music collection, shares part of her extensive archive which spans from the early 1800s to the present **Wednesday, January 17, 2018, at Riverton Free Library at 7:00 pm.**

From waltzes to rock n' roll, from Madonna to Manilow, she even owns more Elvis sheet music than Graceland!

Free admission
Space is limited



Above: sheet music selections related to Vineland, Trenton, and Camden. PHOTO CREDITS: *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Sept. 17, 2017



Started in 1975, her collection now includes 600,000 examples of vintage and contemporary sheet music songs in every imaginable topic and musical genre.

National Honey Week

November 15 to 22

HONEY

Produced in
The Apiaries
of
Richard D. Barclay
Riverton, N. J.

USES OF HONEY AS FOOD

On hot bread, hot cakes, waffles and toast.

In place of sugar on cut peaches, grapefruit, raspberries and other raw fruits, as well as with baked apples and other cooked fruit dishes.

As a relish with fried meats, particularly sausage and ham.

Used in baking breads and cakes, honey holds moisture and retains freshness longer.

As a spread on bread for children's lunches, honey is more healthful than most other sweets.

Oatmeal and most cooked cereals and many cold breakfast foods are better sweetened with honey.

OTHER USES OF HONEY

A little honey added to a soap solution softens and cleanses the skin and improves the complexion.

A few drops of honey rubbed in the beard with the soap makes shaving more comfortable and leaves the skin soft and pliable.

Honey and water properly mixed makes an excellent and economical anti-freeze for auto radiators.

Honey either alone or mixed with other substances is very soothing in affections of the throat.

Honey is in many cases a safe sweetener for those suffering from diabetes in which other forms of sugar cannot be eaten.

PRICES

LIQUID HONEY

7 oz. glass jar \$.25
1 lb. glass jar40
5 lb. glass jar 1.00

1 quart (2 1/2 lb. oz.) Tin \$1.50
1 gallon (12 lb.) Tin 3.00

Quart and gallon sizes delivered by mail at these prices.

COMB HONEY

Sections, each \$.20 to \$.30
Big Sections, in case 1.25 to 2.50

RADIATOR MIXTURE

Prepared 1/2 and 1/4 per gal. \$1.00
Best radiator hold 2 to 4 gal.

Ask Your Grocer

The New Era, November 12, 1925, p2.

and finally to North Jersey where wild sweet clover and upland sumac yielded a bumper crop of his famous sweet clover honey.

Richard Barclay involved himself in civic and business affairs of the day, becoming a member of Riverton School Board, and serving as president of both the Riverton Shade Tree

September meeting at 1851 Riverbank Manor

Smiths graciously host the first HSR meeting of the season in their historic home



A new permanent historical marker highlights the story of the home's origin and its notable owners
PHOTO: Susan Dechnik

HSR, members, and other guests. After a short business meeting, **President Bill Brown** introduced the Smiths.

On September 26, 2017, the Historic Society of Riverton held its meeting at the riverbank home of **Mary Louise Bianco-Smith** and **Ken Smith**.

The warm illumination of the home on the riverbank welcomed Board Members of the

Dressed as **Edward H. Ogden** and **Sarah Morris Perot Ogden**, the Smiths shared information they had re-



Current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Smith, are dedicated to serving as custodians of the history of this home.
PHOTO: Susan Dechnik

searched on original owner **Caleb Clothier** and the Ogdens, both staunch abolitionists, and others who had lived in the home.

To honor the history of the home they are calling the house "**1851 Riverbank Manor**." Attendees of the meeting received a tour of the first floor and the basement.

- SUSAN DECHNIK





Show and Tell

Former resident Michael Grossman reminisces about his old homestead at 100 Main, another Sloan designed villa, built for founder Chalkley Gillingham

Drawn to Riverton's July Fourth Parade last July, **Michael Grossman** visited the place in which his family lived for five years and soon shared his experience with the Society by email, revealing the deep affection he still holds for Riverton.

Like the Smiths' home at 503 Bank Avenue, the villa at 100 Main represents another example of architect Samuel Sloan's designs built for an original Riverton founder.

Constructed c.1852 for Chalkley Gillingham, Philadelphia banker and broker John Bioren later purchased it, and Arthur Dorrance of the Campbell Soup Company resided there in the 1920s. It was later known locally as the Sargent House for the family that lived here for fifty years.

Edited for length, Mr. Grossman's remarks follow:

I quickly fell in love; with the townspeople, the culture, Riverton School, the Yacht Club, and the sail boat races!

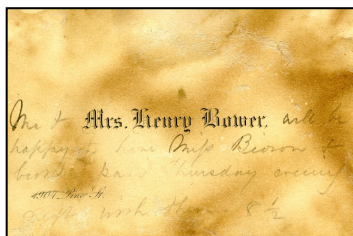
When I first saw 100 Main Street it was love at first sight! I'd just sold a multi-ethnic arts center in Philadelphia, and had sufficient funds to make a quick purchase. What I found was a 4,000 ft Sloan designed mansion, that inside was empty, cold, and overlooked.

I utilized my carpentry skills to build custom built-in shelves, cabinetry, and wainscoting with cup rails... Aside from the labor of love in bringing this beautiful understated home back to life, many adventures lay ahead.

In the overgrown backyard, my wife and I found the original brick-lined trash pit. I remember watching my wife's head disappear as she dug down six feet, excavating Victorian treasures.

She discovered pieces of silverware, broken fine crystal glasses, decanters, and Delft china. Nancy was excited!

In exploring the half-height attic, I found paper insulation had been blown in over the exposed rafters, with original documents etc. preserved underneath.



Calling card—Mrs. Henry Bower, 1904 Pine St. SCAN: JMc



Although separated from Riverton for some years, Michael Grossman fondly recalls the time his family spent here PHOTO: JMc



Amber [Father John's Medicine](#) bottle, c.1880 PHOTO: JMc

I found bottles, New Era publications, calling cards, a red and white enameled metal calculating tube... a can of varnish c.1850s Boston, hand-drawn children's cut-out puppets, and a variety of penciled papers with notes. I was excited!

One series of papers included a torn page with a musical score across the top of the page [with the] signature of John S. Bioren... Riverton School math teacher Ron Cosgrove helped me decipher the writing and equations... I also found a rolled up copy of an original Riverton map that I turned over to Riverton Library.

In the basement, with it's knob and tube electrical replaced, I also found some tall old green madeira bottles, and a vintage paper-capped milk bottle among the overhead beams.

At the rear of the home on the second floor was the servants quarters, containing a small bedroom and bath with its own small spiral stairway down to the kitchen.. Above the servant's quarters was a secret room I'd discovered in the attic... Equally important is Riverton's oral history, and to that end I want to encourage other Riverton owners, past and present, to write these down, and share them with the Historical Society of Riverton .



unidentified bottles; inkwell c.1850; W.H. Stiles, Riverton, NJ PHOTOS: JMc

Other memories include playing catch with my sons, building a box car for the Riverton races, enjoying the seasonal changes in the Delaware River, and certainly the great family experience of the Riverton Parade.

At one point I [served on] the Planning Board... I came away from that public service experience with a newfound respect for those who volunteer.

Riverton ghost stories abound, and 100 Main Street had it's share. The best was from my wife, who one night in bed while I was out, heard slow methodical footsteps trailing up the long winding stairway and stopping just outside our bedroom door. She called out my name and, with no answer, got up to look. The hallway was empty. Nancy later explained she was not afraid, and felt surprisingly comfortable. Our ghosts were friendly, of course.

Living in Riverton is like being in Camelot. There is a wonderful atmosphere of harmony, and mutual caring... When you have lived in Riverton, the loving memories stay in your heart forever.

- JMc



Readers: Read about **Richard Barkley's Bees**, **President William C. Brown's Message**, **Susan Dechnik's** recap of September's meeting, **meeting dates in November and January**, and **Michael Grossman's Show&Tell** for 100 Main St.

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

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