



Gaslight News

rivertonhistory.com

September 2018

Historical Society of Riverton

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Founded 1970

Riverton, NJ 08077

Incorporated 1978

Things That Aren't There Anymore



Wolffschmidt's Esso Keatings



Karl Frank J.S. Collins



P.R.R. Station Klipple's Bakery

See bigger views of Bruce Gunn's c1950s color slides online at rivertonhistory.com

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Summer reruns from our website and Facebook

A review of recent web posts may catch you up and inspire a contribution from you

Since our last *Gaslight News* in April, some posts on rivertonhistory.com and our Facebook page have touched on some topics that are sometimes a bit too esoteric for these pages. Nevertheless, they generated a fair bit of web traffic, so we reprise a few here.

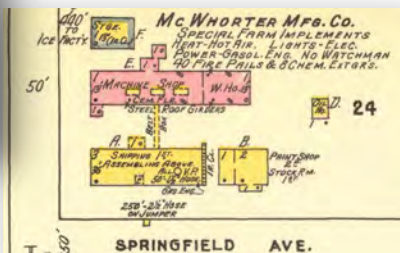
MAY 2018:

When an unusual c.1907 farm implement catalog for **McWhorter Mfg. Co.** in Riverton, NJ with a purple cover and green text surfaced on eBay, I bid for it even though I had no clue where such a factory would have stood.



McWhorter Gang Seed Drills.
For Horse Power.

Four Row Gang. Packed weight 340 lbs.
Prices on Application.



HSR Board Member **Roger Prichard** found the plant in East River-

ton, as shown on this detail from Sheet 14 of this 1919 Sanborn Insurance Map for Riverton.

If any implements or artifacts from this long-gone company are still around, we would like a photo. See the whole article and view the entire 28-page [McWhorter Special Farm and Garden Implements Catalog](#) online.

Farm implements too dull for you?

June 2016 was the first of five times we published a post about the Boy Scout camp known as **Camp Lenape** in the Pinelands of Medford Township, Burlington County, New Jersey. Urban sprawl and housing development in the late 1980s ended its existence. As measured by the number of visitor

comments, it was one of our most nostalgia inducing topics published.



THE NEWS CHRONICLE, MOORESTOWN, NEW JERSEY
Scouts Enjoy Week at Camp Lenape

Boy Scouts of Moorestown's Troop 4 and Palmyra's Troop 9 join forces in the above picture to show that a week at the Scout encampment at Camp Lenape apparently results in healthy, smiling faces, a tribute to the fun they've been having. From Moorestown in the above picture are James L. Moore, Jr., leader, Donald Allen, Lee Brasley, Donald Bloomquist, Larry Carleton, Robert Cranston, Alfred Faxon, Clarence George, Richard George, Edward Haupt, Richard Hunt, John Hunt, William Kingston, Brian Lawyer, Eric Mills, David Roberts, Budd Sanshein, Page Simpson, Gordon Ward, Donald Wilkins, Anthony Walcott and Richard Heast. From Palmyra are leaders Marco Markley and Ralph Shue and Thomas Campbell, Robert Eubank, James Green, Ernest Baker, Harold Jensen, Thomas Jackson, Raymond Markley, Fred McGinnis, Nicky Miller, Harland Radford, Robert Sanders, Richard Shon, Daniel Stocker, Philip Stevens and Brian Young.

1956 BSA Troop 4 Moorestown, Troop 9 Palmyra, Camp Lenape IMAGE CREDIT: Moorestown Chronicle

Reader **John Schlosser** listed Friday night campfire skits, lighting fires with flaming arrows, singing *Viva la Company* and *I've Got Three Pence*, sneaking trips to Camp Matollionequay for Girls, playing Capture the Flag, and the End of Camp Staff Dance among his most vivid memories.

Finding the most recent Camp Lenape post, [Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah, Here I am at Camp Lenape](#) will direct you to the others.

Please leave a website comment if you are able to add to the story of Camp Lenape.

One of the most common types of requests for help through our website comes from persons searching for clues about ancestors who lived in Riverton. Sometimes we provide some information, and sometimes we get some in return as was the case with this query from **George Bishop**, a St. Cloud, FL reader, who wanted to know about his great-grandfather **George W Bishop** who built the home at 518 Main Street.

See **RERUNS** on 2

RERUNS from 1

I sent George Bishop what I found and he confirmed that I had found several ancestors:

—o—
We are glad to note a decrease in the number of tramps who visit the town. This is owing to a subscription on the part of certain gentlemen to pay Constable Bishop for devoting his entire attention to the nuisance. Contributions addressed to us for this object will be forwarded.
—o—

Riverton Journal, June 15, 1882, p2

Thank you SO much for the information! All of the mentioned Bishops are my uncles, grandfather, Great-Grandfather finally! and my father, George W Bishop on the honor roll..

But the big dividend for us in this long-distance ancestry search is that Mr. Bishop also sent a scan of a photo of 518 Main with Constable Bishop and family out front.



Then & Now – 518 Main Street

See much more about [Constable Bishop and his great-grandson George](#) online.

During a chance encounter with resident **John Hartnett** during June's Historic Riverton Criterium, the conversation came round to the Duster sailboat and the persistent conviction by many locals to have seen a photo of the first one emerging from the third-floor window of the Merrill home at 301 Main Street.

Ultimately, Mr. Hartnett sent me two photos of men hoisting sailboats, but neither seems to depict that Duster prototype in 1933.

Still, we hold out hope that someone reading this will help connect us with the elusive [Duster origin photo](#) of legend.

Remember that wicked weeklong heat wave that spanned the Fourth of July? A July 3 web post entitled, [Our first, but hardly historic, heat wave of 2018](#), examined other local hot spells going back to 1890.

Borough Historian **Paul W. Schopp** wrote a comprehensive illustrated essay on [The Birth of a July 4th Tradition](#)



Children's Parade
vintage postcard scan courtesy of Nick Mortgu

from Cinnaminson asked, [“Do you have to be a resident of Riverton to join?”](#) which sparked a post that resulted in a mini-surge in membership from 105 to 108. Somehow we had neglected to emphasize this important fact:

One can join the Society wherever one lives.

Maple Shade resident **Kathi Giden** telephoned and offered to give to the HSR an [8-page advertisement dated 1911 for Mrs. Alfred Smith's store](#) that residents once referred to as “Riverton's John Wanamaker store.”

Can you recognize one of that store's three locations at right?

The **Sharon Shop** was the place to get lunch for Riverton School students and staff alike during the 1970s. We are still in need of any interior or exterior snapshots of the place or anything related to Mrs. Alfred Smith.



414 Main St. PHOTO CREDIT: JMc

In August we came into money... well, while not spendable, it “enriched” our knowledge base, nonetheless, about the practice of both **Palmyra National Bank** and



Riverton's **Cinnaminson National Bank** to issue banknotes.



Palmyra Nat'l Bank RPPC,
vintage postcard scan courtesy of Jim May

Bob Kotcher of Hackensack, NJ, a researcher with an interest in New Jersey's national banks called us about the postcard at left. We sent him a larger resolution file and he sent us scans of Palmyra's banknote proofs. Win-win, as they say. See the whole

story at [It's all about the Benjamins...](#) online.

Society President William C. Brown Jr. looks at the year ahead

Historical Society of Riverton presentations are open to the general public. **One does not have to be a member of HSR to attend.** We welcome everyone.

We congratulate **Catherine Azelby**, the 2017-2018 Riverton School eighth grade recipient of the **Betty Hahle History Achievement Award**.

On September 26, 2018, **Carol Simon Levin** will present **The Life of Jeannette Rankin**, America's first female member of the US Congress in 1917. Starts at 7pm at Riverton Library, 306 Main Street.

Historical interpreter Dr. Daisy Century *is* Harriet Tubman

Actress and educator, **Dr. Daisy Century** of the American Historical Theater brought her dramatic one-woman performance of "**Meet Harriet Tubman**" to a meeting of the HSR last April 25.



And we did - meet Harriet Tubman, that is, as Dr. Century, dressed in period costume, vividly told her character's story from birth to death and transported her audience on a journey of courage, perseverance, and sacrifice.

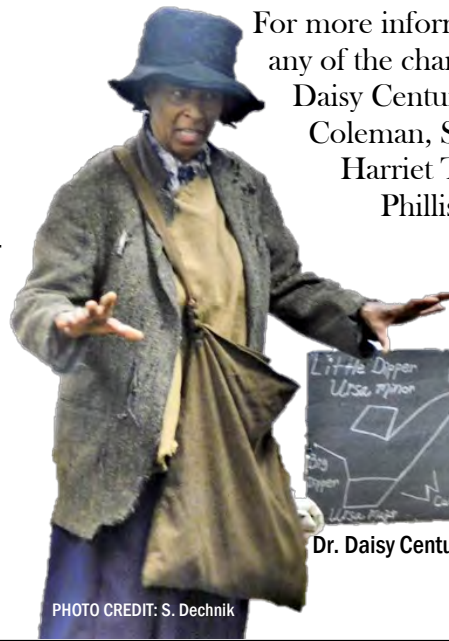


PHOTO CREDIT: S. Dechnik

For more information on booking any of the characters portrayed by Daisy Century, including Bessie Coleman, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Phillis Wheatley, go to...

<https://www.ahtheatre.org/characters/harriet-tubman-century>

Dr. Daisy Century portrays Harriet Tubman

- Susan Dechnik

Save the Date

Here is a schedule of Historical Society meetings until the end of 2018:

General Meeting & Presentation
7 pm, Wednesday, September 26, 2018
Riverton Library
"**Jeannette Rankin**, 1st female member of Congress (1917)"
Presenter, **Carol Simon Levin**

Board Meeting to plan Candlelight House Tour display
7 pm, Wednesday, October 24, 2018
Place to be determined



Jeannette Rankin
IMAGE CREDIT: Library of Congress

General Meeting & Presentation

7 pm, Wednesday, November 14, 2018
Riverton Library
"**Sgt. Henry Johnson**," 15th Colored Regiment, WWI Medal of Honor Recipient
Presenter, **Keith Henley**

Display for Candlelight House Tour
Saturday, December 1, 2018
Details to follow

Still to come in 2019: a presentation about **Campbell Soup** by County Historian **Marisa Bozarth** at 308 Main Street, the former home of **Joseph Campbell**, and a **Spring Swing** fundraiser with music, dancing, food and house tours. - **MRS. PAT BRUNKER**



Henry Lincoln Johnson
IMAGE CREDIT: US Army



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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

RERUNS from 2

People check in on our [Facebook page](#) from all over. After acquiring an old postcard on eBay, I swapped out our Facebook Cover Photo in mid-August. Reaching just over a thousand people made me realize that a refresher on the history of one Main Street business might be in order.



Stiles Drug Store, Riverton, NJ 1916
scan courtesy of John McCormick

The place we now know as **The New Leaf Tea Room** was first a butcher shop, then a drug store followed by another drug store, then a furniture store. See [the History of 606-608 Main Street](#) online.

It bears repeating for newcomers and longtime subscribers alike that we welcome more photographs, artifacts, and information about Riverton as we work to fulfill our mission "...to create an awareness of our heritage, to discover, restore, and preserve local objects and landmarks, and to continue to expand our knowledge of the history of the area."

-JMc



The gift that keeps on giving

Four markers installed in all so far and more planned

Volunteers in our **Historical Marker Program**, President Bill Brown, John Laverty and Roger Prichard, planted their next two markers in the ground, at **Riverton Free Library** and **Riverton Public School**.

See more about these two markers in the online article, [Historical markers help preserve Riverton's unique heritage](#), or better yet, go see them in person.

Carlos Rogers' \$4000 gift to the Society from proceeds of his 2016 **Historic Riverton Criterium** continue to fund this effort.



RYC marker, Dec. 2017
PHOTO CREDIT: Councilman Butch Bianchini



RFL marker, June 2018, PHOTO: JMc



RPS marker, June 2018, PHOTO: JMc

- ROGER PRICHARD



Visit the growing HSR website at <http://rivertonhistory.com/> for information regarding events, past issues of *Gaslight News*, membership info, links to Riverton School's Riverton Project and our Facebook page, vintage images, video clips, our blog, and more.

Readers: We reprise web posts made since April. President Bill Brown Looks Ahead, we recap Daisy Century's Harriet Tubman performance, urge you to Save the Date, update the marker program, and acknowledge new members.

Gaslight News

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

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RIVERTON NEWS

"RIVERTON, New Jersey, has a sensation in the birth of a four-legged chicken. Scientists are going down there to see if it isn't a new style of mosquito."
—*New York Telegram*, June 27, 1877

SOCIETY AND FOOTBALL

Two Thousand People See the
University and Riverton Play.

ROUGH AND TUMBLE SPORTS

Experts Kick Goals and Strong Men
Pull Tugs-of-War at the Academy
of Music—The Prominent People
Present.
Philadelphia Inquirer, March 8, 1889, p.2

PHONE SERVICE IN 1900

The Burlington County Telephone Company, in requesting permission to erect poles and string wires in the Borough of Riverton, during 1900, advised that phone service to all parts of Burlington county would cost \$20 per year.
The New Era

Thank You Notes



We welcome the support of these new or returning members...

Catherine Azelby, Riverton

Adele & Steve Lippincott, Cinnaminson

Harlan Radford, Rocky River, OH

Harvey & Eleanor Sklar, Riverton

...and express appreciation to:

- Harvey & Eleanor Sklar, \$75
- Kathi Giden, 8-page 1911 Mrs. Alfred Smith advertisement
- Bob Kotcher, scans of Palmyra Nat'l Bank banknote proofs
- George Bishop, scan of Constable Bishop photo
- John Hartnett, Albert Seither, Facebook sailboat photos
- Harlan Radford, scans of Camp Lenape letters
- All who liked us on Facebook