



Gaslight News

rivertonhistory.com

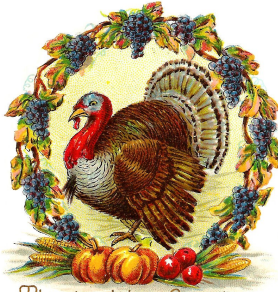
November 2018 Historical Society of Riverton

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Founded 1970

Riverton, NJ 08077

Incorporated 1978



Thanksgiving Greetings

“
... for certainly no line of charitable work appeals more directly to the sympathies of us all than the giving of health and joy to the helpless children of the worthy poor...”

Friends' Intelligencer
April 10, 1897

Demolished Cinnaminson Home had a long tradition of humanitarian service

New project promises to bring new life to the former site of the Cinnaminson home

The historic Cinnaminson Home that stood at 1410 Riverton Road had a storied past as a private home, as a Children's Summer Home, later as Cinnaminson Home for Convalescent Women, and finally as Cinnaminson Home for the Aged before its recent demolition.

Isaiah Coles owned a farm comprising 85 acres in Cinnaminson and probably constructed the home-
stead c1860-1870. He died January 11, 1895 in his 77th year. The sale of the house to the Children's Summer Home of Cinnaminson the following year came as Westfield Meeting Quakers organizers sought a permanent home for the humanitarian enterprise they had started six years prior.

In 1890, Dr. Frances S. Janney was working with undernourished and poorly clothed children in Philadelphia when she saw a need in them for sunshine, fresh air, and good food. This was the impetus for an organization meeting later held at the home of her fa-

ther, Dr. Joshua E. Janney, to "...consider establishing a summer home for sick, poor children of Philadelphia."

Within six weeks, the organizers rented the home of William R. Lippincott on Burlington Pike (now Route 130) and opened on July 1, 1890, admitting fourteen children with an age limit of ten and one mother.



Isaiah Coles' home, 1876 Cinnaminson
[map detail](#) IMAGE CREDIT: JMC

The Board of Managers and other interested persons chipped in with furniture and equipment. All through that first summer, more groups arrived for a stay of two weeks as farmers and Board Members kept the Home supplied with fresh vegetables, milk, and provisions.

Two steamers, the John A. Warner and [Columbia](#), shuttled the youngsters between Philadelphia and Riverton's steamboat pier. Stage driver John Quigley conveyed groups to and from the Home.

See HOME on 2

In this issue The Life of Sgt. Henry Johnson at RFL Nov. 14

CINNAMINSON HOME MEMORIES
- JMC

1

SGT. JOHNSON BY KEITH HENLEY NOV. 14
- JMC

1

VETERANS DAY 2018
- BILL BROWN

3

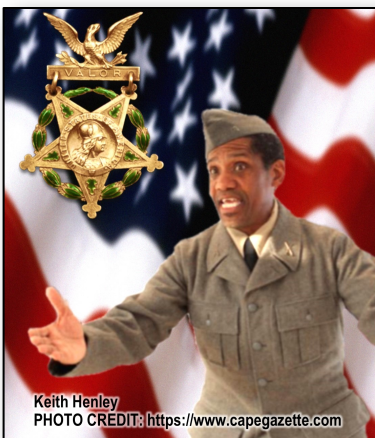
CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOUR DEC. 1
- JMC

4

2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

4

WWI hero fought off German raiding party, rescued a fellow soldier, and suffered 21 combat wounds



Keith Henley
PHOTO CREDIT: <https://www.capegazette.com>

In observance of the Centennial of World War I, Riverton Free Library and the Historical Society of Riverton present actor and historian **Keith Henley** as he portrays World War I

hero [Sgt. Henry "Black Death" Johnson](#). Johnson served in the 369th Infantry Regiment, also known as the Harlem Hellfighters.

Denied a Purple Heart and a disability allowance back home, he died, destitute, in 1929 at age 32. Decades later he posthumously received the Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross, and the Congressional Medal of Honor.

WHEN: Nov. 14, 2018 at 7pm
WHERE: Riverton Free Library

Free admission - Seating is limited

Light refreshments served.

- JMC

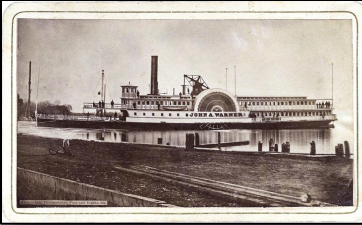




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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

HOME from 1



Steamer [John A. Warner](#), 1871
IMAGE CREDIT: eBay auction

The rented Lippincott location hosted 200 women and children for two-week stays during the summer of 1891, but the lack of an available house resulted in the Children's Summer Home not opening in 1892.

The Board secured another rental property, accommodating 340 guests in 1893 and 429 in 1894. The first of what would be many social and fundraising affairs, a strawberry fete, was held at the Home in the summer of 1894. In 1895, winter sewing bees made clothing for the next summer's needy visitors.

Securing the Isaiah Coles property with its seven acres of ground for \$5000 in 1896 then meant that the Board could make longer-range plans. It adopted a constitution and by-laws, incorporated, and undertook to add a back wing and remodel.



[Cinnaminson Home](#), 1897,
Miss Martha C. Biddle, original Board Member in foreground, *The New Era* 75th Anniversary Issue, 1965



[Lyceum Hall](#), 4th & Main,
IMAGE CREDIT: PHOTO PRINTED FROM GLASS PLATE BY RICHARD GAUGHAN

May 1897, and a June [flower carnival](#), again at the Lyceum, which helped finance a [30x48 ft. rear addition](#). The Home added a kindergarten teacher that year and welcomed 300 guests.

A lawn fete given by "[young promoter](#)" [Miss Lulu Cunningham](#) and the first annual fair in 1898 helped fund an addition.

For several years beginning in [1899](#), the Managers opened the

TWO BOYS DROWNED ON SUMMER OUTING

One Lad Lost His Life While
Trying to Save His Companion

Ran Away From Matrons of Children's
Summer Home and Fell Into River.
Bodies Found Sticking in Mud

[Philadelphia Inquirer](#),
July 9, 1900, p4

Home for two weeks in the summer and fall when children were absent to provide a stay for groups of elderly women and for members of [St. Peter's Guild for Women](#) from Philadelphia.

Tragedy struck in July 1900, when a group of twenty children and their mothers came for a two-week stay. Two boys aged 9 and 10 years old wandered off from the two matrons caring for their group and drowned in the river.

The total number of guests spending a week or two at the facility would rise to 6,412 by [1909](#).

Through a combination of bequests, donations, and money raising efforts, the Managers made a number of improvements to the property. Among them were a kindergarten room, laundry, more bathrooms, a fire escape, and furnishings. In 1912, the Library and Stiles' Drug Store sold tickets for a [musical](#) at the Lyceum to benefit the Home.

Two major improvements - electric lights in 1912, and a furnace in 1914 - transformed the summer home into a year-round convalescent home with patients referred from Philadelphia social service departments.

Publication of the *Cinnaminson Home Cookbook* in [1914](#) helped raise funds for the Home's now larger mission. Other editions of the cookbook followed in 1915, [1920](#), and 1950.

A name change to simply "Cinnaminson Home" came in 1917. By then, the annual fetes had become a [social event](#) for the local area and Philadelphia. Uneasy conditions due to World War I caused the Home to close from September 1918 through May 1, 1919.

Coordination with local social service departments led to getting more patients from New Jersey. As the scope of the work increased, fundraising efforts stepped up.

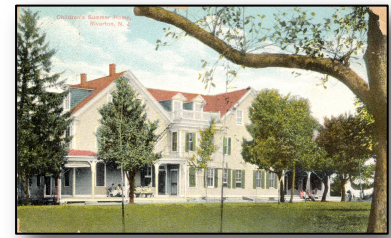
A [1922 US Government publication](#) cited Cinnaminson Home as a place for the convalescent care of both married and unmarried mothers, an attribute known by the community but not acknowledged in the press of the day.

The 29th Annual Fete in [1922](#) included plenty of homemade things to eat, a Punch and Judy Show, pony rides, games, and a Men's Golf Tournament at Riverton Country Club.

The [1925 fete](#) introduced the first of seven annual [horse shows](#) at Moorestown Field Club and a dance.

About 1930, the Home started to admit only girls over 14, women, and mothers with babies in order to make better use of the facilities.

The Home brought increasing numbers of guests from Palmyra, Riverton, Moore-



[Cinnaminson Summer Home](#), 1912,
IMAGE CREDIT: JMc



[Stiles Drug Store](#), Main Street, c1916
IMAGE CREDIT: JMc



Cinnaminson Home Cook Book, 1950
IMAGE CREDIT: MRS. NANCY HALL



[Living Room, Cinnaminson Home c1925](#)
IMAGE CREDIT: PAUL W. SCHOPP

stown, Camden, and Burlington County Hospital in [1931](#), caring for 332 adults and 58 infants.

The Depression ended the [Moorestown Horse Show](#) in 1933; a simple fete held at the Home replaced it.



[Cinnaminson Home Fete at Moorestown](#)
[Courier-Post, May 21, 1934, p12](#)

The fetes for [1934-1937](#) boasted an [exhibition tennis match](#) played by members of the Davis Cup team at the Moorestown Field Club. News articles listing dozens of committee members and hostesses from Moorestown, Beverly, Cinnaminson, Haddonfield, Riverton, Mt Holly, Edgewater Park, and Merchantville are an indication of the dedicated support the institution enjoyed in the region.

Construction of a two-story wing addition closed the Home for the winter of 1935-1936. A [column in *The New Era*](#) detailed the renovations.

A [May 1938 report](#) claimed the Home had averaged 25 patients per day, used 857 quarts of milk, and served 2625 meals in a month. For the year 1938, the Home cared for 309 convalescent adults and 27 infants. Owing to the great amount of physical



Cinnaminson Home for Convalescent Women, 1939 IMAGE CREDIT: JMc

work involved with the Annual Fete, the Managers opted instead to send a letter appealing for donations to about 300 contributors.

The [1939 fete](#) featured the music of Don Christ and His Esquires for an evening dance at Riverton Country Club.

[Dr. Frances S. Jamney](#), whose idea spawned the Home, [resigned](#) from the Board in 1940 after serving on the Board for fifty years.

The War Years of [1941-1945](#) brought rationing, more young mothers with children, and apparently, the suspension of fetes, as there are very few news accounts.

After a rule change by the NJ State Dept. of Institutions and Agencies in 1946, the Home discontinued servicing mothers with children and shifted emphasis in 1948 to serve only elderly needy women.

By 1950, funding depended upon Moorestown Community Fund, Riverton-Cinnaminson Community Chest, endowments, bequests, cookbook sales, and contributions rather than fetes. The fourth edition of the cookbook explained the Home's sixty year [history](#). By [1964](#), some pondered its future.

In its 75th year of operation in 1965, [The New Era](#) reported that the Home was operating at capacity and managers had hopes of expansion. In [1967](#), the Board opened a two-story brick addition with 16 new guest rooms, increasing capacity from 16 to 30 guest rooms.

By the 1970s, the grand annual fetes gave way to less elaborate fundraisers such as [flea markets](#), luncheons, barbeques, and [fashion shows](#).

Despite improvements and allowing males and females to reside there in its later years, Cinnaminson Home was less and less able to compete with other facilities that offered more comprehensive care. Without the conveniences of elevators and with limited medical assistance and shared bathrooms, group homes of its sort lost out to assisted-living facil-

**RETIREMENT
RESIDENCE for
INDEPENDENT
LIVING**

- NON-DENOMINATIONAL
- NON-PROFIT
- MALE/FEMALE

We take pride in our personal in-house Dining and Kitchen Staff who prepare and serve Nutritious Home Cooked Meals three times daily. All housekeeping & laundry is provided by our Staff. Planned recreational and cultural activities are also provided. Weekly & monthly rates available.

THE CINNAMINSON HOME
Telephone
829-0745
INQUIRIES ARE WELCOME

[Courier-Post, March 8, 1987, p95](#)

See HOME on 4

Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2018

A special Veterans Day observance will recognize four women who served and six men who died in World War I

To commemorate the Centennial of World War I, HSR President Bill Brown will officiate this coming **Veterans Day November 11, 2018, between 10:30 & 11:00**, as we honor the following men who were killed in The Great War with a special plaque on Riverton's War Memorial:

[James A Bradley](#)
[Charles Kelley](#)
[Walter M. Kennedy](#)
[Raymond T. McGivney](#)
[Raymond Pratt](#)
[Thomas R. Reath](#)



members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were killed in a US involved conflict. Riverton will officially receive its K.I.A. flag to be flown above the Memorial.

The ceremony will recognize the following four women who served as nurses in World War I:

[Helen Elsie Biddle](#)
[Edith S. Coale](#)
[Amanda Faunce](#)
[Edith Holvick](#)



[Helen Elsie Biddle](#)
PHOTO CREDIT: NANCY AND
BILL STEEL FAMILY ALBUM

Riverton's Veterans Affairs Committee seeks to add more names to the memorial and is also interested in obtaining old military uniforms, medals, and military equipment. Please contact me, Bill Brown, at 856-303-8513, or JYD9168@verizon.net.

- BILL BROWN 

HOME from 3

ities with better features and more privacy.

Less than half occupied in the spring of 2002, the Home for the Aged closed that June because of financial difficulties and transferred its remaining clients to [The Fountains](#) in Pennsauken.

Cinnaminson Township created an [open-space tax in 2004](#) that enabled it to enjoy matching state and county preservation funding with which it bought the Home in [2005 for \\$400,000](#). A community center, offices, and a residence for troubled youth were among the ideas considered, but none materialized.

Cinnaminson approved conversion of the building into senior apartments by Lutheran Social Ministries in 2010. Although LSM had reached a preliminary agreement buy it for \$500,000, the sale could proceed until the municipality got approval from the state to remove the property from its roster of open space inventory.

The township removed it from its Open Space inventory in 2011, but the development [met some community resistance](#). The shuttered Home languished for four more years and deteriorated further as plans for its development fell through or changed.

Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development entered into an agreement with Cinnaminson to develop the property in 2015. Matthew Reilly, MEND president and CEO, told the *Courier-Post* in [October 2018](#) that the building was in poor

condition and would be [demolished](#). MEND moved recently to raze the building and [break ground](#) for a \$12.8 million project to transform the site into 54 units of [low-income senior housing](#). Completion is slated for [mid-2019](#).

A rendering of the project appears to incorporate design elements from the old building. According to Reilly, building photos, storyboards and plaques prominently displayed within the new building will preserve the rich history of the site.

The Historical Society especially desires anyone with period photos, primary source material, or first-hand knowledge of past events at the Cinnaminson Home to contact us so that we may add to the historical record.



Demolition of Cinnaminson Home, Oct. 17, 2018 PHOTO CREDIT: JMc



Rendering of new 54-unit senior housing complex at 1410 Riverton Rd. IMAGE CREDIT: NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency

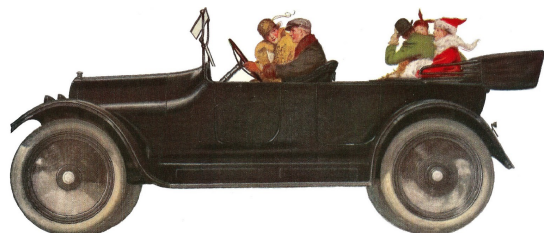
- JMc

SPECIAL THANKS TO RIVERTON BOROUGH HISTORIAN PAUL W. SCHOPP FOR HIS INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE IN RESEARCHING THIS ARTICLE

An engaged membership helps our knowledge of Riverton history grow. Join the conversation at [rivertonhistory.com](#), find information regarding events, past issues of *Gaslight News*, membership information, hundreds of vintage images, and much more.

Readers: The Cinnaminson Home is gone but the memories remain. Sgt. Henry Johnson portrayal Nov. 14. Veterans Day observance Nov. 11. Candlelight House Tour Dec. 1

Come along for the ride and support the preservation efforts of your Society. Look for the 2019 Calendar Year Membership Form enclosed with this issue.



Gaslight News

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

Post Office Box # 112
Riverton, NJ 08077

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



Always a favorite, the **Candlelight House Tour** is being held Saturday, December 1, 2018, from 4 until 9 PM. Visit beautifully decorated local homes along with Open Houses at **The New Leaf**, the **Porch Club**, **Christ Episcopal Church** (with its gorgeous Tiffany window!), and **The Guitar Guild of Palmyra**.

Tickets can be purchased in-advance for \$15 per person or \$20 at-the-door on the day of the event at: The New Leaf, The Guitar Guild, and at the Riverton Free Library. Proceeds benefit the Riverton Free Library.



Be sure to make this one of the stops on your Tour. This painstakingly detailed dollhouse is a replica of the dwelling at 806 Main Street. Get the whole

story about it at the Society's display at RFL on Dec. 1. We will also have mugs, *Romance of Riverton* DVDs, books, and some reproduction prints and enlargements for sale.



- JMc

Riverton Library
Candlelight House Tour