



Gaslight News

The Historical Society of Riverton
Riverton, New Jersey

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Learn about Antique and Classic Wooden Boats at May Meeting

Ginger Marshall Martus, a nationally known expert on historic wooden boats will present the program at the Historical Society of Riverton meeting on **Monday, May 13 at 7:30 pm** at the Riverton Public School. She calls them "**Boneyard Boats**", these nearly forgotten, but much loved, vessels of yesteryear.

In 1996, after discovering several historical wooden boats that ended up being destroyed for want of owners, she began to publish her newsletter *Boneyard Boats*. As Ginger says, "It took off like a hurricane, a lot of people love these fixer-uppers. They get a genuine feeling of accomplishment when they bring something back." In her newsletter, she publishes the location of boats, the condition and asking price (all are less than \$5,000) and the phone number of the owner. She doesn't own any of the boats herself, the rest is left up to the would-be sellers and the buyers who provide the time, funds, and most importantly, the TLC needed to nurse these boats back to seaworthy health.

The boats that she advertises include sailboats and powerboats, including many "commuter boats" which wealthy businessmen used to commute to their companies across small waters of the United States, much the way the Riverton founders commuted to Philadelphia across the Delaware. Of the sailboats, the Manhasset Bay (MBO) class is one example, as well as the "A Cat" class which now has a fleet in Tom's River NJ. We expect a lively discussion among attendees at the meeting who will talk about their experiences finding and restoring old wooden boats.

Ginger will tell us which of these classes may be currently under restoration or reproduction at the Philadelphia Maritime Museum. Her program will include approximately 30 slides of before and after restorations of the antique and classical wooden boats with successful stories, failures, and in-progress projects of wooden boat restoration, and also the "ugliest old boat" competition.

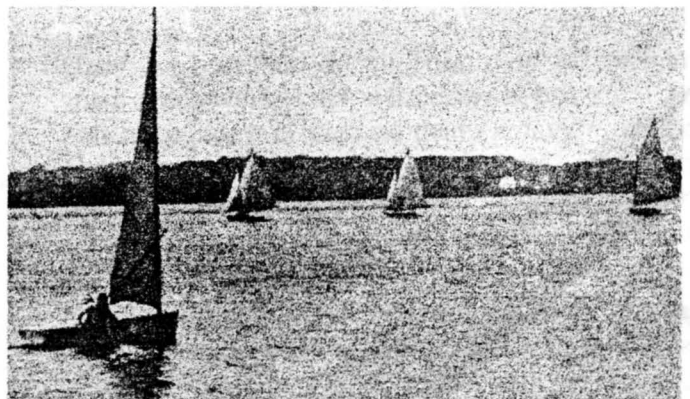
Ginger was born into the family boat business on the North Shore of Long Island when all boats were crafted from wood. She grew up sailing a Lightning there, and spent a lot of time racing, cruising and fishing with her family. In young adulthood, Ginger became a member and Trustee of the Cow Neck

Historical Society where she wrote and produced a book about local history, and later became editor of the Long Island Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society. She collected many oral histories from well-known nautical personalities, now transcribed at the Port Washington Public Library within which she founded the Nautical Center where programs are presented to the public.

After marriage, Ginger moved to Vincentown NJ, and has written major articles for *Classic Boating*, and *WoodenBoat*, and is currently a contributing writer for *Nor'easter* magazine. At present, she performs publicity for the Ocean County Council of Maritime Museums.

All persons, whether Historical Society Members or not, are encouraged to attend this informative event. The Riverton School, at Fifth and Howard Streets, Riverton, and the Media Room (Library) are both handicapped accessible. Attendees should enter the building through the main doors facing Fifth Street. There will be a short refreshment period following the meeting. **Please note the meeting time - begins at 7:30.**

Boneyard boats, published three times per year sells for \$5.00 per issue; listings cost \$15.00 each. For more information contact Ginger Martus at Nautical Stars, P.O. Box 2065, Vincentown, NJ 08088, 609-859-2370, or at www.by-the-sea.com/boneyardboats (where the list of needy boats can also be viewed).



"Scene on the Delaware during a race, showing a mosquito boat, with one-designers and cat boats in the distance"

from the 1909 Christmas Edition of the *New Era*

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Board Election at Annual Meeting

The annual meeting on May 13th at 7:30 pm will include election of four members to the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Riverton. It is a statement to the strength of our Board of Directors that this year, all four candidates are incumbent directors running for re-election. The following are your candidates for new three year terms on the Board of Directors:

Bob Bednarek so faithfully attended our meetings that he was appointed to complete the unexpired term of a former Director who moved out of Riverton. Bob has contributed valuable suggestions to our Board, as well as volunteer work, such as distribution of the Fourth of July cards, during the parade.

Patricia Brunker has been a director for three plus years and is the keeper of our collection of historical clothing and provides a significant liason to the Porch Club where she also serves on their Board.

John Farr has been our Program Chairman for nearly three years and is responsible for arranging the many excellent programs which we have experienced in that period. John initiated the system by which we obtain excellent programs, for a nominal fee, from the NJ Council for the Humanities.

Charlotte Lippincott has been a Board member for at least two terms and is a tireless worker for the Society in packaging and distribution of the Gaslight News and in the Hospitality Committee for our general meetings.

Members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting to show your support for these candidates.

Porch Club Garden Tour



The annual Porch Club Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2002 in Riverton. Eight area gardens will be featured; tickets are \$10 for the tour only, and \$15 for the tour and luncheon at the Porch Club.

The Porch Club is paying tribute to the Henry A. Dreer Company of Philadelphia and Riverton which operated its nurseries in Riverton from 1873 to 1944. The Historical Society has assisted the Porch Club with historical information about Dreer's Riverton Nurseries and also the cover design for the Garden Tour pamphlet.

During the Garden Tour luncheon, the Historical Society will have on display, inside the Porch Club, some interesting and colorful items related to Dreer's - and you must have a Garden Tour ticket to visit the display.

Historical Society members are encouraged to attend this event which is an important part of the social calendar in Riverton every year. Please come out and support the Porch Club.

For tickets, contact Jennifer Brandt at 829-3154 or Pat Brunker at 303-1777.

Antiques & Old House Fair

The Historical Society will sponsor a new and exciting event for Riverton in the fall of 2002 in the form of an **Antiques and Old House Fair** to be held on September 28 at the Riverton School from 11 am to 3 pm. We have scheduled a professional antiques appraiser to be on hand to give appraisals of antiques in a similar manner to the *Antiques Road Show* which has been shown on public television for the past several years.

The event is proposed to be open to the public, and free to members with a nominal fee for the appraisal of antiques, with a discount for more than one object.

We invite people to bring that old or unusual object from your living room or attic to learn about its history and what it might be worth on the antique market of today.

We hope to include the opportunity for all to speak to old house renovators, architects and tradespeople, in the hope of encouraging renovation and appropriate finishing of homes in Riverton and the surrounding area. Look for more details in the Fall issue of the Gaslight News . . .

We will see you the Fourth of July Parade, and visit us in Memorial Park at our display table afterward, during the children's games!

Then and Now

In this, the second part of two in our "Then and Now" series on genealogy, the Historical Society features helpful tips for members beginning their genealogical research using a personal computer and the internet. The Free Library of Riverton has a computer with high-speed access to the Internet available for public use on a limited basis. Newcomers to the World Wide Web can get advice at the PBS (Public Broadcast System) web site with an article titled, *Explore our Beginners Guide to the Internet* located at <http://www.pbs.org/uti/>. Whether you have a passion for genealogy or you are an avid fan of local history, we invite you to follow the series of research tips and links for an interesting journey into New Jersey's past via the World Wide Web.

April 1st, 2002 was a long awaited day in New Jersey for history and genealogy buffs. After decades of secrecy the census records from the year 1930 were finally opened to the American public. A federal privacy restriction prevented public access to the records of all persons enumerated in the 1930 United States Federal Census for a period of seventy-two years.

There is a wealth of information contained in the 1930 census which is of vital interest to New Jersey families in search of their past. Today a resident of Riverton can search the local census records to find out who lived in the grand Victorian homes on Bank Avenue in 1930. The Fifteenth Census of the United States discloses each person's relationship to the head of household, their ages, occupation, the state or country in which they were born, the year they immigrated to the United States, whether they were naturalized citizens, their parents birthplaces, whether they owned or rented the home, the value of their home or the rent they paid, an individual's age at the time of their first marriage, the war in which a man may have served in the military, and for the first time whether the home had a radio.

Tracing Our Family Roots:

One way to begin your research is to record your family tree using a pedigree chart and a family group record. The pedigree chart is a simple diagram used to show the names and relationships between relatives over several generations with a concise list of births, deaths and marriages.

Research Tip: The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) host a widely respected and user-friendly web site for amateur and professional genealogists. A pedigree chart and a list of research tips are available on their web site free of charge. You can find the chart, "Lineage Research Committee", under the list titled, "Membership and Genealogy". The pedigree chart is a file labeled RGG-1003. Link: <http://www.dar.org/natsecurity/forms.html>

Family research begins at home. Devote some time to review the research tips and the pedigree chart obtained from the DAR web site. Look through your family's own records and take notes on what you find and prepare a list of questions to ask your relatives. Search for names and dates on family photographs, school records, bibles, baptismal and confirmation certificates. Organize your photographs to refresh the memory of relatives who can help identify members of

your extended family.

Complete the first two or three generations of your family tree with the help of your parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents. You and your relatives may be surprised by the memories and stories you recall about lost loved ones that will be useful in your research.

Research Tip: Since April 1, 2002, the census has been available for viewing on microfilm at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, and at our 13 regional facilities.

Members of the public may rent the 1930 census from the National Archives Microfilm Rental Program, P.O. Box 30, Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701-0030. Telephone: 301-604-3699. Have the state, microfilm publication number, and roll number available when you call.

Copies of the microfilm may be purchased by calling the Archives II Customer Services Center at 1-800-234-8861. The price is \$34.00 for U.S. orders. Have the state, microfilm publication number, and roll number available when you call. To learn more about using NARA visit the site below and read the section on Frequently Asked Questions.

Link: <http://1930census.archives.gov/FAQ.html>

Research Tip: The Historical Society of Riverton has identified the enumeration districts for the 1930 census for the Borough of Riverton for easy reference. You may find the Public Number and Roll Number for the three microfilm rolls for the 79 districts at the Historical Society of Riverton web site.

Link: <http://www.rivertonhistory@usa.com>

The Largest Library of its Kind in the World:

One of the best sources on the web to learn about genealogical research is the Family Search web site hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Family Search has an extensive collection of public and private genealogical records from all over the world. These records are available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and at Family History Centers around the world. A small branch is located in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, 260 E Evesham Road, Cherry Hill, Camden County, New Jersey, USA Phone: 856-795-8841. Hours: T 6:30 -10pm; W, Sat 9:30am-2:30pm; Th 9:30am-2:30pm, 6:30pm-10pm.

A visit to the Family Search web site is highly recommended for those interested in learning about the

variety of primary source materials available to the amateur genealogist and history buff. When you visit the web site click on the NEWS tab to review the recent additions to their library and database. The SHARE tab will invite you to join a wide network of families searching their family history with whom you can share your findings by e-mail and through family history mailing lists. Link: <http://www.familysearch.org>

Using Search Engines to Plan Your Research:

The Internet has become a highly useful tool for historical and genealogical research. For many amateur genealogists the records held by the National Archives represent one of the best tools to search for documents relating to family events and milestones. The federal government has millions of records that can reveal information about your ancestor's origins.

The microfilm and digital collections maintained by the National Archives hold documents and artifacts from the early eighteenth century to the late twentieth century. The public can begin an on-line search in preparation for a visit to one of the regional facilities to view their holdings. The New York location has information on New Jersey and include immigration papers, manifests and passenger lists from ships entering Castle Garden and Ellis Island from as early as 1855; military records providing details on veteran pensioners and their dependents from the Revolutionary War through modern times; and census records through the year 2000.

While the World Wide Web is still in its infancy it offers several examples of its potential power as a learning and research tool. Our first example is a prototype database on a web site created by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The database is known by the acronym NAIL (NARA Archival Information Locator) and it contains descriptions of millions of microfilm documents. This is a crucial step as you plan your research before a visit to one of the three NARA locations in the metropolitan area.

(Refer to the historical and genealogical resources in the March 2002 edition of the Gaslight News vol. XXXII, no.3 (#104) for location and library hours for NARA.)

Research Tip: Let us have some fun by looking at the potential of the Internet to deliver historic images and information to your desktop computer. Follow the steps closely to learn how to best use a search engine.

Our visit will take us to the digital collection of the NARA Archival Information Locator at the link listed below. We will be viewing two digital photographs and a copy of a speech delivered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Camden, New Jersey at 5:15pm on October 29, 1936.

President Roosevelt had just arrived in New Jersey from a morning visit in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania where he spoke about the Social Security bill going into effect the next year. The President said, "And once

more, I remind the nation that this month of October marks the end of one whole year in which there was not a single bank failure—the first twelve month period in fifty-five years that was free from bank failures."

Link: <http://www.nara.gov/nara/searchnail.html>

1. Double-click your mouse on "Nail Digital Copies Search"
2. Select media. For this search select "All media"
3. Select NARA Units: "All units"
4. Enter into the top dialogue box "Franklin Roosevelt".
5. Select AND
6. Enter into the bottom dialogue box "Camden"
7. Press enter to submit your query request.

Displayed on the page are five digital images including two photographs. The first photograph was taken of marchers in 1935 ca. during the depression on Broadway in Camden, New Jersey in a scene reflecting the large number of unemployed men and women in desperate need of work and looking for jobs. The second photograph is of Eleanor Roosevelt in Camden, Maine. Our search found two Camdens reminding us to be specific when using a search engine. We should have entered "Camden, New Jersey".

The six-page speech Address at Camden reflects the issues of the day during the Great Depression. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's comments about the future of Social Security are concerns many Americans share today. President Roosevelt referred to "those propaganda mongers who make the unpatriotic suggestion that some future Congress is going to steal these insurance funds for their own pockets." History is worth reading time and again.

Research Tip: You have successfully conducted a search engine query. Now try using some of the suggested search queries below to view digital photographs from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Then try your own ideas like family and place names.

Photographs of the RCA plant in Camden, New Jersey: Enter "RCA" in top box and in the bottom box "Camden".

Presidential diaries of the historic Glassboro Summit Conference: Enter "President Johnson" in top box and in the bottom box "New Jersey".

Photographs of the Battleship USS New Jersey: Enter "Battleship" in top box and in the bottom box "New Jersey".

Please contact the Historic Society of Riverton with any suggestions you wish to recommend for future genealogical and historical research articles in the Gaslight News. We can be reached at 856-786-8660 (evenings) or at <http://www.rivertonhistory@usa.com> -

Gerald Weaver, VP Historical Society of Riverton

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