

Coronavirus shutdown suspends planned programs indefinitely; delays newsletter.

Gaslight News

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May 2020

Historical Society of Riverton

vol. L, no. 2 (#183)

Founded 1970

Riverton, NJ 08077

Incorporated 1978

Porch Club and Historical Society of Riverton work to save our history

Partnerships make things happen, and two recent projects illustrate this wonderfully. Both involve preserving rare historic maps of Riverton from its early days. Protecting archival documents like these has been a top priority since the founding of the **Historical Society of Riverton (HSR)** in 1970.



L-R: Phyllis Rodgers, Roger Prichard, Pat Brunker, Maggie Downing at CCAHA March 4, 2020

There is – and, the beauty of partnerships again, someone had donated it to HSR’s archives just four years ago! It’s a real, original strike from the original plate, sharp as a tack under a magnifying glass.

Charles S. Jones of Warwick, CT, then 92

years old, gave us that [1890 bird’s eye view of Riverton](#) in 2016 in memory of his late grandparents, **Charles W. and Adelia T. Kipp**. Charles was born at their home at 415 Lipincott Avenue in 1923. Charles’ son, **Dana Jones**, delivered the lithograph to **John McCormick**, saying that he has always enjoyed the stories of fond memories his dad has of Riverton.

Charles wrote at the time:

[It] has addressed the walls of our family homes for generations in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island and a decision was made to present it as a gift to the good residents of Riverton where it might find a useful purpose.

Given his other options for its disposal, we sincerely thank Charles for bringing it home!

Several of us visited CCAHA to deliver both maps in person. While there, **Maggie Downing**, CCAHA’s Manager of Digital Imaging, gave us quite a tour of their impressive studio. It is huge and immaculate, and their professional staff members were working on amazing projects.

They will make a high-resolution scan and will return the 1890 map in an archival, acid-free sleeve for permanent safekeeping in our files. This effort should ensure that future generations will still enjoy these iconic views of Riverton.

- ROGER PRICHARD



A vital partnership has been with the [Porch Club of Riverton](#), a group with which HSR has always shared many members. In 1983, former HSR President and newsletter editor [Mrs. Betty B. Hahle](#) spearheaded a joint effort to professionally conserve and frame a large, one-of-a-kind map in the Porch Club’s collection, [Plan of the New Town of Riverton](#) (ca. late 1851). Betty found a wonderful group, the **Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)** in Center City and both groups contracted with them to repair and stabilize the 132-year-old paper map.

Recently, the Porch Club looked into how to make prints of that map available for sale. **Roger Prichard** of HSR offered to look into whether CCAHA still exists and, if so, could they scan it without unframing it and also evaluate it to be sure that it is not deteriorating 40 years later.

All answers were positive: CCAHA now has an international reputation and can indeed scan it. They feel the map’s condition is just as good as after the work in 1983.

The Porch Club is paying for the scanning of its map; at the same time, we at HSR wondered if an original of the famous 1890 bird’s eye view lithograph exists? If so, we should make a high-resolution scan of it for archival purposes. Various later copies exist, but is there a real, original (i.e. sharp and clean) print?

The Gaslight News is designed to be BEST VIEWED as a PDF - blue highlighted underlined terms link to more content and most images link to larger versions



the best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry...

“To a Mouse,” by Scottish poet Robert Burns, 1786

“Awry,” indeed, Riverton history fans! Covid-19 has canceled all HSR meetings and programs through the summer and rescheduled the current *Gaslight News* Issue #183 from Feb. to March, and finally to May.

Please visit rivertonhistory.com for new posts and to check on our latest developments.



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“...what if we devoted a page of our website to promoting the work of local fine artists?”

John McCormick



Rosemary A. Hutchins painting on a mug

Ship-paintings.com is an online catalog showing dozens of paintings by Richard C. Moore.



Moshulu

Art Appreciation

Riverton Yacht Club
Reflections on the Delaware
by [Linda Stern](#)



While scrolling through the Society’s Facebook news feed a while back, I came across a striking [photo of the Yacht Club](#) by **Linda Stern**. The photographer had captured it at dusk as the perfectly still waters of the Delaware reflected an upside-down mirror image of the clubhouse and deep-blue sky so clearly that one could scarcely tell where the actual ones ended and the duplicates began.

That image moved me to add a comment to the chorus of praise with which the admiring community showered the appreciative author:

We love Riverton artists, past and present. Just thinking out loud, but what if we devoted a page of our website to promoting the work of local fine artists? -John McCormick

I hoped to test the waters and see if anyone was interested. More comments followed.

Bill Moore: Speaking as someone connected to a “past” Riverton artist, I would love it. Nothing like walking into someone’s home and seeing one of your dad’s Riverton paintings on the wall.

Bill, of course, is speaking of his dad, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, and former Navy chaplain, **Richard C. Moore**, who later served 27 years as minister at Calvary Presbyterian Church. His tenure in Riverton proved to develop Richard into a serious artist whose forte was ship and maritime compositions. Is your home one that displays one of Mr. Moore’s canvases depicting a Riverton landmark?



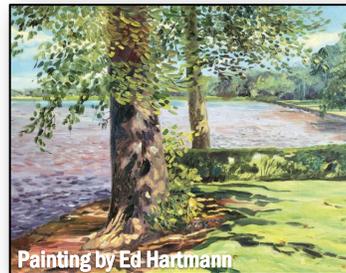
The Porch Club by R.C. Moore

HSR Board member **Mrs. Pat Brunker** remembers an incident that speaks to Richard’s talent and generous spirit. “I found him out front doing this one day and he gave it to us.”

Richard and wife Toshii moved to Virginia after he retired in 1994. The couple enjoyed traveling, and Richard found himself awarded many art commissions for marine subjects from navy ship associations and museums. [The American Society of Marine Artists](#) elected him president. He passed in 2017 at age 85.



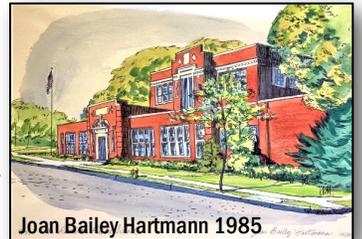
105 Thomas Avenue, home of Richard and Pat Brunker, by R.C. Moore



Painting by Ed. Hartmann

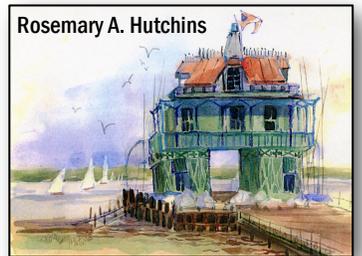
Two accomplished artists, **Edward Hartmann and Joan Bailey Hartmann**, created hundreds of scenes of Riverton.

Hartmann paintings adorned the bank in Riverton for many years. Edward, a Navy vet and Harvard grad, met his wife-to-be Joan while each attended classes at the Philadelphia Museum School of Arts. Joan passed in 2010. Edward recently acted as Parade Marshal for Riverton’s 2018 July 4th Parade.



Joan Bailey Hartmann 1985

Rosemary Alice Hutchins of Cinnaminson studied art at Syracuse University, as well as privately throughout her adult life. A member of the Garden State Watercolor Society, she produced lively impressionistic watercolors, including many of Riverton. Rosemary had a sunny studio at her home in Cinnaminson and had 25 students each week there, right up until her passing in 2006. She loved teaching. Thanks to the generosity of her daughter **Susan Mauloni**, two images of her paintings beautify HSR mug designs.



Rosemary A. Hutchins

As a Quaker, **Anne Knight Ruff**, (known by all as “Bay”) worked and lived her life by helping others. The “canvases” on which she chose to illustrate vibrant Riverton scenes - past and pre-

Since its earliest days, Riverton has served as the Muse of artists.



Phila. Inquirer, Dec 8, 1985

Helen Williams, Riverton's 2014 July 4th Parade Marshal, was the most photographed African-American fashion model of the 1960s. She studied art after she retired and completed dozens of paintings by 1985.

Riverton artist Doris Foulke taught art and designed costumes for the local playhouse, Footlighters. She passed away in 2015 at 99.



Jane Allen Boyer, an illustrator for several charming WWI era books aimed at girls, lived in Riverton. Several of the books she illustrated are online at Project Gutenberg.

sent - of the Yacht Club, riverbank, Fourth of July, Quaker life, and Riverton Library were often reclaimed wooden planks, a wooden chair, or even old cast iron claw foot bathtub feet. Grateful family and friends received many of them as cherished gifts. [Bay Ruff](#) passed away in March 2013 at age 92.



There have been and are now plenty of creative people in Riverton.

Actor/director Orson Wells famously said, "I don't know anything about art but I know what I like." What we like today may encompass a wide range of skills, creations, and ways of expression including painting, illustration, sculpture, photography, installation, performance, video art, literature, film, music, and dance.

With a goal of promoting the work of local artists and craftspersons, we have assembled the following lineup.

Born in Philadelphia, **Michael Fosbenner** moved to Riverton in 1985. Classically trained by Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts instructors, he is employed as Senior Exhibit Designer at [Art Guild, Inc.](#)

We never tire of seeing images of Riverton's iconic Yacht Club. With the summer shore season surrounded by uncertainty, get back to the beach, at least vicariously with Mike's delightful 39th & Wesley watercolor (at right).

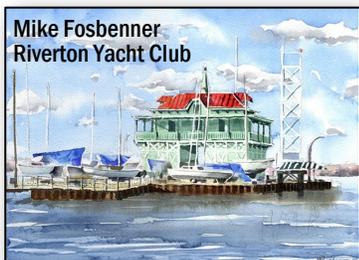
Mike offers several giclee art prints of his remarkable works, in different sizes, at [Tillie's Trinkets & Treasures](#) at



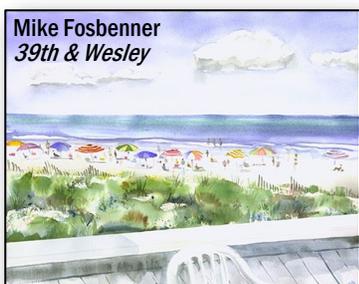
Bay Ruff, Quaker Meeting



Louise Sammler instructs art class, Spring 1971



Mike Fosbenner Riverton Yacht Club



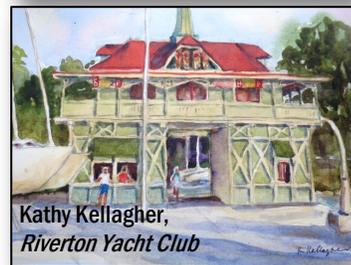
Mike Fosbenner 39th & Wesley

Broad and Main. Owner Patrice O'Neill-Rybeck can't wait to get back up and running. Meanwhile, she offers curbside pick-up, shipping, or delivery. Call 856-829-1380 for more details.

Riverton resident and watercolorist **Kathy Kellagher** was a student of Rosemary A. Hutchins, mentioned on page 2. Kathy enjoys painting landscapes, boats and figures. She especially finds joy in creating many of her paintings pleine air (outdoors) in Riverton, Cape May, and along the Rancocas Creek.



Kathy Kellagher, Cape May

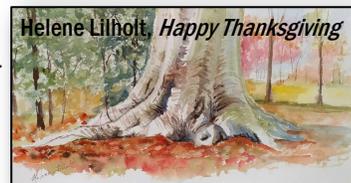


Kathy Kellagher, Riverton Yacht Club

Helene Lilholt is a Riverton resident who lives an artful life. Watercolor is her passion; she also plays piano, loves doing needlepoint, and prides herself as being a splendid cook. She gardens and takes care of fish in a backyard pond. Helene's magnificent garden was to be on the Porch Club's Garden Tour, which was cancelled—another casualty of COVID-19.



Helene Lilholt, Still Life



Helene Lilholt, Happy Thanksgiving

Lisa Matera was raised in Riverton at 509 Main. St. Her parents' real estate office was in the front; their home was in the back. In 1993, Lisa became a [real estate agent](#). (Every artist has to have a side gig.) But this is about Riverton artists.



Lisa Matera, Still Life Sink, 2 Oil on canvas, 36" x 48"



Lisa Matera, *RBG*

Lisa Matera attended the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and received her BFA from the University of Pennsylvania. She taught Fine Art at The Burlington County Institute of Technology and is a NJ certified K-12 art teacher who teaches privately as well as at the Perkins Center of the Arts in Moorestown, NJ. Her [website](#) better displays her portfolio, which includes Commissions, Still Life, Landscapes, and Women's History Portraits.

Linda Stern, whose striking photograph of the Yacht Club inspired this article, describes herself as an author (L.C.Bennett Stern), blogger and backyard birder. She prefers taking photos of subjects in nature and architecture.



Linda Stern, *Small Town Library*

Her [virtual storefront](#) on FineArtAmerica.com, an online marketplace for buying and selling art, showcases almost 600 photographs organized into 25 categories. You must, of course, see the Riverton section, but you will love her adorable tack sharp close-ups of wildlife.



Linda Stern
Rabbit Having Lunch



Linda Stern
One for the Road



Linda Stern
Monarch Butterfly #3

Donna Gorman VanHoy has been a resident of Riverton since 1986. She serves as Arts Creative Co-Chair for the Porch Club. Donna is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts where she cultivated her interest to paint in a realistic manner.

You may have seen her work in one of the eleven area Designer Show Homes in which she participated. Recent works have been still life paintings and portraits of children.



Donna Gorman VanHoy
Onions



Donna Gorman VanHoy
Stairway Garden Mural

Visit her [website](#) to view her online portfolio consisting of fine art-work, decorative paintings and murals executed in watercolors, oils, acrylic, and pencil.



Donna Gorman VanHoy
Chloe

Have we missed anyone? Almost certainly. We need some suggestions, contact info, some scans and photos so we can showcase the work and connect our audience with artists and craftspeople who have works to sell.

We welcome comments on our contact page at rivertonhistory.com or on our Facebook page.

- JMc



Most members re-up; thanks to donors

We sincerely welcome Daniel Foley and his family as new members of the Historical Society!

Thanks to all our members who responded quickly to last month's renewal letter. As of April 27, 120 of our 144 members have renewed for 2020. On top of that, renewing members made additional donations and let us know how we're doing. Your 'bonus' support currently totals **\$2,195!**

Tom & Renee Azelby, Keith & Memo Betten, Joan Biddle, Bill Brown, Pat Brunker, Carl Colozzi, Lance Comas, Jo Ann & William Corbi, Hank Croft & Jill Scott, Michele & Joseph Daniel, Janet & Dennis DeVries, Mary Ellen Eck, Dan & Yvonne Foley, Eileen Gilbert, Paul Grena, Henry Hackett, Lynn Johnson, Donna Kirkland, Robert Lundstedt, Elizabeth Maynard in memory of John Joseph Nadler, Bill McDermott in memory of Bob Kennedy, Geno Mori, Bill Probsting, Kieran Quinn & T. Robins Brown, Rich Reidshaw, Paul Schopp, Harvey and Eleanor Sklar, Michael Spinelli, Dorothy Talavera

- HEATHER HUFFNAGLE, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



In case you missed it...

Here is a sampling of a baker's dozen of blog posts that have appeared on rivertonhistory.com since our last *Gaslight News*.

1. Rockin' and Rollin' at the Yacht Club [2-7](#)
2. Mugs with a local history theme available [2-8](#)
3. Proceeds of successful Historic House Party will encourage student writing [2-9](#)
4. When in doubt... DON'T throw it out. [2-11](#)
5. A Riverton connection to the saga of Henry Box Brown [2-15](#)
6. Show the resolute RFCo members some love for 130 years of service [2-17](#)
7. Coronavirus writes a new page of Riverton history [3-13](#)
8. Hardships of an earlier era [3-24](#)
9. PA bans public assembly, liquor; Thousands flock to NJ [3-29](#)
10. More "lost" Riverton history surfaces. There's more out there. [4-3](#)
11. What would you have given for a crystal ball in January? [4-5](#)
12. Our boardwalks and beaches are still open [4-7](#)
13. Got a match, buddy? [4-14](#)