



Gaslight News

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Dec 2021

Historical Society of Riverton

rivertonhistory.com

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Founded 1970

Riverton, NJ 08077

Incorporated 1978

“Visits from Santa and Frosty the Snowgirl and lighting the tree... put the finishing touches to a Currier & Ives scene for the 21st century, minus the snow.”

In this issue

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE
CHEERS & INFORMS
- JMC

1

CAROLERS REVIVE
AGE OLD CUSTOM
- FAITH ENDICOTT

2

DIGGING INTO
ARCHIVES CONTINUES
- PATRICIA SMITH SOLIN

2

“HISTORY OF
RIVERTON” AT
PORCH CLUB
FEB 16
- JMC

3

SCHWERING HDWRE
MARKS 100 YEARS
SEPT. 2022
- JMC

3

RIVERTON ARCADIA
BOOK DRAFT EMAILED
- JMC

3

Christmas Village cheers and informs shoppers

It seemed that the entire town was determined to not let COVID dampen another Christmas

Saturday, December 4 from 2-8pm, Christmas Village returned to the streets of downtown Riverton. Crowds browsed among dozens of vendors.

[Tillie's Trinkets & Treasures](#), [Haven Hair Design Studio](#), [Milanese Pizza](#), [New Leaf Tea Room](#), [Smokin' Addiction BBQ](#), [Nellie Bly's](#), and the new kid on the block, [The Early Bird](#) each contributed to the holiday mood.



Riverton Fire Dept. sets up tree donated by The Barclay Group
PHOTO: [BOROUGH FB PAGE](#)

Nancy Grimes organized the placement of wreaths on gaslamps around town just in time before. Visits from Santa and Frosty the Snowgirl and lighting the tree donated by [The Barclay Group](#) put the finishing touches to a Currier & Ives scene for the 21st century, minus the snow.



Nancy Grimes organized the wreath project benefiting Riverton Fire Co. Jim Throgmorton hangs a wreath on a gaslamp. PHOTO: [BOROUGH FB PG](#)

When we got word in November of the Christmas Village returning this season we had to promote it on Facebook and get in on it, too.

New Board Member **Tyler Putnam** immediately pitched in and offered to manage our involvement in the event.

A flurry of emails later settled responsibilities for getting a

folding table and chairs, scheduling 2-hour shifts, deciding what to take, etc.

The first shift - **Iris Gaughan** and **Bill Brown** - set up a table filled with our merch and membership propaganda on Main Street across from Riverton Health & Fitness Center.

With the arrival of our second shift - **Martin Hain** and **Pat Solin** - day turned to night, and temps dropped but their festive mood did not.

Pat Bruner and **Susan Dechnik** relieved them at 6pm and well, let Susan explain:

The event was imbued with an air of good cheer and holiday spirit as well as with the aroma of cotton candy! And when it grew dark and the lights on displays came on, it took on an even more festive atmosphere. Our display received positive attention and conversation from new-

We are our best customers! HSR Board Members **Nancy Hall** and **Faith Endicott** stopped by. PHOTO: JM



Iris and Bill set up shop.
PHOTO: JM



Iris, Pat, and Susan PHOTO: JM



Pat chats up passersby
PHOTO: JM



See CHRISTMAS on 2

CHRISTMAS from 1

comers to Riverton, as well as from people who grew up here like Katie Washington.

HSR Treasurer **Pat Brunker** gave us a tally later: We made \$149. Plus gave out a lot of membership applications and copies of the Walking Tours and spread goodwill.

On the [Borough's Facebook page](#) Mayor Suzanne Cairns Wells later expressed, "A huge THANK YOU to all those who participated in Saturday's Christmas Village! From all the

volunteers and vendors for making the event possible, to all the visitors we had that made it a great event that brought so many together for the holidays! We appreciate each and every one of you!"

Thank you for supporting our historic preservation effort as we mark our 52nd year in 2022.



Frosty the Snowgirl.

PHOTO: TILLIE'S TRINKETS, ETC. FB PG.



End of a perfect day PHOTO: BRADLEY ETHINGTON FB PG.

- JMC

Carolers revive age old custom

On Sunday night, December 12, **Bridgette Veasy** of Penn Street organized an impromptu caroling troupe and invited anyone who wanted to join through the townspeople page.

About 25 children and their parents met at the Christmas tree by the gazebo and walked from there house to house with sheet music in hand to the river and back up the other side.

It was a mild night so it was perfect weather. Everyone started with a nice cup of hot chocolate and began walking and singing. More than a few neighbors came out to hear the caroling and thanked us for 'making their night'.

The kids wanted to sing the Hawaiian Christmas carol...but the adults were unsure of the words so after we kept avoiding it they just ran ahead at one point and sang it at the top of their lungs by themselves at a nice lady's house who came out and told them it was her favorite song. We ended the event by singing "Feliz Navidad" in [Juanita's Mexican Cuisine](#) to the staff and customers who seemed to enjoy it thoroughly... and finally in **Milanese Pizza** as they were closing up at 8pm.



Carolers assemble!

PHOTO: FAITH ENDICOTT



Carolers made everyone's night, including their own.

PHOTO: FAITH ENDICOTT

- FAITH ENDICOTT

Digging into archives continues

Work continues on the sorting, cataloging, and proper archival storing of the thousands of printed items in our collection of primary source material consisting of historical documents, newspapers, vintage photos and postcards, and records of town businesses, institutions, and organizations.

Whether priceless or common, artifacts are key to deciphering and garnering information about how people in Riverton lived in the past. **Pat Brunker** and **Robin Brown** are sorting and cataloging those cultural artifacts - things people made like bottles, clothing, tools, household items, etc. - in our collection.

Keith Betten is carefully cataloging items using the best professional practices and creating a finding aid for the collection that will be completed shortly.

The next collection to be tackled will be the HSR's own collection of documents, Minutes, Bylaws, images, and histories. This facet begins in early 2022.

The end goal of this exercise is to publish the inventory online and make even more of our, that is **YOUR** history available to be seen on rivertonhistory.com.

We are so grateful to **Carlos Rogers** for the \$5,500 Historic Riverton Criterium grant in 2019 that continues to fund the expense to organize our growing historical collection.

- PATRICIA SMITH SOLIN



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of RIVERTON

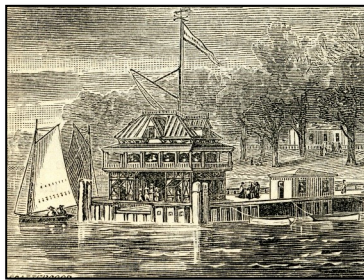
The Porch Club of Riverton

invite you to a special presentation

by Roger Prichard, Riverton Borough Historian

Historic Riverton

celebrating the founding of an unlikely village

**Weds
Feb 16
2022****7:00 pm
Porch
Club****4th & Howard
Free Admission
Limited Seating**

Riverton Landing, 9 miles from Philadelphia, 1878

For more details email: rivertonhistory@gmail.com**It's been a long dry spell**

With the arrival of a New Year we hope to resume the public meetings and presentations that COVID restrictions put on hold almost two years ago.

Hope is the operative word.

As protocols change with the evolving situation, we may have to space out seating, require that everyone wear a mask, and dispense of the usual refreshments.

Check our website or Facebook page for updates.

**Schwering's Hardware Store marks 100 years Sept. 2022**

Last summer I designed some mugs to help Sue and Steve Schwering commemorate the 100th anniversary of Schwering's Hardware Store and offered the layouts to them.

They decided to have them made and to make \$5 donation to the HSR for every mug sold. Last month, they gave us a \$200 check for the first 40 mugs sold and ordered 35 more. It's their anniversary and we get the presents!

This neighborhood treasure was recently shuttered for 10 days because of COVID. Please go say hello and congrats.

**NEW HARDWARE STORE
OPEN MONDAY, SEPT. 25**

HARRY C. SCHWERING
announces the opening of his hardware and house-furnishing store at Broad Street and Maple Avenue on Monday next

A complete and fresh stock of hardware, house furnishings, paints, oils and glass will be on hand.

YOUR PATRONAGE IS SOLICITED

**Palmvar Varnish
Gilbert Spruance
Quality Paints
Plumbing Supplies**

THIS WILL BE A "SERVICE" STORE
Free Delivery in Palmyra and Riverton

Harry C. Schwering
305 East Broad St. Palmyra, N. J.

Palmyra Weekly News, 9-22-1922

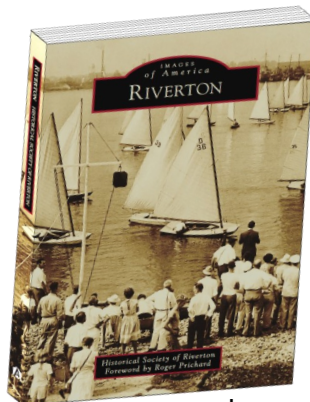
- JM

**Draft emailed; await turnaround, proofing, final edits next**

Project Manager Faith Endicott explains the Arcadia publishing process and anticipates the sale of books July 4, 2022

When I first arrived in Riverton, I did not know much about it so I started to search for an Arcadia book because they always seem to give some high level historical highlights without having to read deep and heavily.

None to be found and the seed was planted for me to try to make this a reality for people like me. It took over ten years, but the HSR was the group to make it happen and we unearthed so many wonderful stories and images along the way.



cover mockup

are yet to be discovered if you have a basic roadmap to guide you.

Over the months, I met with HSR leadership to discuss and exchange ideas, pictures and stories so that everyone could weigh in on what to include.



Planning at the Porch Club Dec. 9 PHOTO: JM

By way of our website and Facebook, newsletter and personal invitation, we encouraged the public to participate by sending in contributions. and we also had some help from local historical sages. It was very rewarding to learn all those perspectives. Regardless of the book, we all agreed that we should do this more often.

Our history is too vast to be contained in just one keepsake book, but it can give a glimpse of what tremendous treasures

See **ARCADIA** on 4

ARCADIA from 3

In the last stages, Roger Prichard, John McCormick, and I worked nights, weekends, and holidays to decide on the final selection of images, write factual captions, and proofread to thoroughly ensure the details were as right as could be in the format required.

Finally, we finished and delivered the Arcadia manuscript on December 28. We await the mockup from the editor and next steps are to proof it and send it out for publication.

Copies of the published book are scheduled to arrive before July 4 so that we can debut and sell a limited number (200) at the event on a first come, first serve basis. Opportunities to get a copy after those are gone will be available on Amazon and in major book stores.

I can't believe we are here!!! Too exciting for words! This is a long awaited achievement. Present Rivertonians and future ones as well as former residents who moved elsewhere will finally have this wonderful book that we hope will lead to a new appreciation of our rich history.

- FAITH ENDICOTT



Two of the newly acquired images



One more historic c1910 glass slide...

We have been using scans of prints that HSR member **Richard Gaughan** made from a collection of large glass slides in 1976 for years to illustrate articles. The new super-high-resolution digital copies that **Roger Prichard** had made reveal



more details than before.

I wonder if Mr. Biddle packed a hoagie for his commute to work in Philadelphia.

- JMC



GOOD-BYE, 2021



*Jan. 20, 2022
marks a milestone*

Don't gauge the amount of activity going on here with the few web and Facebooks posts made this fall.

Since then, our members have mounted the latest historical marker at the former home of Joseph Campbell, published a second Riverton Walking Tour, created a *History of Riverton* presentation, completed another phase of organizing our archives, and completed the first draft of what will become a 128-page Arcadia Images of America paperback book about Riverton.

And just when we were not paying attention... an anniversary of sorts lies ahead. Jan. 20, 2022, marks 523 web posts and thousands of images uploaded since we upgraded our website 11 years ago.

- JM



Gaslight News

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON

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