



# Historical Society of the Township of Chatham

Newsletter

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December 2014

*The Historical Society of the Township of Chatham was established to increase knowledge, awareness and preservation of Township history.*

### Officers

Co-Presidents: Pat Wells &  
Martha Wells  
Vice President: Sally Walker  
Secretary: Linda Pitney  
Treasurer: Ken Hetrick

### Museum Co-Directors

Debbie Bucuk & Sheila Goggins

### Trustees

Debbie Bucuk  
Donald Davidson & Sarah Stanley  
(serving jointly)  
Sheila Goggins  
Caroline Knott  
Betsy Manning  
Trip von Hoffmann

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### *From our Co-Presidents:*

Looking back at 2014, it has been a busy year with wonderful programs, the Fishawack Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, our annual picnic and holiday party, and additional historic markers. Discussions about a grant were begun with the staff of the Morris County Historic Preservation Program.

With standing room only crowds at our programs at the Red Brick Schoolhouse, we realized it was time to try a bigger venue. We decided to give the community room at the Municipal Building a try. And it was a good thing we did. The audience for Bill Styple's terrific talk, *A Never Before Told Civil War Story*, would have filled the schoolhouse twice!

Sadly, over the past few months we have lost two members who have given so much to our Historical Society. Dolly Reeve passed away in early December. An active longtime member, she had been a Trustee and for years was part of the committee to phone members with reminders of upcoming programs. We were never quick to erase her message on the answering machine.

In September Herman de Haan died. To quote Caroline Knott, "Herman and Charlotte, his wife, were the shining stars behind the setting up of the Museum." What exciting times those must have been. The May-June 1988 Historical Society newsletter asks "Do you know we now really have the use of the former Township Hall?" According to the January 1987 newsletter "We have our picture collection developed and safeguarded by the de Haans." Other members had objects stored in their homes. During the summer of 1988 items were transferred to their new home. And that was the beginning of the Red Brick Schoolhouse Museum.

Next year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Historical Society of the Township of Chatham. A lot has happened in those four decades and the future should be very interesting. 2015 promises to be exciting!

Happy New Year!

*Martha and Pat Wells*

**DON'T MISS IT!**

The Historical Society's  
display of antique  
Christmas ornaments  
at the Library

## PROGRAMS

The Historical Society does not meet in January.

Sunday, February 22 2 PM

Chatham Township Municipal Building  
58 Meyersville Road  
*Snow date: March 29*

### ***The Great Swamp and The Battle to Stop a Jetport***

Speaker: Nicholas Platt

*This program has been rescheduled from last fall.*

Nicholas Platt's talk will capture the remarkable events that took place when a grassroots organization made up of local residents decided to take on the New York Port Authority, one of the most powerful public authorities in the country. It was a battle so epic that it involved three U.S. Presidents, 462 organizations, 286 towns, tens of thousands of volunteers and an Act of Congress to stop.

Mr. Platt is the current owner of Hartley Farms on Spring Valley Road and a descendant in the Hartley-Dodge family. He is currently Mayor of Harding Township.

All Welcome

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Sunday, March 15 2 PM

Chatham Township Presbyterian Church  
240 Southern Boulevard

*Joint Meeting with  
Chatham Historical Society*

### ***The Top Turret***

Speaker: Mary Danielson

Mary Danielson of Documented Legacy is the co-author of a book about Jerry Caporaso's military experiences in World War II. A Chatham native and a 1939 graduate of Chatham High School, Mr. Caparoso was a Chatham post office employee for 38 years and a 50-year member of the fire department.

All Welcome

Sunday, April 26 2 PM

Chatham Township Municipal Building  
58 Meyersville Road

### ***The History of White House Gardens***

Speaker: Marta McDowell

Marta McDowell, a Township resident and member of the Chatham Township Historical Society, is the author of several books including one soon to be published on American gardening as seen through the gardens of the White House. A popular lecturer, Marta also teaches landscape history & horticulture at New York Botanical Garden.

All Welcome

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Sunday, May 17 2 PM

Chatham Township Municipal Building  
58 Meyersville Road

### ***A Jersey Surgeon's Civil War: Life and Death on the Ironclad Monitor***

Speaker: Sandra Moss, MD.

Upon graduation from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, Edgar Holden entered the Union Navy as a medical officer during the Civil War. He witnessed the Battle of the Monitor and the Merrimack (Virginia) and was present at other engagements. Later he became a prominent Newark physician. His summer residence was at 55 Southern Boulevard in Chatham Township.

Sandra Moss is a retired internist and has a masters degree in the history of medicine from Rutgers. Her interests center on 19th century medicine and the medical history of New Jersey.

All Welcome

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Sunday, June 7 2 PM

Red Brick Schoolhouse

### ***Picnic***

CTHS Members and their Guests

## **BOARD CHANGES**

### **Sue Moore Retires**

The call of Hilton Head is too strong! Sue Moore and her husband, Barry, have purchased a condo on Hilton Head Island, and are now planning to spend month-long vacations there. So, she had, after long consideration, decided to retire from her position as Museum Director at the Red Brick Schoolhouse.

Sue has held the post for 17 years, introducing hundreds of second graders and scouts to Chatham's past, accessioning great quantities of treasures, and keeping the museum shipshape.

The position has been filled by two volunteers (note that it takes two people to replace her), Sheila Goggins and Debbie Bucuk.

It is not possible to thank Sue enough for all her dedication, time and work on behalf of the museum. But we'll try anyway.

Thanks, Sue, from the bottom of our hearts!

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### **Welcome Bill Style New Trustee**

At the annual meeting in October, Bill (William) Style was elected as a new trustee to serve a three-year term. Bill presented our November program on the notorious, but unknown Civil War Colonel Thomas Key, who attempted to sabotage Lincoln's administration.

Bill has had a life-long interest in New Jersey history and the Civil War, and has published numerous books and documentaries. His particular love is uncovering the hidden treasures in archives, such as the stash of letters and diaries that form the basis for the Colonel Kay story.

See a listing of Bill's publications at <http://www.bellegrovepublishing.com>.

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### **New Officers**

Beginning in January, Sarah Stanley will move into the Vice President position and Sally Walker will take her place as a Trustee.

## **RECENT DONATIONS**

### *Nova Caesarea A Cartographic Record Of the Garden State 1666-1888*

By John Delaney

This beautiful book, which has been donated by Betsy Manning and Paul Wehn, is an important newly-published book commemorating the 350th anniversary of the naming of New Jersey. The author, John Delaney, is the Curator of Maps at Princeton University.

This impressive book includes text on New Jersey's farming heritage and surveying the land, historical background maps, first wall maps and atlases from 1812-1888, New Jersey counties first wall maps and atlases 1849-1882. In addition, a separate folder contains



*"A Mapp of New Jarsey" 1675*

large fold-out maps of the 21 counties.

Currently, Princeton University is holding an exhibition of maps, engravings, and photographs showing New Jersey's evolution from the 17th century to the present. The exhibition includes images ranging from the first New Jersey map in English, dating to 1675, to photographs taken in 2013 and displayed side-by-side with 19th-century engravings. The exhibition coincides with the 350th anniversary of the 1664 naming of New Jersey, also referred to as Nova Caesarea. The show will be on display through Sunday, January 25, 2015.

*(Donations continued on p. 4.)*

## DONATIONS

(Donations continued from p. 3.)

### **Nova Caesarea What does it mean?**

During the English Civil War (1640s-1660s), Sir George Carteret, whose ancestral home was the English Channel island of Jersey, sheltered the future King Charles II and defended the island for the royal family. This was the first English territory to recognize Charles's claim to the throne. Because of the loyalty to the crown, a grant of land between the Hudson River and the Delaware River was made to Carteret who called it "New Jersey."

It should be noted that during the Roman Empire, many places were named in honor of Caesar. Some speculate that the island of Jersey was at one time called Caesarea.

The grant from the king to Carteret (and Lord Berkeley) reads: "which said tract of land is hereafter to be called by the name or names of New Caesarea or New Jersey." It is clear that at the time that New Jersey received its name, the source of the name was thought to be Caesarea by the English government.

Also note that in the late 1780s, New Jersey minted its own coinage imprinted with Nova Caesarea.

### **Letters about the Colony Association**

Judy Loudermilk recently donated five original letters concerning property purchases in the Colony Association dating from 1937 to 1940. These letters were in the possession of long-time Colony resident, Jenny Switzen, who lived at 5 Maple Avenue. When she died at age 103, she left the letters to a neighbor, Leda Norken. Leda, in turn, left the letters to Judy.

An unrelated but interesting story: Judy and her husband, Joe, live in the house that was once owned by Morris Langer. Mr. Langer was killed by a professional hit man who wired a bomb to the starter of Langer's car parked in the garage. He was assassinated presumably because of his activities in the labor movement.\*

\*See p. 89, *Chatham Township, NJ: Secrets from the Past* by Bert Abbazia, for the complete story. Copies of the book are available at the Museum.

### ***McGuffey's Eclectic Primer***

Sheila Goggins has donated a reproduction of the original *McGuffey's Eclectic Primer* which is considered an educational classic. It was widely used in American schools from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century. The book is currently displayed on the school desk in the lobby of the museum.



**WHAT IS IT?** This tool, which is more than 5 feet long, hangs on a wall in the Museum. Do you know what it is? The answer is on p. 5.

## HISTORIC MARKER



### **Greenhouse Industry Marker Installed**

The Historical Society recently installed its eleventh marker on Southern Boulevard at Nash Field. The marker recognizes the greenhouse industry that was once so prominent in Chatham Township.

*Back row from left: Art Heyl, Ken Hetrick, Mayor Kevin Sullivan, Martha Wells, and Pat Wells*

*Front row from left: Val Heyl and Caroline Knott*

### **Greenhouse Industry Circa 1880-1999**

Chatham Township was a center of the greenhouse industry. Over 90 greenhouses and a million rose plants grew within a 5 mile radius. Behre later Rose Farm Corp. owned by Aubrey Nash hence Nash Field & Noe Farm were located on Southern Blvd. Heyl Roses Inc., Matrisciano & Harsch greenhouses populated Green Village Rd. Duckham-Pierson later Watchung Rose Corp. was on Shunpike Road. L.M. Noe & L.A. Noe were on Noe Ave. Neipp later Robert Nauman & Persico ranges were on Lafayette Ave. Lapp & Voigt were on River Rd.

Many smaller ranges existed in the Township. Most of the larger grew roses selling to wholesalers in the City. A few grew carnations & assorted flowers. The rose business declined in the 1950s due to rising property taxes & utility costs. In 1991 the Andean Trade Preference Act, providing duty-free access to the U.S. market for Andean flower exporters, accelerated the process resulting in the 1999 closure of Heyl Roses, the last commercial rosehouse in the community & in New Jersey at the time.



*Frozen Noe Pond.  
Note the icehouses in the upper right.*

### **Answer to: What Is It?**

Yes, it's a saw, but not just any saw. It was made specifically to cut ice.

This particular saw, which was donated by Gus Furneld, was used to cut ice from the Passaic River. Ice was harvested throughout the winter and stored in barns or icehouses for use during hot weather. By layering the ice with straw or woodchips, the thick mass kept itself cold for months. Noe Pond was harvested every winter, and the ice stored in two adjacent structures.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Southern Boulevard School Students

In October, six classes of second grade students visited the Red Brick Schoolhouse. Their teachers have requested that we present Chatham Township history in the fall (rather than the spring as had been done) since it more accurately fits into the curriculum. "Teacher" Pat Wells presented photographs of Chatham Township in the "old days" and spoke about what it was like to attend a one-room school house.

Thank you to Caroline Knott, Edie Tato, Kathy Havens, Sally Walker and Martha Wells who assisted our new museum co-directors, Sheila Goggins and Debbie Bucuk, as well as "teacher" Pat Wells with this program.

Except for the different styles of clothing, Southern Boulevard students have not changed much from the students shown in this photograph on the front steps of the school in the early 1930s.

### Cub Scouts

The Historical Society provides the opportunity for scout groups to visit the museum and work on badges. Thank you to Martha Wells, Sheila Goggins, and Pat Wells for hosting a Cub Scout group this past October.

### Museum Docents

Thank you to the many members who volunteer to staff our museum on the first Sunday of each month: Sally and Jerry Walker, Nancy Heller, Trip von Hoffman, Anna and Bill Riker, Ken Hetrick, Taz and Bailey Brower, Kathy Havens, Jessie Cochran, Sue Moore, Lucky Lyons, Deb Bucuk, Sarah Stanley, Sheila Goggins, Caroline and Bob Knott.



*Miss Belcher's Southern Boulevard School Class, early 1930's.*

## IN THE MUSEUM

### DOLLS IN THE MUSEUM

By Pat Wells

Our museum is full of wonderful things. Two long-time residents are the dolls Caroline Knott has generously loaned. One is a lovely caped Shaker Doll that came from the Shaker Community Store in Sabbath Day Lake, New Gloucester, Maine. This is the only remaining active Shaker community in the United States.

The second doll belonged to Caroline's great-great aunt who was born in 1885. This lovely doll has a porcelain head, arms, and feet, and a cloth body. Her body required reconditioning, because of her age. She is a beautiful example of the period. Dolls from this period were played with gently, in a lady-like manner, and girls were likely to have only a single doll.

Sue Moore has recently lent us her collection of dolls, which are now displayed on the first floor of the museum. The collection includes two Madame Alexander dolls, a Ginny doll with an impressive array of clothing and accessories, and a Cabbage Patch Kid®.



*New display of dolls in the museum.*

Madame Alexander dolls were created by Beatrice Alexander, the daughter of Russian immigrants, who was raised over her father's Brooklyn doll hospital. She nursed many of the dolls waiting for her father's attention, developing a love and appreciation for dolls and their clothing. At age 28 she started her own doll company. Her company was the first to produce dolls based on licensed characters from literature, such as Alice in Wonderland and Little Women. She created the first dolls with "sleep eyes" that open and close. In 1955, Madame Alexander created Cissy®, the first full-figured fashion doll with haute couture clothing. (Barbie wasn't introduced by Mattel until March, 1959.) Madame died at age 95 in 1990, but her company continues to create dolls to her standards.

Jennie Adler Graves worked in the doll industry for nearly 25 years before introducing the Ginny doll. She started as a cottage industry, calling herself Vogue Dolls. She designed and sewed beautiful clothes for fine German dolls made by Kämmer & Reinhardt and Armand Marseille, which she then sold to the Boston department store Jordan Marsh. It was this experience with producing well-made, detailed clothes that would make her Ginny doll a stand-out when she released it in 1951. Ginny, named for her daughter Virginia, was originally sold in her underwear for less than \$2. Her outfits were bought separately for \$1-\$3. Outfits often included shoes, socks, hats, and underclothes. The real fun of Ginny was changing her clothes. It should be noted that it was Barbie's extensive wardrobe, as much as her figure, that assured her early financial success in the 1960s. Mattel had learned from Ginny.

Barbie also stole Ginny's audience as young girls gravitated to the more mature figured doll. Mrs. Graves retired in 1960, and her daughter, Virginia, took over Vogue Dolls. In 1972, the company was sold to Tonka Corporation. After changing hands several more times and "modernizing" Ginny's composition and figure, Vogue reappeared as itself again in 1995, and is again making the originally styled Ginny.

*(Dolls in the Museum continued on p. 8)*

## IN THE MUSEUM

*(Dolls in the Museum continued from p. 7)*

Cabbage Patch Kids are not vintage dolls like the original Madame Alexander and Ginny dolls, but they are an interesting highlight in the history of popular dolls, as they were the first to cause fights and near riots at toy stores during holiday shortages in 1983 and 1984. These gentle dolls began life as simple fabric sculptures created by Xavier Roberts, a 21-year-old art student, who sold his works at crafts shows in Georgia. He called the dolls "Little People®" and each one came with a name and a birth certificate. In 1978, after receiving a blue ribbon for one of his dolls, Dexter, at the Osceola Art Show in Kissimmee, Florida, he and several friends formed a corporation, the Original Appalachian Artworks, Inc., and opened the "Babyland General® Hospital".

The hospital was a renovated medical facility in Cleveland, Georgia, where clients could come to adopt Little People dolls. The dolls were so successful that big business came calling, and in 1982, Original Appalachian Artworks signed a licensing agreement with Coleco, Inc., allowing them to produce a vinyl and cloth version of the doll calling it a "Cabbage Patch Kid®".

Millions of the dolls were sold, one was a passenger on the U.S. Space Shuttle, and others accompanied U.S. Olympic Team members to Barcelona. However, the fad ran its course and by 1988 was fading, as were several fad products Coleco had purchased at a high price (Trivial Pursuit) or developed poorly (the Adam Gaming Computer).

Coleco filed for bankruptcy and sold the rights to the Cabbage Patch Kids® to Hasbro, who later sold them to Mattel. Others have owned them as well. Changes and other related products have ensued, but nothing will ever match the first frenzy.

### **Upcoming Event . . .**

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 7:30 PM  
Summit Public Library — 7 Maple Street

*The Women's Suffragette Movement:  
How Women Won the Vote*

Sponsored by the Beacon Chapter of the DAR.

### **MADELINE & CHARLES HUEBNER Chatham Township Residents**

Upstairs in the museum you will find a 1940s WAVE uniform that belonged to Madeline Codena Huebner. In 1942, while attending Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA, she was recruited into a cryptology class with the promise of three college credits and a position in the Naval Reserves. After passing the course, Madeline took the fast-track 60-day training to become an Ensign in the reserves. She and other WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) "kept odd hours in closed rooms and were told not to discuss our work with others". Her unit received a commendation for breaking the Japanese code before the Battle of Midway, which allowed the U.S. Navy to ambush the Japanese Navy instead of the reverse. She achieved the rank of Lt. Commander.

Madeline Huebner was a professor of Spanish at Fairleigh Dickinson University for 25 years. She played flute with the Summit Symphony and studied both piano and cello. She and her husband, Charles, lived in Chatham Township for many years before moving to Winchester Gardens in Maplewood. Madeline died in 2011 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Charles Huebner had quite a career of his own. He received a BS and a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin. While at the University, he was on the team that developed the blood thinner Coumadin. For 40 years he worked as a research chemist, first for Ciba-Geigy, then Novartis. One of his most important contributions was the development of a drug that treats both tuberculosis and leprosy. Charles died in 2012.

*Lt. Commander Madeline Huebner's WAVE uniform.*

## IN THE MUSEUM

### VINTAGE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

By Pat Wells

While hunting for items to place in our current display of vintage Christmas decorations at the Library of the Chathams, it was a pleasure to discover some of the wonderful pieces belonging to the Historical Society. They hang on our tree each year during the Christmas party, but are probably overlooked in the hubbub of the party.

Bless the internet, it took little effort to uncover the interesting story of the evolution of the glass ornament. They were first made in the German glass making region of Lauscha in the mid 1800s. They were originally glass balls called kugels, then figurals including fruits, animals, Santa, angels, musical instruments, stars, and other shapes were produced.

In the 1880s, F.W. Woolworth began importing the German ornaments, and they were an immediate hit at 5¢ and 10¢ a piece. WWI put a stop to imports, but after the war and the Depression, business soared again. In the late 1930s with another war looming, German businessman and ornament importer, Max Eckhardt, joined with Woolworth in an effort to convince the Corning Glass Company to engineer an automated ornament making machine. In only six months, Corning's engineers were able to convert a ribbon glass machine that blew light bulbs into an ornament maker. The dependence on German ornaments was over.

The style of these new ornaments was distinctly un-German as well. The new USA-made models were sleeker and more modern. Look at the two examples from the Historical Society tree in the Museum. The young boy on the right is a pre-WWII German ornament, hand-blown into a mold, then hand-painted. The ornament on the left is probably from the 1950s and is U.S. made. It is abstract in shape and has a reflector indentation that reflects the tree lights to intensify the effect. The most common glass ornaments from the 1950s and 1960s were made by Max Eckhardt's company, Shiny-Brite. Many were plain colored balls with horizontal stripes and/or a stencil. The

one you see here, the Merry Christmas ball, is stenciled.

Most of us once hung these ornaments on our Christmas trees. Some of us still pull them out every year. Be sure to stop by the Library and look at our display.



*Left: 1950s USA made reflector ornament.  
Right: Pre-WWII German figurial ornament.*



*Shiny-Brite stenciled ornament, 1950s.*

## **FROM THE ARCHIVES: Winter Fun in Chatham Township**

Skating was a favored pastime in decades past. Local ponds provided the perfect setting for a social afternoon of sport and play. The skates seen here are in our museum. They belonged to the Knapp brothers who lived at 154 Southern Boulevard. The big family lived in the white farmhouse that still stands in front of the Friends Meeting House. Oscar, Rudolph, Fred, and Carl could have skated on Kelly's Pond or Diefenthaler's Pond on Lafayette Avenue. For a bigger surface, they would have walked up Southern Boulevard to Noe Pond.



*Skates owned by the Knapp brothers.*

In 1928, the residents of the Colony dug out a pool from a patch of swamp on Spring Street. In winter it became the Colony Skating Club.

At the other end of town, at the southern end of Fairmount, the skating rink was Clingen Pond on the Fountain Property. We know it as the Johnson House, next to Esternay Field.



*Friends and members of the Fountain family skating on Clingen Pond in 1935.*

Up near Hickory Tree, Sunset Lake made for good skating. Green Village children had several options. A pond behind DeMott's basket factory was pretty convenient. Silver Lake was a hike out of town and into Harding at the end of Dickson's Mill Road.

In her oral history, Freda Kleider talked of skating through the bogs and swamps when it was so cold that the Great Swamp froze over, making a skating rink.

Sledding of course was popular. Teacher Margaret Belcher talked of the school children at the Red Brick Schoolhouse sledding down Snake Hill at lunch time on snowy days. Snake Hill was "snaky" in those days, offering an entertaining ride. Miss Belcher said one teacher stood guard at the top of the hill and one at the bottom in case the rare automobile came along.

With open fields and unpaved roads, sleigh riding was also popular. Youngsters Dick, Bob, and David Diefenthaler who lived at 122 Southern Blvd, where Historical Society members Ken and Haide Hetrick now live, had a pony and a sleigh. Dick reported in his oral history, that "Joanna Way (once part of the Diefenthaler Farm) was a racetrack. We had had a nice orchard there first and sort of carved out an oval, and ran our horses on the track and later had cars." One can imagine there was some pretty fast sleigh riding on the Diefenthaler Farm. On Dixiedale Farm, the Averett children and their friends were taken sleighing on a big farm sledge pulled by two big white draft horses.



*The Diefenthaler brothers with their pony and sleigh.*