

Drakesville Times

Exploring Local History in the New Jersey Highlands

EXTERIOR ELEVATION - NORTH
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"EXTERIOR ELEVATION - WEST
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"EXTERIOR ELEVATION - SOUTH
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"EXTERIOR ELEVATION - EAST
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Drawings John Bolt Architect

Semi-annual Newsletter

Issue No. 2 May 2011

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Message from the Board of Trustees

We are glad to see the winter pass and pleased to report that the heating system in the King house was almost problem free. The year began with excitement for all at the Trust: we were thrilled to receive a generous donation from members Bruce and Lillian Venner in memory of Bruce's father, Thomas W. Venner, a long time Roxbury civil servant. See the article on page 3 for more on Thomas Venner.

The Venner donation is earmarked for restoration of the King Store Wagon Scale featured in Issue #1 of the Drakesville Times. An initial scoping study has been completed with inputs from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and platform scale professional, Steve Mizerack. The Trust will need to submit detailed drawings to SHPO and the Township for permission to proceed. The plan is to install a reproduction wooden scale platform with a generic lever support system while searching for an antique Howe Scale balance beam.

Inspired by the Best Practices Workshop in November, the newly formed Steering Committee started the year meeting on Mondays at noon to develop a 5 year Strategic Plan. Facilitated by Bob Morris and Mary Ann Dudak the committee successfully completed this Plan on schedule in early March.

The Steering Committee then turned its attention to reviewing and updating the Bylaws to resolve conflicts with the Articles of Incorporation, and make other modifications suggested by the Trustees. See page 3. The amendments need to be approved by the membership at the annual meeting, which will be at 4 PM on Sunday, June 12 at the King House. Please plan to attend.

March is the main grant application month, and this year the Trust has submitted an application with the Morris County Preservation Trust for comprehensive construction documents for the King Store restoration and an electronic submission with the New Jersey Historical Commission for general operating support for a much needed upgrade to the Trust's office technology.

A major step forward for the Trust came thanks to the Roxbury Rotary Club on April 16, when Scott Fullerton led the Rotarians in a project to empty the King Store basement of an almost impenetrable mess of flotsam created during years of floods. Board members Charlie Alpaugh and Mary Ann Dudak (Rotary representative) coordinated the activity.

May is National Preservation Month, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and this year's theme is "Celebrating America's Treasures." The Trust is planning a fun opening on Sunday May 15 from noon to 4 PM. We are most fortunate that Steve Glaubman of Berman's Auction Gallery in Dover will be available to appraise your personal treasures. (There will be a \$5 charge for the appraisal and volunteers will also be selling hotdogs, collectibles and tomato plants.)

Outreach continues with Junior Girl Scout Troops visiting the site to earn their Local Lore badges using the materials prepared by Michelle Ucci in 2010.

The Trust has started recording oral histories, capturing colorful memories of Miss King and the buildings as they were. Barbara Pescow is guiding the effort. See box to the right.



Officers and Board of Trustees

Miriam Morris *President*; Richard Cramond *Vice President, Treasurer and Roxbury Historical Society representative*; Mary Ann Dudak *Secretary and Rotary representative*; Charles Alpaugh, Sue Anderson, Clint Drymon, Robert Morris, Marion Murdock, and Barbara Pescow *Trustees*

Committees

Buildings and Grounds - Charles Alpaugh, Richard Cramond, Robert Morris; **Education and Exhibits** - Miriam Morris, Rosalind Musmanno, Barbara Pescow; **By Laws** - Clint Drymon, Maria Sudol, Miriam Morris, Robert Morris; **Publicity** Barbara Pescow, Mottel Balston; **Membership** Sue Anderson, Emily Wien, **Steering Committee** Miriam Morris, Barbara Pescow, Roz Musmanno, Richard Cramond, Maria Sudol and others

RHT Mission

The Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. provides unique opportunities for discovery of our shared heritage through interpretation of the King Store and King House Museums. Visitors explore the roles of the King and Riggs families in the development of the Morris Canal, the Roxbury community and the region, from the 1820s through the 1930s, a time of tremendous growth and innovation in our nation.

Oral History Project

National Preservation Month, "Celebrating America's Treasures," is a fitting time to introduce Roxbury Historic Trust's new Oral History Project. Oral History honors the treasured memories of our community and families. The Trust is seeking individuals with connections to the King family and the history of Ledgewood and the Morris Canal in Roxbury Township.

In the Project's first interview, Ledgewood residents Ann Cole and Lois Berwanger described previously undocumented details regarding the King House and told of Miss King feeding her chickens cookie crumbs at the side porch then shooing them away. Vignettes like this will bring history alive for new generations of Museum visitors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 8, 2011 Regular Opening

King Store and House Museums 1:00-4:00 PM

May 15 Celebrate Preservation Day

- Museums Open 12:00-4:00 PM
- Appraisals
- Hot Dogs and Drinks
- Baked Goods
- Antique Cars
- Featuring Stone Buildings of Roxbury



June 12 Open House and Annual Meeting

- Election of Trustees
- Amendments to Bylaws
- Budget Presentation
- Jack Gilbert & Charlie Alpaugh remember local history

It's important for members to attend the Annual Meeting and participate in conducting the business of the Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc.. Attendance has been low for a number of years but the Board and Officers are hoping to gradually increase interest and participation through improved communication and interesting programs.

This year's annual meeting is especially important since amendments to the original bylaws will be voted on by the members along with new candidates for Trustee positions.

July 10 Regular Opening

- Museums Open 1:00-4:00 PM
- Ice Cream Social

August 13 Ledgewood Gala Day / Peach Festival



This photograph shows the Ledgewood Baptist Church Gala Day Baby Parade ca 1917 with the King House in the background. Gala Day, which started in 1915 as a fundraiser for construction of the new church building, has since transformed into the Peach Festival. The Baby Parade has been confined to the church environs in recent years. This year the Trust is planning to open the Museums in support of the Peach Festival and invite the Baby Parade to once again grace the lawn at the King House.

August 14 Regular Opening

Museums open 1:00-4:00 PM

September 10 Succasunny Day

Main Street Succasunna 10:00-4:00 PM

October 9 Living History Day

- Hot Dogs and Drinks
- Baked Goods
- Pumpkins and Children's Games
- Victorian Ladies and their Horses
- Antique Cars
- Lenape Nation presentation

November 13 Regular Opening

Museums open 1:00-4:00 PM

December 2 Victorian Christmas

King Store and House Museums open in conjunction with Roxbury Historical Society Saltbox Christmas

Visit the RHT website at Roxburyhistorictrust@gmail.com

2011 Amended Bylaws

One important objective of the June 12 annual meeting of the Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. will be a vote on amendments to the organization's bylaws. According to Article IX of the original bylaws "These By-Laws may be amended or replaced by an affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of those present at a meeting of the membership called for the purpose of acting upon such amendment." A draft of the 2011 Amended Bylaws, showing the suggested changes along with explanations, will be sent to Members of record for their review well in advance of the meeting.

It is good practice for organizations periodically to review and update their bylaws to make sure that they are current and relevant. Over time RHT members had also become aware of some conflicts between the Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation, so in December 2010 the President and the Board of Trustees appointed a Bylaws Committee to review and consolidate the original bylaws, resolve conflicts with the Articles of Incorporation, and make other modifications suggested by the Trustees. The proposed changes, which have been recommended by the Bylaws Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees, are summarized here:

- The name King Homestead has been changed to King House to avoid confusion with "The Homestead" located at 228 Main Street in Ledgewood, NJ.
- The Purpose of the Trust has been expanded in scope to include the ongoing restoration activities at the King Store and King House.
- The term "Trustees" is used throughout the bylaws for internal consistency, as requested by consensus of the Board. The original bylaws use both "Board Member" and "Trustee."
- Specification of the qualifications for membership is reserved exclusively to the bylaws, as stipulated in the Certificate of Incorporation.
- Addition of Student Membership, Life Membership, and Honorary Membership categories is recommended by the Board to aid in accomplishing the Purposes and Mission of the Trust
- The stated date for the Annual Meeting has been changed to the third Monday in June, as stipulated by the Certificate of Incorporation, with the provision that "The Board of Trustees may change the date to avoid legal holidays as conditions warrant..."
- The power to call Special Meetings, previously reserved to the Board of Trustees, has been extended to the Members as provided for in NJ Statute Title 15a: 5-3.
- The 2011 Amended Bylaws specify that a quorum of ten percent of the members must be present in order to conduct business at the Annual Meeting. The original bylaws did not specify a quorum. If the Bylaws don't specify a quorum, NJ 15A states that a majority of Members must be present to conduct business.
- The Board is expanded to a maximum of 15 Trustees, as approved by the Membership at the 2009 Annual Meeting.
- The power to elect and remove Trustees is reserved to the Membership except that the Board is allowed to appoint someone to fill a vacancy until confirmation by the Members at the next Annual Meeting. The original bylaws allowed the Board to fill vacancies.

- The terms of Trustees are specified to be three years in the 2011 Amended Bylaws. The original bylaws specified the terms of Officers but not those of Trustees.

- The amended bylaws state that "Any Trustee who is absent from three successive Board Meetings shall be automatically terminated from the Board until the next Annual Meeting, at which time he or she will be entitled to stand as a candidate for reinstatement to the Board by a vote of a majority of Members present. This strengthened requirement for Trustees to attend meetings has been adapted from the successful practice of the Roxbury (NJ) Chemical Engine Co#1 Fire & EMS.

- The amended bylaws state that "Officers shall be elected for a term of one year at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees." The RHT Certificate of Incorporation stipulates that Officers of the Board are to be elected by the Board. The original bylaws had the officers of the Board elected by the Membership, which is contrary to the Certificate of Incorporation. The one-year term is common practice and lightens the load on officers.

- Article X, the Code of Ethics, was simplified and made clearer while retaining the original intent.

- *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* has been adopted as the Parliamentary Authority for meetings of the Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. and its Board of Trustees.

- The provisions of the "Addition to the By-Laws June 4, 2006" which describe the process for nomination of Trustees by the Roxbury Rotary Club and the Roxbury Township Historical Society, have been simplified and moved into the body of the document. The original intent of this addition, that the RHT Board has the right to reject a nominee, is retained.

Honoring the memory and service of Thomas Venner

In response to Issue No. 1 of the Drakesville Times, members Lillian and Bruce Venner made a very generous donation to the Roxbury Historic Trust in memory of Bruce's father, Thomas Venner. This much-appreciated gift has been earmarked for restoration of the King Store Wagon Scale.

The elder Mr. Venner, pictured here, was a dedicated Roxbury Township civil servant and held an impressive series of posts including Special Policeman 1944-1946 (security work at Picatinny Arsenal during WW2), Recorder 1946-1948, Municipal Magistrate 1949-1954, Township Clerk 1948-1972, retired August 1, 1972. The energetic Mr. Venner also served as Morris County Treasurer during his career with Roxbury.



Interestingly, Thomas was a member of the ground crew at Lakehurst when the Hindenberg crashed and burned on May 6, 1937. Thomas had been married to wife Helen for 52 years when he died in 1982. Mr. Venner and Red Merrill helped Louise King from time to time. The Venners were guardians of the King Store stone horse trough for a while and returned it when Rotary began restoration work. The Venners are fondly remembered by Bob Badini who supplied some of the details for this story.

DRAKESVILLE CHRONOLOGY PART 1

ADAPTED FROM THE SEPT. 2009 KING STORE AND HOMESTEAD HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT PREPARED BY DENNIS BERTLAND ASSOC.

DATE	EVENT/SOURCE
Pre-1700	The ancient Lenape Minnisink Trail from Delaware to Navesink passed through area that would become Ledgewood on future path of Rt. 46 and Rt. 10. [Hosking and Meeker, <i>The History of Roxbury Township</i> Vol 2, p. 12]
1710	Forge opened near Succasunna. [Hosking and Meeker, <i>The History of Roxbury Township</i> Vol. 1, p. 24]
1713	Earliest known deed in Roxbury, for 2,100 acres. [Hosking and Meeker, Vol. 1 p. 21]
1715	John Reading survey: "This pond or lake is called Huppaking [Hopatcong] being a mile or more, over five or six miles in length well store with fish and a very pleasant place." [Peter O. Wacker, <i>Land and People: A Cultural Geography of Preindustrial New Jersey Origins and Settlement Patterns</i> , New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1975, p. 50]
1716	John Reading acquired tract of 538 acres in Drakesville vicinity. "Mr. Fred Canfield has in his possession a certified copy of a deed for a tract of 538 acres granted to John Reading by the West Jersey proprietors on the 1 st of January 1716. The tract conveyed is in the vicinity of Drakesville, running from Carey's to near the Duck Pond, and includes a part of the Atlantic Dynamite company's tract." [Theodore F. Wolfe, quoted in <i>Iron Era</i> , 3/13/1891, quoted in Hosking and Meeker, p. 14] An 1808 deed for a 42.75-acre tract sold by Jacob and Esther Drake to Ebenezer B. Woodruff places Reading's line: "Beginning in the middle of a brook near said Drake's house where Reading's old line crosses the same and joining Jacob Drake the third and then running along the old line. . ." [MC Deeds, Book W, p. 313]
1740	December 24: Roxbury was incorporated as the fourth township in Morris County. Within Roxbury's boundaries at that time were the areas that later would be set off as Chester Borough, Chester Township, Mt. Arlington, Mt. Olive Township, Netcong Borough and Washington Township, in addition to parts of Hopatcong Borough and Stanhope.
1751	April 15: Abraham Drake (d. 1763) , grandfather of Col. Jacob Drake, acquired 51.4 acres in Roxbury on road leading to Sussex Court house. [Recorded in proprietor's Book S3, p. 158, referenced in MC Deeds, B2, p. 177] This was the mill property at Drakesville according to Drake, p. 59.
1753	Constant King (great grandfather of Thomas) "came to Roxbury, twp. . . . before 1753, at which date he signs a license bond for Ebenezer Drake to become an innkeeper." [Chambers, <i>The Early Germans of New Jersey, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969, p. 430</i>]
1754-55	Tavern licenses issued to Abraham Drake. [Harriet Stryker-Rodda, <i>Some Early Records of Morris County, New Jersey, 1740-1799</i> , New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1975]
1756-65	Tavern licenses issued to Jacob Drake Jr. [Stryker-Rodda].
1759	Abraham Drake, grandfather of Col Jacob Drake, bought 54 acres from Proprietors, in Drakesville; in 1819 this property, then belonging to Abraham and Jacob B. Drake, was sold by Sheriff to Abigail Young." [Samuel Gardner Drake, <i>Genealogical and Biographical Account of the Family Drake in America</i> , 1845, p. 59]
c.1776	Col. Jacob Drake, Corporal Cornelius Drake (possibly nephew – son of brother Abraham), and Capt. Abraham Drake (possibly brother, b. 1730) served in Rev. War. [Hosking and Meeker. Vol 2, p. 191]
1778-80	Jacob Drake listed in Roxbury ratables with 180 acres, 3 horses, 8 cows, 5 hogs, and a riding chair.
1783	Mar. 15: Jacob Drake buys 82 acres from Zacheus Johnson joining along "a tract of land of five hundred acres returned Jacob Drake." [MC Deeds, Book. O, p. 58]
1788	George King Drake (1788 – 1837) born, second son of Col. Jacob Drake's second wife, who was widow of George King. Princeton, 1811; NJ Assembly 1823-26; Judge Supreme Court of NJ, 1826-1834. [General Catalogue Of Princeton]
1789	Jacob Drake acquired 502 acres "northwest of Drakeville." [Munsell's <i>History of Morris County</i> , p. 365] Drake "bot. 500 acres near Drakesville, 1789." [Drake, p. 59] "Drakeville lies in the valley at the head of the south branch of the Raritan, having the Schooley's Mountain range on the northwest. It is on the old turnpike passing through Succasunna on the way toward Newton. It has good water power for a grain and saw-mill. It lies so near the head waters of the south branch, and so near the outlet of Lake Hopatcong toward the east, that the supply of water is materially aided by the lake." [Munsell, p. 366] "Colonel Jacob Drake was one of the earliest settlers at Drakesville, where he located a large tract of land, on which he resided the remainder of his life, selling off portions as the county became more thickly settled. He was born in 1730 and was of a Virginia family. At the breaking out of the war he took at once a leading part. . . . He was colonel of the "western battalion" of Morris militia, and resigned his commission to represent the county in the first State Legislature. He died at Drakesville, September 1823, aged 93 years. Colonel Drake's second wife was Esther Dickerson, daughter of Captain Peter Dickerson, of the continental army, and his associate on the committee. By her he had six children – Clarissa, wife of Dr. Ebenezer Woodruff; Jacob Drake, Jr., of Drakesville; Silas Drake, who removed to the west; Hon. George K. Drake, judge of the supreme court of New Jersey; Peter Drake, and Eliza, wife of Dr. Absalom Woodruff." [Munsell, p. 25]

1795	1795 Map of New Jersey shows no development in vicinity of Drakesville.
1801	Mar 9: Morris Turnpike chartered. [Lane, p. 146] First section, Elizabethtown to Morristown, completed and dividends were being paid by 1810. Two other sections, from Morristown through Succasunna to Stanhope and from Stanhope to Newton, were not completed until later. "Considerable stretches of the roadbed were made of crushed stone to a width of twenty feet." [Lane, p. 147] "These turnpikes had a great influence in developing the resources of the county – how great they who live at the present day of steam railroads can hardly appreciate. They were not profitable to the incorporators, and the benefit which accrued from them was to the community at large." [Munsell, p. 67] "Main Street, Succasunna and Ledgewood incorporated as Morris Turnpike in March 1801." [Hosking and Meeker, Vol. 2, p. 15]
1801	New public road two rods wide laid out leading south from Col. Jacob Drake's. (Emmans Road from intersection of Hillside Avenue in Flanders northeasterly to Main Street, Ledgewood) [MC Road Return, B-72]
1804	The Morris - Sussex Turnpike is completed, running through Roxbury Township. Specifically, the road went from Elizabeth, through Chatham, passed through Madison in almost a straight line, skirted Washington's headquarters in Morristown; ran along Sussex Avenue through Randolph and into Roxbury, and continued through Succasunny Plains, Drakesville (Ledgewood) and Stanhope to Newtown. [Roxbury online history]
1805	Silas Riggs (1779-1847) moved from Mendham to Drakesville (Succasunny Plains according to Seraly & Lyman) shortly after marriage (in 1803) to Harriet Rose of Southampton, Long Island. "Riggs, a tanner like his father and grandfather, may have been drawn to Roxbury Township in anticipation of the growth of area leather business. The nearby Sucksunny Mine created the market for leather, as the iron ore drawn from the mines was transported to more convenient means of conveyance in sizable leather pouches produced by tanners capable of carrying 500 pounds of ore on the backs of mules or horses. Riggs first came to Drakesville (Ledgewood) to start a tannery and was apparently a successful tanner since by 1822 (1825 according to Seraly & Lyman, p. 39) he had seven tan vats and his land holdings had increased from thirty to seventy-five acres. A year later Silas Riggs inherited part of his father's estate and subsequently built a more substantial residence across the street from his first house. When the Morris Canal bisected his property in 1826 Riggs secured a contract to dig a section of it; probably the section through his property. Later, he became known as Captain Riggs because he owned and operated three canal boats." [<i>Silas Riggs House National Register Nomination</i>]
1805	Dr. Ebenezer B. Woodruff (1777-1852) son of Dr. Hezekiah Stites Woodruff (1754-1842) married Clarissa Drake (1783-1837), a daughter of Col Jacob Drake. [Seraly and Lyman, p. 38] (Dr. Absalom Woodruff, Ebenezer's brother, would marry Clarissa's younger sister Eliza in 1814. See below)
1806	Death of Abraham Drake, brother of Col. Jacob Drake. [Drake, p. 59] Will names sons Jacob ("3 rd ") and William executors. Witnessed by Col. Jacob Drake and Ebenezer B. Woodruff.
1808	Silas Riggs taxed on 80 acres, a gig and a tanyard. [Seraly and Lyman, p. 40]
1808	June 2: Deed from [Col.] Jacob and Esther Drake of Roxbury to Ebenezer B. Woodruff of Roxbury. 42.75 Acres. \$860. [MC Deeds, Book 2, p. 313] "Beginning in middle of brook near said Drake's house where Reading's old line crosses the same and joining Jacob Drake the 3 rd . and then running along old line. . ."
1809	Thomas L. King (1809-1881) born "on the mountain near Drakesville" son of John P. and Christina Wolfe King [<i>Biographical and Genealogical History</i> , p. 535]
1812	"Route 46 in Kenvil and Ledgewood to Main Street, Ledgewood incorporated as Sussex Turnpike in 1812." [Hosking and Meeker, Vol 2, p. 15]
1814	Dr. Absalom Woodruff (1791-1850) married Eliza Drake (1793-1826) youngest daughter of Col. Jacob Drake. Probably around this time, Absalom joined his older brother, Dr. Ebenezer B. Woodruff in medical practice in Drakeville area. (Absalom's second wife was Elizabeth Riggs, sister of Silas Riggs (1785-1830), whom he married in 1827.) [Seraly and Lyman, p. 112]
1815	A deed from Preserve and Puah Riggs to their son Silas describes the property on which the "saltbox" house was located. Adjoining property owners included Henry Fulk, Benjamin Hart, Joseph Oliver, Col. Jacob Drake, Joseph Hull, Slack's (Slaight's Tavern) and Samuel Howell. [Seraly & Lyman, p. 40]
1816	Jacob B. Drake conducting store along Morris & Sussex Turnpike (referenced in Sheriff sale deed of Wm. G. Lewis land to George K. Drake) [Deed Bk. L2, p. 425] "By virtue of which said writ I did take seize and lien on the lands and tenements of the said Defendant in my County Trust on all that tract of land situated in the township of Roxbury near Jacob B. Drake's store, bounded by lands of Jacob Drake [Jacob B. Drake's father, Col. Jacob Drake] and Jacob Drake 3 rd [Jacob B. Drake's cousin] said to contain one acre be the same more or less which tract includes the lands more particularly described as follows to wit – <i>the first tract beginning at the Northwest corner of a bridge in the Morris and Sussex turnpike road across the branch leading into the Mill pond belonging to said Young and running. . . containing one acre and four hundredths . . . the second tract adjoins that last described on the Northwest and contains twenty six hundredths of an acre and is the same conveyed to the said William G. Lewis by Jacob Drake 3 & wife by deed bearing date of fourth day of July AD 1816. . .</i> " [Deed Book L2, p. 425] Young's mill mentioned in the deed was located west of Emmons Road [1853 Lightfoot & Geil Map], which suggests that Jacob B. Drake's store was in that vicinity.

1818	May 2: Deed from Ebenezer B. Woodruff to Jacob B. Drake (Col. Jacob Drake's son). .4-acre "being part of the land contained in the pond lately raised by the parties of the first and second part for the purpose of building a sawmill which is now completed. [MC Deeds, Book K2, p. 520]
1818	May 6: Deed from Jacob Drake & wife, Esther, to George K. Drake of Morris Twp. (son) for 120 acres along Morris & Sussex Turnpike. \$2,300. [Deed Book L2, p. 216]
1819	Abijah Young bought two tracts of land, then belonging to Jacob B. (Col. Jacob Drake's son) and Abraham (Col. Jacob Drake's brother) Drake, in Ledgewood west of Emmans Road totaling 254 acres at a sheriff's sale to settle the debts of Jacob Drake. [Seraly and Lyman, p. 32] This property was well west of King Store location at intersection of Dover and Morristown roads.
1819	March 4: Adv. in the <i>Palladium of Liberty</i> for "that valuable tavern formerly occupied by Col. Jacob Drake, at the head of Suckasunny Plain, . . . It is considered to be the most eligible stand between Morris-Town and the Sussex Court House, being nearly midway between them on the Morris and Sussex turnpike road. Such quantity of Arable Wood and Meadow land may be had adjoining the premises, as may be most acceptable to the purchaser. Jacob B. Drake."
1820	Feb. 28: Adv. in the <i>Palladium of Liberty</i> , "For Sale. That Noted Tavern Stand formerly occupied by Col. Jacob Drake. . . The house is large and with a little repairing would be well adapted to the accommodation of travelers. . . Also a New and Valuable Store house, and Saw Mills, near the tavern house. . . Also, a tract of about four hundred and fifty acres of wood land, near the above, bordering on Suckasunny Plains, and extending within about two miles of the Iron works at Brooklyn and Stanhope. . . . Jacob B. Drake."
1822	Morris Canal project, connecting Phillipsburg with Newark (extended later to Jersey City) conceived by George P. McCulloch of Morristown. Original recommendation to build canal were not adopted by Legislature. [Lane, pp. 225 & 227]
1823	Construction of Silas Riggs' Mansion House (aka "Colonial Hall) [Seraly and Lyman, p.46] In his memoir, "That's the Way It Was," Albert A. Riggs suggests that Silas Riggs' house was started around the same time the canal was dug (which was in 1825). [Riggs, p. 67]
1823	Death of Col. Jacob Drake. [Munsell, p.25; Drake, p.59] Drake was described as "a man of large business and influence and gave name to the village of Drakesville." [Historical Memorial, Presbyterian Church, Succasunna, 1765-1865, p. 44, quoted in Seraly and Lyman, p. 67]
1824	Dec: Morris Canal and Banking Company chartered.
c.1824	Morris Canal Survey depicts canal route bisecting land owned by George K. Drake as well as land owned by Silas Riggs, Drake's neighbor to the east. Survey depicts a rectangular building on Drake's property in the approximate location of the store. A portion of the basin at the east end of planned "Lock of 10 Feet" (subsequently Plane #3 East) is shown on Drake's property. Table on survey lists .73 acres of Drake's property to be acquired by canal. Neighboring property owner to west is Ebenezer Woodruff; to the east is Silas Riggs' property, on which another planned "Lock of 10 Feet" is located.
1825	July 25: Construction on Morris Canal begins in vicinity of store on land owned by Silas Riggs (1779-1847) , tanner and farmer. Riggs was awarded contract to build portion of canal (purportedly the first two sections) and eventually acquired three canal boats. [King Store and Homestead National Register Nomination, p. 8-4] Silas Riggs house, now located next to the King Store, was originally located several hundred yards east of the store along the Morristown Road. First spade full of earth turned for the building of the canal is documented in <i>The Palladium of Liberty</i> as "commencing near Suckasunny Plains", the precise spot unknown. [Hosking and Meeker, Vol 2, p. 23]
1826	April 29: Deed from George K. Drake and Mary his wife of Morris Township to Obadiah Crane and Absalom Woodruff of Roxbury Township. \$250. .82-acre lot. [MC Deeds, Book T2, p. 43] First mention of .82-acre lot. "lying a little below the junction of the Dover Turnpike road with the Morris and Sussex turnpike. . ."
1826	July 22: Deed from George K. Drake and Mary his wife of Morris Township to Ebenezer Woodruff of Roxbury. \$300.00 2-acre lot. [MC Deeds, Book T2, p. 42] Along the Morris and Sussex turnpike road beginning at "the southerly corner of a tavern lot lately conveyed by Henry Mooney to Septimus King." This likely included property developed as "Woodruff's Basin," referenced in 1827 adv. (see below) and later owned by Albert Riggs.
1827	April 24: Adv. in the <i>Palladium of Liberty</i> : "130 Acres of Land For Sale. The subscriber expecting soon to remove from the county of Morris is induced to offer for sale, at low prices, his lands, situate at the junction of the Dover, Morris and Sussex turnpike roads, and on the Morris Canal, at Drakeville, in said county. They will be sold together, or in such parcels as purchasers may desire Convenient lots for building, may be had lying between the turnpike gate and Septimius King's tavern. This place possesses great advantages, in its schools, regular preaching on the Sabbath, daily mails and stages, physicians, cheapness of fuel, and many other particular; and it is the natural and most easy point of communication with the canal, for a large and populous district of country, comprehending the townships of Roxbury, Chester, Washington, and part of Mendham and Randolph. These circumstances render it an eligible location for men of business, calculating to settle along the canal. Any person wishing to purchase, will please to call on the subscriber or Ira C. Whitehead, Esquire, at Morristown, or Doctor Ebenezer B. Woodruff, near the premises. George K. Drake."

1827	May 16: Notice in the <i>Palladium of Liberty</i> . "Last Notice. All Persons indebted to E.B. & A. Woodruff, either by note or Book account, are now called upon to settle the same without delay. Those who have not given their notes, may be calling and attending to it, receive a short extension of credit. I will attend, for a few weeks, at Crane & Woodruff's Store, Drakeville, on Saturday of each week for the purpose of settling account. Those who neglect this notice may expect to find their accounts in the hands of a magistrate for collection. Aaron Drake, agent. Drakeville, May 16, 1927."
1827	June 21: Adv. in the <i>Palladium of Liberty</i> : "Drakeville Store. Crane & Woodruff. Have erected a large and convenient storehouse at Drakeville, head of Succasunny Plains, opposite Woodruff's Basin, on the Morris Canal, and have just received, and now offer to their customers and the public, and extensive assortment of Seasonable and Fashionable Goods, . . . Groceries. . . Hardware. . . Crockery. . . Drugs & Medecines [sic]. . . Leather & Skins. . . Tailoring. . . Country Produce."
1827	Dam constructed to raise water level of Lake Hopatcong, main reservoir of canal, by 5 feet. [Lane, p. 231] A 6-foot dam had been constructed in 1750s for a forge (Brookland Forge, known later as Brooklyn Forge) (lake called Great Pond at the time and later Brookland Pond – later part of Lake Hopatcong); Second dam raised the lake level to current level, a total of 12 feet above natural level.
1827	Map of Morris Canal shows "Drake's Ville" with 2 sawmills and 4 unidentified buildings just west of the fork of Sussex and Morris Turnpikes. [<i>Line of the Morris Canal</i>]
1828	First school opened in Ledgewood – conducted in cooper shop until 1839. [Hosking and Meeker, p. 60]
1829	Several sections of the canal were opened for local use. [Lane, p. 231]
1830	Thomas L. King age 21 elected constable of Roxbury; reelected 11 years [<i>Biographical and Genealogical History</i> , p. 535]
1830	Canal finished to Rockaway [Lane, p. 231]
1831	Canal completed between Easton & Newark. Canal boats took 5 days to complete passage. [Lane, pps. 232 & 234]

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Annual Membership Dues - Individual \$25.00, Corporation \$125.

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_____ King House Dining Room & Mural Restoration Fund (Goal: \$12,000)

I would like to help the Trust fund continuing restoration:

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Please mail information with payment to: *Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc., 209 Main Street, Ledgewood, NJ 07852*

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Roxbury Historic Trust Newsletter

Issue No. 2 May 2011

209 Main Street
Ledgewood, NJ 07852

Addressee Name
and Address