


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. 4 May 2012

\$1.00

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## Message from the President

Progress has continued unabated since December. The Trust now has its first Marketing Plan thanks to Mary Ann Dudak and the Steering Committee. This led to the appointment of a Publicity Committee chaired by Sue Rawlinson. With the General Operating Support (GOS) grant from the NJ Historical Commission, Chuck Rawlinson and Richard Cramond outfitted the office with Cable Internet and a new computer. Remaining funds will help convert from oil to gas fired heating.

Janet Lordi and I attended a Best Practices workshop on Collections Management in January. While there we received news that the NJ Historical Commission had awarded RHT \$11,443 towards a Phase 2 Archeology Study of the site. Hunter Research completed the excavation phase of the project during the first week of May assisted by volunteer Anders Todd, and consultation from the Roxbury Rotary. The work was coordinated by Janet Lordi.

A sunny March 11 saw enthusiastic window and other cleaning at the King House aided by student Chris Fraraccio and Roz Musmanno (inset photo). On March 29 hostile wind greeted Rotary Club members, Steve Alford, Gary Ribe and George Wien as they tore out carpeting and removed trash to get ready for inspection by Architect John Bolt in the preparation of construction documents for the King Store.

Also in March, RHT prepared a grant application to the Morris Co. Historic Preservation Trust for construction documents for the King House (awards to be published in late June). NJ Cultural Trust announced a grant round due on April 26. Bob, Janet Lordi and I submitted an application for funding to restore the windows, side entry steps and icebox at the King Store.

Meanwhile preparation went forward to meet the April 8 deadline for the two exhibits featured on page 2. Richard Cramond provided generously from his photo and model collections for the transportation exhibit. The Lenape exhibit is inspired by the visit from Chiefs Bob Red Hawk and Shelley DePaul in October, 2011, and the Lenape Cultural Center in Easton, PA. We are indebted to Shelley for advice and photos, and to Carol Kuhn, who guided us and made the "hidden face" doll, which is central to the exhibit.

Further afield, an antique wagon scale turned up in Indiana, and is now in the capable hands of Dave Farnham in Vermont on its way to restoration and installation in the scale pit at the King Store. See the article on page 8.

We are looking forward to another action packed Celebrate Preservation Day on May 20, with appraisals by Steve Glaubman of Berman's Auction Gallery, and the 50th birthday of the Roxbury Township Historical Society, cofounder of the Trust. RTHS is sponsoring the NJ Historic Trust funded Nomination of the Ledgewood/Drakesville Historic District to the State and National Register of Historic Places. Excerpts from the nomination by Dennis Bertland Associates are featured on pages 3-6.

This newsletter serves as written notice of the Annual Membership Meeting at 4:15 p.m. on Sunday, June 10 at the King House, 209 Main Street, Ledgewood, NJ. See Events on page 2.

The impressive accomplishments of the Trust would not be possible without the support of the Roxbury Township, and especially the volunteers, which include students, Roxbury Rotary and others. Special thanks to Bob Morris for spearheading the Wagon Scale Restoration and writing the successful Grant Applications for the GOS, Archeology Survey, and Ledgewood District National Register Nomination projects. It is truly a privilege to be part of this team.

Miriam Morris



## 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, Nicole Barbato, Rev. David Holwick, Janet Lordi, Robert Morris and Barbara Pescow Trustees.

## Committees

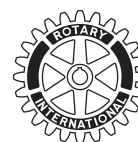
Buildings and Grounds - Charles Alpaugh, Richard Cramond, Miriam Morris, Robert Morris; Education and Exhibits - Janet Lordi, Miriam Morris, Rosalind Musmanno, Linn O'Hara, Barbara Pescow, Sue Rawlinson, Carol Shay; Collections - Janet Lordi, Miriam Morris, Emily Wien; Publicity - Sue Rawlinson, Mary Ann Dudak, Barbara Pescow, Mottel Balston; Membership - Sue Anderson, Emily Wien; Steering Committee - Richard Cramond, Mary Ann Dudak, Miriam Morris, Barbara Pescow, Roz Musmanno, Bob Morris, Sue Rawlinson and others; Newsletter Committee - Bob Morris, Janet Lordi, Mary Ann Dudak, Miriam Morris; Student Volunteers - D. J. Ward, Chris Fraraccio.

## 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.*

## Dues Policy Transition

**Annual Dues for all members will now be payable on or before June 30 starting in 2012. Members who paid dues in December 2011 or since are paid-up until June 2013. For all other members, dues notices are enclosed with this newsletter. All members paid-up since March 2011 may vote at the Annual Meeting.**



Visit the [Roxbury Historic Trust](http://www.roxburynewjersey.com/trust.htm) online at <http://www.roxburynewjersey.com/trust.htm>





## EVENTS

**May 13** Regular opening from 1:00-4:00 P.M.

**May 20** Celebrate Preservation event from noon to 4:00 P.M.: Antiques appraisals by Steve Glaubman of Berman's Auction Gallery, Dover, NJ. A mini exhibit will feature a photographic display of Roxbury Township's 2012 Preservation Awardees.

This afternoon will also celebrate the Roxbury Township Historical Society's fiftieth birthday.

**June 10** Regular opening from 1:00-4:00 P.M. followed by the AGM and program: Mary Ann Dudak will reminisce with Bob Badini about the mining days.

**July 8** Ice Cream Social from 1:00-4:00 P.M.

**August 11** Peach Festival/Ledgewood Gala Day in cooperation with the Ledgewood Baptist Church 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.: join the parade at noon!

**August 12** Regular opening from 1:00-4:00 P.M.

**September 8** Succasunna Day on Main Street, Succasunna: 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**September 9** Regular opening from 1:00-4:00 P.M.

**October 14** Living History Day from 1:00-4:00 P.M.: guest to be announced.

**November 11** Regular opening from 1:00-4:00 P.M., including War memorabilia.

**December 7** Friday: Salt Box Supper and Victorian Santa from 6:00-9:00 P.M.

**December 9** Sunday: Holiday opening from 1:00-4:00 P.M., guest to be announced.

**December 14** Friday evening get together.

see [Museums at Drakesville](#) on Facebook for updates

## EXHIBITS

Two exciting new exhibits have opened in the downstairs exhibit rooms of the King House:



**"Heels, Wheels and Keels"** chronicles three hundred years of travel through Roxbury Township, including foot traffic on the ancient Minisink Trail, the 1804 Morris-Sussex Turnpike, New Jersey's first chartered toll road, the historic mountain-climbing Morris Canal, and later trolleys and trains. The exhibit features models and local photographs. Maps, such as the inset from the 1905 USGS topographical map of the area, illustrate the importance of terrain in determining modes and routes of travel and placement of settlements like Drakesville.

The second exhibit, **"Hidden Faces,"** in partnership with the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, examines the fascinating story of the quiet survival of Lenape culture during the 1800s. After most of the region's original inhabitants had been displaced by European settlers, small enclaves of Lenape remained in New Jersey and in eastern Pennsylvania where they intermarried with German farm families and preserved traditions, rituals and matrilineal lines of descent to the present day. This unique exhibit recreates a nineteenth century Lenape-German farmhouse interior including cultural elements secretly signaling a Lenape presence to those in the know. §



Roxbury's first firetruck, a 1917 Ford Model T "Chemical Engine"



## History of Drakesville

Adapted from the 2012 nomination of the Ledgewood Historic District to the NJ and National Registers of Historic Places written by Ann Parsekian and Dennis Bertland, Dennis Bertland Associates, Stockton, NJ

**Eighteenth century** European settlement of the Roxbury vicinity, a broad flat valley at the head of the South Branch of the Raritan River, called Succasunny by the Lenape, the Native Americans in the region, began in the early years of the Eighteenth century. Drained by Drake's Brook, the sandy soil of the Succasunny Plain offered only poor to fair agriculture opportunities; however, bordering the plain on the Northwest were hills rich in iron ore.<sup>10</sup>

Pioneer industrialists were attracted by iron resources as well as ample fuel and waterpower sites necessary to process the iron ore.

John Reading surveyed in the vicinity, then part of Hunterdon County, as early as 1715 and acquired a tract of 538 acres in 1716 in what would be called Drakesville. Morris County was set off from Hunterdon in 1738, even though at that point "the population could have averaged hardly two persons to a square mile," according to county historians. Roxbury was incorporated as the fourth township in the county two years later.

By the middle of the Eighteenth century, a small settlement had been established along the existing road from Morristown northwest to Newtown, which was originally the Minisink trail established by the Lenape.

Prominent early settlers in the locale, whose ethnic background was predominantly English, included Abraham Drake, born in Piscataway and descended from early immigrants to New England, and Constant King, who emigrated from Long Island before 1753. In 1751 Drake bought 54 acres from the Proprietors that included a mill seat on a small tributary of the South Branch of the Raritan River in what would become Drakesville. According to tavern license records, Abraham Drake operated a tavern during 1754 and 1755. In 1763, Drake left his lands and mill to his grandsons Abraham and Jacob, who were also named executors. By then, Jacob Drake (1732-1823), had already taken over operation of the tavern, receiving licenses for most years during the period from 1756 to 1773. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Jacob

Drake took a leading role as a member of the Committee of Observation and in 1775 was a member of the Provincial Legislature. He was appointed Colonel of the western battalion of the Morris County militia and later resigned his commission to serve in the first New Jersey legislature. By 1778, a prosperous Jacob Drake owned 180 acres, three horses, eight cows and a riding chair. The tavern was not listed. Ratables for 1779 show Drake owning a sawmill and a gristmill. By 1779, Constant King had established a "hattery shop" in the neighborhood according to an advertisement for a young apprentice who had run away, taking merchandise and materials.



By this time, another small settlement, that would be known as Suckasunny, had been established along the same road just over a mile southeast of Drake, where a Presbyterian Church was organized by 1760. Cornelius Slaight conducted a tavern here according to tavern licenses from 1774, 1775 and 1777.

In 1781, Drake acquired 120 acres, which was a portion of John Reading's original 538-acre tract. By 1783 Drake had acquired an additional five-hundred-acre tract, which was referenced in another deed conveying eighty-two acres to him, bringing his total land holdings in Roxbury at the time to around 882 acres. By then, Drake had married Esther Dickerson King, widow of George King, a son of Constant King. Col. Drake's house (inset photo), which no doubt encompassed the tavern, still stands at 6-8 Emmans Road in Ledgewood, just south of the old turnpike road.

## Nineteenth Century

A map published in 1795, which depicts such places as Newtown (Newton), Sparta, and Rockaway in the vicinity of Lake Hopatcong, does not show any settlement in the vicinity of Drakesville (or elsewhere in Roxbury Township), suggesting that a significant hamlet had not yet coalesced. A road return from 1801 for a new two-rod road leading south from Jacob Drake's house (today's Emmans Road) undoubtedly



enhanced commercial development at that intersection. Most importantly, commercial development was spurred during this period by the chartering of the Morris Turnpike in 1801, which incorporated the existing east-west road through the Drakesville neighborhood. The first section of the turnpike, between Elizabethtown and Morristown, was completed by 1810; the western sections were completed shortly after, with considerable portions of the roadbed constructed of crushed stone to a width of twenty feet. A second turnpike, the Dover turnpike incorporated in 1812, extended west from Rockaway, intersecting the Morris Turnpike a quarter-mile east of the road to Flanders. This new intersection, at present-day Circle Drive, would be the impetus for the establishment of a secondary commercial center east of Drake's house, further encouraging the linear development pattern that was beginning to take shape along the turnpike in the Drakesville vicinity. The new turnpike junction was just under a mile west from the Succasunna hamlet, where a post office had been established in 1808.

By 1805, Silas Riggs (1779-1847), a tanner from nearby Mendham, had moved to the Drakesville vicinity, perhaps in anticipation of the growth of

the iron industry in the area that would create a demand for leather pouches used to carry the iron ore from nearby mines to forges. [Silas Riggs' ca. 1805 East Jersey Cottage style house, left, owned by the Roxbury Township Historical Society, was moved to its present location at 213 Main Street in Ledgewood in 1962.] In 1808 Riggs was taxed on eighty acres and one tanyard; by 1822 he had seven tanning vats on thirty-five acres of land, located about a half-mile east of Col. Drake.

Another early family at the East end of the Drakesville neighborhood was that of Ebenezer Woodruff, who first appears in the 1805 tax ratables. In 1805, Dr. Ebenezer B. Woodruff (1777-1852), a son of Dr. Hezekiah Stites Woodruff of Mendham, married Clarissa Drake, elder daughter of Col. Jacob Drake, which established a strong connection between these two prominent families. Woodruff purchased 42.75 acres from Col. Drake in 1808. Several years later, Woodruff's younger brother, Dr. Absalom Woodruff (1791-1850), arrived to join the medical practice. In 1814, Absalom married Col. Drake's youngest daughter, Eliza. Absalom Woodruff and his family lived on the turnpike in Succasunna, in the dwelling where Cornelius Slaight previously conducted a tavern.

Jacob Drake continued to acquire land in Roxbury into the early years of the nineteenth century, although it appears that he was no longer operating a tavern. According to the 1810 tax ratables, he owned 950 acres. Around then he began to convey parcels to his sons, Jacob B., George K., Peter and Silas, including much of the land along the main street of Drakesville. By 1809, Jacob B. Drake was conducting a store along the turnpike and in 1810 Jacob Drake III was taxed on a saw and a gristmill in further evidence of commercial development in the Drakesville vicinity that was fueled by turnpike traffic. A sheriff's deed from that year describing property seized from William G. Lewis and sold to George K. Drake, another son of the Colonel, provides several more clues about the nascent turnpike hamlet, with references to Drake's store and an existing mill:

*"The property was near Jacob B. Drake's store, bounded by lands of Jacob Drake and Jacob Drake 3rd . . . 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 . . . Young."*

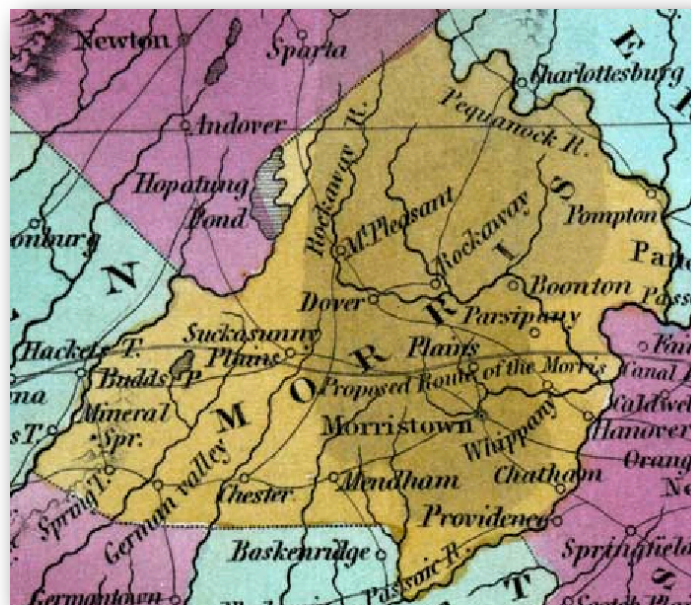


The millpond owner's first name is not given in the deed; however, it very likely was Abijah Young, who later purchased land from Col. Drake. An 1818 deed from Ebenezer B. Woodruff to Jacob B. Drake, for a small lot

*"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,"*

seems to suggest a second sawmill and a second mill pond were constructed in addition to the one owned by Young. The transaction provides further evidence of increasing commercial activity in the neighborhood."

In 1818, the West end of the settlement had a store and one or two millponds serving at least two mills, but the early tavern had evidently closed. In 1819, 254 acres of Col. Jacob Drake's land west of present day Emmans Road that included a sawmill and gristmill were sold at a sheriff's sale to Abijah Young to settle his debts. Young continued his acquisition of property at the West end of Drakesville over the next decades, adding a general store and six houses along the turnpike.



George K. Drake purchased 121 acres along the Morris and Sussex Turnpike from his father, Col. Jacob Drake, for \$2,300 in 1818. George Drake's purchase may have been an effort to help his elderly father, who was experiencing financial difficulties. Although the metes and bounds description in the deed is somewhat vague, the parcel seems to have included the site of the future King Store at the East end of the district. A year later, George Drake's brother, Jacob B. Drake, placed an advertisement for the sale of Col. Drake's tavern in the Morristown Palladium of Liberty, more evidence of their father's financial hardship:

*"Tavern Stand For Sale. The subscriber offers for sale, on reasonable terms, that valuable Tavern Stand formerly occupied by Col. Jacob Drake, at the head of Suckasunny*

*Plain, in the county of Morris. It is considered to be the most eligible stand between Morristown and the Sussex Court House, being nearly midway between them on the Morris and Sussex turnpike road. Jacob B. Drake"*

Another advertisement for Drake's tavern, store house and mills appeared in 1820 and contained additional information about the hamlet, stressing its convenient proximity to iron resources:

*"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."*

Although the cause of Col. Drake's financial trouble is unknown, the area's economy suffered during this period, and numerous forges and furnaces fell into disuse as they became handicapped by dwindling charcoal-yielding forests and a lack of cheap transportation to get products of the iron industry to distant markets. By 1823, thirty-nine of the county's ninety-three forges had shut down.

Col. Jacob Drake died in 1823, coincidentally just a year after George P. McCulloch of Morristown conceived of an ingenious canal system across New Jersey from Easton to Newark, which would bring dramatic changes along its route. The canal, which followed a mountainous route across the state, was made possible by an innovative series of inclined planes that could surmount elevation changes too great for traditional locks. The Morris Canal and Banking Company was chartered in 1824 and a survey filed in 1828 depicts the route of the canal paralleling the turnpike through Drakesville. From west to east the route bisected land owned by Abijah Young (location of Plane #2E), Septimus King, Levi Eames, Dr. Ebenezer Woodruff; Nathaniel Kerne (location of Plane #3E), George K. Drake



(location of a lock and plane basin), and Silas Riggs, the tanner. At the time of the survey, which depicts at least some of the buildings in the vicinity of the canal route, most of the neighborhood development had occurred near the intersection of the road to Flanders.

Many entrepreneurs would exploit favorable locations all along the route of the canal. Work on the canal began in July 1825, reportedly on land owned by Silas Riggs, who subsequently would take advantage of his propitious location along the canal and acquire three canal boats. Riggs' Federal style house, known as "Colonial Hall," was built around the time the canal was constructed and likely reflected an increase in prosperity for the successful tanner and canal boat operator.

In another canal related development, a deed dated April 29, 1826, conveyed a 0.82-acre lot opposite the route of the canal, "lying a little below the junction of the Dover Turnpike Road with the Morris and Sussex turnpike" from George K. Drake to Obadiah Crane and Absalom Woodruff for \$250. This lot would be the site of the King Store, though the modest purchase price suggests that no store existed at the time. It would have been logical for George K. Drake to take advantage of an offer from Woodruff (his brother-in-law) and Crane to purchase the conveniently sited parcel. Drake had not lived in Drakesville for many years, and was by then serving on the New Jersey Supreme Court. In July 1826, he had acquired forty-two acres along the turnpike, evidently for speculation. Woodruff and Crane were undoubtedly eager to capitalize on a promising location at the intersection of two established turnpikes and opposite a canal basin that was favorably positioned between a double plane and a lock, where the boatmen could be expected to tie up and seek food and supplies.

Two months after Crane and Woodruff acquired the store lot, Dr. Ebenezer Woodruff added to his land holdings with the acquisition of a nearby 2-acre lot from George Drake; the deed contains a reference to an adjacent tavern lot that had recently been conveyed by to Septimus King, another sign of interest in the business potential of the location. Ebenezer's property included a site next to the canal that would be developed as "Woodruff's Basin."

(to be continued) §

## King Store Wagon Scale Restoration



When Murray Pescow was the chief interpreter of the outside historical features of the King site he dreamed of a future including a restored Wagon Scale adjacent to the King Store porch. Restoration of the scale was included in the long-range plan but the idea remained a dream until RHT Members Bruce and Lillian Venner surprised everybody with a very generous donation earmarked for this project. Research on potential replacement platform scales soon led us to Steve Mizerak, Innovative Process Equipment, Allentown, PA, and Lou Procopio, Advance Scale of New England LLC · Southbury, CT. Steve and Lou expressed an interest in our project and graciously agreed to help.

Things moved into high gear this winter when Lou found the old platform scale pictured above in a barn in Indiana. To make a long story short, the Trust has purchased the antique Moline Pitless Scale, which is with the same overall dimensions as the original five-ton Howe scale, and contracted with Farnham Scale Systems, Williamstown, VT, to restore it to working condition and install it at the King Site. Dave Farnham, a friend of Steve and Lou, will coordinate with Scott Fullerton of Roxbury Rotary Club on the physical installation later this summer - *Bob Morris*



# EXHIBIT PHOTOS



Above and below right: "Hidden Faces," Lenape grandmother, Elizabeth Miller; typical Pennsylvania Lenape-German farm house interior and Lenape doll showing hidden face; Below left and next page: "Heels, Wheels and Keels" interpretive sign on loan from the Canal Society of New Jersey and restored Lionel train cars on loan from Martin Schmidt







*photos contributed by Shelley DePaul, Miriam Morris, Robert Morris and Lou Procopio*

Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc.

DRAKESVILLE TIMES

Issue No. 4 May 2012

MUSEUMS  
AT  
DRAKESVILLE



**Morris County  
Historic  
Preservation**



I wish to join / donate to the Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership Dues - \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$25.00, Corporate \$125

I would like to help fund a special project: \_\_\_\_\_ King House Mural Restoration  
(Funding goal: \$15,000)  
\_\_\_\_\_ King House wheel chair ramp

I would like to help the Trust fund continuing restoration \_\_\_\_\_ General Donation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

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

I would like to volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Skills / interests \_\_\_\_\_