

# Drakesville Times

*Exploring 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. 6 May 2013

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## Message from the President

I'm pleased to report that, thanks to the recent GOS-funded oil-to-gas conversion, the King House experienced a winter without heating woes. The \$10,000 in 2012-2013 General Operating Support grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of the Department of State, also funded the office technology upgrade and helped with maintenance, marketing, merchandise, programs and professional fees.

On what was probably the coldest Monday of the season, Roxbury Township cleared away three fallen trees from the lawns, disposing of Irene and Sandy damage on the site in half a day. Louis Picone and Sue Rawlinson are leading a Scout project to replace the lost trees.

Behind scenes work continued with dedicated volunteers meeting on Mondays and Fridays. The Friday group has cast a critical eye over the exhibits and is continuously making improvements. The Monday Steering Group developed a Heritage Tourism Self Assessment and has been planning events starting with Celebrate Preservation Day on May 19 with antiques appraisals by Steve Glaubman of Berman's Auction Gallery in Dover.

Sue Rawlinson, with some special help from Roz Musmanno, is busy putting together the Trust's first silent auction at the Quality Inn on June 1st. The Board is grateful to Sue and to the many local businesses for the generous support. This has been an opportunity to introduce the Museums at Drakesville to many neighbors.

Another first will be the addition of Drakesville Historic Park to the Pathways of History 2013 Museum Tour. Preparations are under way for the October 12 and 13 event involving nineteen historic homes and museums from Lake Hopatcong to Pequannock. See link on page 2.

The Trust's office technology continues to shape up, with a new laser printer, which should be better suited to intermittent use than the failed inkjet. Devlin Gualtieri, Louis Picone, Richard Cramond and Bob Morris installed a high power wireless router which allows network access from anywhere on the site except the interior of the stone store.

On the Preservation front, another construction grant application has been submitted to Morris

County Historic Preservation Trust proposing restoration of the King Store windows, doors and icebox, to be overseen by architect John Bolt. Meanwhile, architect Michael Calafati is well along with construction documents for the King House, including the front elevation below.

Lou Picone, who first brought Cub Scouts to the site in 2010, has just joined the Board, and will stand for a three year term to be voted by the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 9.

Also on that occasion the Trust will continue its tradition of reminiscences. Arnold Staloff will come up from Cherry Hill, NJ to tell about growing up in Kenvil in the 1950's and the moving of his home from Route 46 to 16 Ballentine St. where it still stands today.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that on April 18, 2013, the Ledgewood Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (see the article on page 4).

This newsletter serves as written notice of the Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. Annual Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday June 9. All are welcome.

With continuing gratitude for the privilege of working with this site and this organization,

*Miriam Morris*

## Officers and Board of Trustees

Miriam Morris President; Richard Cramond VP, Treasurer and Roxbury Historical Society representative; Mary Ann Dudak Secretary and Rotary representative; Charles Alpaugh, Nicole Barbato, Rev. David Holwick, Janet Lordi, Robert Morris, Barbara Pescow, Louis Picone and Susan Rawlinson - 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; Publicity Mary Ann Dudak, Sue Rawlinson, Mottel Balston; Membership Janet Lordi; Steering Committee Richard Cramond, Mary Ann Dudak, David Holwick, Miriam Morris, Barbara Pescow, Roz Musmanno, Bob Morris, Sue Rawlinson and others; Newsletter Committee Bob Morris, Janet Lordi, Mary Ann Dudak, Roz Musmanno, Miriam Morris, and Maria Sudol; Student Volunteer Heather Johnson

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



King House Drawing by Michael Calafati Architect, LLC

**2013 CALENDAR of EVENTS**

*see Museums at Drakesville on Facebook for updates*

**Sunday, May 19** Celebrate Preservation, noon to 4 PM. Featuring antique appraisals by Steve Glaubman of Berman's Auction Gallery, hot dogs, etc.

**Saturday, June 1** Silent Auction, dinner and open bar: 5:30-8 PM, Junction 46 Restaurant, Quality Inn, Rt. 46, Ledgewood, NJ

**Sunday, June 9** Regular opening 1-4 PM followed by the Annual Meeting and program; All welcome!

**June 30** All membership renewals due for 2013-14

**Sunday, July 14** Ice Cream Social from 1-4 PM

**Saturday, August 10** Ledgewood Baptist Church Peach Festival/Ledgewood Gala Day 10:00 AM -3 PM

**Sunday, August 11** Regular opening from 1-4 PM

**Saturday, September 7** Suckasunny Day on Main Street, Succasunna: 10 AM - 3 PM

**Sunday, September 8** Regular opening 1-4 PM

**Saturday, October 12** Pathways of History Museum Tour, 11 AM - 4 PM see link below

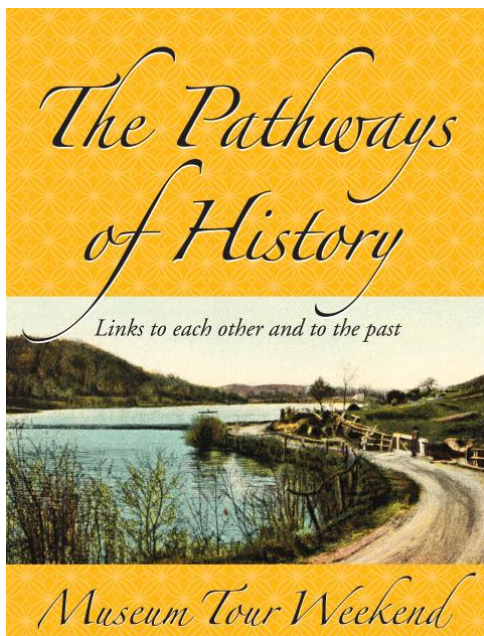
**Sunday, October 13** Living History Day, "It's All About Iron" theme from Noon-4 PM, also second day of Pathways of History Museum Tour

**Sunday, November 10** Regular opening from 1-4 PM, Veterans Day theme incl. War memorabilia

**Friday, December 6** Salt Box Supper and Historic King House Christmas from 6-9 PM

**Sunday, December 8** Holiday opening from 1-4 PM, guest to be announced

**Friday, December 13** Evening get together 5-7 PM



[www.PathwaysOfHistoryNJ.com](http://www.PathwaysOfHistoryNJ.com)



### History of Drakesville - Part 4

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

*At the end of Part 3, the Canal was in decline. Drakesville's prospects were dim, but change was coming down the pike.*

The year 1882 saw the arrival of the first Central Railroad passenger excursion train at Nolan's Point on Lake Hopatcong; this was the beginning of a major tourism boom in the region that would provide new opportunities for Drakesville's entrepreneurs. The Lackawanna Railroad followed with a station at Landing. From these stations passengers had to transfer to steamboats to take them to all parts of the lake, where large, fashionable hotels were established. Prior to 1883, only four small hotels existed on the Lake and by 1900, over forty hotels and rooming houses would be in operation, growth that would influence developments in Drakesville.

Capitalizing on the vacation industry at nearby Lake Hopatcong, William Scheer's sons established the Mansion House in Drakesville, a hotel that catered to tourists. Another local entrepreneur to profit from the tourism boom was Theodore F. King, who had quickly assumed a prominent role in local business and civic affairs after his father's death in 1881.

At this time, Drakesville was one of four villages in Roxbury Township and had a "Baptist church, built in 1874, a hotel, a blacksmith shop, a store, a post office, and about forty houses within a mile of church." A local business directory published at the time also listed R.H. Cary's grist and sawmill and a second general store. Nearby Succasunna was the largest of the four villages, with seventy-five houses within a mile of its several churches.



Drakesville business listings in an 1885 directory included R. H. Cary's grist and saw mill; B. P. Jackson, grocer; J. Allen Roberts, general store on the south bank of the canal; and the O. Scheer & Bro. Hotel. According to the directory, King was conducting a blacksmith business in addition to his store. That same year, King and his brother, William, opened a new grocery store in nearby Landing to serve lake vacationers. King undertook a major modernization of his Drakesville store in 1885, which elicited this glowing review in a Dover newspaper:

*Among the improvements lately made in this section and one which attracts general attention and comment is that on the exterior of the old "stone store" building at Drakesville, Theo. F. King, proprietor, has been at much expense and pains to modernize this old "landmark", and has succeeded in a manner to surprise all, including those who have witnessed the transforming process. The old building has been re-jacketed from foundation to roof, and presents as fine an appearance today as any building of its class in the county.*

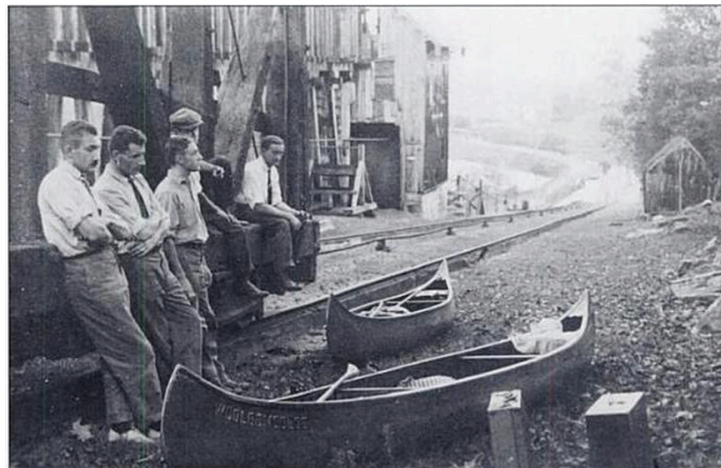
The old store was given new classical details, adding a high degree of elegance to the general store and the Drakesville streetscape, no doubt enhancing King's reputation as a prosperous business owner.

The 1885 directory includes no listing for Baker's hotel at the west end of the village, but presumably it was in operation, since it is depicted in this inset from the 1887 Robinson's Atlas

of Morris County, which also shows King's store and post office and A. Smith's blacksmith shop at the east end of the village. Scheer's hotel is shown opposite the road to Drakesville Station, while just west of the intersection is another building

identified as owned by T. F. King. At the west end of the village is Ralph Carey's mill complex and the Baptist Church. A second blacksmith is located adjacent to the canal on the road to Flanders.

Four years later, in 1891, the Drakesville post office would be renamed Ledgewood. Although exactly what prompted the change is unknown, the Drake family name had disappeared from the neighborhood,

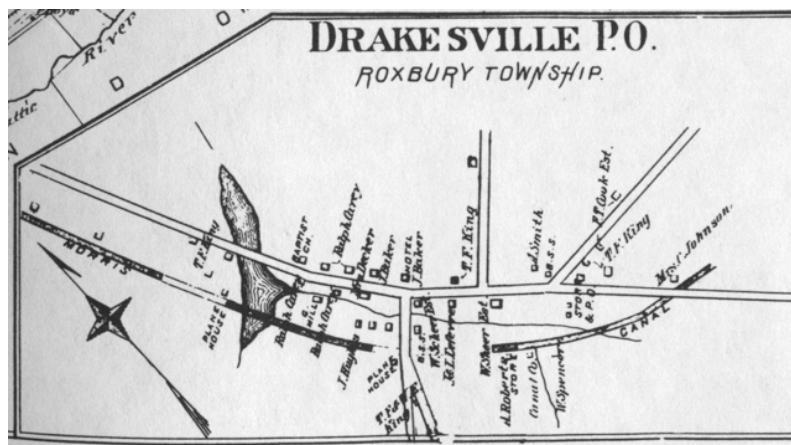


and a settlement similarly named Drakestown existed not far south of Drakesville.

By 1888, most through traffic on the canal had disappeared and traffic had become almost entirely local in character. The canal was still useful for excursions and outings as seen in the photo above of canoes at the top Plane 2East.

**20th Century** Traffic on the moribund Morris Canal dwindled to a point that the New Jersey legislature voted in 1903 to investigate abandoning the canal. A commission was appointed and found that the canal was no longer economically viable; however, no further action was taken until 1922 when the state

finally took over the canal and undertook draining and partially filling in the channel. In 1924, the State Highway Commission began the enormous dismantling project by removing the trolley culvert known as "Hole-in-the-Wall" at the west end of Drakesville seen in the photo on page 2.



Despite the dying canal business, Ledgewood continued to experience a degree of prosperity. A number of dwellings was constructed along Main Street around the turn of the century by members of the Scheer family, whose hotel interests included the Silver Spring Park Hotel in Landing. Two Scheer brothers also built the matching "Four-Square" houses on the old Dover Turnpike.

(to be continued)

## CELEBRATE PRESERVATION

As mentioned on p. 1, the Ledgewood Historic District (formerly Drakesville) has now been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, thereby joining the individually listed King Store, King House and Silas Riggs House. The National Register was authorized by the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act and is administered by the [National Park Service](#). One purpose of the National Register is to protect irreplaceable historic and archeological resources from destruction and degradation associated with government activities such as highway construction and other infrastructure projects. Once a site is listed on the National Register, a "Section 106 Review" is mandated prior to federally-funded projects that may impact the integrity of the site or its setting. Listing on the NJ State Register provides for a similar review process for state and local government projects.

Roxbury's Drakesville, Succasunna and Kenvil Historic Preservation Districts were established by local ordinance in January 1984. See Roxbury Township Article VII / Zoning Regulations / 1.3-7.824 Historic Preservation Districts:

*It has been determined that within the Township of Roxbury there exists certain sites and structures that exhibit architectural, historical and/or cultural values reflecting the Township's heritage; and, that it is in the public interest and a matter of public policy to encourage the preservation and protection of such sites and structures. To this end, it is the intent and purpose of this section to establish Historic Preservation Districts and review procedures of an advisory nature within these districts which would promote the use of designated structures, sites and areas for the education and welfare and pleasure of present and future generations of Roxbury residents as well as residents of Morris County and to foster a sense of civic pride and to stabilize and improve property values within historic districts.*



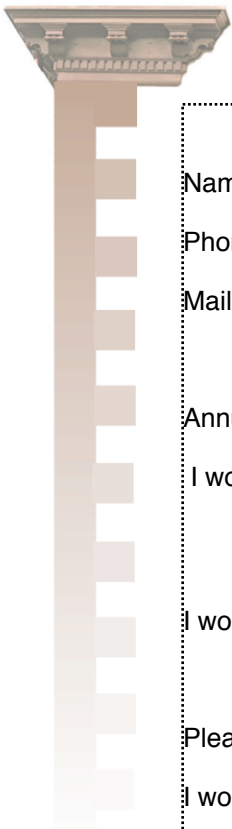
The project to nominate the Ledgewood District to the National Register began in 2009 with a grant from the Morris County Heritage Commission for background research. This was followed by a 2011 Project Grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust to complete the nomination, which was prepared by Dennis Bertland Associates, and received a favorable review by the NJ Historic Sites Commission in late 2012. Formal listing on the NJ Register occurred on February 27, 2013, followed in due course by listing on the National Register on April 18, 2013.

While the initial phase of the project was sponsored by the Roxbury Township Historical Advisory Committee, the desirability of National Register listing turned out to be controversial within local government. This led to the second phase of the project being sponsored by the Roxbury Township Historical Society. The hope is that the long-term benefits to the Township will gradually become apparent to all and that this success will contribute to awareness and preservation of Roxbury's precious historical resources for many generations of future residents and visitors.

*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.*

Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. DRAKESVILLE TIMES

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## MUSEUMS AT DRAKESVILLE

I wish to renew my membership in or join 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 \_\_\_\_\_