

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. 8 May 2014

\$1.00

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Message from the President

Despite a hard winter, recurring problems with the furnace, and burst pipes in the basement of the King House, both buildings have made it through and are smiling in the spring sun.

New Jersey is celebrating its 350th anniversary, with themes of Innovation, Diversity and Liberty, so RHT has a small exhibit on Innovations in Roxbury. Featured is Roxbury's No. 1ESS, the first reliable Electronic Switching System telephone exchange, which opened in June of 1965 at 144 Route 10 in Succasunna. At the time it represented a huge step in communications, yet now seems archaic in comparison with modern technology.

In March RHT applied to Morris County for \$91,940 with a \$22,940 fund match from Roxbury Township Open Space Committee for a construction grant for the King House. This is to replace the electrical system and reinforce the ground floor. Meanwhile bidding is ongoing for Morris County and Roxbury funded construction work at the King Store and, in a few weeks, work will begin on restoration of the windows, outside doors and icebox.



The Trust has also benefitted from a third \$5,000 General Operating Support grant from the NJ Historical Commission, a Division of the Department of State. This has financed repair work on the furnace, cable internet subscription and other expenses.

On April 15 we kicked off the 2014 season with a visit by forty-four sophomores from Ms. Barbato's Social Studies class at Roxbury High

School. This was the first school visit since 2010 and an important milestone for the Trust. In perfect weather the students traced the path of the Morris Canal from Lake Hopatcong to Ledgewood, where they walked Plane 2 East and then proceeded down Canal Street to the King House and Store (photo above).

As before, this newsletter serves as official notice of the Annual Meeting which will be held on June 8, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. after the regular opening. There will be refreshments and the fourth annual reminiscence: this time Beth Blewett will talk about her great-grandfather, the Plane tender at Ledgewood Basin, Plane 2 East.

Our attempt to link membership renewal time with the June Annual Meeting didn't work for many members so we have decided to follow the precedent of many other organizations and change the renewal date for all members to December 31 to coincide with the tax year.

Special thanks to the small group of RHT volunteers for all that they do to keep this remarkable site open, presentable and publicized.

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, Rev. David Holwick, Janet Lordi, Robert Morris, Barbara Pescow, Louis Picone and Susan Rawlinson - Trustees

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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
209 Main Street
Ledgewood, NJ 07852
973 - 927-7603

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sunday, May 18, Celebrate Preservation, noon to 4 PM. Photos of buildings receiving Roxbury Township Preservation Awards, hot dogs, etc.

Sunday, June 8, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM followed by the Annual Meeting and program. All are welcome!

Sunday, July 13, Ice Cream Social Noon - 4 PM

Saturdays, August 9, Peach Festival/Ledgewood Gala Day 10:00 AM - 3 PM at the Ledgewood Baptist Church

Sunday, August 10, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM

Saturday, September 6, Suckasunny Day on Main Street, Succasunna: 10 AM - 3 PM

Sunday, September 14, Regular opening 1 - 4 PM

Saturday, October 11, Pathways of History Museum Tour 10 AM - 4 PM

Sunday, October 12, Living History "Iron Day" No. 2, and second day of Pathways of History Noon - 4 PM

Sunday, November 9, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM, Veterans Day theme including War memorabilia

Friday, December 5, Salt Box Supper and Historic King House Christmas from 6 - 9 PM

Sunday, December 14, Holiday opening from 1 - 4 PM, guest to be announced

Friday, December 19, Evening get together 5 - 7 PM

Wednesday, December 31, Membership renewals due for 2015!!



"Drakeville" Baptist Church as abandoned c. 1917

Ledgewood Baptist Church

This article is adapted by Rev. David Holwick from the 2014 Preservation Plan for Ledgewood Baptist Church written by John Bolt, Dennis Bertland and Ann Parsekian. For access to the complete plan see:

http://www.holwick.com/church/Ledgewood_Baptist_Historic_Preservation_Plan.html

Baptists have congregated in Ledgewood since the 1870s. They began as a Sunday School and soon gained enough members, and money, to consider building a church. The original church, shown above, was constructed in 1874 for \$5,000 and it still stands at 261 Main Street in Ledgewood, although now it is used as an engineer's office because a newer church was constructed in 1917. The first church's Victorian gingerbread is long gone but the cornerstone with its inscription of a rare version of our town's original name - "Drakeville" - was transferred to the new building and



King House c. 1890 showing fence, path and mounting block

can be seen today. The transition to new quarters was made because a young preacher named John Earle arrived in 1914 (he served the church at total of 42 years). The congregation began to grow rapidly and plans were soon drawn for a new sanctuary. A tradition in the church says that Pastor Earle approached one of the wealthier members, H. K. Salmon, with his ideas for the layout of the church and was told it was far too elaborate and should be scaled back, Earle came back a few days later and said he had prayed about it and God wanted the original layout. Mr. Salmon quietly wrote a big check. The land for the church was donated by the King family.



c.1910 photograph of Rev. John H. Earle. Church Archives

The architect for the church was J.J. Vreeland of Dover, who also designed the high school in that town. Vreeland chose the Gothic Revival style which was very popular with Evangelical churches in that period. In America, Gothic Revival church architecture used for its model the English medieval parish church, a category that can be called Early English Gothic. Ledgewood Baptist's bell tower evokes a Norman battlement and the stained glass windows have the classic Gothic pointed arch. The church was also given the intimacy of an English chapel rather than the cavernous feel of a

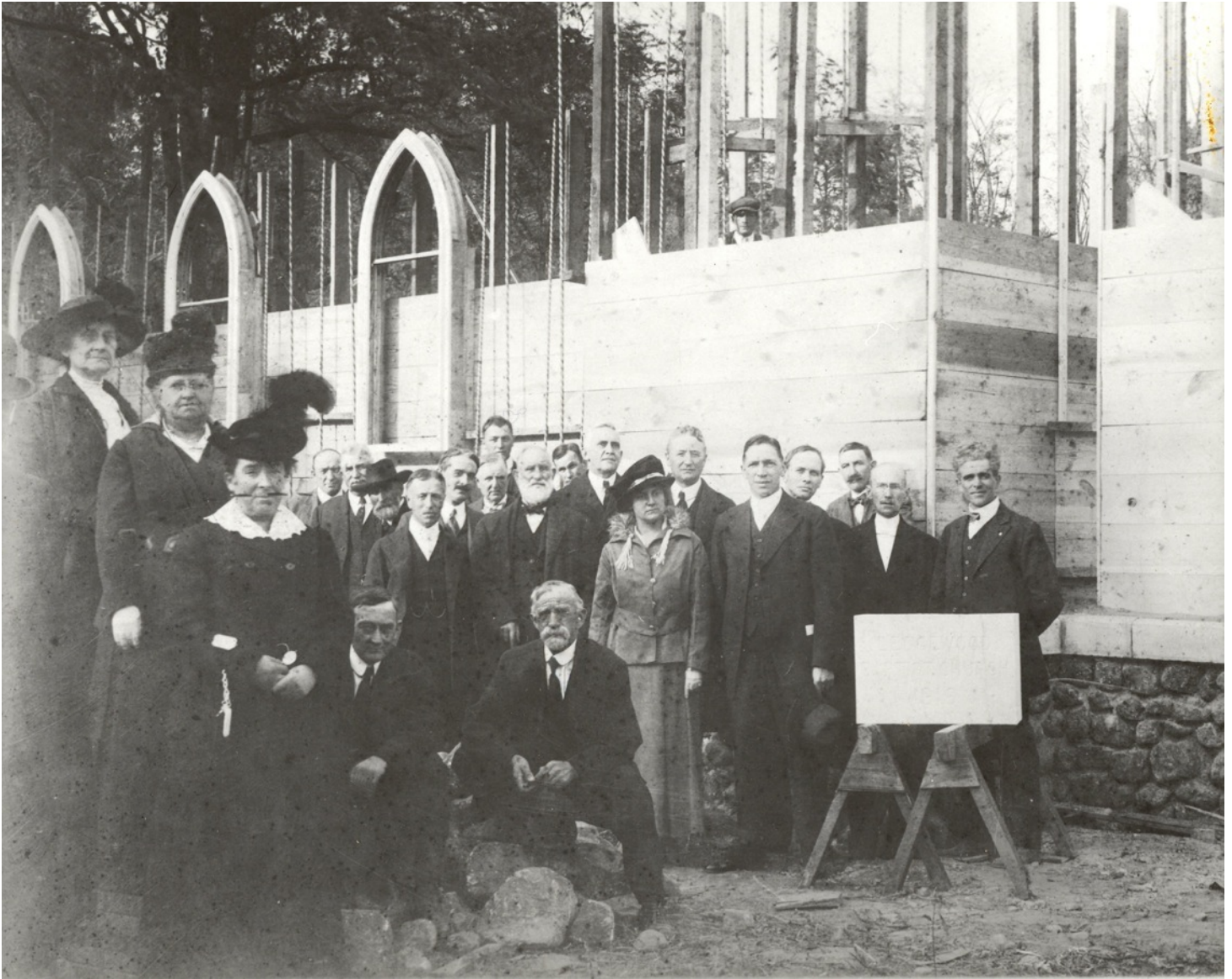
large auditorium, which has proved to be popular with brides and grooms down through the years. Overflow crowds for occasions like Easter are accommodated by setting up folding chairs in a large room that adjoins the sanctuary, though this layout leaves much to be desired

The exterior of the church is un-coursed, irregular stonework. The 1911 Landing railroad station has a



1939 wedding of Bill and Leila Henderson in Ledgewood Baptist Church. Church Archives

similar style that may have inspired Theodore F. King, who owned land next to the station and also happened to be a trustee of the church. Both buildings have a veneer of fieldstones that is backed up by poured-in-place steel-reinforced concrete. Steel-reinforced concrete was very rare for churches but becoming common with commercial buildings in this period, such as the 1919 Palace Theatre in Netcong that was built by the same contractor who put up the church, Gallo Brothers. A photo of the cornerstone dedication ceremony shows the wooden forms that held the poured concrete against the stones. Up to the last decade there were several members of the church who remembered going out in the nearby fields as young children and collecting the



Above: Ledgewood Baptist cornerstone ceremony, October 16, 1916. Church Archives

stones for the walls. They also raised money by selling peanuts on the trolley car that ran down Main Street.

Another early twentieth-century current that may have influenced the design and material used for the Ledgewood church was the Craftsman style espoused in the widely popular magazines and pattern books by Gustaf Stickley, who lived at Craftsman Farms in nearby Morris Plains. Although Stickley focused on residential design, his concepts (which drew on the English Arts and Crafts movement) had a widespread impact. In a 1909 book on Craftsman houses, Stickley included a chapter entitled "The Effective Use of Cobblestones as a link Between House and Landscape."

One of the notable features of the church can be best appreciated from the inside. Outstanding stained glass windows were designed by Payne Studios of Paterson,

New Jersey, and completed at the same time the church was constructed. Smaller windows have Christian symbols and the major windows have traditional images of Jesus in Gethsemane, Jesus returning at the Second Coming, and Jesus with his sheep. The major windows have multiple layers of opalescent glass to add depth of color.

The church took eight months to build. The only major change has been the 1936 addition of a kitchen and classrooms on the back of the church. This was largely funded by a donation by Alma P. Jackson and her photo still graces "Jackson Hall" today.

The church trustees wanted the new church to cost the same as the old one, \$5,000. The architect's preliminary estimate was twice that, \$10,000. The actual cost was far greater - \$14,000 - but they paid it off

in only six years. Even with inflation factored in, it is amazing to consider that refurbishing the roof, tower, heating system and windows following the guidelines in the 2014 Preservation Plan would cost close to \$1,000,000!

The 1917 congregation would be pleased to learn that Ledgewood Historic District National Register Nomination states that Ledgewood Baptist Church is arguably the most architecturally elegant building in the district and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The public is invited to visit the church at any time by calling Pastor David Holwick at 973-449-4026.

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Dedication of the church in 1917 - Church archives



Ledgewood Baptist congregation in 2010 - Church archives

King Site Phase 1B Archeology Survey

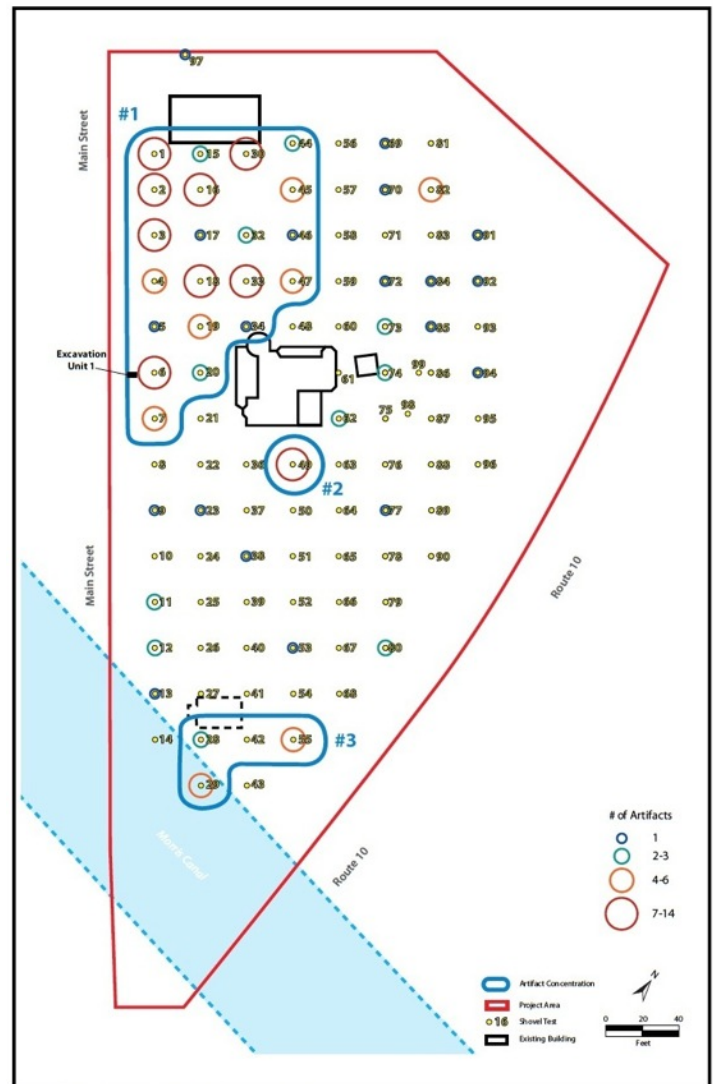
Janet Lordi

On a warm and sunny Monday in May, 2012, a small team of archeologists from Hunter Research, Inc. began an investigation of the King Store and King House sites. The team was led by James Lee, Jr., Principal Investigator with Hunter Research, and son of the late James Lee, Sr., noted Morris Canal historian. The investigation was funded by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of the Department of State.

The purpose of the investigation, known as a Phase 1B Archeology Survey, was to determine the locations of several important landscape features including a picket fence along the front of the King House, the gravel footpath along Main Street near the Canal Store and King House, and a gas lantern located between the store and house. These features can be seen in historic photographs in the Trust's collection. The survey would also satisfy requirements of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office to identify and protect archeological/historical resources in areas where ground might be disturbed in the course of creating parking areas and/or wheelchair accessibility. This work would also "further define the previously established areas of archeological sensitivity" throughout the property using subsurface testing, and provide the Trust with recommendations for future site management in order to minimize ground disturbances as work continues of the properties. The Phase 1B survey builds upon a Phase 1A survey done in 2009 by Richard Veit Associates as an element of the King Store and Homestead Historic Structures Report.

A total of ninety-nine shovel tests were dug on twenty-five foot centers across the site. Each pit was dug down to subsoil and all the material from each pit was screened. The pit tests revealed several artifact concentrations (see right). Two were related to the occupation of the King Store and King House. The third concentration was identified as being related to the Johnson house site near the intersection of Main Street and Route 10.

The recovered artifacts, cataloged in the tables below, mostly date from the 18th and 19th centuries, although a prehistoric chert chip,



Material Type/Sub-Type	Excavation Unit	Shovel Test	Surface Collection	Grand Total	Percentage
Historic Artifacts					
Fauna		19		19	3.9%
Mammal Bone		1		1	
Shell		18		18	
Historic Ceramics	6	148		154	31.4%
Indeterminate		1		1	
Earthenware		30		30	
Porcelain		1		1	
Chinese Export Porcelain		1		1	
Refined Earthenware	6	108		114	
Stoneware		7		7	
Non-Ceramic Fired Clay	5	27		32	6.5%
Ball Clay	5	13		18	
Brick		14		14	
Glass		177	1	178	36.3%
Curved		146	1	147	
Flat		30		30	
Milk Glass		1		1	
Metal	1	1		2	0.4%
Brass		1		1	
Copper	1			1	
Ferrous Metal	22	84		106	
Prehistoric Artifacts					
Chert		1		1	0.2%
Grand Total	34	456	1	491	100.0%

associated with the manufacture of stone tools by pre-colonial inhabitants, was found.

Ceramic sherds made up the bulk of the artifacts and included ironstone, whiteware, pearlware, yellowware and creamware. These sherds are from roughly mid 19th through 20th century. The designs on these ceramics were common patterns of the times including willow, shell-edged, and floral. One sherd of Chinese export porcelain, usually dated from 1600-1800, was found. This may have been from an heirloom vessel disposed of in the first half of the 19th century. A few white clay pipe bowls were also found.

The original proposal had been to excavate two trenches in order to establish the locations of the path, fence and gas lamp, as mentioned above, but grant funding limited the project to one trench, which is shown in the

Ceramic Type and Form	Date Range	Quantity	Percentage
Chinese Export Porcelain	1660-1800	1	0.7%
hollowware		1	
Creamware	1762-1820	1	0.7%
hollowware		1	
Pearlware	1780-1890	4	2.6%
hollowware		2	
small hollowware		2	
Whiteware	1815-Present	21	13.8%
hollowware		6	
small hollowware		15	
Yellowware	1830-Present	3	2.0%
hollowware		3	
Ironstone	1840-Present	85	55.9%
hollowware		80	
plate		2	
small hollowware		3	
Indeterminate Earthenware	N/A*	4	2.6%
Redware	N/A	26	17.1%
hollowware		16	
small hollowware		10	
Stoneware (gray body)	N/A	1	0.7%
hollowware		1	
Stoneware (light gray body)	N/A	5	3.3%
hollowware		5	
Stoneware (tan body)	N/A	1	0.7%
bottle		1	
Grand Total		152	100%

* A reliable date range can not be established for this general ceramic type



Archeology dig at the King Site: Andrew Martin, and Hannah LeBon Hunter Research assisted by volunteer Anders Todd foreground

photo below. This was dug roughly parallel with the concrete walkway and did reveal evidence of the path and picket fence that are visible in the historic photo of the King House from c. 1890 seen above on page 2.

Recommendations for further research were made and include investigating the root cellar behind the house, conducting a ground-penetrating radar survey of the store and house site, and further excavations at the King Store after GPR to define the layout and sequence of additions to the building.

Reference: Phase I Archeological Investigations and Site Management Recommendations King Store and Homestead Property, Prepared by Hunter Research, Inc., James Lee, Principal Investigator, September 2012.

ROXBURY INVENTORS

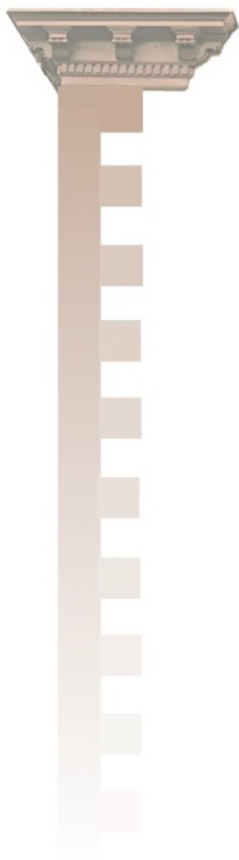
The themes of New Jersey's 350th: Innovation, Diversity and Liberty, are well represented in Roxbury as evidenced by this list of inventors with mailing addresses in the Township and holding three or more US Patents issued since 1976. The list was compiled from USPTO database search results. A fuller list of Roxbury Inventors will be found in the King House Museum Innovation exhibit and on the website, but we know some Roxbury residents with mailing addresses in neighboring townships, [classified inventions](#), and pre-1976 issue dates have been missed.

Weld, John	Worthy, Daniel	Khattab, Ghazi	Scott, John	Schindwein, Siegfried	Gervasi, Jay
Sherman, Matthew	Cullen, III, Andrew	Krupick, Walter	Triolo, Anthony	Schumacher, Robert	Gopalakrishnan, Raman
Gualtieri, Devlin	Gates, Frank	Mehta, Neha	Akkapeddi, Murali	Allen, Scott	King, Steven
Morris, Robert	Maeland, Arnulf	Paul Bowers	Algazi, Allan	Signorelli, Anthony	Kleindienst, Shane
Axelsson, Jr., Stuart	Yu-Jih Liu	Sikora, Joseph	Fiebel, William	Sudol, George	Magnus, Arthur
Liebermann, Howard	Davey, David	Chase, Samuel	Follett, David	Sun, Robert	Das, Nirod
Verdicchio, Robert	Hall-Puzio, Patricia	William Steber	Harish Mahalingam	Tomesch, John	Patterson, David
Papalos, John	Xu, Chengzeng	Wolfgang Schafer	Helmus, Scott	Waykole, Liladhar	Robbins, William
Preziosi, Anthony	Bennett, Stephen	Alexion, Dennis	Huang, Hua-Pin	Yeh, Chuen	Robertson, Arthur
Dajer, Miguel	Ye, Henry	Carlson, Charles	Huzinec, Robert	Zingler, Christian	Samuelson, Shel
Bohmer, William	Hsieh, Yi Fong	Daugherty, Thomas	Kundaje, Vinay	Bonnett, Peter	Turner, Warren
Hill, Jr., Thomas	Lamoureux, Philip	Everswick, David	McNeley, Kevin	Chase, Samuel	Wax, Bernard
Kooi, J. Peter	Pastena, James	Kelley, Edwin	Mehta, Naresh	Colodner, Samuel	Parr, William
McDonough, Justin	Chen, Gary	Lukasavage, William	Bartek, Peter	Conner, Jr., William	
Damour, Lawrence	Emerson, III, Harry	Nguyen, Tri	Rosenberg, Steven	Czarecki, Louis	
Kast, Robert	Hagan, Timothy	Scerbo, Louis	Satz, Richard	DiGiuseppe, Michael	

Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. DRAKESVILLE TIMES

Issue No. 8 May 2014

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MUSEUMS AT DRAKESVILLE