

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. 11 December 2015

\$1.00

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President's update:

The biggest news for the King site since May is the construction work that happened in both the King Store and the House. Thanks to 2013 and 2014 grants from Morris County Historic Preservation Trust with fund matches from Roxbury Township Open Space, all passers-by have witnessed the transformation of the Store windows from deteriorated, to boarded up, to perfection. Also perfect are the front porch columns, and icebox. Across the lawn the King House has a thorough electrical and security upgrade and ground floor reinforcement. The work was carried out by North East Roof Maintenance, with Architects John Bolt for the Store and Michael Calafati for the House.



In spite of being all packed up for construction we continued our openings through the summer with the most fun at the Ice Cream Social in July. Before we knew it, we were putting the furniture back and expanding the exhibit for the fiftieth anniversary of opening the No. 1 ESS electrical switching in Roxbury on May 30, 1965. Alcatel-Lucent Archives have lent RHT several vintage phones and a 1913 oak switch board console, delivered in person by Ed Eckert, Archivist and John Jensen of Alcatel-Lucent.

All this in time for the annual Pathways of History event through the weekend of October 10 and 11. This is RHT's third year of participation and it is a highlight of the calendar, especially because of our guests Dennis Cassidy and his diesel engine collection all sporting flags from their countries of origin, and musician, Claire Reynolds with her banjo and old time repertoire. It is hard to find enough volunteers for a two day opening, but we were greatly assisted by members of the Ferromonte Chapter of the DAR on Sunday.

In June, RHT received a further grant from Morris County for \$95,648 which, with matching funds of \$23,911 from Roxbury Township Open Space, will pay for the next phase at the King House, for reinforcement for the second floor, and the long awaited re-pointing of the foundation and basement. It will be quite some job for the volunteers to pack up the contents and move out of the second floor so that work can go forward there in the Summer of 2016.

Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. was pleased to receive a further \$5,000 General Operating Support grant from New Jersey Historical Commission, an Office of the Department of State. It has been a boon for the Trust for the last four years and is enabling RHT to use its own funds toward the restoration of the buildings. Watch for work on the side steps at the Store.

In June, thanks to new volunteer Karen Coates, RHT received a surprise donation of \$200 from the Thrivent Financial Services Action Team. The funds were earmarked for a community project, which became the clean up of the front yard, the newly painted bench, by Karen and Marillyn Cunningham, and on Roxbury's Day of Service, raking the lawn and sanding the table and railings by Cub Scout Pack 54, sweeping leaves out of the newly enclosed the King Store basement by Cub Scout parents, and three hours of cleaning off the grey mold on the King House front porch by Rich and Noreen Vetter. The porch begins to glow again, and Roxbury Rotary has committed to continue the clean up next spring. Meanwhile, President Emeritus, George Wien, has been replacing the overhead spindles on the side porch.

In October, we were joined by multi-talented Chris Krusas who immediately offered his master carpenter skills to rehang the sticking doors on the ground floor at the King House. What a pleasure to open and close doors unimpeded, especially from the hallway to the covered porch.

It remains to thank our volunteers and helpers for all their help in 2015, and wish all the best to our readers for 2016.

Thank you...

Miriam

Remember: Roxbury Historic Trust **membership renewal for 2016 is due by December 31, 2015.** You may use the attached form to mail you dues or pay via Pay Pal. Membership support paves the way forward.

CALENDAR of EVENTS 2016

Sunday, April 10, First opening from 1 - 4 PM

Sunday, May 8, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM

Sunday, May 15, Celebrate Preservation, 1 - 4 PM

Photos of buildings receiving Roxbury Township Preservation Awards, hot dogs, etc.

Friday, May 29, evening to remember 1 ESS, to be confirmed

Sunday, June 12, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM followed by the **Annual Meeting** & program.

Sunday, July 10, Ice Cream Social 1 - 4 PM

Saturday, August 6, Peach Festival/Ledgewood Gala Day 10:00 AM - 3 PM at the Ledgewood Baptist Church

Sunday, August 14, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM

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

Sunday, September 11, Regular opening 1 - 4 PM

Saturday, October 8, Pathways of History Museum Tour first day, 10 AM - 4 PM

Sunday, October 9, Living History Day and the second day of Pathways of History Noon - 4 PM

Sunday, November 13, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM, Veterans Day theme including War memorabilia

Friday, December 2, Salt Box Christmas and King House Celebration from 6 - 9 PM

Sunday, December 11, Holiday opening from 1 - 4 PM, event to be announced

Monday Dec.12, Evening get together 5 - 7 PM, to be confirmed

Thursday, December 31, 2016
Membership renewals due for 2017 !!

Board meetings are at the King House on the 4th Mondays at 7:30 p.m. unless posted otherwise. The Steering Group meets at noon on the first, second, third and fifth Mondays, January to December. The Education, Exhibit and Event Committee meets on Fridays at 1 p.m. subject to confirmation.

Officers and Board of Trustees

Miriam Morris President, Janet Lordi VP, Brian Corsi Treasurer, Charles Alpaugh Assistant Treasurer, Mary Ann Dudak Secretary and Rotary representative, Richard Cramond Roxbury Historical Society representative, Rev. David Holwick, Robert Morris, Barbara Pescow, and Susan Rawlinson - Trustees

Committees

Buildings and Grounds Charles Alpaugh, Richard Cramond, Chris Krusas, Miriam Morris, Robert Morris, Education and Exhibits Karen Coates, Marillyn Cunningham. 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 M. Morris acting, Steering Committee Mary Ann Dudak, David Holwick, Miriam Morris, Barbara Pescow, Roz Musmanno, Karen Coates and others, Newsletter Committee Bob Morris, Janet Lordi, Mary Ann Dudak, Roz Musmanno, Miriam Morris, Gift Shop Sue Rawlinson; Student Volunteers D. J. Ward, Calli Pappas, Kate Rawlinson, Aasha Arun



King Store
Summer 2015
Miriam Morris

The words "King Store Phase 2A Exterior" don't begin to do justice to the transformation of the nearly 200 year-old Ledgewood landmark that took place this summer.

In 2013 Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. had received a grant of \$77,840 from Morris County Historic Preservation Trust for this work which was matched by \$19,460 from Roxbury Open Space, providing a total project budget of \$97,300. The scope of the project was to repair the windows, exterior doors, porch and icebox and install interior storm windows (a common practice on historic buildings). Repair of the decaying front porch moldings was included as an option. The project first went out to bid in 2014 but, disappointingly, all the bids were significantly above this figure.

The second attempt to bid the work in 2015 was more successful. Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc. won the contract and included the front porch trim repair option. Frank Cuppari was chosen to do the carpentry, Joe Anderson was the Project Manager and John Bolt the Architect.

In the 1990s Roxbury Rotary undertook rescue of the store. Roof leaks were patched, the front porch was rebuilt and upper windows were covered with lucite. Remaining window panes were saved in a pile in the upper front room. By 2010 the lucite had begun to deteriorate, rain and squirrels had easy access. The basement window sashes were long gone



Unusual window latching hardware, possibly dating to the construction of the store in 1826-1827. The ratchet mechanism keeps the window from dropping when open and locked in the fully closed position. The window can move when the spring catch, seen at the lower right, is depressed.

These windows are possibly as unique as the Store itself. They were originally installed circa 1826 and appear to be double

hung sashes. It turns out that they are not hung at all: the upper sashes are fixed and the lower sashes are notched on one side to lock and slide over a flat spring. There was one intact spring to copy and now all the second floor windows open in the way they were intended.

Having painstakingly worked on the windows, Frank Cuppari



and the frames rotten with leaves drifting on the basement floor. See photo above ↑ Front porch trim had also begun to deteriorate. See photo right →

The first order of construction was to remove the lucite and bring the original second floor windows to a workshop for repair. The Store was boarded up. The windows gradually regained their former condition. Each sash has at least one original pane from those saved by Rotary.



Repaired basement window



Before and after photos of the rotted and broken wood lintel over the rear second floor window. This had long been a source of concern so the replacement white oak timber has allowed everyone to breathe a sigh of relief.

questioned the addition of interior storms called for in the contract. All those at that site meeting on August 13 realized that the unheated building

wouldn't benefit from storm windows but a change order to use the funds to repair the back shop hatchway and build

a new hatch would greatly advance the safety and interpretation of the Store. At their September meeting, the Morris County Review Board approved the change and the new hatch was in place for the October 2015 Pathways of History opening. It remains for volunteers to organize and interpret the space.

A rotted lintel over the second floor back window had been a source of



Back shop hatch and floor repair.

concern over the years. This timber had supported the stonework over the window and a major framing beam. The photos at the top of the page show the lintel before and after the repair.

The attic and basement windows were replaced with openable sashes and bug



Installation of repaired second floor window



Above - before and after photos of the icebox repairs on the back of the store. Blocks of ice from Mr. King's Lake Hopatcong ice business were loaded through this door.

surfaces. Original hardware, saved and stored at the King House, was reinstalled.

After some study it became clear that RHT also had half the icebox latch, and the other half was still in place. The remains of the door were used to make the drawing for the new door. See photos on the next page.

Thanks to the quality of the 1905 photo of the Store and the in-depth study made possible by a 1200 dpi scan, John Bolt was

screens so that the building can be ventilated in the summer.

The shop floor windows had originally been sash hung to counterbalance each other. Having freed and rehung the sashes, Frank discovered, the hard way, that the locking mechanism for the metal shutters prevents the windows

from being operated if they are counter balanced. So RHT and contractor alike accepted a compromise with spring sliders on the side of the sash frames.

We discovered that the back shop side door facing the King House has a metal sheet sandwiched between its planked



Repaired loading dock door



Back shop side door before, during and after repair. The door was found to have a sheet of iron sandwiched between the wood board faces. This combined with the iron shutters on the front windows and bars on the cellar windows would have made it difficult to break in.

able to draw the contours of the original front porch moldings which now have been custom made. The resulting profiles were quite different from the hardware store moldings which Rotary installed in the 1990s.

The end result of the now complete King Store Phase 2 A - Exterior project, including the new slate roof and gutters which were done in 2010, is a building appearing much more as it did after Theodore F. King remodeled it in 1885.

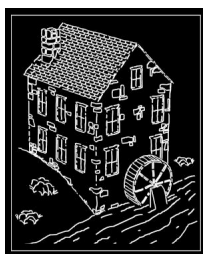
The next steps, as outlined in our master plan, the 2009 Historic Structures Report, will include repairing interior plaster, upgrading the wiring, removal of a compromised portion of the brick chimney and clean-up and repair of interior woodwork.



The table below shows a compilation of the grants which, together with significant private contributions, have made possible the ongoing rescue, rehabilitation and interpretation of the King Store and King House. Many hundreds of hours of local volunteer time have gone into winning and administering these grants.

Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. Grant History, 2001-2016

Year	Granting Agency	Grant Amount	RHT match	Roxbury Township	Other match	Total	Purpose of Grant
2001	Morris County Heritage Commission	\$2,000	\$50			\$2,050	P.C., printer, scanner and museum software
2003	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$31,000	\$3,000	\$3,200.00		\$37,200	Stabilization of turret and roof replacement. Connect water and sewer.
2004	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$10,000	\$2,000			\$12,000	King House porch column, balusters; wallpaper repro; ceiling plaster repair
2005	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$6,000	\$1,500			\$7,500	Component of Preservation Plan
2006	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$8,000	\$2,000			\$10,000	Structural Component of the Preservation Plan
2006	New Jersey Historic Preservation	\$49,051	\$2,323		*\$14,000	\$65,375	For the Historic Structures Report
2007	Morris County Heritage Commission	\$1,975				\$1,975	Exhibit cases
2007	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$18,740	\$2,195	\$2,500		\$23,425	Rehabilitate part of stone wall behind King Store
2008	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$80,000		\$20,000		\$100,000	Replace Store roof, point House foundations, replace downspouts.
2009	Morris County Heritage Commission	\$2,750				\$2,750	Architectural ADA Plan
2009	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$18,800	\$1,000	\$3,700		\$23,500	Foundations and asbestos remediation (subsequently allocated to King Store roof)
2009	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$5,000				\$5,000	Architectural plans for Store chimney + plaster repair and partial HVA/C.
2009	Morris County Heritage Commission	\$2,600				\$2,600	Architectural ADA Plan
2010	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$100,000		\$20,000		\$120,000	Replace King Store slate roof and gutters
2010	New Jersey Historical Commission	\$9,860	\$1,000			\$10,860	King Site Interpretive Plan
2011	New Jersey Historical Commission	\$5,000				\$5,000	General Operating Support
2011	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$48,460		\$12,140		\$60,600	King Store Construction Documents
2012	New Jersey Historical Commission	\$11,443	\$461			\$11,904	Phase 1b Archeology Survey
2012	New Jersey Historical Commission	\$5,000				\$5,000	General Operating Support
2012	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$37,400		\$9,680		\$47,080	King House Construction Documents
2013	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$77,840	\$5,179	\$19,460		\$102,479	King Store Exterior Restoration
2013	New Jersey Historical Commission	\$5,000				\$5,000	General Operating Support
2014	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$91,763		\$22,941		\$114,704	King House Wiring & Floor Reinforcement
2014	New Jersey Historical Commission	\$5,000				\$5,000	General Operating Support
2015	New Jersey Historical Commission	\$5,000				\$5,000	General Operating Support
2015	Morris County Historic Preservation Trust	\$95,648		\$23,911		\$119,559	King House 2nd floor reinforcement and foundation repair
2016	New Jersey Historical Commission	\$5,000				\$5,000	General Operating Support
	TOTAL					\$810,561	
* 2005 & 2006 MCHPT grants used as fund match							



Morris County
Historic Preservation
Trust



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Early switchboard operation in Succasunna

Article by Miriam Morris reprinted from the Summer 2015 edition of the [Morris County Heritage Review Vol.37, No. 2](#)

Newcomers to the area after May 30, 1965, were baffled by the telephone services they were offered. This might not have been true had they happened to visit the Bell System Pavilion at the World's Fair in 1964, where the new technology was already on view, including picture phones.

At the time, calls were charged by the minute and were more expensive during the daytime on weekdays: people chose to economize by making their calls in the evenings and at weekends. Subscribers were beginning to convert from circular dial phones to push button. Succasunna had also been the first office in Morris

County to convert to the dial system back in 1939 (1). Prior to that the Succasunna switch board, like many other rural exchanges operated from private homes, was run by Mrs. Barbara Bryant of North Hillside Avenue. A recent reminiscence from Jane Freund, an RHT Member and former Roxbury resident recalls:

"I am now 92. In the early 1930s I remember visiting the phone company switchboard in a private house on the south side of Hillside Avenue between Meeker Street and Main Street. The girls (ladies) sat on high chairs with earphones on, putting phone plugs in and out of the switchboard as calls were requested. As I remember, the switchboard was in the living room or front room of the house."

Barbara Bryant had started her telephone career in 1900 at Hopatcong House. This was when

the New Jersey Bell Telephone company opened four switchboards in Morris County: Hopatcong, Succasunna, Mendham and Millington. The first woman telephone operator had been Emma Nutt in Boston in 1878, her career almost as long as Barbara Bryant's 39 years. Originally teenage telegraph boys had inherited the switchboard positions, but they were irresponsible and swore. Emma Nutt and her sister Stella were the first women to replace them (2). Their soothing voices and cultured accents were such a success that by the late 1880s women dominated the profession.

References

(1) *The History of Roxbury Township*, vol. 1, pp. 125-126

(2) <http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/emma-nutt-worlds-1st-woman-telephone-operator/>

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

Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. DRAKESVILLE TIMES

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209 Main Street / Ledgewood, NJ 07852



MUSEUMS AT DRAKESVILLE

[I wish to renew my membership in or join the Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc.](#) (click for Paypal link)

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 _____