

# Drakesville Times

*Exploring History in the New Jersey Highlands*

EXTERIOR ELEVATION - NORTH  
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"EXTERIOR ELEVATION - WEST  
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"EXTERIOR ELEVATION - SOUTH  
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"EXTERIOR ELEVATION - EAST  
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Drawings John Bolt Architect

Semi-Annual Newsletter

Issue #14

December 2017

\$1.00

**President's Report** - 2017 and the King House has been returning to normal after two years of major structural work funded by the Roxbury Open Space Committee and Morris County Historic Preservation Trust (MCHPT). The ground floor has come back together as interpretative and exhibit space, enjoying the furnishings loaned by Trustee Brian Morrell in the parlor, and his loaned and interpreted one room school in Exhibit Room 1. RHT is looking forward to sharing this history with many school and scout visits. The first highly successful tour was on May 15 with 64 sophomore English and Social Studies students from Roxbury High School. (See page 2 for *The Development of Formal Education in Roxbury Township in the 1880's* by Township Historian, Marge Cushing.)

Upstairs the Education and Exhibit Committee has reinstated the collection in the Resource Room now that it is equipped with a mini-split air conditioning unit installed by Chris Cool. This was funded by a 2017 regrant from Morris County Heritage Commission. Also funded by MCHC was an estimate by Connolly and Hickey, Architects, for the next phases of work at the King Store, and RHT's liability insurance.



Meanwhile, outside work has continued. Funded largely by friends of Charlie Alpaugh in celebration of his eightieth birthday in

March, mason Bill Pollard rebuilt the crumbling bottom step at the King Store. Drill Construction rebuilt the edge foundation of the King House screen porch, a final piece of the Morris County 2015 construction grant. Trustee Brian Morrell and volunteer Judy Keith laid the new brick edge to the flower bed, and repainted the root cellar out-building behind the house. Charlie Alpaugh finally spirited away the dead apple tree, and Deidre Wood has painted the porch chairs.

During May we received an unexpected and wonderful phone call from the Freund family to tell us that the Jane Mooney Trust had left a generous bequest to Roxbury Historic Trust.

The RHT Board has invested the bequest to supply much-needed support to RHT's annual general operating expenses. Jane Mooney Freund was related to, well known and well loved by many in Roxbury. She was a friend and supporter of the efforts of the Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. In the years that she still drove north from her home in Florida she would join the members at the annual meeting in June. She made generous annual donations and when I phoned to say thank you, she would express her appreciation of RHT's efforts; one time describing how she remembered the water dripping from the old canal aqueduct over Route 46. (Continued on page 5)



## 2018 CALENDAR of EVENTS

**Sunday, April 8**, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM

**Sunday, May 13**, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM

**Sunday, May 20**, Celebrate Preservation from 1-4 PM

**Sunday, June 10**, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM followed by the **Annual Meeting** & program.

**Sunday, July 8**, Ice Cream Social from noon - 4 PM

**Saturday, August 12**, Peach Festival/Ledgewood Gala Day 10:00 AM - 3 PM at the Ledgewood Baptist Church

**Sunday, August 13**, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM

**Saturday, September 8?**, Succasunny Day on Main Street, Succasunna: 10 AM - 3 PM

**Sunday, September 9**, Regular opening 1 - 4 PM

**Saturday, September 22**, Pathways of History Museum Tour first day, 10 AM - 4 PM

**Sunday, September 23**, Living History Day and the second day of Pathways of History Noon - 4 PM

**Sunday, October 14**, Regular Opening from 1 - 4 PM

**Sunday, November 11**, Regular opening from 1 - 4 PM, Veterans Day theme including War memorabilia

**Friday, December 7**, Salt Box Christmas and King House Celebration from 6 - 9 PM

**Sunday, December 8**, Holiday opening from 1 - 4 PM, refreshments and get together from 4 to 6 PM

**December 31, 2018 Membership renewals due for 2019!!**



Children at Play – Drakesville School c. 1900

## *The Development of Formal Education in Roxbury Township in the 1800's*

Margaret Cushing, President, Roxbury Township Historical Society

Hidden in the annals of the history of education in the Township of Roxbury is the existence of a log cabin school even before the Lenape Indians sold a large tract of land in 1708 to a group of British colonists who were intent on mining the iron ore the Lenape people had introduced them to in the rolling hills surrounding the plains that would come to be known as Succasunny, the anglicized translation of the Indian name for iron ore, meaning black stone.

As early as 1702, members of a small religious sect calling themselves the Rogerenes migrated here from Connecticut, building a log cabin community that included a log cabin school house centered around a small body of water now known as Lake Rogerene, just south of Lake Hopatcong. They chose to isolate themselves from their neighbors in the nearby developing villages of Ledgewood and Succasunna as the mining industry flourished and the population slowly grew. At the start of the Revolution, the Rogerenes departed the area as quietly as they had come. No remnants of the log cabin community remain.

### District Schools are Established

It was not until things settled down after the Revolution that an interest in formal education was awakened, expressed in the formation of "district schools". Residents had come to identify themselves by the little hamlets or villages that had evolved, and because transportation by foot or horse-drawn cart limited their mobility, it was practical to establish schools in the individual hamlets. With spread-out settlement even within the districts, children would have some distances to cover to get to classes. Interestingly, Miss Dory Crater of Cary Road provided "bussing" by horse-drawn cart even into the early 1900's.

District schools often consisted of one room, each with its own three-person board of trustees and its own rules and hiring standards. By 1877, five villages of the six that had evolved in the Township, had their own school houses, “each with its pot-bellied stove and musty, smelly damp rags” used to clean the slates the children wrote upon. The development of the district schools was as follows:

1806 - *The Alpaugh School* (below) was the first district school to be built and the structure was replaced in 1857. It was located near the Alpaugh house that still stands at the corner of Honeyman Drive and Unneberg Avenue (then called the Road to Chester) in Succasunna. No visible exterior elements of the school remain, but the house on the site, which was constructed around it circa 1980, did at one time contain an original hand-hewn post intentionally left exposed. The Alpaughs, who settled here circa 1720, farmed the area, and their descendants still inhabit 19th century homes around the corner on Eyland Avenue.



The Alpaugh School

1828 - *The Ledgewood School*, which held classes in a copper shop until a one room school was built in 1838, was enlarged in 1856. It is listed among the many lost landmarks in the Township.

1836 - *The Kenvil School* was in use as a school until 1903, and is currently a residence at 621-623 Route 46.

1842 - *The Hilts School* in upper Ledgewood on Mooney Mountain. Stones from the demolished

school were used to create the steps leading into the Silas Riggs Saltbox house when it was restored, and are also used on the facing of its foundation.

1850 - *The Berkshire Valley School*. The first structure outgrew its use by 1871 and was replaced by another building on the original foundation. When the 1871 building became outdated, it was abandoned and was replaced in 1921 by the Lafayette School up the road. After classes ceased being held in the Lafayette building it served a number of community purposes, but now stands empty. The 1871 building was not demolished and is a private residence at 309 Berkshire Valley Road.



1857 - *The Chestnut Hill School* (above) in Succasunna was built in response to a population explosion that year! Situated on the north-westerly side of Main Street, it was so named because at that time Main Street was lined with chestnut trees that also flourished on the hillside behind the two-story building. Pupils in the lower grades were taught on the first level, and high school students on the second, with the curriculum including Latin, German and algebra. The Chestnut Hill School was in use until 1903 when Landing students traveled to it by trolley car. In years that followed it housed the Town Hall, the offices of the Health Department, and the Department of Public Works. Sadly, it was demolished in 2015 after a period of neglect and structural decline with plans for the property to be developed by Habitat for Humanity to provide housing for low income residents.



1877 - *The Port Morris School*. Before the establishment of the 1877 district school, Port Morris children attended school in Stanhope or Ledgewood. When the 1877 building was abandoned in 1891, it was replaced by a larger two-story building, destroyed by fire in 1922. Classes for Port Morris and Landing children were held until 1969 in the still-standing brick building that was known as the Washington School. The early 1900's saw the demise of district schools and their one room school houses after a centralized Board of Education was created in 1894.

### Private Schooling

Small private schools existed in people's homes here and there in the Township, but the 1809 Succasunny Academy on Main Street, was the most notable, remaining in operation until 1849. Its enrollment included local boys and girls, as well as pupils transported by stage-coach from points in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Morristown, Mendham, and New York who were, in some instances, enrolled by their parents "to shield them from the dangers inherent in larger cities!"

The building in which classes were held is still standing at 83 Main Street, currently home to a local antiques business. Adjacent to the school building was a grand dormitory with mansard roof and wrap-around porch, which served several purposes after the school closed. In its final days it was the Roxbury Inn, ultimately destroyed by fire in the 1980's, leaving nothing but a vacant lot in its place to this day. §

Sources cited include Volumes I and II of *The History of Roxbury Township* by Annie Hosking and Harriet Meeker



### JANE MOONEY FREUND'S PLAYHOUSE

By Pastor David Holwick

Jane Mooney Freund was born on Mooney Mountain in 1922. In later years she moved to the Florida Keys, but Ledgewood always had a special place in her heart. Among her favorite memories was a special playhouse her father built for her in 1928 when she was six years old which still stands today.

The playhouse has traditional New Jersey cottage construction as shown by the knee walls in the attic, (See Drakesville Times No. 9, page 6). It has a properly shingled roof, electricity, and the windows even have inner sash weights. It is amazing to realize that this playhouse probably outdates most of the regular houses in our township. The scale is perfect for kids.

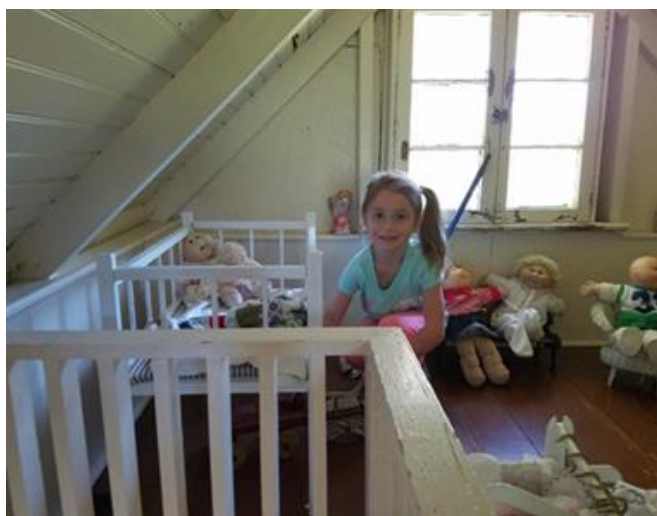


An inner staircase leads to an attic bedroom. In the 1920s Jane's mother Eugenie Jaede Mooney constructed the beds from Jane's crib and baby furniture. She even made miniature clothes hangers for the baby clothes the children could put on their dolls after they themselves had outgrown them. Jane and her husband put up the railing to protect her children from falling – a safety feature her own father had neglected. The playhouse originally stood at 90 Mooney Road, but in 1955 it was put on an old farm wagon and moved a short distance down the road to the backyard of the new house Jane and her husband had built at 48 Mooney Road. Four generations of the Freund family have used it and today it is enjoyed by Bob and Pam Freund's grandchildren. They have plans to do some renovations, so it will stay in good shape for future generations. Historic building preservation in miniature. §

## President's Report – cont'd. from page 1

Jane's memories of the old phone exchange are quoted on page 8 of Drakesville Times No. 11.

RHT has started administering the successful 1772 Foundation grant application, prepared by Brian Morrell, for \$15,000 towards the repair of the ground floor windows and doors at the King House. Along with a \$15,000 fund match for 2016 and a 2017 commitment of \$24,403 from the Township of Roxbury Open Space Committee, RHT has received a Morris County Historic Preservation grant award of \$120,813 to repair the King House windows, doors and exterior architectural wood work. The total project is \$151,016. Along with the King House, the Ledgewood Baptist Church, and Lake Hopatcong Station have also been recommended for funding. Because of the 1772 Foundation grant there were additional Roxbury Open Space matching funds that have gone towards replacing the furnace at the King House. We had some chilly days at the King House in November. Trustee Chris Krusas drained the plumbing system to protect against burst pipes and steered us to the McLaughlin Group who have done a fine job installing a new furnace.



*Playhouse attic*



RHT is refocusing on the restoration of the King Store with the intention of applying for a Morris County Historic Preservation construction grant to rebuild the stone wall delineating the property at the back of the King store. This was the back wall of the wagon shed that used to link the barn to the store, and subsequently housed Miss King's car. The mortar in this wall has broken down rapidly in the last year.

At the annual meeting the members elected volunteer, Marilyn Cunningham, to the RHT Board. Charlie Alpaugh, David Holwick and Barbara Pescow accepted reelection. At the same meeting I confirmed to the Board of Trustees that this will be my last year as president. We have prepared a job description for a new president. Our volunteer 'Wish List' includes a new grant writer and administrator for the Grant Committee, as well as a Chairperson for the Collections Committee which cares for and accessions the Trust's archive and artifacts using Past Perfect museum software. In addition, RHT is also looking for a volunteer to handle membership and help grow our numbers. Perhaps paramount on our 'Wish List' is a fund-raising expert.

**Membership renewals for 2018 come due by December 31, 2017. Don't forget! RHT depends on you.**

Many thanks to our visitors, members, the Township of Roxbury, the Board, and our volunteers: you keep the Museums at Drakesville running.

All good wishes for 2018,  
*Miriam*

## RHT, Inc. Reaches Out to SCORE Organization

The RHT, Inc. recently contacted the SCORE Organization, a branch of the Small Business Administration, for assistance with the transition plan to replace our retiring President, Miriam Morris. SCORE was founded in 1964 as the Service Corps of Retired Executives and provides volunteer business counselors who advise on all aspects of business formation and development, working with small businesses and non-profit organizations such as the Trust.

In addition to helping to formulate a staffing strategy to fill the job of President, Jake Linn, our SCORE mentor and consultant, has worked with Board members to recruit new volunteers, identify opportunities to network with key members of local government and with other historical societies, and has identified fundraising as a critical need for the Trust going forward. The Board will be developing a fundraising plan over the next several months.



*Kitchen table donated by Elaine Muller of Denville*

## Calendar of work/meetings

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

Roxbury Historic Trust  
209 Main Street  
Ledgewood, NJ 07852  
973 - 927-7603

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, Marillyn Cunningham, Rev. David Holwick, Chris Krusas, Brian Morrell, Barbara Pescow, Susan Rawlinson

### Committees

Buildings and Grounds Charles Alpaugh, Richard Cramond, Chris Krusas, Brian Morrell, Miriam Morris; Education and Exhibits Karen Coates, Marillyn Cunningham, Judy Keith, Janet Lordi, Miriam Morris, Rosalind Musmanno, Barbara Pescow, Carol Shay, Deidre Wood; Financial Committee Charles Alpaugh, Brian Corsi, Richard Cramond, Brian Morrell; Collections Miriam Morris and others; Publicity Mary Ann Dudak, Sue Rawlinson, Mottel Balston; Membership Marillyn Cunningham, Charles Alpaugh; Steering Committee Mary Ann Dudak, David Holwick, Miriam Morris, Barbara Pescow, Roz Musmanno, Karen Coates and others; Newsletter Committee Janet Lordi Editor, Roz Musmanno, Miriam Morris, Maria Sudol; Gift Shop Sue Rawlinson; Student Volunteers D. J. Ward, Kate Rawlinson.

### 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 – MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

The Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. was chartered in 2000 to:

Manage and maintain the King Canal Store and the King House Museums;  
Build and manage the Museum collections;  
Develop educational programs and exhibits; and  
To raise funds to support these museums.

During the past fifteen years the Trust, working with Roxbury Rotary, has invested over \$800,000 in Morris County and NJ State Grants, fund matched by Roxbury Township and private contributions, in the preservation and restoration of the historic buildings and development of Museum Programs. The 2010 replacement of the leaking slate roof and restoration of deteriorated gutters and architectural trim on the 1826 landmark King Store, 2011 period restoration of the wagon scale and 2015 repair of the windows marked major Historic Preservation milestones. The Trust's long-range plans include the King House exterior, and interior and reconstruction of the Shed extension at the rear of the Store. To meet these goals the Trust needs energized members and volunteers with diverse skills. Thank you for your continued support. For more information please visit:

<http://www.roxburynewjersey.com/trust.htm> or contact the Trust by e-mail at [roxburyhistorictrust@gmail.com](mailto:roxburyhistorictrust@gmail.com)



I wish to join or renew my membership in the Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Annual Membership Dues - Individual \$25.00, Couple \$50.00, Corporation \$125.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues

I would like to help fund a special project:

\_\_\_\_\_ Treat and feed the copper beech tree on the lawn (estimate: \$748)

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

I would like to help the Trust fund continuing development:

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## *Schools Days, School Days, Dear Old Golden Rule Days!*

As related in Marge Cushing's article, Roxbury Township's schools have a long and complicated history. Come visit the King House Museum on open days or by appointment to enjoy a recreated one-room school as it would have been in 1901. Learn about the 8-hour school day when Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were all in one room, cyphering was done on a small slate at your desk, and "toe the line" as you practice your elocution in front of the entire class! Sit at one of the desks, but be careful that your pigtailed don't dip into the inkwell in the desk behind you!

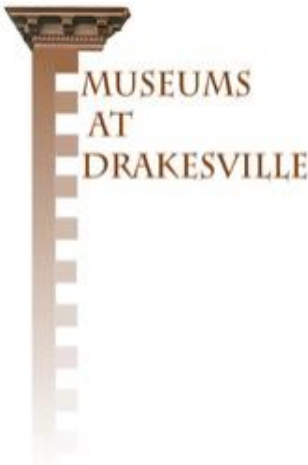
Looking for a teaching position in this school? Be on notice that married women need not apply nor any woman who loiters downtown in ice cream parlors! Male teachers are welcome, and allowed to "court" one evening every week, and two evenings a week if they go to church.

Come learn about these and other fun and fascinating facts about good old school days! This exhibit is ideal for present-day school and scout groups, senior citizens and the general public. Groups interested in scheduling a tour should contact the Roxbury Historic Trust at 973-584-1457.



Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc. DRAKESVILLE TIMES Issue No. 14 December 2017

209 Main Street, Ledgewood, NJ 07852



Morris County  
Historic  
Preservation

