

LONG BEFORE THERE WAS A LEDGEWOD MALL.....

Over one hundred years ago when residents of Ledgewood (then called Drakesville) wanted to shop for anything that they had not grown, made for themselves, or bartered for with a neighbor, they walked or rode over to the King Store on Main Street, alongside the Morris Canal basin. While in the store, they could also pick up their mail, and during local, state, and federal elections, they could cast their ballots at the store. And just like in modern-day malls, they would visit with friends, and catch up on local news.

The King Store has been rehabilitated and restored, and in fact has been designated a historic site on both the New Jersey and Federal Registers of Historic Places (The nearby King House and the surrounding Drakesville Historic Park are also on the State and Federal Registers of Historic Places.) On Sunday, September 10th, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, the King Store and King House Museums will be open to the public. The museums are located at 209-211 Main Street, Ledgewood, New Jersey. Admission to both museums is free and tours are available for both historic buildings.

People of all ages will appreciate the unusual items in the King Store which is one of the two surviving Morris Canal Stores, and the only one with original preserved merchandise. Families may enjoy seeing or being weighed on the fully restored wagon scale outside the Store. After a tour of the Store, visitors are encouraged to go next door to the King House to see "Miss Louise's School Room," a historically accurate representation of a one room school, with furniture, school books, pictures and other items circa 1900. Both museums are open on the second Sunday of the month from April through November. Admission is always free, and local docents provide tours of these historically important buildings and share interesting information and facts about them.

For more information, call 973-584-1457, or 973-927-7603, or visit <http://roxburynewjersey.com/trust.htm> or go to the Facebook page, "Museums at Drakesville."