



Historical Society of the Township of Chatham

NEWSLETTER

...

SEPTEMBER 2013

The Historical Society of the Township of Chatham was established to increase knowledge, awareness and preservation of Township history.

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Officers and Trustees

Co-Presidents: Pat Wells & Martha Wells

Vice President: Sally Walker

Secretary: Caroline Knott

Treasurer: Ken Hetrick

Museum Director: Sue Moore

Trustees: Jessie Cochran

Co-Trustees: Donald Davidson & Sarah Stanley

Trustee: Sheila Goggins

Trustee: Trip von Hoffmann

Trustee: Betsy Manning

Trustee: Linda Pitney

Trustee: Anna Riker

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From our Co-Presidents:

Its All about Layers

In Historic Preservation there is a concept called the Period of Significance or POS. With most of the Historic Markers on Township buildings, we have gone back to the pre-Revolutionary era, which is certainly significant and the foundation for much of our history.

As Pat and I have been researching the Noe Farmstead, we have found that the house and its occupants form a record of the social history of Chatham and the world beyond. In 1834 Smith and Catherine Miller bought the property from Lewis Noe, Jr. There they raised nine children, including Minard Farley Miller, born in 1838. We knew that he was a soldier in the Civil War and with the ongoing 150th anniversary of the war, we started to dig deeper. The internet is full of amazing information-more every day. Looking for Minard, we found that his brother, William Henry Miller, was also a soldier and fought at Gettysburg. Another layer of history. Another Period of Significance! If anyone has information about Chatham in the Civil War, please share it with us.

The Township is an amazing place with layer upon layer of history. Looking at the displays and the archives at the museum is a trip through time and can be kind of disorienting when you go back outside and into the present. When we think of places, objects or people being mellowed by time, it's the layers of history.

Now the Historical Society will add the next layer – the Techno Layer – with our new website. Through the electronic wonder of the internet, we can help more people be aware of the wealth of history we have in the Township – all those layers! – and, hopefully, encourage them to share their own memories, photographs and artifacts.

✦ *Please visit our brand new website at:* ✦
chathamtownshiphistoricalsociety.org

We hope to see everyone at the great events coming up this fall.

– Martha Wells and Pat Wells

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PROGRAMS



Sunday, September 22

2:00 PM

Tour of Philomen Dickinson House

Ken and Haide Hetrick

Philomen Dickinson built the original house on this property just prior to the Revolutionary War. It consisted of simply a kitchen, living room and a sleeping loft. He added a bedroom shortly thereafter and then the house grew gradually to become a 15-room, gambrel-roofed American colonial with four large, still functioning fireplaces. The house was described as a mansion in 1844 when inherited by Caleb Dickinson whose death in 1880 ended the Dickinson families' ownership.

Twentieth century additions include an expanded kitchen and the enclosure of large porches that once ran along the front and north side of the house. The kitchen, which contains a large colonial style open fireplace, was built with post and beam construction using mortise and tenon joints. Noteworthy features of the house include the high ceilings with exposed beams in some of its rooms and the distinctive "journeyman striping" in the main hall that creates a pleasant 19th century paneling effect. For most of the 20th century, the house was owned by two prominent Chatham Township families, the Diefenthalers and the Rowlands, the latter adding the large barn at the rear of the house to replicate an earlier barn that once stood on the property..

Location: 122 Southern Boulevard

• Members & their Guests Only •

Parking available on Lafayette Avenue.



Wednesday, October 16

6:00 PM

Annual Dinner & Lecture

New Jersey's Mills: Whatever Happened to Them?

Speaker: Phil Jaeger

In the 1800s more than a thousand water-powered mills operated in New Jersey. These mills not only satisfied the community's needs but were also the social centers of their day. Over the years many of these mills were abandoned, some were converted to other uses and others were destroyed by nature. A few of them still function. This program examines both the past and current state of many of yesterday's mills.

Location: Meyersville Inn

• Members & their Guests Only •

Cocktails: 6:00pm cash bar

Dinner: 6:30pm

Note: Please return the dinner reservation & your check by **Wednesday, October 9** (see form on page 8).



Sunday, November 10

2:00 PM

Program: Millionaires Row

Speaker: David Siegfried

At the the beginning of the 20th Century Madison Avenue between Madison & Morristown was described by writers of the time as "the street of 100 millionaires, the finest 4 miles of roadway in the world" & Morristown was referred to as "an inland Newport". Speaker David Siegfried will explain & illustrate some of the history, houses, families and social life behind these descriptions & provide a glimpse into this area during the "Gilded Age" from around 1880 to 1929.

Location: Red Brick Schoolhouse

• All Welcome •

◆ Programs continue on next page ◆

PROGRAMS

continued



Sunday, December 1

2:00 PM

Holiday Party

Come and join us to celebrate the season at our annual Holiday Party. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Interesting libations will be provided.

Location: Red Brick Schoolhouse

• Members & their Guests Only •



We are NUTS about HISTORY !

Invite your friends, neighbors and family to our meetings. We have such great things to share. Ask them to join you – and – perhaps they will join us!



ARTICLE

Some Township Men in the Civil War

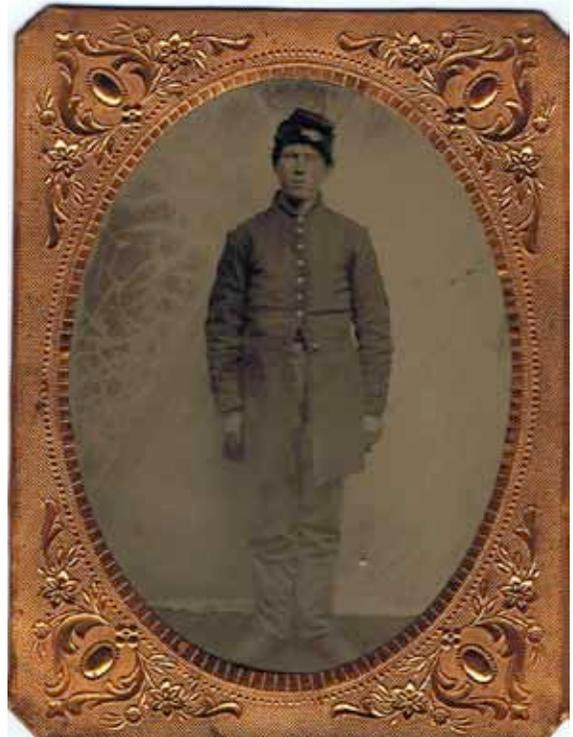
by Martha Wells

In his 1966 book, *New Jersey- America's Main Road*, John T. Cunningham calls the state "The Northernmost of the Border States". There was a great deal of sympathy for the South, much of it based on the economy, as New Jersey's manufacturers and merchants depended heavily on trade with the South. There was also a social connection. A large portion of the student body of the College of New Jersey in Princeton came from below the Mason-Dixon line and places like Cape May were popular with Southern summer visitors.

However, the attack on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, galvanized the residents of Chatham. Young men were eager to volunteer. The first call for

troops only allowed New Jersey four regiments in what was expected to be a short war, so some men went to neighboring states to enlist.

Charles A. Philhower's *Brief History of Chatham, Morris County, New Jersey* of 1914 lists more than fifty soldiers from Chatham, among them John Nicholas, shown below, and his brother Albert, as well as another pair of brothers - Minard Farley Miller and William H. Miller. The later were the sons of Smith and Catherine Miller. In 1834 the senior Millers bought the Noe farmstead (now 184 Southern Blvd) from Lewis Noe, Jr. There they raised nine children. Minard was born in 1838 and William in 1840.



John Nicholas , Chatham Township Civil War Soldier
from the Chatham Twp. Historical Society archives.

On August 22, 1861, at the age of 23, Minard enlisted in Company A of the 8th Regiment New Jersey Volunteers. The company was mustered in on September 14 at Camp Olden in Trenton and then was sent to Washington, DC. Minard, who would be plagued with ailments during the war as well as for the rest of his life, was discharged on May 14, 1862 with asthma. But six months later on November 10, he re-enlisted in Brooklyn, joining Company I of the New York 173rd Infantry as a private. His enlistment paper describes him as a farmer, 5'10" with a fair complexion, with blue eyes and black hair. When the

(continued next page)

company was mustered out in October, 1865, in New Orleans, Minard was in the hospital and discharged from the army. In the federal census of 1870 he is listed at the Soldiers Home for New Jersey in Newark's Eighth Ward. He died in 1872 at the age of 34 and is buried with his parents in the cemetery across from the New Providence Methodist Church on Springfield Avenue.

William Henry Miller also enlisted as a private in New York in Company C of the 83rd New York Infantry 9th Militia. He was at Gettysburg where, on the first day of the battle, he took part in the capture of part of Iverson's North Carolina Brigade. He was wounded and discharged as a corporal. He tells the story in a letter to the editor of *The National Tribune*, October 15, 1885: "I was wounded on our return with prisoners by a flank movement of the enemy's skirmish-line, as near as I can tell, which caused the loss of my left arm, and I still carry a bullet in my left side as a memento of Gettysburg. I distinctly recollect the 12th Mass. being in that charge, as one of their officers captured a battle flag which I was about to take myself. He being an officer I let him have it and turned my attention to the capture of prisoners, of which I took a number. If that officer is still living he will no doubt remember me, as we met by chance once after that in a Philadelphia horse-car. We compared notes and I found he had just ordered a set of teeth, in place of a set shot away at Gettysburg, and I had just left my measure for an artificial arm, in place of one left on the same field."

William married Susanna Wetton in 1870. They had four children and lived in Elizabeth, where he was a customs house clerk. He died in 1912, several days short of his 72nd birthday. Susanna had died the year before at the age of 66. They are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, Broad Street, Hillside, New Jersey.



Welcome to our new member!

Kat Dunsmore

Thank You!



To the **Chatham Jaycees** who gave the Historical Society a **\$500 donation** for our Historic Marker Project.

To **Historical Society members** who served as museum docents:

- Caroline and Bob Knott
- Ken Hetrick and Trip von Hoffmann
- Linda Pitney and Sarah Stanley
- Sally and Jerry Walker
- Jessie Cochran and Sue Moore
- Betsy Manning & Paul Wehn

*Be sure to visit our brand new website at:
chathamtownshiphistoricalsociety.org*



Community Outreach

Elementary School Field Trips

This spring the Red Brick Schoolhouse was once again filled with the sound of childrens' voices as the second graders from Southern Boulevard School came for their annual field trip. As they arrived from their walk up the hill they were greeted by Trustee Sarah Stanley and her 1931 Model A Ford pick up truck. Once inside they were treated to the presentation "Now and Then" by Museum Director Sue Moore showing changes through the years in Chatham Township. Then it was upstairs to the museum for a scavenger hunt through history. Students were divided into teams representing the five original schools and discovered lots of interesting things about our town.

Thank you to Sue Moore who has organized this program for many years. Assisting this year were Jessie Cochran, Sheila Goggins, Kathy Havens, Martha Hellriegel, Val Heyl, Martha Wells, and Edie Tato as well as Caroline and Bob Knott.

A 4th of July Tradition



Towing his boat with a sign recognizing the Chatham Township Historical Society, Bill Riker carried on a tradition of participation in Chatham's 4th of July parade begun in the 1960s by his late father, Carl Riker. Until they grew up, Bill and his sister rode in the boat. This year, children in the third generation of the Riker family were the passengers.

Did You See It?



On display at the Library of the Chathams during this past July were photographs & memorabilia of the many world famous boxers who trained in Chatham Township at Bey's boxing training camp & later at Ehsan's camp. Featured in the display were the boxing gloves that once belonged to Freddie Walsh, Lightweight Champion of the World from 1914-1917.

Thank you to Sue Moore for organizing the Historical Society's collection of boxing memorabilia. We hope this display will generate interest in Township history as well as membership in our Historical Society.

Fishawack 2013 – What a Great Day!



Martha Wells, Sarah Stanley and Pat Wells are pictured with the schoolhouse quilt made by Pat as a fundraiser for the Historical Society. For \$1, visitors to the Historical Society's tent could guess the number of pieces of candy in the jar. Society trustee, Sheila Goggins, was the winner. No – the contest wasn't fixed!

In addition, adults as well as children enjoyed guessing the use of some of our antique farm tools from the collection donated by Erv Hoag. A more difficult task was to figure out the use of several household implements.



A huge attraction at Fishawack was the 1899 Locomobile Steam Carriage owned by Don Davidson and Sarah Stanley. The car, which was designed by the Stanley brothers of Stanley Steam Car fame, is a "limited edition" - number 221 of about 250 made that year. The Locomobile was driven to the Fishawack festival and then back home again under its own "steam"!

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COMMUNITY EVENTS OF NOTE

Mt. Tabor Historic House Tour
Saturday, Sept. 28 11 AM - 4 PM

The past is still present in Mt. Tabor, NJ. Visitors will be able to experience the unique charms of this historic Victorian Camp Meeting community.

In addition, visitors will be able to step inside a replica of a camp meeting tent. Original camp meetings were considered pilgrimages and the devout endured the hardship of primitive tents rather than lush accommodation.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online or call www.mounttabornj.org 973-586-1564

• WISH LIST •

Artifacts and Photos

Please keep the Historical Society's museum in mind if you want to find a good home for your historic items or Chatham memorabilia. We can scan slides, photos, documents and return them to you. Please call Sue Moore (973-635-2765) if you have a donation.

Members Give Memberships

Consider giving a Chatham Township Historical Society membership as a gift this holiday season.



CAN YOU HELP?

- We need two docent's for Sunday Oct 6th 2-4. Please call Sue Moore (973-635-2765)
- We need assistance from members with our oral history project. Contact Caroline Knott at 973-635-2387 or Knott2@aol.com if you can help with this important historic research project.



FROM THE ARCHIVE



- Blazier Homestead circa 1906 -

This photo postcard of the Brazier Homestead was donated to the Historical Society by Gladys Blazier Bahooshian. This lovely big house once stood just east of the Green Village Firehouse. On the back of the photo Gladys wrote, "Edw V. Blazier Homestead, Green Village, NJ. about 1906 after addition of rooms". She also noted that the "First house burned down - This one also". The house was home to Edward and Annie E. Blazier, and their children, including a son Fred (1877-1944). Fred married Maud A. Totten (1884-1964), and they had a daughter Gladys. Gladys married Abraham Bahooshian and became a school teacher.

On the back of the photograph Gladys indicates that the house belonged first to Edward, then to Fred, then to Maud, and lastly to Gladys. In the 1880 Federal Census, Edward Blazier's occupation is "huckster", which was a term used for a peddler. In the 1900 census his occupation was "teamster", and in 1910 he was a "wheelwright". As a wheelwright, he would have been a blacksmith who specialized in make wheels.

In the photograph, the building to the left of the house is the Blazier blacksmith shop. There are three women standing by the front steps, as well as a young girl (Yes, get out your magnifying glass.). The girl is the right age for Gladys, and perhaps the women include her mother and grandmother, Annie, who would have been living with the family then. In the driveway to the right of the house stands a man holding a horse harnessed to a buggy.



The East Jersey Cottage

By Pat Wells

The oldest houses still standing in Chatham Township were originally built in a style unique to this part of New Jersey, known as the East Jersey Cottage (EJC). The EJC was a simple, utilitarian design that combined the English Cape Cod style house with the building style of the northeast New Jersey Dutch settlers.

The EJCs found in the Township are all of a similar plan. They are 1 1/2 stories high with the eaves side of the building facing the road. This is called a side gable design. The gable is the triangular portion of wall between the edges of the roof. The front of the house would usually have three bays. Each bay is an opening, i.e. door or window. Some houses were originally built with five bays and some were expanded from three to five as the owner's economic situation improved. You can often tell if a house has been expanded by looking at the roofline. Look for a telltale lump where the old and new portions of the house meet. This is very evident in the Noe Farmstead on Southern Boulevard. In some instances, the original house was quite small with only two bays.



The Elias Boudinot House in Green Village retains many of the typical features of the East Jersey Cottage. The decorative window panes above the door (called transom lights) and the dormers were added at later times. The original house was probably three bays, later expanded to five, plus the small shed on the left side. The two-story wing on the far left side of the house is a modern addition that blends well with the colonial house. Notice the stone fireback on the gable side of the house. Also, the original roof would not have had any overhang, either on the front of the house or on the gable side.

A key characteristic of the EJC is the high expanse above the windows on the facade. This upper story lift is

an adaption from the Dutch who typically used it in their houses in Bergen County and the surrounding area. The extra 2-3 feet of wall height added substantial space to the upper rooms as compared to the low rise of the traditional Cape Cod style house. Prior to the Revolutionary War, this extra wall was left plain. After the War, it became more common to add "knee windows", which admitted more light and, during the summer, more breeze. The Noe Farmstead on Southern Boulevard has knee windows.

The original three-bay EJC consisted of two rooms, one behind the other and a side hall. The front door opened into this hall which contained a narrow stairway to the second floor and doors to the two first floor rooms. This hallway acted as a barrier between the cold winter air and the warm living space.

A hallmark of the EJC is the end wall chimney. Typically this chimney served two fireplaces, a large cooking fireplace in one room and a smaller corner fireplace in the adjacent room. The back of the large fireplace, called the fireback, was sometimes well finished and exposed on the outside of the house (Boudinot House). On others it was roughly finished and covered by siding (Noe Farmstead). This design is very different from the Cape Cod style house that was designed for the north winters of New England. Cape Cod houses were built with rooms arranged around a large central chimney that helped provide heat for the surrounding rooms. This design was not ideal for New Jersey because of its long, hot summers. Placing the chimney within an end wall provided heat in the winter, but kept the house cooler during summer cooking. Another common element of the EJC was a shed addition on one side which could be used as storage or as a kitchen in warm weather. More rarely a shed addition could be added to the back. In some cases, such as the Price-Baldwin House on Southern Boulevard, a separate kitchen building was constructed away from the main house. Here the two buildings were later joined.

The upper stairs area of the EJC was divided in various ways and was used for sleeping and/or food storage. Large families were often accommodated in these small houses because of this relatively large sleeping space.

Prior to the Revolution, these houses would not have been painted as paint was very expensive. The colonists were required to buy imported paint pigments, so most residents of small cottages could only afford enough paint to cover the window and door frames. These were the most detailed and, therefore, most expensive parts of the house, so they were the parts that were protected. Siding could more easily be replaced. Many early EJCs would have been shingled rather than covered with clapboard

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siding. Clapboard became the preferred covering when local lumber mills were established. The color of the Isaac Clark House on River Road is probably closest to the original EJs.

Because these houses are the oldest in the Township, it is very likely that they have been modified as styles changed and economic situations improved. In many, the windows and doors have been moved, especially if the house has been expanded. Original windows would have been very small, so they would have been replaced as glass manufacturing improved. The front windows on the original left-hand section of the Isaac Clark House may be original.

To recognize an EJC, first ignore dormers, porches, and any gable-front additions. Look for a three or five bay side-gable structure. The three bay model would have had an offset front door with two windows to one side. Look for the high wall above the front windows, giving the house its 1 1/2 stories. It should have enough space for knee windows, even if it doesn't actually have them. Look for an end chimney, sometimes with the exterior fireback revealed.

With these hints in mind, take a look at these houses:

- Elias Boudinot House, 461 Green Village Rd., c. 1760

- Rome-Moore House, 418 Green Village Road, c. 1771
- 540 Green Village Road, c. 1740
- Noe Farmstead, 184 Southern Blvd, c. 1770
- Price-Baldwin House, 48 Southern Blvd, c. 1770
- Isaac Clark House, 788 River Road, c. 1764
- Johnson House, 805 Fairmount Ave, c. 1775. (This is difficult to see, as the EJC section is nearly lost in later additions.)

There are many more EJs in Harding Township, Basking Ridge, and along Ridgedale Avenue in Madison. Happy hunting, and drive carefully. Houses don't run away, so you can stop, get out, and really admire them.

For more information on architecture in New Jersey, check out some great articles by Janet Foster, a Madison resident and expert in New Jersey architecture. They can be found in the online history magazine at gardenstatelegacy.com. The magazine has well-written, beautifully illustrated articles about a wide range of historic New Jersey subjects. It's free! Just sign up.

To view Janet Foster's article, "Domestic Architecture in Colonial New Jersey", first in a series of four, go to http://gardenstatelegacy.com/files/Domestic_Architecture_in_Colonial_NJ_Foster_GSL6.pdf.

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Chatham Township Historical Society Annual Dinner

Wednesday, October 16 ▪ 6pm at *The Meyersville Inn*

THE DETAILS

Cocktails: 6:00 PM (cash bar)
Cost: \$30.00 per person
Dinner: 6:30 PM (followed by program)
Menu Questions: Call Val Heyl - 973-377-5385

THE MENU

Salad: Garden Salad with vinaigrette, rolls & butter
Entrée Choice: Grilled salmon with rice
 Chicken Francaise with rice
 Hanger steak with potatoes
Vegetable
Dessert with Coffee and Tea

Please cut off reservation form ▪ **Specify** entrée choice ▪ **Return** by **Wednesday, October 9th** with check written out to Chatham Township Historical Society (\$30.00 per person) ▪ **Please mail** check and reservation form to:
 Val Heyl - 323 Green Village Road - Green Village Road, NJ 07935

Person(s) Attending:

Entrée Choice: Salmon ▪ Chicken ▪ Steak
