

The Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 32, ISSUE THREE

OCTOBER, 2007

Our Own "Antiques Roadshow" Potluck Supper Friday, November 2, 2007

We are having our very own "Antiques Roadshow!" Bring a favorite item, and Judith Applegate of Applegate Appraisals will evaluate it. You may have a treasure!

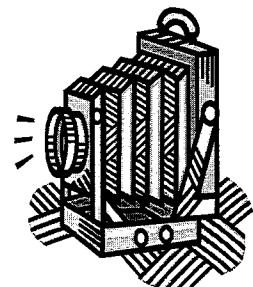
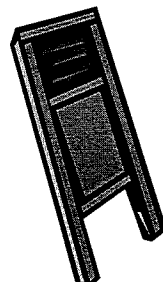
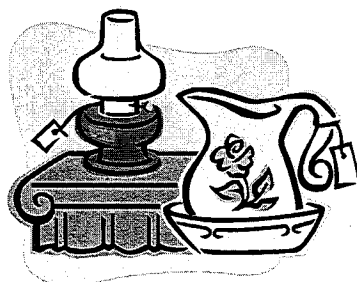
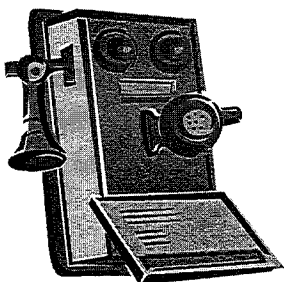
Judith Applegate is a certified appraiser. Her company provides appraisal services, collections management and property liquidation guidance. The fine and decorative arts have been the focus of her career. At the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, she served as Assistant Curator, and she was Vice President of Citibank's art advisory service in New York.

Her education includes a B.A. from Brown University, and M.A. and Ph.D. work at the University of Chicago, and study in Paris as a Fulbright Scholar. She has taught at several schools, among them Harvard, Tufts and Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts.

Our supper starts at 6:30 P.M. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert that serves 8 to 10, along with your own dinner plate and silverware. Beverages will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you Friday, November 2 in the Fellowship Hall of the 1st Presbyterian Church. Don't forget your item for the appraisal table!

Barbara Wahlers, Vice President & Program Chair



HISTORY CENTER NEWS

GINNY SWANAGAN & ROI TAYLOR

The History Center has received word that our newly installed grist mill stone by the north side of the building will have a marker commemorating "Cranberry Mills," telling the story of the grist mill area as the nucleus for the development of the Village of Cranbury. Paid for by the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission, the marker will be installed in 2008 next to the stone.

The installation of the slate walkway on the west side of the History Center and the millstone were Eagle Scout projects conducted by Bob & Sam Venanzi, this past summer. The Township Public Works Department greatly aided the projects by transporting the stone and slates from the Public Works site to the History Center location.

We are offering 2 very attractive Victorian cane-seated chairs for sale, very reasonably priced, at the History Center. This is in an effort to create more room for our ever-expanding need for collection storage. Stop on Tuesdays, 10:30-1:30, to see them - a treasure may be yours!

Two new items for sale at the History Center are: an 1876 map of Cranbury which is an exact replica of original with names of property owners and a group of turn of the century postcards of Cranbury which are also exact replicas of originals!



Detail, c. 1876 map of Cranbury

Our newest volunteer at the History Center is Jane Petterson who is keeping the files up to date from the Cranbury Press. Thank you, Jane, for your regular weekly visits!!

History Center Wish List

There is a need for a good quality printer, copier and scanner. Our little 3 in 1 Lexmark did not survive all the demands of printing, copying and scanning the Historical Society does.

The History Center budget cannot cover the cost of new office equipment for CHPS and we are using a loaned old printer which we are grateful to have. Large printing jobs and photos we take out to have done. Some printing we do on our home printers.

Hopefully by next year we will have the budget to acquire these three pieces of office equipment. For now, people needing copies from our files may have to wait a bit for us to go out to make copies. The fee for copies may rise.

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

LISA BEACH

On display now through the end of December is Karen Kelley's charming exhibit

"Heart of the Home - An American Kitchen of the 1930's - 1940's."

Please save the date for the Cranbury Museum's Annual Christmas Tea and Open House. The Tea will be held on Sunday, December 2 from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. Both members and nonmembers are invited to welcome in the Holiday season with delicious spiced tea served in our vintage tea cups and delicious homemade cookies. Please don't forget to bring the little angels for our delightful children's punch and cookie table!

Stop by, relax and enjoy all the sights and sounds a Victorian Christmas has to offer. The Museum is beautifully decorated for the season by a staff of wonderful volunteers. And do bring your singing voices, caroling beside our 125 year old pump organ can be heard throughout the day. Florence Kettlekamp encourages all to join in!

The Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society looks forward to seeing you all at the Tea and wishes everyone a joyous Holiday season.

Also, mark your calendar for our other Holiday tradition....On Thursday, November 29, we will be stringing the popcorn and cranberries for the tree in preparation of the Tea. We will begin at 9:30 A.M. Refreshments and light lunch will be served. This has become a very fun event and again, all members and nonmembers are invited so please feel free to bring a friend. For any additional information please contact Lisa Beach at (609) 409 - 1289 or JLMTJBEACH@aol.com. The Cranbury Museum is located at 4 Park Place East and is open every Sunday from 1 to 4 P.M.

A VERY SPECIAL STORY HOUR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

3:00 P.M.

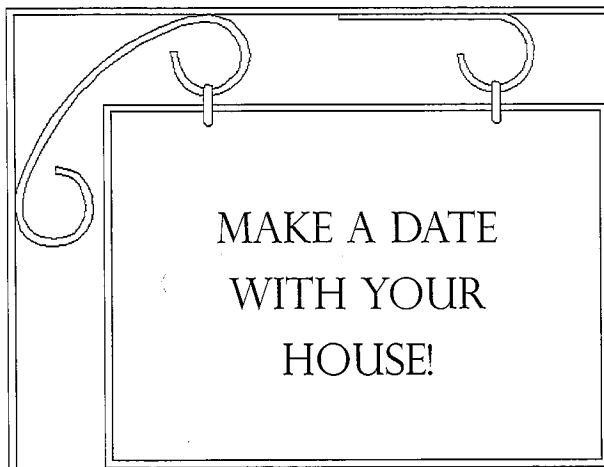


Cranbury Public Library Director, Howard Zogott, has offered to have a special holiday "Story Hour" at the beautifully decorated Cranbury Museum on Saturday, December 15 at 3:00. He will be reading some of his favorite holiday selections including Clement Clarke Moore's 1823 classic, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," popularly known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Anyone who is familiar with the Cranbury Public Library's popular Bedtime Story Hour will not want to miss this wonderful holiday event. Children of all ages, *naughty or nice*, are invited. Cookies and milk will be served.

DOCENT NEWS

As Lisa Beach, our fearless Docent Director retires from her weekly responsibilities, we wish to thank her for her faithful, cheerful and constant service to the Museum docents. She is and has been a steady and caring presence and due to that, we can announce that the majority of our docents are continuing to greet visitors on their appointed Sundays. More good news is that three new docents have joined the ranks: Carole Betz, Arlene Duran and Kim Kondracki. Welcome! We would love to have four more docents to fill all the Sunday positions, as our Museum attendance has been excellent! High school and college students are welcome, especially those earning community service. Please call Barbara Wahlers at (609) 655-8063.

Thank you to these docents for their contributions of time and effort in keeping the Museum open on a regular and dependable basis, earning the Society a very credible reputation: Lisa Beach, Ken Eiker, Carl Helstrom, Helene Hughes, Melanie Johnson, Lynn Lakner, Carole Pepe, Alyssa Pavley, Fiona Romaine, Susanne Saravalli, Ginny Swanagan, Norma Swale, Paul Venanzi, Betty Wagner, Barbara Wahlers, Renee Welch, Kathy Wise, Walt Wright and Pam & David Szabo.



Homeowners around town have expressed interest in learning more about the age and history of their homes, and the Historical Society is available to help and verify the information. Any home that is 75 or more years old is eligible to display a marker that indicates the original owners' names and approximate date of construction.

A bit of sleuthing on the part of the current owner is necessary in order to have a marker installed. The home's deeds must be researched, which requires a trip to the County Clerk's office in New Brunswick, Middlesex County. Owners also are encouraged to compile any other historical records that help to establish the home's age and history, such as maps, photos, news articles, etc. The Society

maintains guidelines for interested homeowners to follow as they conduct their research. The Society will order a house marker, to be paid for by the owner, for display near the home's front door.

Recently, the home at 6 Maplewood Avenue was verified to have been built c. 1868 by Emma and Henry Fisher. The home at 13 South Main Street has been researched back to 1850, when John J. Duncan built the home on property conveyed by the estate of Richard Handley for the amount of \$1,195.82. The John J. Duncan house is in the area of the present Cranbury Inn, owned by innkeeper Richard Handley, a Colonel of the 3rd Regt. Cavalry, New Jersey Militia.

For information and guidelines on how to conduct house research, phone the Cranbury History Center. See back cover of this newsletter for phone number and hours.



News from the Membership Committee ~ Bev Luck & Kirstie Venanzi

The CHPS table was busy all day on Cranbury Day, Sept. 8th, with people stopping by to purchase items on sale, order mums and other plants, and to learn about Cranbury history and the Society. Three new members joined the Society on Cranbury Day. As part of a Cranbury Day promotion, first-time memberships were entered in a drawing for a special gift. Kim Kondracki, the winner, received a tote bag featuring the Cranbury Tercentennial logo.

The Membership Committee would like to thank those local businesses that support the Society as paid members. The Society appreciates the support and encourages our members to patronize these establishments. Our business members are: Allen & Stults Company; Blue Rooster Bakery & Café; Chip Trucking; Cranbury Comfort Systems; Cranbury Pizza; David Wells Antiques; Herr's Plumbing & Heating Service; and Montessori Preschool Academy Cranbury.

Welcome to the following individual who have joined the Cranbury Historical & Preservation since our June 2007 Newsletter was published.

David and Arlene Cortright

Don and Fran Davidson

Debra Duke

Kim Kondracki

Asadolah and Rosemary Seghatoleslami.

2008 MEMBERSHIP

Mail checks to: **Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society**. P.O. Box 77, Cranbury, NJ 08512

Membership Status (check one): New Renewal

Membership Category (check one): Individual, \$15.00 Family, \$25.00 Sponsor, \$35.00
 Patron, \$50.00 or more Corporate, \$150.00 or more

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

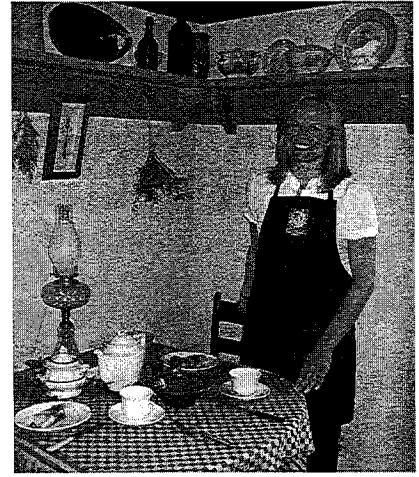
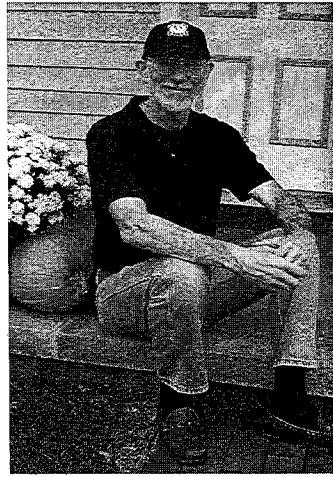
Matching gifts are a significant source of support for the Society. If you work (or have retired from) one of the hundreds of companies that generously match employee donations, please don't let this opportunity pass you by. Just ask your Personnel Office for a Matching Gift form, fill it in and send it to us. We'll do the rest. Together we can continue to preserve our unique heritage.

Please consider one or more of the following volunteer opportunities:

Museum docent:____ Social functions:____

House tour:____ Educational programs:____ Fundraising:____ Publicity:____

Other:_____



Society President Patti Long models the new CHPS fitted T, while Frank Marlowe proudly wears his Society cap and Jen Cooke shows off the new logo apron in the Museum's kitchen.

CHPS Logo Tee Shirts, Aprons and Hats are available just in time for holiday gift giving! Tees are a fitted style designed for women and the Aprons and Hats are perfect for anyone on your list. All our items are a deep, rich black with our logo in bright white. David Brainerd never looked more handsome!! If you'd like a closer look at the design, this is the same logo that appears on this newsletter's masthead. Please support the Society by wearing your historic pride. Tees shirts and hats are \$15.00 and Aprons with adjustable neck band and two utility pockets are \$20.00. For more information on how to get the items that all the beautiful people of Cranbury are wearing this season, please contact Lisa Beach at 609-409-1289 or Fiona Romaine 609-860-0260.

Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society
4 Park Place East
P.O. Box 77
Cranbury, NJ 08512

Cranbury Museum

4 Park Place East
Open Sundays 1 to 4 and by appt.
Ph: 609/655-2611

Cranbury History Center

6 South Main Street
Open Tuesdays 10:30 to 1:30 & by appt.
Ph: 609/860-1889
Email: historycenter@comcast.net
Web: www.cranburyhistory.org