

GLEN ROCK HISTORY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2014

LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

Our activity “year” starts in September and ends at the end of June, so now is the perfect time to look back and see what has been accomplished during 2013/14. What a busy time we have had! We have hit several major milestones, starting with opening the Museum at the Station to the public on a regular schedule (the last Sunday of each month, from 1—3 p.m.). It is gratifying to meet history-minded residents and to show all of you our collections. Our local history program, created by retired teachers Karen Mitchell and Barbara Schineller, met with raves from the fourth grade students and their teachers (see Page 2). In April, our

Museum at the Station was a new destination added to the Annual North West Bergen County History Day. Antique toy collector, Buzz Korn, put up an amazing display of

transportation-themed toys as well as vintage bicycles. Our Museum was THE place to be on History Day; we sold the most tickets and had the most visitors.

What are we planning for the future? The GRHPS is starting to organize an oral history project, in partnership with Glen Rock TV.

We will be continuing our



programs—including the 3rd Annual Glen Rock Heroes next spring—in partnership with the GR Library. And, we are starting a Capital Expense Plan to replace aging glass display cases and to make other improvements at the Museum at the Station.

Yes indeed, we have been very busy!

WHAT HAVE WE DONE LATELY?

- *Museum at the Station open every month*
- *4th-grade local history program*
- *History Day displays*
- *“Rock in the Glen” and IDA film digitizations*
- *DeBoer & D’Argenio farm items added to collection*
- *Carl Kemm Loven family photo album & notebooks conserved*
- *Lenape Stories at the Glen Rock Library*

NATIVE PLANTS GARDEN AT THE STATION

This spring, the GRHPS turned its attention to the tired, overgrown and littered grounds around the Main Line Train Station. Bill Gilligan and Ed Archbold removed the big bushes that blocked the front of the building. The shrubs have been replaced by plants that are native

(for the most part) to northern New Jersey, many donated by Native Plants expert Elaine Silverstein. Anchoring the new front garden is a Serviceberry tree (*Amalanchier*), which was donated and installed by R & S Landscaping (www.rscape.com). Brian Aber contributed a small

maple tree that had been a gift from Lilly Hubschmitt. Native plants are those plants that are indigenous to the area. They attract local wildlife and preserve our natural heritage. Once established, the plantings will require minimal maintenance.

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THERE WAS A TROLLEY WHERE?



The double-ended trolley cars held 44 passengers. It could reach speeds of 30 miles per hour.

Have you ever wondered why there is a right-of-way that snakes its way through town from Harristown Road to Prospect Street? This space marks the route through Glen Rock of the defunct North Jersey Rapid Transit (NJRT) interurban trolley line that ran from Paterson to Suffern (a 55 minute trip) during the early decades of the 20th century. The NJRT opened for business in 1910. The trolley was an extremely

popular mode of transportation, especially in cities, through the 1940s. They were economical, easily accessible and comfortable. It was a pleasant Sunday family outing to hop on the trolley and ride through the countryside at a leisurely pace. In the summer, riders would bring a picnic basket and catch an open-sided car to enjoy the "healthful" rural air. In 1911, the NJRT was planning to extend the line to Greenwood

Lake when two trolley cars collided head-on between Prospect and Grove Streets in Glen Rock, killing three men including the superintendent of the line. The resulting lawsuits, coupled with the expansion of bus service in the area, doomed the North Jersey Rapid Transit Company; it ceased operations entirely in 1928. The next year, the 75 lb. rails were ripped up and sold to Russia to become part of the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

TRANSPORTATION
HAS BEEN
INTEGRAL TO
NEW JERSEY'S
DEVELOPMENT

NEW JERSEY'S 350TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

2014 marks New Jersey's 350th birthday. Here are a few important dates from New Jersey's transportation history:

- **1842**, the Paterson and Ramapo Railroad starts running a freight line from Paterson to Suffern; today, this is the Erie Main Line.
- **1882**, the Bergen County Railroad, known as the Short Cut, begins operation.
- **1908**, first route of Hudson & Manhattan tubes (now PATH) opens under the Hudson River.
- **1923**, Route 17 opens (as Route 17N).
- **1927**, Route 4 opens.
- **1928**, Newark Airport opens.
- **1929**, Route 208 opens (as Route S4B).
- **1931**, George Washington Bridge opens.
- **1951**, first 53 miles of the NJ Turnpike opens.
- **1955**, Garden State Parkway opens.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM PROGRAM



Retired teachers Barbara Schineller and Karen Mitchell have crafted an outstanding curriculum program for Glen Rock's 4th graders.

Thanks to volunteers Barbara Schineller and Karen Mitchell, this spring the GRHPS offered the borough's schools a Glen Rock History program specifically designed to coordinate with the 4th grade curriculum.

We welcomed students and their teachers from Hamilton,

Byrd and Central Schools to the Museum at the Station, where they learned all about Glen Rock's early school life (as seen through the eyes of Lilly Hubschmitt) and the DeBoer Dairy Farm (the last working farm in Glen Rock). A read-aloud of Patricia Polacco's *The Keeping Quilt* emphasized the importance of family heirlooms as a connection to the past.

The students ended their visit with free time to explore and sketch artifacts at the Museum. Popular subjects for the drawings were the DeBoer cows, GRPD police materials, and a flowered dress from the 1950s. Many of these sketches are now on display at the Museum, along with thank you notes from the students.

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR ANTIQUE FURNITURE

If you are fortunate enough to own a piece of antique or vintage furniture, it is important to properly care for it to maintain its beauty and functionality. Here are a few tips:

1. Paste wax should be used sparingly, once a year, to make dusting easier. Avoid waxing damaged areas.
2. Don't use silicone sprays or oils that claim to "feed" surfaces.
3. Clean upholstery by vacuuming with the brush attachment wrapped in cotton cheesecloth; avoid stain-resistant treatments.
4. Keep furniture out of direct sunlight and away from hot spotlights and lamps.
5. Do not store furniture in basements or attics. Fluctuating temperatures and humidity can do major damage.
6. Don't remove original finish or upholstery from antique pieces.
7. Always use coasters under drinking glasses and vases to avoid water damage.
8. Leave restoration work to qualified professionals.
9. Check regularly for insect and mold damage.



Carl Kemm Loven's original drafting table is one of the treasured items on display at the Museum at the Station.

RECENT DONATIONS & ACQUISITIONS

Imagine undertaking a house renovation project and finding old newspapers tucked into the wall? It is thought that the papers, dated 1925, were placed there when the house was originally built. Now imagine that the home owners donate the newspapers to the GRHPS! This actually happened and we are grateful for the addition to our archives.

The GRHPS has received many wonderful items recently. The Glen Rock AC donated an extensive file of old photos and club materials. A large original oil painting of the DeBoer Dairy Farm, donated by a DeBoer family member, has become a centerpiece of our local history program for 4th graders. Do you know that the last DeBoer cow was

moved to another farm in 1981? The 4th graders do! We received more farming implements, these used on the D'Argenio/Zigarelli Farm on Prospect Street. The iron plow is now a prominent part of our Station garden. Another gift of a wooden wheelbarrow owned by the Hubschmitt family has also found a new home in our garden. Thank you donors!

"WHEN WE GIVE
CHEERFULLY AND
ACCEPT
GRATEFULLY,
EVERYONE IS
BLESSED."

- MAYA
ANGELOU

IN THE NEWS

Dateline: 1895, New York World newspaper. A (partial) list of "DON'T"s for female bicyclists.

DON'T be a fright.

DON'T criticize people's "legs".

DON'T cultivate a "bicycle face".

DON'T wear loud hued leggings.

DON'T ask "What do you think of my bloomers?"

DON'T go to church in your bicycle costume.

DON'T contest the right of way with cable cars.

DON'T use bicycle slang. Leave that to the boys.

DON'T let your golden hair be hanging down your back.

DON'T wear tight garters.

DON'T chew gum.

Exercise your jaw in private.

DON'T allow dear little Fido to accompany you.

DON'T scratch a match on the seat of your bloomers.

DON'T scream if you meet a cow. If she sees you first, she will run.

DON'T faint on the road.



Jean Edwards on Maple Ave., circa 1890

GRHPS

Glen Rock Historical & Preservation Society

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Our headquarters and museum are located in the Main Line Train Station. Glen Rock History newsletter is edited by Sue Tryforos

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The GRHPS Mission Statement:

To heighten the public's awareness of, and appreciation for, the history, growth and development of Glen Rock, New Jersey.

Can't bear to part with your treasured photos or letters? We understand! The GRHPS can scan your originals for our collection so that you retain your treasures while we add the information contained therein to our archives.

Help us continue to learn about our borough's past.

Our next meeting is: Thursday, September 18, 2014

7:30 pm. at the Main Line Station

Meetings are held on the THIRD Thursday of the month, September through June.

THE GRHPS IS A 501(C) 3 ORGANIZATION. DONATIONS ARE TAX-EXEMPT TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Our Members enable us to do the things we do! In 2013/14, dues and DVD fundraising have allowed us to:

* Digitize six IDA Parade films from 1935—1962

* Purchase clipboards for our 4th Grade Program

* Acquire a Loven family photo album

PLEASE JOIN US TODAY!

Membership Levels:

Regular—\$10

Supporting—\$25

Sustaining—\$50 +

Corporate—\$100 +

Become a GRHPS Member for 2014/2015

Please send your check, made payable to Glen Rock Historical & Preservation Society, to:

George Dorbad, Treasurer, 70 So. Highwood Ave., Glen Rock, NJ 07452

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____



Come visit us!

MUSEUM AT THE STATION SCHEDULE

We will be open from 1—3 pm on the following dates:

July 20, 2014 (Note: this will be the 3rd Sunday instead of the LAST Sunday of the month)

August 31, 2014

Sept. 28, 2014