

GLEN ROCK HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY PRESENTS:

GLEN ROCK HISTORY

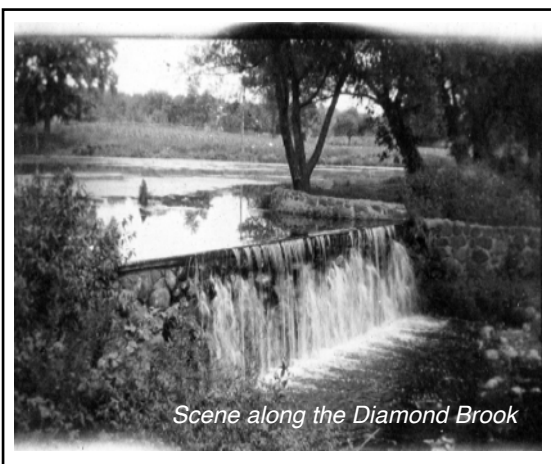
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2015

THE ALBERTINA HILL KIDD PHOTO ALBUM

Imagine working on your family genealogy and discovering an old album full of photos of family and places from long ago, the 1890s to the 1920s. Albertina Hill Kidd and her three children lived in Glen Rock and Ridgewood around the turn of the century and, lucky for us, her great-great-granddaughter was thoughtful enough to reach out to the GRHPS to share this treasure.

Each photograph in the album was carefully scanned and GRHPS volunteers are diligently recreating the album so that we can share it with the public. Ridgewood Historians Peggy Norris and Joe Suplicki have helped identify local scenes and activities. In addition to family vacation shots and visits to such landmarks as Ellis Island and Grant's Tomb in New York City, the album contains an early photo of The Rock before it was fully excavated in 1912, a bucolic scene along the Diamond Brook, the Main Line Station with a steam locomotive alongside, and a few early floats from the Ridgewood 4th of July Parade. The album also contains photographs of Albertina's son Arthur J. Kidd in his World War I uniform. Look for Arthur's name on the bronze Honor Roll plaque on the front of The Rock.



Scene along the Diamond Brook

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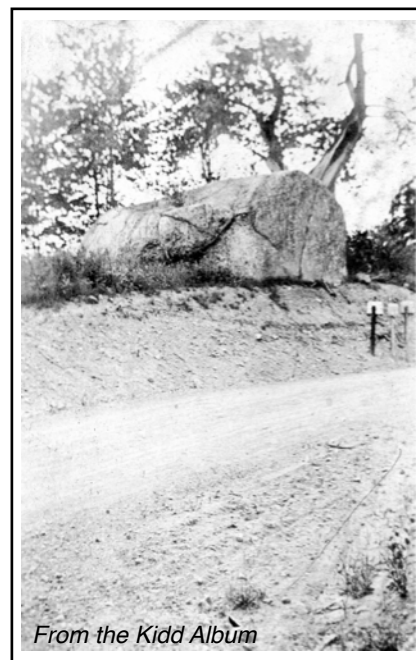
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UPCOMING EVENTS

* Join us on **April 29th** to experience James Calaski's program on "The Nazi Spy from Glen Rock" at the Glen Rock Public Library. The German American Bund was very active in New York and New Jersey in the 1930s and 1940s, and Jim has been investigating a Glen Rock connection at that time. Watch the Gazette for registration information, starting at the end of March.

* Mark your calendars: **May 30th** is Bergen County History Day. Our Museum at the Station will once again feature an extensive private toy collection with a transportation theme. Special items this year include full-size vintage bicycles and the Zinn-Buick race car that competed at the Ho-Ho-Kus Racetrack in 1913. Watch the Gazette for ticket information.



From the Kidd Album

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY, BYRD SCHOOL

School #2 opened its doors in September 1915. The original building had just 4 classrooms for grades 1 through 5. Kindergarten was added in 1931. In 1930/31, the school was greatly expanded and a town-wide contest decided upon the new name of Richard E. Byrd School. Mrs. Ethel Wright was the first principal of the new Byrd School, holding that position for 32 years, and the Historical Society is pleased to have been gifted Mrs. Wright's typed history of the school. This history was generously donated to the GRHPS by Mrs. Alice Schneider, whose husband Paul taught 6th grade under Mrs. Wright. Following are excerpts from Mrs. Wright's document.



School #2, 1915

"Mr. J. Oscar Bunce was the architect who drew up plans for the new building. The entire cost to the borough for the land and a four room brick building was \$24,500. The building was dedicated in July 1915 and was ready for occupancy in September 1915."

"The building looked tall and barren since there were neither buildings nor trees very near."

"Miss Emma Vreelands and her class of 29 fourth and fifth graders were the first and only occupants of the new school until January 1916."

"In January 1916 a first grade of 22 pupils and a combination second and third grade of 21 pupils were added."

"There was one facility in School No. 2 which the other school did not have, that was a paper chute. Paper baskets could be emptied into it on both the first and second floors. However, the janitor always carried the waste paper down to the basement. He said [the chute] was stopped up and the paper would not go down. Not long after this some people in the neighborhood reported to the Board of Education that there were lights in the building at night and they had noticed peculiar odors. This caused the members to decide to investigate. While [the investigators] were out of the building, [the janitor] removed the still which he kept housed in and had been operating in the paper chute. Needless to say, he lost his job."

"Mrs. Roy Probert, then president of the Parent-Teacher Association, had been approached by the Board of Education with reference to the choosing of a name for the new building [1931]. Parents and children made suggestions but the one which was chosen by the parents and approved by Board of Education, Richard E. Byrd, was the name suggested by Mrs. Probert. Admiral Byrd was then on his first expedition to the South Pole."

Excerpt from letter, dated 31 October 1931, from Admiral Byrd to the pupils of Glen Rock Schools:
"I have just learned that your school has been named after me. I appreciate this honor more than I can express and, though I do not deserve it, I am immensely pleased."



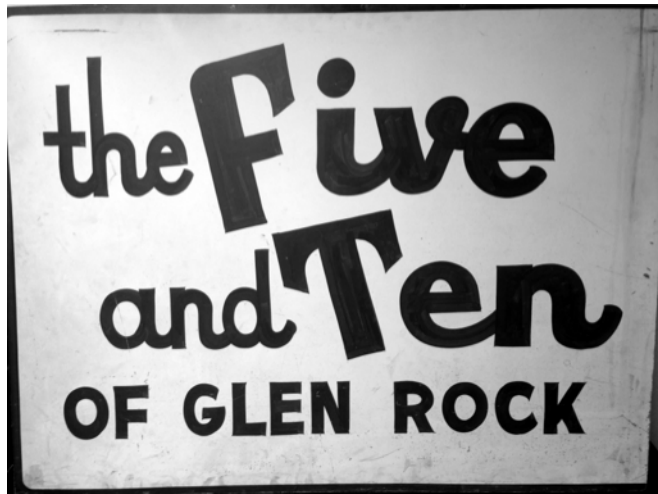
HONOR ROLL PHOTO PROJECT

The Albertina Hill Kidd photo album (see page 1) has jumpstarted a new project for the GRHPS. Included among the usual family pictures were several photos of Arthur J. Kidd (Albertina's son) in his World War I uniform. Arthur's name is engraved on the Memorial Honor Roll Plaque, which honors the 92 Glen Rock men who served in The Great War. The bronze plaque was affixed to the face of The Rock in 1921; it was unveiled at the dedication ceremony by Catherine Ebbert, the young daughter of Peter Ebbert, who was Glen Rock's first casualty of the War.

The GRHPS is now actively searching for photos of all of the men listed on the Honor Roll. Digital scans are gratefully accepted. Original photographs will be carefully scanned and returned. The soldiers' pictures will be shared on-line through our Facebook page, Pinterest page and GlenRockHistory.org website; they will also be proudly displayed in the Museum at the Station, so that visitors can put faces to the names we see every time we pass by The Rock. Please help us locate as many of these photos as possible.



*Private First Class Garret Sinkway, US Army 1917.
Photo courtesy of Bob Sinkway, son of Garret.*



WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM

The Museum at the Station has recently received some very special items to add to our collection of Glen Rock memorabilia. An anonymous donor has given us the original handpainted Five & Ten sign that hung in the front window of that long-time Rock Road establishment. The donor happened to be in the store at the very time it was closing its doors forever, and asked the owner if he could have the sign. Luckily the owner said yes, and now we have it on display at the Museum at the Station for all to see, along with vintage photos of the Five & Ten taken by Paul Gutheil and David Tanner. Drop by and share your memories of the store that had everything.

Another fantastic item on permanent display starting in February 2015 is the original switchboard from the Glen Rock High School. This switchboard serviced the public school district from 1956 into the late 1970s. It still has connection tags for many familiar names - Knapp, Sponzilli, Perry and more. The switchboard was donated to the Historical Society by Dave James, whose wife Ginny would occasionally handle switchboard duty while working at the High School.

We have also added an original painting by local artist Joe Terrone to our collection, in memory of GRHPS volunteer Diane Stern, who passed away in November 2014. The painting, "Ice on the Lake" depicts a winter scene of the Thielke Arboretum pond. The Terrone painting joins works by fellow Glen Rock artists George Wolfe, Patricia Cleary Berlin and Val Fox.

The Museum's display cases will feature materials from the 1994 Centennial Time Capsule until early spring 2015.

G.R.H.P.S.

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"Glen Rock History" is edited by SueTryforos

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www.GlenRockHistory.org

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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, Bergen County, New Jersey.

Our next meeting is: Thursday, **March 19th**, 2015
7:30 pm at the Main Line Station

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

The GRHPS can scan your original materials 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.

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

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Please join us today

Regular \$10
Supporting \$25
Sustaining \$50+
Corporate \$100+

Become a GRHPS Member

Please send your check, payable to Glen Rock Historical &
Preservation Society, to:
GRHPS, P. O. Box 581, Glen Rock, NJ 07452-0581

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:

March 29, 2015

April 26, 2015

**DON'T FORGET BERGEN COUNTY HISTORY DAY
ON SATURDAY, MAY 30TH**