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Historic Boonton

Scavenger Hunt

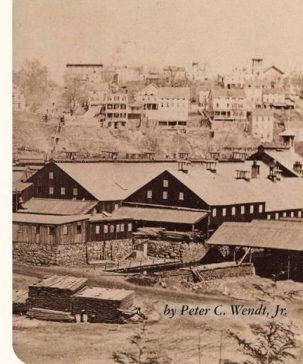
DISCOVER YOUR TOWN

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Resources and Further Reading

BOONTON *Was An* IRON TOWN

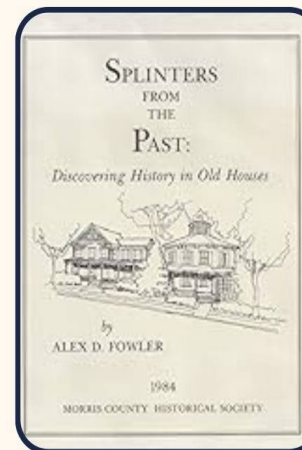


AVAILABLE AT THE BOONTON HOLMES
PUBLIC LIBRARY
SOME BOOKS ARE FOR SALE
AT THE BOONTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GIFT SHOP

- *Boonton Was an Iron Town* by Peter C. Wendt, Jr.
- *Images of America: Boonton*
- *Voices of America: Boonton* by Arthur Rabin
- *Profile of Boonton: An Architectural and Historical Perspective* by Lawrence Korinda
- *Splinters from the Past: Discovering History in Old Houses* by Alex D. Fowler
- *Boonton USA*, compiled by Lloyd and Terry Charlton:
 - *Stories of a Small Town*
 - *More Stories of a Small Town*
 - *WWII Stories*
- *Morris County Historic Survey: Town of Boonton*

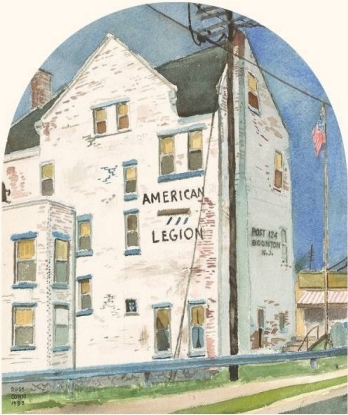
Both the Library and the Historical Society have substantial collections of photos and memorabilia from Boonton's history. The public is welcome to explore these during operating hours.

Fun fact: The Boonton Holmes Public Library has a large collection of Boonton School Yearbooks, dating back to 1927.





Boonton Historical Society Museum



JOHN TAYLOR HOUSE

This building was the office and home of Dr. John Taylor and his wife, Adelaide, from 1897 to 1917. The building was a Christmas present from Adelaide's parents, Judge John L. Kanouse and his wife, Ann. Towards the end of their lives, the Kanouses moved in with the Taylors. Dr. Taylor practiced medicine on the first floor until 1917 when he and his wife retired and moved to California. The building then became an American Legion Post, and in 1980 the Boonton Historical Society took over the building as a museum and archive.



BOONTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Boonton Historical Society & Museum was founded in 1959 by locals interested in preserving and promoting Boonton's history. Their mission is to preserve and protect the town's unique cultural, architectural, and industrial history. They encourage preservation and restoration of historic landmarks in the town and provide educational programs, tours, and exhibitions available to everyone.

Scavenger Hunt Quiz

THE DR. JOHN TAYLOR HOUSE WAS PURCHASED BY THE TOWN OF BOONTON AS A MEMORIAL TO WWI VETERANS. IN WHAT YEAR WAS THE BUILDING PURCHASED?

ANSWER: _____

Museum Hours: 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, 1-4 p.m. and by appointment

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SCAVENGER HUNT MAP OF LOCATIONS

Introduction

Boonton families are invited to join in a town-wide history scavenger hunt. Delve into Boonton's fascinating history, seek out its historic sites, and learn about the Boontonites who shaped the town and its streets.

This adventure promises discovery around every corner as you uncover the hidden gems and stories that define Boonton's charm.

Each page of this booklet leads you to a site where you will learn about its history and answer a question.

Lace up your hiking boots, and let the scavenger hunt be your guide as you journey through time, uncovering some of Boonton's many treasures. Get ready to discover your town like never before!



NJ Firemen's Home & Museum

THE LATHROP MANSION



William Lathrop came to Boonton in 1845 to help fix management problems at the New Jersey Iron Company. As a manager, he was responsible for making it possible for factory workers to own homes in the town; he felt that ownership made residents feel that they had a stake in the community and made them better citizens. When a depression hit the town in the 1870s, he hired only local unemployed townspeople to build his family's new home so that their income would benefit the community.

NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S HOME AND MUSEUM



After Mrs. Lathrop died, the family sold the home, and the New Jersey Firemen's Home was established through an act by the New Jersey legislature, opening its doors in 1889. Today, the home has beds for 96 retired fire fighters. It is the only fully licensed health care facility in New Jersey serving the men and women of the state's fire services. The museum, which opened in 1985, boasts a large collection of historic fire fighting equipment and vehicles. The hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day.

Scavenger Hunt Quiz

FIND THE HARMONY #2 STEAM PUMPER. WHAT YEAR WAS IT BUILT AND WHO BUILT IT?

ANSWER: _____



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Greenwood Cemetery

JOHN L. KANOUSE

John L. Kanouse was born in Boonton in 1811. He was a committed champion of public education. After college, he returned to Boonton where he convinced townspeople to pay taxes for a public school. The NJ Iron Company donated the land, and the Academy opened in 1852. This was the first -- and for many years the only -- free school in Morris County.

CHARLES F. HOPKINS

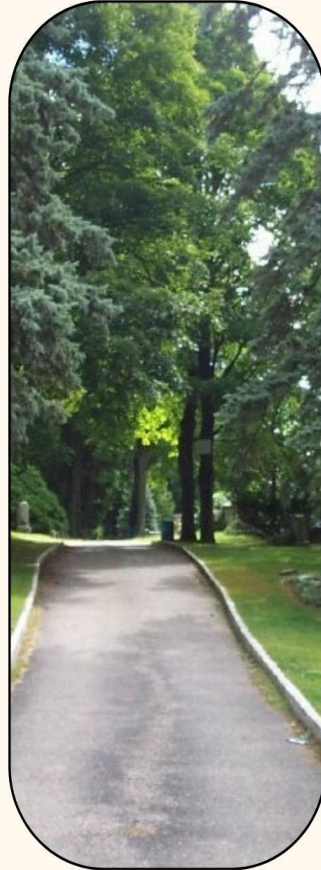
Charles F. Hopkins is credited as being the first man from Morris County to enlist for a three-year commitment with the Grand Army of the Republic in the Civil War. He was wounded several times during the war, but returned to the battlefield every time after recuperating. He was a prisoner of war at the notorious Andersonville Prison, but survived and returned home to later serve as Boonton's Mayor, and many other positions as a public servant.

Scavenger Hunt Task

FIND THE GRAVES OF JOHN L. KANOUSE AND CHARLES F. HOPKINS AND MAKE A RUBBING OF THE GRAVESTONES.

BONUS QUESTION: NAME THE MEDAL WHICH IS ETCHED ON THE GRAVESTONE OF CHARLES F. HOPKINS

ANSWER: _____



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Boonton Holmes Public Library

A gift to the people of Boonton



The library is named after James Holmes. He was a wealthy and influential Boontonite who did much to improve the town for its residents. When he died he left his home to the Town in his Will for the newly formed Library Society to have its own building. When the new library opened, it also housed Boonton's first telephone exchange and telegraph, and on the third floor there was a dance hall which was run by a local mason's lodge. The librarian lived in the apartment on the second floor and served both as librarian and telegraph operator.

Scavenger Hunt Quiz

ASK A LIBRARIAN: WHERE DOES THE LIBRARY KEEP ITS COLLECTION OF BOONTON HISTORY BOOKS AND MATERIALS?

ANSWER: _____

BONUS QUESTION: CAN YOU NAME A FAMOUS FICTIONAL CHARACTER WHOSE LAST NAME IS ALSO HOLMES?

ANSWER: _____

Library Hours:

Mo-Thu: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. / Fri: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. / Sat: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. / Sun: 1-4 p.m..

Octagon Houses

Octagon houses became a building trend in the U.S. in the late 1800s. They were made popular by architect, Orson Squire Fowler, who promoted the 8-sided building shape as an affordable structure that added more living space than a square or rectangle. By the early 20th century there were several thousand octagon houses built in the U.S., among which were Mr. Fowler's own home, known as Fowler's Folly.

BOONTON'S OWN OCTAGON HOUSES



The two octagon houses on Cornelia Street were built by Garrett Rickards and Nathaniel Myers. Both Rickards and Myers had gone to Troy, New York, in 1852 seeking employment during an economic downturn. Rickards and Myers became fascinated by the new and popular octagon houses they saw along the way. Returning to Boonton a year later, they were determined to build their own octagon houses. These two houses are the only examples of octagon homes in Morris County. Both are private residences.

Scavenger Hunt Quiz

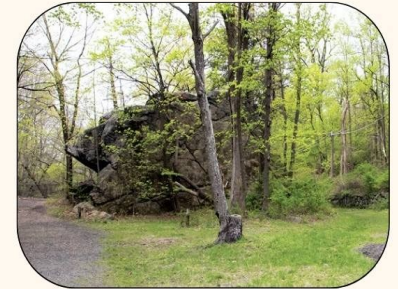
WHICH ORGANIZATION ERECTED THE MARKER IN FRONT OF THE GARRETT RICKARDS HOUSE ON 211 CORNELIA STREET:

ANSWER: _____

BONUS QUESTION: HOW MANY SIDES ARE THERE IN AN OCTAGON?

ANSWER: _____

Arch Bridge & Indian Rock



THE ARCH BRIDGE

The Arch Bridge is the oldest existing bridge in Boonton. It is built out of cut stone and was designed by John Carson, Sr., a Master Craftsman. Originally, the bridge was used as a viaduct supporting an iron pipe that carried water from the pond in Grace Lord Park to the ironworks. The water was mainly intended for fire prevention. Towards the end of the construction, Mr. Carson suffered serious injuries in a blast accident, but in spite of this, he oversaw the completion of the project. The bridge offers great views of the Rockaway River and Boonton Falls.

INDIAN ROCK

Indian Rock used to be called "Big Rock." It was so big that it reached from the Rockaway River's edge to a high point near the Morris Canal at Canal Park. Stone from this rock was blasted for many purposes, including building the arch bridge and one of the big furnaces at the ironworks. The rock got its name because it now looks like the profile of a Native American man wearing full headdress.

Scavenger Hunt Quiz

LOOK AT THE ROCK FROM THE SIDE, WHICH WAY IS THE NATIVE AMERICAN FACING?

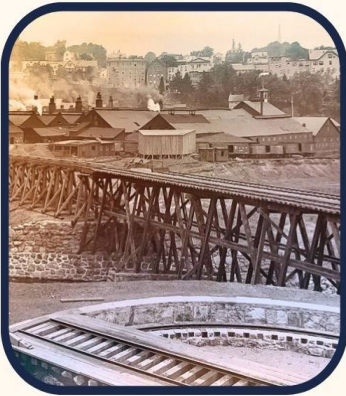
A: THE SKY B: THE GROUND C: THE ARCH BRIDGE D: THE IRONWORKS

BONUS QUESTION: DOES THE ARCH BRIDGE HAVE A KEYSTONE?

ANSWER: _____

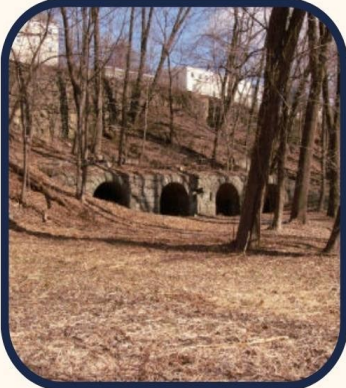


NJ Iron Company



BOONTON WAS AN IRON TOWN

The earliest ironworks at Boonton were located near Old Boonton which is now the site of the Jersey City Reservoir. The second ironworks opened in 1831 by the New Jersey Iron Company. The iron ore came from several mines in Morris County and was transported to Boonton via the Morris Canal. At first, pig iron puddled into bars was the main product. In 1848, cut nails were added. They also made kegs which were used to hold and ship the nails. Products were shipped as far away as Japan, China, and South America!



RUINS AND SIGNAGE

Find the Ironworks ruins and signage on the "River Walk" path to the right, past Boonton's Recycling Center. There is a place to park. The Rockaway River is on your left. The ruins of the Ironworks is on your right. At the path entrance there is signage. Further along the river you will find signage about the Boonton Ironworks and its Blast Furnaces. The answer to this Quiz question can be found here.

Scavenger Hunt Quiz

WHEN THE NEW JERSEY IRON COMPANY BECAME THE BOONTON IRONWORKS, WHO WERE THE NEW OWNERS?

ANSWER: _____

Note: Your next destination, O7 Arch Bridge & Indian Rock, is here, too!



A Hidden Mural



Boonton Opera House 1890

CELEBRATING BOONTON'S THEATERS PAST AND PRESENT

Next to the Boonton Opera House you will find an alleyway with a mural celebrating a part of our town's cultural history. The Boonton Opera House opened in 1890. It was owned by Cornelia Green. The first floor contained "the finest set of stores in town", and the upper two stories made up the auditorium with a seating capacity of 600. It even had electric lights, which were uncommon at the time. Over the years, the Opera House was host to famous performers as well as local theater groups.

THE STORY BEHIND THE MURAL

The Boonton Opera House auditorium had stood vacant and unused for many years when the owners of Heavenly Temptations, Pat and Ann Cox, bought the building and started a thorough renovation project to bring the space back to its former glory. In 2016 they approached Boonton Arts to create a mural in honor of the town's 150th anniversary. Artist, Rob Hessler, created the design, which was then painted with the help of local volunteers.



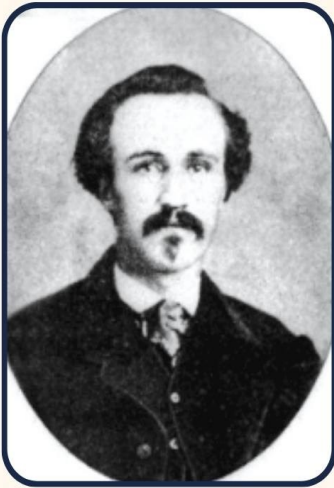
Painting the mural 2017

Scavenger Hunt Quiz

FIND THE MURAL! WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF BOONTON'S 4 THEATERS PAINTED ON THE MURAL?

ANSWER: _____

Underground Railroad



Dr. John Grimes

DR. JOHN GRIMES, ABOLITIONIST

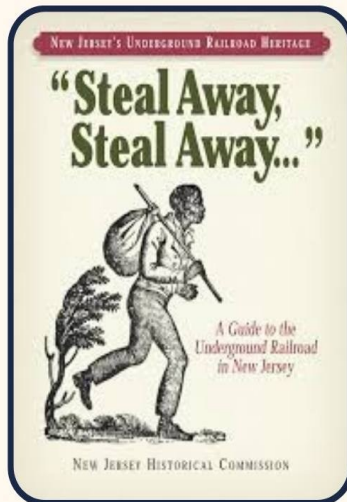
The Underground Railroad came through Boonton, thanks to the hard work of Dr. John Grimes. Born to a Quaker family in Parsippany in 1802, he dedicated his life to ending slavery. In 1844 he erected Liberty Hall on the corner of Main and Liberty Streets. This location was a station on the Underground Railroad where Grimes took care of those seeking freedom and helped them on their continued journey north. As a staunch abolitionist, Dr. Grimes published the first anti-slavery newspaper in New Jersey, *The New Jersey Freeman*. Not everyone believed in his cause, though: Dr. Grimes was once arrested for harboring a runaway slave, and he was repeatedly harassed by supporters of slavery!

Dr. Grimes was ahead of his time: He was a confirmed vegetarian and liked to serve all vegetarian dinners at Liberty Hall!

Scavenger Hunt Quiz

LIBERTY HALL NO LONGER EXISTS BUT THERE'S A PICTURE OF THE BUILDING POSTED ON ONE OF THE STREET CORNERS. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE BUSINESS WHERE THE PICTURE IS POSTED?

ANSWER: _____



The Morris Canal



NEW JERSEY'S FIRST SUPER HIGHWAY

In the early 1800s it was difficult to get coal, iron products, and agricultural goods from rural villages to towns and cities. To solve this problem, the Morris Canal was built. When it was finished in 1831, the canal stretched 102 miles from Phillipsburg to Jersey City. Goods were shipped on large mule-drawn barges. The canal helped Boonton to become a prosperous town. However, by the early 20th century, the railroads made the canal obsolete.

THE INCLINED PLANE

Boonton's Plane Street gets its name after the inclined plane which helped barges get around the Boonton Falls. In order to transport the barges up and down New Jersey's many hills, the canal featured 23 locks and 23 inclined planes. The planes were long "slides" with tracks where the barges were pulled by ropes connected to a winch powered by a water turbine.



Scavenger Hunt Quiz

AT THE TOP OF PLANE STREET (BEHIND SPEAKEASY ART) THERE'S A MARKER AND SIGN EXPLAINING HOW THE PLANE WORKED. WHAT NUMBER WAS BOONTON'S PLANE?

ANSWER: _____