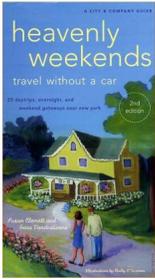


New Gift Shop Items



New Book!

Heavenly Weekends: Travel Without A Car

55 Daytrips, Overnight and Weekend Getaways Near NY
By Susan Clemett & Gena Vandestienne



“Too Good” Teas!

Your favorites: *Lemon, Earl Grey, Apple Cinnamon, & English Breakfast!*

- The Gift Shop is open Saturdays from 1 to 4 pm or by appointment -

YOUR TWO CENTS IS PRICELESS

In response to our last request for your input for the Newsletter, we received the following:

Readers of the BHS&M Newsletter might like to know there is a website with one hundred and fifty or more old photos and picture post cards of Boonton. It is:

<http://jerseyjoe.tripod.com/boonton/boontonmain.htm>

The site is run by Joe Strelec. I've "talked" to Joe via Email. I knew a John Strelec, who would have graduated BHS about 1950, a year ahead of me. I remember that John boxed in the Golden Gloves. Joe says that John was his uncle.

Ernie Piscitello

The History of Tea *continued from inside...*

"The British have an umbilical cord which has never been cut and through which tea flows constantly. It is curious to watch them in times of sudden horror, tragedy or disaster. The pulse stops apparently, and nothing can be done, and no move made, until 'a nice cup of tea' is quickly made. There is no question that it brings solace and does steady the mind. What a pity all countries are not so tea-conscious. World-peace conferences would run more smoothly if 'a nice cup of tea', or indeed, a samovar were available at the proper time."

Pam Hance is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Boonton Historical Society. For the past twelve years, she has taught English in Patterson. This summer, she has been working with Monica Scozzafava, Jennifer Coultas and Claire Hance to prepare for the afternoon teas to be held at the museum in October and November.

AFTERNOON TEA RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ ticket(s) at \$20 each for the Afternoon Tea at The Museum.
A check is enclosed in the amount of \$_____ (10% discount for groups of eight or more). Please make checks payable to: "Boonton Historical Society and Museum."

Please choose one:

- Saturday, October 30, 2004 at 1 PM:
- Saturday, October 30, 2004 at 3 PM:
- Saturday, November 20, 2004 at 1 PM:
- Saturday, November 20, 2004 at 3 PM:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail to: **Boonton Historical Society and Museum**
210 Main Street Boonton, New Jersey 07005



Gem of the Mountains

The Newsletter of the Boonton Historical Society and Museum

September 20, 2004

210 Main Street, Boonton, New Jersey 07005 ♦ (973) 402-8840 ♦ www.boonton.org ♦ tmscozz@aol.com

THE FAESCH SILVER COLLECTION

Most historians regard George Washington's brilliant military leadership as one of the key reasons the American colonies won their war for independence, and little credit is given to John Jacob Faesch, a Swiss mining engineer, who marshaled the vast iron resources of the Morris County area to provide Washington with the munitions to wage war.

While Washington has monuments, schools, streets and towns throughout the nation named in his honor, Faesch has only the house in which he lived in the Mt. Hope section of Rockaway Township and a collection of more than forty items of memorabilia stored in a trunk in the Boonton Town Hall as testaments to his accomplishments.

Charles Howard of Brooklyn, one of Faesch's descendants by marriage, donated these artifacts to the Town of Boonton in 1928.

An exhibit of the Faesch family silverware will open on October 16th and be shown in a dining room setting. Thanks go to Jack Wootton, who has offered to lend furniture pieces and a set of china to complete our "dining room".

BOONTON MUSEUM HOSTS AFTERNOON TEAS

A transformation will take place at the Boonton Museum, former home of Dr. and Mrs. John D. Taylor at 210 Main Street in Boonton. Curtains, tablecloths and potted plants will change the twenty-first century meeting room into a nineteenth century drawing room.



It is 1898, and Dr. Taylor of Boonton and his wife, Adelaide, daughter of the Honorable John L. Kanouse, have invited you to their home for afternoon tea.

The couple will be on hand to greet you and chat about local events of the day, Music will be provided by Steven Kupka at the piano on October 30th and by Rosemarie Sprouls, playing the Celtic Harp, on November 20th. Should you have any tea leaves left in your cup, an interpreter will be ready to predict your future, and there will be table prizes

A fine selection of scones, cakes and sandwiches, as well as a choice of fine imported and herbal teas will be served. All proceeds from the teas, held Saturday, October 30, and Saturday, November 20 at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., will benefit the museum. Tickets are \$20.00 with group discounts available. Reservations are required as space is limited. Call now to ensure your place at the table at 973-316-0976, or complete and mail the attached reservation form (which may be found on the back of this newsletter).

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Boonton Historical Society and Museum, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to our recent fundraiser. Our appeal was mailed in May, and we are still receiving donations. The response has far exceeded our expectations.

It is gratifying to know that so many people are concerned about preserving our local history and are showing their interest in such a positive way. Your donations make it possible for us to engage speakers for our programs and to buy supplies to create our exhibits and protect our archives.

Thank you for support, and please visit the museum and attend our programs to see your contributions at work.

Sincerely, **Monica Scozzafava**

Featured Volunteer: Evelyn Eckardt



Having served in the capacity of every office of the Boonton Historical Society, with the exception of Secretary, Evelyn Eckardt remains one of the Society's most valuable volunteers.

She was born and raised in Boonton, has been married to Art Eckardt for sixty-one years and is the mother of five children, whom she describes as "all dedicated volunteers". Her daughter, Monica Scozzafava, is the present Historical Society President.

Evelyn joined the Society in 1974 and was asked to help with accessioning. She has been doing so ever since. Presently, she is serving as archivist/preservationist and is in the process of identifying, numbering, lettering, recording, labeling and storing each part of a composite donation of memorabilia to the Society. There are thousands of items the repository. One gift alone might have sixty individual items.

When asked how her interest in the Society has been sustained for such a long period of time, she says, "I'm fascinated to learn about the history of our town by examining and studying remnants of the past. I want to learn about the people who lived here, worked and played here and built a town from a rugged wilderness less than two hundred years ago."

Featured Historic Home



Pictured above is the George W. Esten House on Rockaway Street in Boonton. This large three story home was built around 1875 for Mr. Esten, Superintendent of the Boonton Iron Works. It is believed Esten used the six-story vantage point on the widow's walk to view the ironworks across the Rockaway River. The original shingled exterior was replaced with stucco in 1901 and the side porch and porte-cochere were also added. Original to the house are the oak floors, etched glass transoms, and the solid oak doors throughout the house are fine examples of four-panel construction. Current owners, Gail and Dave Yorkston, offered their home for the Historical Society's house tour in 2003, and students from the Academy for Visual and Performing Arts presented a living history.

The History of Tea by Pam Hance

The gentle rustle of a breeze whispered to the tops of the tall, white-flowered evergreens surrounding the gazebo, a portable but lavish shelter occupied by Emperor Shen Nung as he toured a distant, mountainous region of the realm. Like tiny tongues eager to share a novel tale, the fragrant leaves snapped from the tips of their branches and rushed upon air, through the billowing silk curtains of the emperor's quarters, into the pot of boiling water tended by the servant in accordance with the health conscious ruling of his master. Noticing the leaves had turned the water a sepia hue, the emperor, a scientist ahead of his time, was compelled to take a sip of the intriguing liquid. For the first time, the message of teatime's grace and refreshment was revealed.

This emperor and his tealeaves, like King Arthur and his sword, and Johnny and his apple seeds, are legendary, handed down from Chinese sources that

date back to 2737 BC, but disputed and dispelled by scholars of history. There is no debate, however, that the tiny leaf was destined to play a supporting role in the evolution of society, economy, culture and revolution.

Most people associate teatime with England, but actually the island nation was ten years behind the Europeans in acquiring this "impertinent novelty of the century". The queen's East India Company trailed behind Holland and Spain in establishing trade with the East. Before this expensive commodity arrived on the English scene, the people, even Queen Elizabeth I, had to be content to wash down breakfast with a gallon of beer. Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England between 1649 and 1658, also caused further delay by preventing Dutch ships from entering English harbors. Although the first samples of tea reached England around 1653, it wasn't until

1658 that tobacconist and coffeehouse owner, Thomas Garway, first offered it to England. The popularity of tea swept the country with Beatle mania velocity and an English tradition was born. By the early 1700's, English ships were carrying an average of 240,00 pounds per shipload, a cargo enjoyed by all levels of society and offered to visitors at any hour of the day.

Charles II, who had spent his childhood of exile in The Hague, and his wife Catherine popularized the trend once Cromwell was in his grave and the Stuarts were restored to the English throne. Initially, the exorbitant price of tea leaves (over one hundred shillings per pound) limited its consumption to the royal family and the aristocracy. In fact, the imported porcelain pots, bowls, storage jars and the tealeaves were not kept in the kitchen, but on shelves in the lady's private closet, or receiving room. When visitors arrived, it was the serving woman who brought the silver pot of boiling water, but it was the lady who handled the tea.

The Victorian tea party gradually developed as dinner began to be served later and later in the day. One of Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting, Anna Marie, the 7th Duchess of Bedford, requested that delicate sandwiches be served with her tea to soothe the gnawing hunger that set in between the light-fared, mid-day luncheon and dinner, not served until 7 or 8 PM. Before long, Anna began to share this daily ritual with friends. It wasn't long before invitations to afternoon teas were fluttering from house to house and ladies flocked to social gatherings that were as much about conversation and gossip as delicate refreshments. Eventually, Henry James, one of the greatest novelist of modern times, described this emerging tradition most favorably: "There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony as afternoon tea."

Meanwhile, tea had already been brought to the Dutch colonists of New Amsterdam by Peter Stuyvesant as far back as 1650. In fact, at the time it was acquired by England, this small settlement was consuming more tea than all of England. One hundred years later, tea was a fundamental staple of trade between England and her colonies. Inevitably, British tax policies led to a scene well known to all Americans --- 40 to 50 colonial men (among them Samuel Adams and John Hancock) costumed as Native Americans celebrating rebellion against the mother country with the Boston Tea Party. In a sense, the United States of America was christened with tea.

Another American revolution was initiated with a tea party as well. Elizabeth Cady Stanton recalled the symbolic significance of the cup of tea she drank in

July of 1848 while discussing with friends the frustration of women's limited rights, "I poured out...the torrent of my long-accumulating discontent, with such vehemence and indignation that I stirred myself as well as the rest of the party to do and dare anything." Later that year, the Declaration of Sentiments was presented at the first convention of women's rights in Seneca Falls, New York.

Between the three solid dimensions of history's when's, where's and who's, tea has been steeped and pondered by a wide variety of the well-known. Authors and poets have included tea in settings, plot and imagery. Celebrities, comedians and politicians, as well as philosophers and sages, have made their observations. Old wives and characters of fiction have also had their habits and preferences concerning the tradition and the beverage.

Henry Fielding, 17th Century author of Tom Jones, observed, "Love and scandal are the best sweeteners of tea". In the 18th Century, Oliver Wendell Holmes wondered, "Do katydids drink tea?" Before the days of the 16-ounce mugs and James Mitchner novels, C.S. Lewis complained, "You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me". And T. S. Elliot found time "for a hundred visions and revisions, before the taking of toast and tea".

Both Eleanor Roosevelt and Nancy Reagan have been credited with comparing women to teabags: "They don't know how strong they are until they get into hot water". Billy Connolly warns, "Never trust a man who, when left alone in a room with a tea cozy, doesn't try it on". Peter Rabbit was put to bed and given one-tablespoon of chamomile tea, Winnie the Pooh expressed his preference for Proper Tea rather than "...Very Nearly Tea, which you forget about afterwards", Dickens' main character, Barnaby Rudge, ordered, "Polly put the kettle on." and Carroll's Mad Hatter urged Alice to "Take more tea".

Tea's long association with wealth and power, fiction and simple pleasure imbues the leaf with a fascinating aura, an esoteric power and a comfortable familiarity. Isaac D'Israeli, described its infusion into society like this: "The progress of this famous plant has been something like the progress of truth; suspected at first, though very palatable to those who had courage to taste it; resisted as it encroached; abused as its popularity seemed to spread; and establishing its triumph at last, in cheering the whole land from the palace to the cottage, only by the slow and resistless efforts of time and its own virtues." Marlene Dietrich summed up the wide spectrum of its influence with these words:

continued on back...