

**GRANNY'S KITCHEN**

Here is a new feature:

Ever wonder why the results of recipes from the old days were so exceptional? True, they were, in most cases, a lot of work without benefit of the shortcuts we use today. But the finished products were special. Some of these recipes have been passed down from generation to generation.

Here is a cake recipe submitted by Harriet Lawshe Dixon's grandchildren. Harriet, born in 1895, learned this recipe from her mother, Aurilla Lawshe, who raised her six children in Newark, NJ. Harriet married Bryant H. Dixon in 1921 and lived in Boonton Township for over sixty-five years where she was active in the community.

This cake was always a family favorite. The work it entailed meant that it was served only on special occasions. You knew you were in Granny's good graces, if she made it for your birthday!

**Ice Box Cake**

4 eggs separated	1 tsp. salt
1Tbs. lemon juice	1 c cake flour
1 tsp. vanilla	1 ¼ tsp. baking powder
1 c. sugar	

Preheat oven to 325. Line bottoms of two 8 inch round cake pans with wax paper, cut to fit. Beat egg yolks with lemon juice, 1 ½ Tbs. cold water and vanilla until thick and pale. Gradually add ¾ c. of the sugar and blend well. Set aside. Beat the egg whites separately until foamy. Add salt and continue beating until the whites form soft peaks. Gradually add the remaining ¼ c. of sugar and beat until stiff, but not dry. Gently stir a fourth of the whites into yolk mixture. Spoon the remaining whites into the yolk mixture. Sift the flour and baking powder on top. Carefully fold until blended. Spoon into pans and bake for about 25 minutes. Test to see if a straw or toothpick comes out clean. Invert each pan on a rack and let cake cool completely before removing from pan

**Filling:**

2 c. whole milk	1 c. butter softened
1/3 c. sugar	2 tsp cocoa
½ c. flour	

Heat milk until scalding. Mix sugar and flour. Blend a little of the hot milk with sugar and flour. Mix all together until well blended and very smooth. Cool thoroughly. Add a little at a time to softened butter (broken up). Add 2 tsp cocoa to 1/3 of the mixture. Split each layer of the cake. Fill each split with non-chocolate mixture, reserving a small amount for outside of the cake. Fill the middle of the cake with chocolate mixture. Spread the outside of the cake thinly with reserved mixture (cake will show through). Keep in the refrigerator. Cake may be made one or two days ahead of time.

Please thumb through your collection of recipes and see if there isn't a favorite you'd be willing to share with the Historical Society. Include a history, if possible, and send it to the Boonton Historical Society, 210 Main Street, Boonton, 07005, Attention: Newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you!

**HOUSE TOUR – 2007**

Back by popular demand, the Boonton Historical Society's house tour will be held in May 2007. We want to feature homes that are representative of the eclectic nature of our town, and we are looking for homes that have historical, architectural and design interest.



If you would like your home to be considered, please contact us at [Boontonthistory@yahoo.com](mailto:Boontonthistory@yahoo.com)

**NOVEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH!**

We hope you have attended and enjoyed our events this year and have liked receiving the Newsletter. We want to you to remain on our mailing list and remind you it is time to renew your membership.

There is no charge for our afternoon and evening programs, our summer walking tours are free to members and members are invited to previews of new exhibits.

All events are run by volunteers, and funds are raised through donations, various fund-raising events and from our membership dues. Please help us continue providing and expanding our service to the community.



# Gem of the Mountains

The Newsletter of the Boonton Historical Society and Museum

September 18, 2006

210 Main Street, Boonton, New Jersey 07005 ♦ (973) 402-8840 ♦ [www.boonton.org](http://www.boonton.org) ♦ [Boontonthistory@yahoo.com](mailto:Boontonthistory@yahoo.com)

**DINNER WITH GEORGE WASHINGTON**

Jennifer Coultas, with Dean Malissa as George Washington.

An authentic colonial menu enhanced the dinner on September 8 at the Columbia Inn in Montville, jointly sponsored by the Historical Societies of Boonton, Montville Township and Parsippany. Costumed guest acted as well known citizens and cheers from each table welcomed General George Washington to the dinner.

The general spent time at each table

discussing events of colonial times, including the arrival of French General Rochambeau, who came through New Jersey on his way to meet with General Washington and ultimately claim victory over the English at Yorktown. This year marks the two hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of Rochambeau's march through our area.

**EVERETT HUGHES DONATION!**

Historical Society member, Everett Hughes, now living in Georgia, brought Boonton's history to light when he donated several items to our museum. Included was an old bottle marked G.M. Hockler, Boonton, N.J. from that establishment on



Items donated by Everett Hughes.

Cedar Street and a partially filled bottle of glycerin with a label from the R. E. Hurley Pharmacy at 203 Main Street, which reads in part "... a mild and healing application for sores and excoriations of the skin, also useful in earache and deafness." An original ice pick from Dixon Bros. was included in the collection as well.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

We have had a busy year at the Boonton Historical Society and it is amazing to note that we are already discussing plans for our Holiday Open House at the Museum on December 9.

This year we held an afternoon program and a Friday evening event, both of which were very well received, and we intend to do the same next year. We aim to promote history in new and innovative ways and are always looking for new ideas and directions. We look to our membership and to our community to assist us in this endeavor.

To "get the word out" about our activities, we instituted an e-mail news bulletin this year at the suggestion of one of our members. Also based on member feedback, we now have our own e-mail address and have been amazed at the number of people who have found us on the web and sent us many inquiries.

We received a grant from the Town Club of Mountain Lakes, which we are using the purchase audiovisual equipment. We have hosted several children's groups this year and this is an area in which I believe we need to concentrate more of our efforts. An innovative and active educational program for children would promote an early interest in history and bring more visitors to our museum. We would welcome your ideas for an on-going interactive program for children – and for your help in getting this effort underway.

Please try and make time to join us in an active capacity, I am sure you will find it extremely rewarding.

Jennifer Coultas, President

**FEATURED VOLUNTEER: SYLVIA LEWIS**



Sylvia Lewis is one of the museum gift shop's most dedicated volunteers, but her hours of service do not end there. She has guided tours, worked on countless committees and given a warm welcome to museum visitors. Because of Sylvia's alertness, the museum was the recipient of an award given by the Town Club of Mountain Lakes. At her suggestion, we applied for this award and it was granted.

Sylvia moved to Boonton from Princeton when she was three years old. The youngest of five children, she and her siblings went through the Boonton school system. Her family moved to Montville when she was in the eighth grade.

After working as a secretary for businesses in the Boonton area, Sylvia got the wanderlust while working for Reaction Motors in Denville. This company was developing the X 15 Rocket Engine, and Sylvia decided she had to go to Cape Canaveral (as it was then called) to get a job in the space industry. When she was unable to find employment there, she took a job with Hewlett-Packard in Orlando, FL. She transferred to NJ with the company and worked in Paramus for six years.

Although she made another career move by opening a small restaurant in Melrose FL, she could not get Boonton out of her system and returned where she now resides one block from where she lived with her family years ago.

The Boonton Historical Society and Museum is so fortunate to have Sylvia on its team of outstanding volunteers!

**BOONTON DAY! - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 -**

Once again it is Boonton Day and the Historical Society will host a booth on Main Street. Come and visit us, we'll be right outside the Upper Crust Restaurant. We have information on our upcoming events - the Cemetery Tour, our October and November evening programs, as well as reservation forms for our Afternoon Tea (AND a free pen to complete it!!). Our booth display will feature pictures of old Main Street - take a trip down memory lane and see if you recognize some of the featured photographs.

The Museum and Gift Shop at 210 Main Street will also be open 12-4 p.m. on Boonton Day - stop by and enjoy some homemade cookies and lemonade!

**MARIETTA H. CRANE WOODRUFF - BOONTON'S FIRST WOMAN PHYSICIAN**

When Marietta H Crane Woodruff graduated from medical school in 1874, there were less than two hundred and fifty women in this country with medical degrees and she became one of a very few women to start a practice.



It was not until after her marriage in 1861 to Christopher D. Woodruff, Jr. and the births of three children that she entered the New York Medical College for Women in 1872. Each year's course of lectures ran for twenty-eight weeks at a cost of \$60 a student. There was a fee of \$10 for a diploma and another fee should a student elect to have hospital experience at near-by Bellevue Hospital.

Dr. Woodruff graduated at the head of her class in 1874 and began a general practice in Boonton. Her practice included homeopathy and obstetrics, and she was the family doctor for many Boonton residents. Her patients remember her as a stocky woman, very sure of herself commanding the confidence of her patients.

Dr. Woodruff was the daughter of Judge Benjamin Crane and his second wife, Barbara. Very little is known about Dr. Woodruff's early life and schooling. Presumably she attended one of the local schools either on Horseneck road or in Pine Brook.

For about sixty-five years, the Woodruff residence stood on Washington Street near Monroe Street. In 1930, the house was moved across Washington Street and now faces Monroe Street.

**NEW SERVICE OFFERED BY THE BOONTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Do you own an historic house in town and would like to know more? We now are able to offer research assistance at varying levels. Depending on the age of your home and your interest, we offer three types of research assistance. Fees are based on the amount of time taken to locate the appropriate information and are therefore presented as a fee range. The results are published in a coffee table album and make a wonderful gift for family and friends.

- Map Searches \$50 - \$100
- Map & Title Searches \$125 - \$300
- Census Searches \$25 per census

For more detailed information contact Gail Yorkston at 973-335-9059.

**- CALENDAR OF EVENTS -**

**AFTERNOON & EVENING PROGRAMS**

<b>2006</b>	October 9	<b>"The Witches of Salem, Massachusetts"</b> The Boonton and Montville Historical Societies will present a joint program featuring Karen Sue Hybertsen, Ph.D. Pastor of the Ridgeview Community Church. Dr. Hybertsen's talk will delve into the issues that drove the witch craze involving property, power, gender and religion. This program is free to the public. Refreshments will be served.	Montville Senior House, Main Road, Montville	7:30 p.m.
	November 15	<b>Annual Membership Meeting and Program</b> Paul Werner recalls the Boonton Centennial celebrations with a slide presentation. A brief membership meeting will precede the presentation, and refreshments will be served.	Boonton Senior Center	7:30 p.m.
<b>2007</b>	January 17	<b>"An Entertaining Journey through American History"</b> Phillip Lester, Guitarist	Boonton Senior Center	2:30 p.m.
	February 15	<b>"Boonton in World War II"</b>	Boonton Senior Center	2:30 p.m.
	March 15	<b>"Famous New Jersey Photographers"</b> Gary Saretzky	Montville	7:30 p.m.
	April 18	<b>"Eleanor Roosevelt"</b> Presented by American Historical Theatre		2:30 p.m.

**CHANGING EXHIBITS**

**Museum is open Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and by appointment. Free parking in the rear of building.**

<b>2006</b>	Thru October 28	<b>History of the Boonton Fire Department</b> The history of the Boonton Fire Department as depicted in photographs and artifacts from the past. Learn about the department's illustrious contributions to our Town.
	October 28 thru Feb '07	<b>Boonton Police Department</b>

**OTHER EVENTS**

<b>2006</b>	October 7 (rain date, October 14)	<b>Cemetery Tour at the Boonton Avenue cemetery</b> The Boonton Historical Society will host an interpretive walk through the Boonton Avenue cemetery featuring important people in Boonton's history. Come meet some of Boonton's prominent citizens of the 1800's: Abolitionists, Civil War veterans, a vegetarian, a state senator and many more! Cookies and cider afterward at the Historical Society.	Tour begins at 1 p.m.
	October 28 & November 18	<b>Afternoon Tea at the Museum</b> Dr. and Mrs. John Taylor will again host the Boonton Historical Society's popular afternoon teas - so popular, in fact, the last two year have been sold out and many were disappointed. Tickets are \$20 and can be reserved by calling 973-316-0976 or e-mailing boontonhistory@yahoo.com.	Seatings at 12:30 and 3:00 p.m.
	December 9	<b>Holiday Open House at the Museum</b> Come join us for good food, good company and good music. The Bell Choir of the Presbyterian Church of Whippany will be featured.	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.