



September 2007

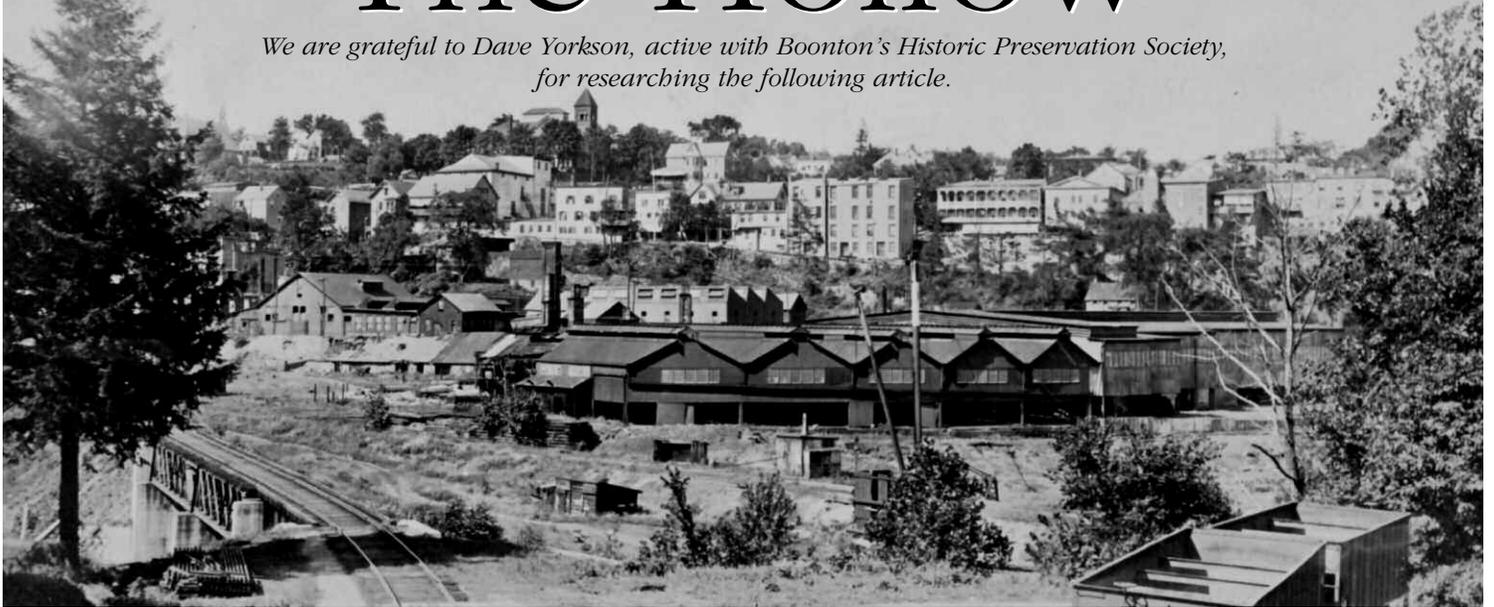
Gem of the Mountains

The Newsletter of the Boonton
Historical Society and Museum

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The Hollow

*We are grateful to Dave Yorkson, active with Boonton's Historic Preservation Society,
for researching the following article.*



Last spring The Boonton Historical Society blanketed the town with information regarding the proposed development by Elite Properties of the storied area of town, known as The Hollow. Because The Hollow is the site of Boonton's historic Ironworks beginnings The Historical Society is concerned with its preservation.

The original proposal by Elite for a two hundred and sixty-four multi-building seven story condominium complex with a road crossing the river on the old trestle past the historic turntable and out to Morris Avenue drew immediate criticism from many residents at a meeting in Town Hall of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. The proposal required a zoning change from industrial to residential. A vote to refer the project to the Planning Board was defeated.

At a subsequent meeting at Town Hall, Elite Properties presented a modified proposal: A condominium complex of two buildings, each five stories high, with one hundred and forty-eight units. As a result of the modifications, which include the elimination of the Morris Avenue access, and the reduction of units, the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen voted to refer the proposal to the Planning Board.

When the issue was brought to the Boonton Main Street organization, the group's trustees were unable to reach a consensus. The President of this organization, Harold Johnson, suggested at the next meeting of the Board of Alderman, a committee be formed to meet with the Development Opportunities Interagency/Implementation Team or DOIT.

As a result, on August 21 local officials, including the Mayor, two Alderman, two representatives from Boonton Main Street and two people from Elite Properties, met with the DOIT team for an on-site inspection followed by a meeting with town officials with their recommendation.

It was the general consensus of the DOIT team that a zoning enabling Elite Properties to develop would be beneficial to the town. Randy Brockway, co-author of "The Rockaway River and its Treasured Resources" has been commissioned by Elite Properties to act as an intermediary between the developer and the town. He stresses the plan must retain the area's history.





A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We shall soon be concluding another year of activities and installing a new slate of officers for the next two-year term. I hope you will join us at our membership meeting on November 15th, meet our new president and hear about our programs for the coming year.

An integral part of our ability to succeed is the willingness of many volunteers to participate in our various programs. I want to thank all of you for supporting us and for helping us to keep history alive in our community. We should contribute to recording history because everyone is important and has had important experiences in life. I urge you to record your memories and pass them along to your children and grandchildren and to share them with the community. Remember to document your photographs so that succeeding generations will recognize friends and relatives and will be able to accurately date occasions from the past.

Once again we shall be seeking the assistance of our members to help us in the many endeavors we have planned for the next year. We are able to present programs and events with monies from our fund raisers and our membership dues. Remember to renew your membership and to introduce your friends and family members to the Society. There are many benefits to be gained from volunteer work and involvement in the community. I hope you will join us in making this another successful year.

Don't forget to stop by our booth on Boonton Day.

Jennifer Coultas
President

FEATURED VOLUNTEER: HERB GOLDENBERG

As Volunteer Chairman of the Boonton Historical Society, Herb Goldenberg's duties are many. He staffs and schedules the volunteers at the museum, arranges the annual Volunteer Dinner, helps members with various exhibits and Christmas decorating and is called upon to use his expertise as a florist for the House Tours.



This year will be the Society's third annual Cemetery Walk, to be held on October 13, 2007 at the Boonton Avenue cemetery at 1 p.m. This event was conceived by Gail Yorkston and Herb three years ago, and together they conduct the tour.

Herb moved to Boonton in 1960 to be a designer of ladies' handbags. He has had three careers: designer, florist and bandleader. Many of us have enjoyed his music at special events, and used his services when he was the proprietor and owner of Bill's Florist in Del's Village.

Herb has five children, seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter. He is a past president of the Boonton area Chamber of Commerce, Del's Village Merchants' Association and The Boonton Jewish Center (Temple Beth Shalom). He has been a Boonton Rotarian for thirty-one years and founded Boonton's original Community Day with Bob Kane and Marilyn Nolan.

How fortunate the Boonton Historical Society and Museum is to have Herb Goldenberg on its team. His talents and enthusiasm are indispensable!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT BOONTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The following officers and trustees are presented by the nominating committee to be voted upon by the membership at the Annual Meeting, which will be held on November 11, 2007 at the Senior Center in Boonton at 7:30 p.m.

OFFICERS:

President	Jayne Januszanis
Vice President	Jennifer Coultas
Treasurer	Barbara Laurenzi
Recording Secretary	Margaret Gilmer
Corresponding Secretary	Mary Champenois*

NEW TRUSTEES:

Daniel Clark* Joy Devincenzi* Mary Champenois*

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Barlak

Ellen Dixon

Herb Goldenberg

Pam Hance

Jayne Januszanis

* New members

Nominating Committee, 2007 - 2008



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jonnie Melillo Clason writes that her eighty-nine-year-old father was recently featured as a hometown hero in "The Bayonet" (www.the-bayonet.com).

The youngest of five children born to Italian immigrants in Boonton, Vincent was only two months old when his

mother died during the flu epidemic of 1918. He lived in an orphanage until he was twelve years old, and his remarried father claimed him.

Happily married for over sixty years to Frankie, who died in 2005, Vincent served two adventurous and distinguished tours of duty as a master sergeant in the army. He now lives with his daughter, Jonnie, in South Columbus, Georgia.



My name is Lynn Palmatier and I am researching my family. I was told that my grandmother Fredericka Speidel (also spelled Spidel) owned and operated the Boonton Inn in Boonton, NJ until she and my grandfather, Jesse T. Soules, were married in 1914 at Our Lady Of Mount Carmel Church. My grandfather stopped at the inn on his way to and from Sullivan County, NY, where he worked and lived.

I am interested in any information or pictures regarding my heritage. After their marriage my grandparents moved to New Brunswick where my mother was born.

I would appreciate it if you could provide information. I do not know about the disposition of the inn after my grandmother left. The Bowden (twins) and family were also mentioned when the family talked about New Jersey. Any help would be appreciated.

Fredericka Speidel is in black in the middle of the picture



FEATURED RECIPE

This recipe is submitted by Joy Devincenzi and was passed down to her from her grandmother and great grandmother. Joy's grandmother came to the United States from England about 1890 as an infant.

The first time Joy had cranberry torte was in her grandmother's home, and she was told it was a favorite of her grandmother's when her mother made it for her.

Cranberry Torte

2 1/4 c. flour - sifted	1 c. dates (cut in pieces)
1/2 tsp. salt	1c. fresh cranberries
1 c. sugar	Grated rind of 1 orange
1 tsp. baking powder	2 eggs
1 tsp. baking soda	1 c. buttermilk
1 c. walnuts	1/4 c. Oil (add more, if needed, to achieve thick pouring consistency)

Sift together flour, salt, sugar baking powder and baking soda.
 Stir in nuts, dates, and cranberries
 Combine in a separate bowl beaten eggs, oil and buttermilk.
 Add liquids to flour mixture
 Stir until blended
 Pour into a greased tube or bundt pan and bake
 For one hour at 350 degree oven.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 12, 2007 Program "Ichabod Crane and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow",
Senior Center - 7:30 p.m.

October 13, 2007 Cemetery Tour - Boonton Avenue Cemetery - 1:00 p.m.

October 20, 2007 Afternoon Tea at the Museum - 12:30 and 3:00 p.m.
Two Seatings.

November 15, 2007 Annual Membership Meeting and Program - Senior Center
7:30 p.m. "Portraits of Old Boonton" - Slide Show

November 17, 2007 Afternoon Tea at the Museum - 12:30 and 3:00 p.m.
Two Seatings

December 7, 2007 Friday Evening at the Museum - Holiday Open House , 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Refreshments and entertainment
featuring The Bell Choir of the Presbyterian Church, Whippany

January 16, 2008 Program - Feather Schwartz Foster, "Famous first Ladies"
Senior Center - 2:00 p.m.

February 20, 2008 Program - William Greenberg - Senior Center - 2:30 p.m.
Slide show presentation of the Morris County Traction Co.,
which operated the trolley cars that ran through our town a hundred years ago.

March 10, 2008 Program - Gary Saretzky - Montville Senior Center , 7:30 p.m.
"Nineteenth-Century New Jersey Photographers"

March 19, 2008 Appraisal Evening - Senior Center - 7:00 p.m.
Lynn and Drew Magnusson of Personal Property Consultants will appraise members
items for collectible or Monetary value.

Make your reservations early!

Last year's "Afternoon Tea at the Museum" was an immediate sellout. To be certain you are able to enjoy a selection of scones, sandwiches, cake, live music, costumed hosts and tea-leaf readings, make your reservations early.

Tickets are \$25.00, with a discount of \$5.00 for tickets purchased early (call for information). Seatings will be at 12:30 and 3:00 p.m. on October 20th and November 17th.

An heirloom recipe book featuring many items from our Afternoon Tea at the Museum is now on sale in the gift shop. Remember to pick up your copy - an excellent gift idea at \$5.00 each.

210 Main Street, Boonton
973-316-0976
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Boonton Fire Department Makes Donation to the Museum

The Boonton Fire Department has given the museum a DVD player, a great addition in helping with future exhibits and programs.

*Our thanks to the
department and
to Chief Herbert.*