

# Gem of the Mountains

Winter 2009 • Edition I

The Boonton Historical Society & Museum



## Outgrowing The Little Red Schoolhouse

*Extracted from "The Boonton years 1867 to 1967"  
By Pearl Clark*

Boonton's school system has a long and imposing history going back to 1831 when the New Jersey Iron Company, in the same year it rolled its first iron, provided a school for the people in the settlement of Boonton Falls. Taught by Miss Dean, whose salary was paid by the Company, school was held in part of a dwelling on Plane Street, below the spot where Soldiers Monument now stands. The following year, again with the help of the New Jersey Iron Company, a school building was erected at the corner of Cedar and Liberty Streets, and here for 20 years the children of the mill workers attended classes. This second schoolhouse stood amid fine trees near a brook, at the top of a hill – a situation which sometimes on snowy winter days tempted the children to turn over their benches and use them as sleds. Issac S. Lyon taught here in

1834 and the last teacher was Marcus W. Martin, whose annual salary in 1852 was \$350.

With the building of a new, two-story brick schoolhouse in 1852, a block away, the old frame structure was sold and eventually altered to

become a dwelling. This brick school, sometimes called Boonton Academy, was the original one at the School Street site. It stood in a grove of oaks facing the school green, a landmark on its lofty site. More important, it was a landmark in education in the County, for through the efforts of John L. Kanouse it was the first, and for many years the only, free school in Morris County.

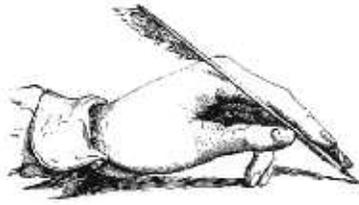


*Old Schoolhouse No. 6*

*Photograph by Jennifer Coultas*

Another school, on property now occupied by the house at 610 Lathrop Avenue has been serving South Boonton, which was in Pequannock District No. 6, since 1844. In 1868, the school lot was sold to

*Continued on page X*



# Letters to the Editor

Our article on the recently demolished Kramer house, published in the November 2008, issue, generated a lot of interest. Following is commentary and information from David Yorkston. Additional photographs of the Kramer house were submitted by Steven Stross.

I read the Historical Society's recent newsletter with great interest. It is, as usual, quite fascinating. In particular, I focused on the article regarding the demolition of the Charles Kramer House on Fanny Road. Here is some info about that house and other sites that the Historic Preservation Commission tried to protect in the early 1990's.

The commission was first formed in 1990 by a Town ordinance and was charged with identifying historic sites that merit protection. We used the Morris County Heritage Commission's book that was referred to in the article as our guide. We carefully looked at each listing and said yea or nay to them. Some were omitted from our recommendations because they were already in such poor state of repair that they were no longer worth saving. Others had been already demolished or severely disfigured. However, we still came up with a long list of homes we deemed worthy of preservation. The Charles Kramer House was among them.

We held a public meeting to discuss what we had done and how protection would be accomplished through a new Town ordinance. Many of the individuals whose homes were on our proposed list to be protected expressed concern that the commission would force them to paint their home every 3 years, change the color of their home, prohibit all future changes or additions, and other similar false informa-

tion promulgated by those who opposed the establishment of historic districts and sites.

Despite opposition, a compromise was reached and a new ordinance was passed in 1992 establishing local historic sites and districts and the guidelines under which the commission would operate. The two sites named were the train station (now Switches) and the Miller-Kingsland House. In addition, the Church /Birch Street Ironworkers Residential Historic

District as well as the Main Street Commercial Historic District were named. The first three were already on the State and National Registers and the Main St. district had been certified as eligible for listing.

As you may be aware, only local listing can actually protect a site from disfiguring alterations or demolition by the owner.

State & National Register listing protects a site against acts performed by governments (Federal, State or local) but not against acts performed by the owners of properties. Local listing can cause the owners actions to be reviewed and may proscribe such actions if deemed too intrusive on the historic character of the site. (Local listing is what recently protected the Miller-Kingsland House from demolition. Such action requires a permit and the application for a demolition permit would have required review.)

This is a long way to tell you that the Charles Kramer house was not included in the list of historic sites protected by our local ordinance. We have



*Photographs by Steve Stross*

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only ourselves to blame. It was a lovely home. If it had been among the protected homes it may still be standing. What a pity.

The other problem facing preservationists in Boonton is the lack of enforcement of our property maintenance code. This is evidenced by the same example... The Charles Kramer House. If the property maintenance code had been enforced, it is quite possible that the deterioration of the Charles Kramer House would have been prevented and there would have been no need to demolish the structure, as was the case.

I wish to thank you for your article on this subject which will go a long way toward raising the consciousness of the public so that Boonton's historic landmarks are protected in the future.



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## Ernie Piscitello writes:

Thank you for a very nice Edition II. A very minor addition to the story of the house on Fanny Rd: I was graduated from John Hill Elementary School in 1947, and I'm pretty sure that Betty Geiger was in our graduating class. In my early years at (the old) Boonton High School, perhaps 1947 or 1948, I was invited by Betty to a party in that house. I don't remember too much about the house, except that it was large and

ornate. Betty graduated BHS with our class in 1951, but I've lost track of her.

Also, when I worked for my uncles, Tony and Joe Marcello, at Marcello's Strauss Auto Parts Store/Sports Shop on Main St, they had made, and sold, "Boonton, Gem of the Mountains" metal license plate brackets, which I'm sure I have somewhere in my collection of memorabilia (junque).

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## Letter from Marjorie Tindall

Dear Jennifer

My husband and I attended the lecture on Boonton rail history this past week. While waiting for the lecture to begin we found the November issues of the Gem of the Mountains featuring an article on the Victorian Home on Fanny Road.

This home has special meaning to us as it was our first "home" after we were married 55 years ago today. As does Claire Hance, I remember well both the Geiger and Braunholers. I started attending the First Reformed Church at the age of six. Mrs. Geiger, who had a beautiful singing voice, was also one of my Sunday School teachers and encouraged me as I got older to also teach.

When she heard I was to be married and were looking for an apartment, she offered us rooms in her lovely old home. We moved into an apartment on the second floor where her father also lived. Mr. Heitmann, known by most as Opa, didn't speak much English but was a sweet kind man. He loved working on the grounds and I can still see him crouched over the garden beds weeding and trimming with his trusty little pen knife. We lived there until October 1955.

We enjoyed the article about the home but were saddened by its demise. Thought you might enjoy a little human interest story as it relates to what we called "The Geiger House" It sure brings back many fond memories.

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# Two of Boonton's historic churches underwent renovations.

## St. John's Episcopal Church

This building is Boonton's most important architectural landmark. St. John's was organized in 1856 and met for a year in the First Free Congregational Church at the corner of Main and William Streets and then for five or six years in the former Session House on Church Street. In 1863 the Iron Company donated both the land and \$1000 for a building fund. A design by Richard Upjohn of New York, the most distinguished ecclesiastical architect in the country, was chosen for the building. Upjohn built more than 40 churches most of them Episcopal.

Not only is the building itself important, this church has three stained glass windows by Tiffany along with seven others from artisans such as Hardman in Birmingham, England and D'Acenzo in Philadelphia. After 80 years the windows had warped, the leading had grown suspect and many were in need of cleaning. A \$40,000 grant from the Morris County Historical Preservation Trust Fund, together with \$10,000 resulting from the fund raising efforts of parishioners, financed the window restoration. The window over the entranceway depicting the parable of the Good Samaritan was the first to be finished. In 2008, work began on the Tiffany altar window, depicting Jesus raising Jairus' daughter from the dead. The three diamond-shaped windows above the altar, weighing 20 lbs. each, and one of the three lancelets below were painstakingly removed and transported to Rockaway where experts in stained glass flattened,

reinforced and cleaned the glass. It has now been reinstalled. Two other windows were also removed and repaired and all will receive additional reinforcements in the spring including the third Tiffany, installed in the 1920's depicting Jesus with a kneeling soldier.



*Photograph by A. Lloyd Charlton*

The first wedding at St. Johns was that of John Wootton to Jane Crane on April 21, 1857.

The first confirmation class of five young men and women included Anne B. Esten, Jesse McNair, Francis C. Norris, Emma Norvis and Edwin Bishop. The first child baptized was Adelaide A. Anthony on December 8, 1856. Tragically, the first funeral was of the same child on March 17, 1857.

Thanks to Tim O'Donnell who coordinated the window work at St. John's.

## First Presbyterian Church

Extracted from  
"The Boonton Years 1867-1967"

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church in 1907, the Rev. George Law Richmond presented the earlier history of the church. "I have been told," he said, "that the first communion service was celebrated beneath a great oak tree that stood on the site of this present church."

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The oaks were fine during the summer of the church's organization in July of 1832, but, as winter approached, it was evident that a church was needed. The Iron Company offered a gift of land and the church was built for \$2,000, ready for use in the spring of 1833.

In 1836, the first manse was built at the corner of Brook and Cedar streets. The house was later moved from the lot to stand further up the hill on Cedar Street. 1837 was not a good year. Banks and men failed, mills and factories shut down. Pew rents were hard to get and the new church had to part with its minister, the Rev. Joseph Vance, who had been receiving \$400 yearly.

For a year and a half the church was without a pastor. In May, 1839, Mr. Johnston was called and Mr. Van Houten was also voted for at the same parish meeting. Van Houten received about a third of the votes cast. This was the time when the slave question was a sore point and Mr. Van Houten's supporters were ardent Abolitionists. When Mr. Johnston was elected pastor, several men withdrew and formed a Congregational Church, calling it the Free Church. Mr. Van Houten was their pastor.

A new manse was purchased in 1840 to replace the one sold during the bad years immediately preceding.

In 1844 the pastorate of the Rev. Daniel E. Megle began. He served the church until 1872. In 1859 the congregation built a new church at a cost of \$7,500 and added wings on either side soon after. The Rev. Thomas Caster was minister from 1872 to 1894 and in

1889 the old church was bought back again and renovated to use as a Sunday School.



The Rev. George L. Richmond was called in 1901 and during his ministry a poll was taken among the congregation in 1914 to see who was in favor of free pews. The suggestion was defeated.

In 1947 it was decided to buy a new manse and remodel the former manse for part of the church school. The Chapel and recreation hall was remodeled and the interior of the church redecorated. A new manse was built on the former John Hill property in 1955.

On the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the church in 2007, the building was in need of repairs from top to bottom and the congregation embarked upon an enormous project to raise funds for its repair.



*Photographs courtesy of St. John's Episcopal Church*

In 2008 work began on the church spire. The outside façade was rotten in places and needed to be replaced with new slats and shingles. Every 10 – 15 years, depending on weathering, several coats of special weather proof paint are required. The lighting needed to be updated and in total more than \$85,000 was required for painting and repairs. Steeple-

jacks from Ohio were employed to work on the steeple repairs and this is only a part of the restoration needed in the continuing program to refurbish the interior so that it may be preserved for future generations.

Our thanks to Dan Carhart for his help with this article.

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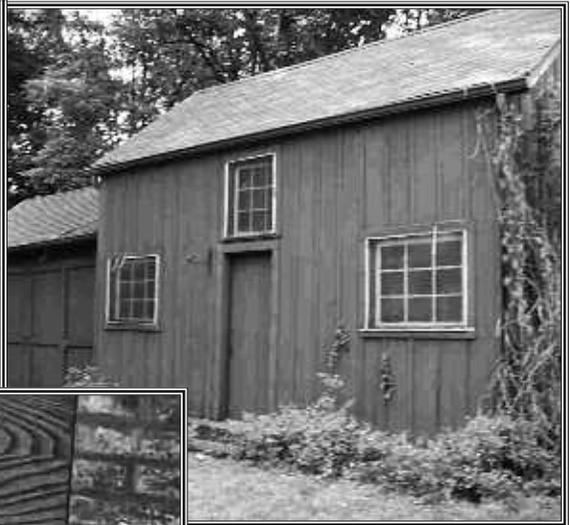
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# Grants Awarded for Miller-Kingsland Property.

Located at the lower end of Vreeland Avenue, this property was originally part of a tract of 231 acres purchased in 1728 for £85. It sits on 2.5 acre wooded lot and includes an historic frame house dating from 1740, and a barn. It is the oldest house recorded in Boonton and is listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places. The property sits on a beautiful

stone (see photo ); the original crane and fire back in the living room fireplace and an original staircase railing, wood trims, and wide plank floors.

In an effort to preserve this property the Town of Boonton has been successful in securing a grant of \$1 million from the Morris County Preservation Trust and a further \$300,000 in Green Acres funding. Mayor Wekilsky, quoted in the Neighbor News, said “this is the



wooded landscape with a stream flowing through it.

Only three families have owned this house, each of whom added to the structure. The original one room Dutch Wing purchased by Johannes Miller in 1740; federal addition with gambrel roof by Issac Kingsland c1798, and the latest addition by Mae and Alex Fowler who purchased the house in 1938

Much of the original fabric of the home still exists: Dutch architecture, which is very rare in the northeastern United States; a large cooking fireplace and beehive oven, with date



The oldest house recorded in Boonton and listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places.

first time anyone here can recall the Town of Boonton getting a return on the county open space tax that we all have been paying for many years.”

A detailed history of this house, the original owners and their descendents is recorded by Alex Fowler in his book ‘Splinters from the Past’, Although this fascinating book of local architecture

is out of print, the Historical Society has several copies for sale.

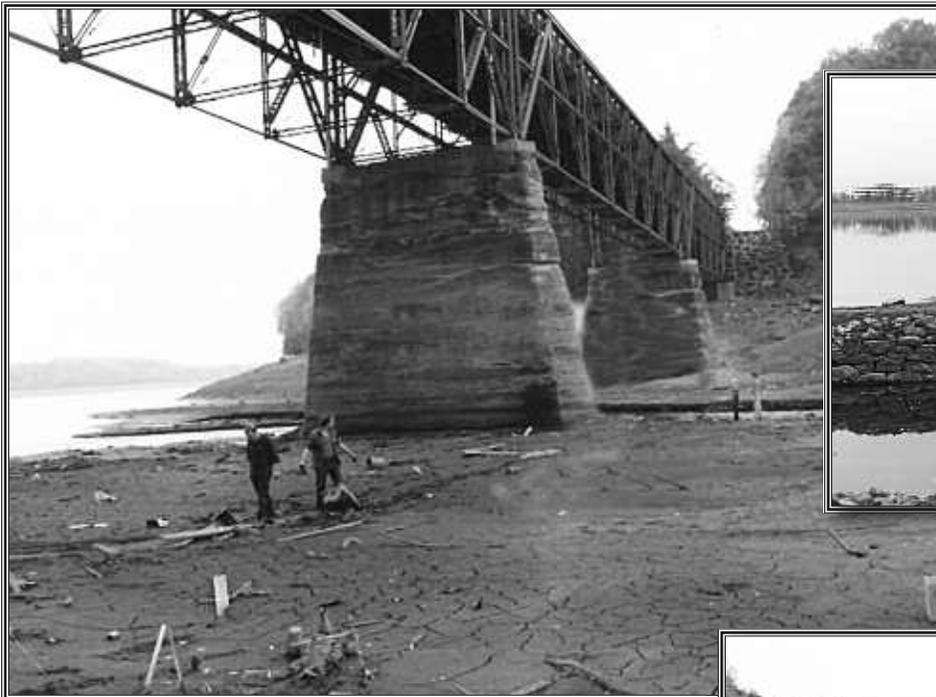
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# Boonton Under The Reservoir.

The drought of 1980 provided an opportunity to put to rest some of the ghostly stories about the town that exists under the reservoir, or the church bells ringing under the reservoir and other well worn tales about the original town. What you can see in the photographs below (top left to right) is the extent of the drought; debris that accumulated under the bridge which was a big draw for explorers with metal detec-

tors (some old horseshoes and, it was rumored, some old coins were found amongst the engine parts and other litter tossed from the bridge); the stone outline of the old road that ran from the south part of the reservoir and ended near the bridge on Rt. 202; and the remnants of a building foundation. Pictured are Andy Barlak, trustee of the Society, and Ed Dedominics.



*Photographs courtesy of Steve Stross*





*The old Boonton Times Building on Main Street - 2008*

# Read All About It: More Pages From the Past

**Continuing our series on the early years of Boonton as described in *The Boonton Times* of 1941 which offered readers glimpses into the early history (circa 1830) of the town.**

At first supplies were brought from Parsippany; there was mail only three times a week. A journey to New York was a fearsome thing and not to be lightly undertaken when it had to be made all the way by stage. Some women made the journey twice a year to buy clothing and household necessities. Table linen was woven at Hanover probably by Mulfords. Most of the dress goods, shawls, ribbons, laces and fripperies, were bought from peddlers who made regular trips to New York. The trade warranted it and they carried silks of excellent quality and beautiful and expensive shawls. Many a young bride had a fine outfit bought from Issac Bloom, from the father first and later from the son, Issac, who succeeded him.

A stage went from Parsippany to Newark three times a week, driven by Ezra Estler. By him the women sent for many things. He had a wonderful memory. Women all along the route would stop him to send for something. He never made a note of anything to be purchased and he on record as never having forgotten any errand,

Certainly future prices would have flabbergasted the pioneers of 1830. In 1941, a Devil's Food layer cake cost .35 cents and butter cookies were .55 cents a pound. The Denville Shack was selling famous California dinner wines for .49 cents a quart.

**Cottage Bakery and Pastry Shop**  
 119 Boonton Avenue Boonton, N. J.  
 Tel. Bo. 8-0370-R  
 (Member of the New Jersey Bakers Board of Trade)

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*Christmas* **BAKERY SPECIALS**

Frosty Mountain Date and Nut Layers	each	} 35c
DEVIL'S FOOD LAYERS	each	
LIGHT AND DARK FRUIT CAKE, CHRISTMAS WRAPPED		65c and \$1.30
Assorted Tarts	each	} 5c
Chocolate Eclairs	each	
Vanilla Kisses	pkg.	15c
Double Dipped Macaroon Fingers	lb.	60c
Anis Drops	lb.	} 60c
Sweet Pretzels	lb.	
CHECKERED COOKIES	lb.	
Assortment of Butter Cookies	lb.	50c
		20c to \$1.00

1941

In 1948, Cecil's Hair Dresser charged \$6.00 for a brush-curl permanent; cigarettes, including Chesterfield, Old Gold and Raleigh, could be bought for \$1.49 a carton. That same year, The Shirley Shop ran the following advertisement: "You don't need a girdle?" "You don't like a garter belt?" Then you'll be mad about SUSPANTS, the clever new undie you can wear with garters. Never slips off the waist!

1948

**CECIL HAIRDRESSER**



Featuring the new "Brush-Curl" Permanent  
At A Special Budget Price.  
**Complete Head \$6.00**  
**Ends \$5.00**  
808 MAIN STREET  
BOONTON, N. J.  
For Appointment  
Phone Boonton 8-4102

In 1976, Rasmunssen's sold a 12 to 14 pound turkey for .39 cents a pound and a gallon of milk for \$1.49.

1941

**A Dab a Day keeps P.O.\* away!**  
(\*Underarm Perspiration Odor)



**YODORA DEODORANT CREAM**

- Isn't stiff or sticky! Soft—It spreads like face cream.
- is actually soothing! Use right after shaving—will not irritate.
- has light, pleasant scent. No sickly smell to cling to fingers or clothing.
- will not spoil delicate fabrics.

Yet tests in the tropics—made by nurses—prove that Yodora protects under trying conditions. In tubes or jars, 10c, 25c, 60c.  
McKesson & Robbins, Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.

YOU DON'T NEED A GIRDLE?  
YOU DON'T LIKE A GARTER BELT?  
THEN YOU'LL BE MAD ABOUT...



**Suspants**

Blue Swan

THE CLEVER NEW UNDIE YOU CAN WEAR WITH GARTERS... AND NEVER SLIPS OFF THE WAIST!

**Shirley Shops**  
BOONTON DOVER  
POMPTON LAKES, N. J.

STORE HOURS  
Daily 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.  
Friday 9 A. M. to 9 P. M.

1948

In 1957, the Acme sold fancy jumbo shrimp for .99 cents a pound; Cinnamon loaf for .29 cents and two loaves of rye bread for .35 cents. L. S. Taylor on Main Street offered new Spring skirts in gay prints and solid colors for \$1.99. At Ludell's, three piece baby crawler sets were on sale at \$4.99.

In 1965, \$8.95 bought a permanent wave at the grand opening of La Cosmetique Coiffure. Cotton was selling for .37 cents a yard at Newberry's and a jet to Mexico could be hopped for \$254.

**BOONTON STORES** Fri., Mar. 29 Sat., Mar. 30

<p><b>WEEK-END SPECIAL</b></p> <p>ALL METAL WHEELBARROW WITH RUBBER WHEEL Reg. 9.98 <b>7.98</b></p> <p>Boonton Hardware 715 MAIN ST.</p>	<p><b>WEEK-END SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Infant's outfit or girl's outfit <b>CRAWLER SETS</b> Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large Reg. 6.98 <b>4.99</b></p> <p>Ludell's Dep't Store 802 MAIN ST.</p>
<p><b>WEEK-END SPECIAL</b></p> <p>DESK BLOTTERS <b>11c Each 3 for 25c</b></p> <p>Boonton Stationery-Gift Shop 712 MAIN ST.</p>	<p><b>WEEK-END SPECIAL</b></p> <p>POWER LAWN MOWER—22" ROTARY TYPE BUSH &amp; MATTSON CYCLO ENGINE EAS DING <b>79.95</b></p> <p>Marcello Bros. 301 MAIN ST.</p>
<p><b>WEEK-END SPECIAL</b></p> <p>WESTINGHOUSE #5 FLASH BULBS Size of 13 Reg. 1.45 <b>1.18</b></p> <p>Cornelia (Rexall) Pharmacy 323 MAIN ST.</p>	<p><b>WEEK-END SPECIAL</b></p> <p>JUST ARRIVED! 1,000 Yards Better Quality Yard Goods PLAIN and PRINTS Reg. 49c Yard <b>29c Yard</b></p> <p>J. J. Newberry 717 MAIN ST.</p>
<p><b>WEEK-END SPECIAL</b></p> <p>VERNON'S DINNERWARE "Tom O'Shannon" and "Raffia" Pattern—15 pc. Dinner Set Reg. 14.95 <b>7.50</b> (40% Off On Open Stock Pieces)</p> <p>A. Laurenzi 509 MAIN ST.</p>	<p><b>WEEK-END SPECIAL</b></p> <p>IN RESPONSE TO THIS AD BABY GUINEA PKGS — <b>1.50 Each</b></p> <p>Trail's End Pet Supply 804 MAIN ST.</p>
<p><b>WEEK-END SPECIAL</b></p> <p>COATS AND TOPPERS The treatment restores beauty of girl's coat and regains its special finish for quick absorption. In the group you'll find an assortment of latest through styling to choose from. <b>25% Off</b></p> <p>The Laurie Shop 708 MAIN ST.</p>	<p><b>WEEK-END SPECIAL</b></p> <p>NEW SPRING SKIRTS 100 Styles For Cotton and linen, gay prints and solid colors. Size 12-18 Reg. Value List <b>1.99</b> See Your Fashion Dealer</p> <p>L. S. Taylor 613 MAIN ST.</p>

1957

Continued from page I:

## Little Red Schoolhouse

William G. Lathrop for \$200 plus another lot on Lathrop Avenue near Old Boonton Road, to which site the school building was moved. Until 1874 this small school functioned in its new location. In later years it was made into the second story of a house that has now grown to be a four family residence. In fact, the upper rear windows of 319 Lathrop Avenue still have the arched lintels which identify the part of the building that was old Schoolhouse No. 6.



### Class of 1882

Left to right: Ida Struble (Gonzales), Nell Shaw (Mrs. William Salomon), Annie Ball, Jean Carter (Prall), Clara Skellinger (Skellenberger), Dorothy Depoe (Mrs. Thomas Phillips), Lena Patterson (Myers)

Beginning in January, 1875, the Harrison Street School served South Boonton for 54 years. John Hill School, built in 1928 to accommodate the children in rapidly growing South Boonton, was located on Lathrop Avenue at the corner of Maple street. In the meantime the high school population was outgrowing the quarters at School Street. A South Boonton site was chosen on Lathrop Avenue, and here in 1922 the first high school was built. Identified by its fieldstone exterior, it faced a spacious lawn where



### Class of 1905

At School Street main entrance: Back row: William E. Brown, Archibald DeHart, Leroy Coleman, Harry S., Second Row: Ruth Mitchell, May Garrison, Helen Primrose, Cecelia Ralston, Third Row: Herbert Dargue, Carrington MacFarlane, Ned Taylor, Byram Coleman, Front Row: Clara Coleman, Adele Tillotson, Jessie Lobdell, Marquerite Reynar.

Note: LeRoy and Byram Coleman were twins.

graduation ceremonies were held for 37 years. Six rooms were added in 1924. The first principal was George Clark, who also taught Latin.

Parochial classes in Boonton began in 1860 when the Rev. Dominic Castet and later the Rev. Louis Gambosville taught classes in the basement of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. One of the lay teachers was John Holland who later achieved fame as inventor of the submarine. In 1876 these classes were discontinued, to be resumed in the 1880's when the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell assumed charge. A convent was built for them at Birch and Oak Streets.

Diagonally opposite the convent a parochial building was erected in 1891, housing St. Mary's School and an auditorium. The elementary school on Oak street was built in 1926. Beginning in 1946 parochial classes were held under the sponsorship of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, where Msgr. Andrew V. Stefan was pastor for over 34 years.

A rapidly increasing school population following World War II posed new problems for the town. When Boonton High's enrollment continued to grow. After a hotly contested referendum for a new high school was twice defeated in 1958, a third referendum passed overwhelmingly, enabling a new high school to be built in 1959-60. It went into full use in 1961.



## Class Picnic 1899

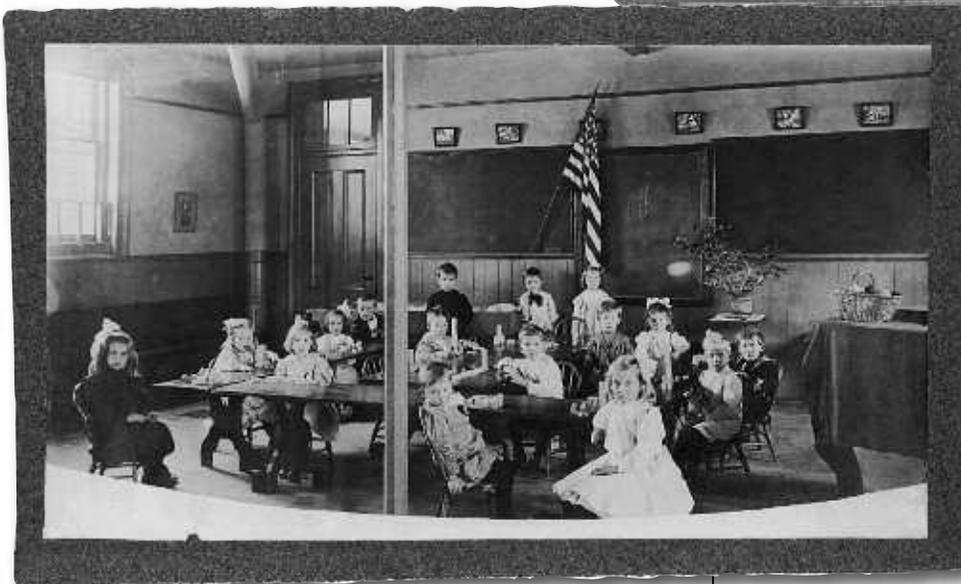
*Barbara Kingsland, Warren Baldwin, George Acki...,  
Maysie Kitchel, Carrie Ward, Margaret Foster,  
Harry..., Philip H..., Janet Carter & Dagmar Megie,  
Maria Carter, Jennie Jenkins, Edna Brown,  
Edna Coe, Carrie Marsh, I. Myers*

*Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. Jarvis and Miss Clark were  
also on the load. We went to Lake Denmark"  
August 18, 1899*

## Editor's Note:

Pearl Clark, a local artist, was instrumental in forming the Sunnybank art group, which was a club of women artists from her neighborhood that included historian Jean Lee, Lois Boyd, Ruth Boyd, and others. The Sunnybank art group had an annual summer art show at the Main Street boardwalk where visitors could vote for their favorite paintings, and the winners won ribbons. The name Sunnybank referred to the original name of the south Boonton area where Pearl lived.

*Due to the age of these photographs, some of which have sustained damage over the years, we are unable, in some cases, to give a complete name for the students pictured.*



## Kindergarten Class of Elsworth Conn 1904-5

In 1851 there were 265 children between the ages of 5 and 18; the first high school graduating class of 1876 consisted of 3 – all girls; in 1920, there were 22 graduates; in 1935 there were 142; in 1960 there were 202 in the last class to graduate from the fieldstone high school. Student enrollment for the year 2005-6 was 640.



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**The Boonton Historical Society & Museum**

210 Main Street  
 Boonton, New Jersey 07005

(973) 402-8840  
 www.boonton.org  
 Boontonhistory@boonton.org

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- Andy Barlak . . . . . Museum Building
- James Kuhnert . . . . . Graphic Design

*Opinions expressed in the Gem of the Mountains are not necessarily those of the society.*



**The Boonton Historical Society & Museum**  
**Our New Exhibit**

**A** new exhibit at the Boonton Historical Society's Museum features a display of women's clothing through the centuries. All the clothing and accessories are from the museum's archives and were donated by townsfolk dating back to the late 1890's. Silks and satins, laces and velvets,

**Women's Wears of Yesteryears.**

all contribute to a colorful display of the artistry involved in the hand sewing of beautiful gowns in years past. The museum is open every Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and during the week by appointment.

**Open Saturdays from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
 and by appointment through April 2009.**

*c 1878 gown worn by Miriam Conn*