



Jamesburg Historical Association

# The Lakeview Record

Volume 2, Number 1 ❁ January, 2005

## 2004: A LOOK BACK

We began the year with the visit to *Lakeview* by President Abraham Lincoln on February 15. We continued to participate in the Memorial Day Parade, Tonkery Day Street Festival, and the horse drawn carriage rides. We provided parking for the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks as a fundraiser, and hosted several of the *Buckleuch to Buckelew* tours sponsored by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, another fund raising opportunity for JHA. We also began to be open on a regular schedule to visitors from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month

We managed to obtain grant funding from the State and County to solve the construction problems and add a handicapped lavatory facility.

We put together and published three booklets: *A Walking Tour of Jamesburg*, *Welcome to Lakeview* by Tom Bodall, and our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet, a collection of memories and pictures from the first days of the Association. The tour booklet and the anniversary book are available for a small price at *Lakeview*.

Buckelew Day was celebrated with the usual flair. We added: Historic Jamesburg Trolley Tours; a presentation funded by the NJ Council for the Humanities entitled "The Gibson Girl Friday Meets the Victorian Lady," a demonstration by Barbara Meyer Darlin on the corseted styles of the era. Kerr's Butterscotch sent us some boxes of butterscotch from their plant in Ontario Canada. it was as delicious as ever. There is a dish of butterscotch candy for sampling in the front parlor if you care to stop in on a Sunday for a taste.

With a little help from Monroe Township and Spotswood High School students, we had a "Haunted House" event at *Lakeview* for Halloween for elementary school children. We ended the year with the house all decked out in Victorian splendor for the annual *Christmas at Lakeview* festivities.

## RAILROAD SOCIETY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY



The Jamesburg Historical Railroad Society is coming up to their Tenth Anniversary. The club grew from an exhibit that Randy Lubrecki and Malcolm Kirkpatrick put together as part of the Christmas at Lakeview celebration in December, 1994. It has since grown and now presents a diorama of the railroad from Jamesburg to South Amboy in the years from 1900 to 1940. If your are interested in the history and development of railroading in Central Jersey, Chuck Bindig would like to hear from you. Contact him at (609) 655-3137.

## 2005: LOOKING AHEAD

Our first event will be **Meet the Presidents**, on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln will be present at an Open House to discuss their times and the problems faced by their administrations on that Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

Lincoln's association with *Lakeview* is through the Buckelew coach that James Buckelew lent Lincoln when he came to Trenton for a speech. George Washington was in the area in the summer of 1778 when he led his troops out of Valley Forge to the Battle of Monmouth. The Continental Army was encamped in Monroe Township prior to the battle. A number of skirmishes took place through Central Jersey leading up to the battle. At the time the property was still in the hands of the Davison family, although the Mill was leased to a miller named Ensley, and the settlement was known as Ensley's Mills.

The Jamesburg High School Alumni Association will begin the renovation of the upstairs room to better display their collection of trophies, yearbooks and photographs from yesterday. They raised over \$7,000 from their members to fund this project.

It has been decided to construct the public restroom facilities in the structure housing the farm museum and blacksmith shop. The Civil War re-enactors (and their wives) who use the grounds for their encampments are looking forward to this improvement. This project will also be underway for this summer.

**Buckelew Day** will be held on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Planning is already underway and we promise there will be even more new activities this year.

## OUR NEW OFFICERS

Election of the 2005 Jamesburg Historical Association officers took place at the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. There were no candidates for the office of President; the Election Committee is still searching for an individual willing to assume the office.

Elected were:

First Vice President: Ronald R. Becker

Second Vice President: Thomas C. Bodall

Treasurer: Chad Hetzell

Recording Secretary: Linda Linke

Corresponding Secretary: Marge Perrine

At the same meeting Stephen Philpitt was appointed Association Legal Advisor and John Tancredi Sergeant-at-Arms. Thanks to our retiring officers for their work! We appreciate your dedication!

### INTRODUCING SAVEHISTORY.JAMESBURG.NET

The Jamesburg Historical Association has proclaimed 2005 as "The Year to Save History: 320 Years in the Making, 1685-2005." 1685 marks the year when the first room of *Lakeview* was constructed. In order to preserve Jamesburg's quickly fading history, a web site has been launched by Borough Historian Tom Bodall. The web site, <http://savehistory.jamesburg.net> features a "wish list" of items that have either been sold on e-Bay or at private auctions that the historical association could not purchase due to lack of funds. The web site also features pictures and descriptions of donated items, information about the association, and the history of Jamesburg.

The Association is asking for residents who reside in Jamesburg or have a Jamesburg connection to look through closets, attics, and drawers for items that pertain to Jamesburg or the immediate Jamesburg area. All the donated items will be placed in displays throughout *Lakeview*.

To donate items and further enhance *Lakeview's* collections, please contact Borough Historian Thomas Bodall at 732-521-2040 (leave message) or by e-mail, [webmaster@jamesburg.net](mailto:webmaster@jamesburg.net). Items may be mailed to the Jamesburg Historical Association, 203 Buckelew Avenue, Jamesburg, NJ 08831. Items may also be dropped off the second and fourth Sunday of each month between 2:00-4:00 p.m. during *Lakeview's* open houses. For more information about the Jamesburg Historical Association, visit <http://www.jamesburghistory.com>.



Front hall cabinet displaying Jamesburg area business memorabilia, past and present.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Meetings are held on the First Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at *Lakeview*. Any one interested in the history of the Jamesburg area is welcome to attend.

*Lakeview* is open to visitors on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Group (10+) tours are available. Please call to schedule an appointment — 732-521-2040 (leave message).

### OUR LATEST ACQUISITION



Linda and Auburn Hudlow of Jamesburg, NJ donated a Singer Sewing machine that was once used by Madeline Sabatino in the clothing factory that was located in the Star Theatre/Elks Club. The machine dates back to 1935 and was produced in Elizabeth, NJ.

### BUSINESSES VISITED

Did you know that Jamesburg is home to almost 100 businesses and professional offices? Neither did the Association until members started visiting them to let them know about us and invite their corporate memberships and/or activity sponsorship. The visits, conducted during the last two weeks of January, were met with interest and promises of involvement in our activities. One thing not surprising to our visitors was that while most of the people we visited knew of *Lakeview*, most had never visited it. We'll be publishing a listing of our new corporate members and sponsors in the next newsletter.

### CURRENT EXHIBITS

Currently we are displaying a collection of business advertising from past and present area business enterprises in the display case in the entry hall. If you have any cards, pens, calendars or pictures of businesses in the area that you would like to donate, we would love to add them to our collection. You can mail them, or drop by on a Sunday afternoon and you can tell us about them.

We are also displaying, in the Louise Kerwin Room, a project done by Third Graders from Mrs. Collura's class at the Kennedy School. They constructed models of businesses in Jamesburg. Part of the collection is also on display at the Jamesburg Library.

### THE LAKEVIEW RECORD

Newsletter of the Jamesburg Historical Association  
203 Buckelew Avenue  
Jamesburg, New Jersey 08831-1642  
732-521-2040

[www.jamesburghistory.com](http://www.jamesburghistory.com)

**Marjorie Perrine**  
Editor

## Membership Application

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS	CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP
<p>I would like to become an <b>annual</b> member:</p> <p>_____ Student \$3.00/year (to age 16)</p> <p>_____ Individual \$20.00/year</p> <p>_____ Family \$30.00/year</p> <p>_____ Patron \$50.00/year</p> <p>Please list names of family members for "Family Memberships."</p>	<p>I would like my corporation to become an annual member:</p> <p>_____ Platinum \$1,000/year</p> <p>_____ Gold \$500/year</p> <p>_____ Silver \$250/year</p> <p>_____ Bronze \$100/year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In-kind donations also appreciated</p>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Names (For Family Membership): \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: JAMESBURG HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
 Mail to: Jamesburg Historical Association, 203 Buckelew Avenue, Jamesburg, NJ 08831-1642

### RECENTLY DONATED ITEMS

The Jamesburg Historical Association would like to sincerely thank the following individuals for contributing toward the expansion of *Lakeview's* collections.

- ◆ Ron Walker of Spotswood, NJ has donated a Perrine's Pontiac envelope dated 1950.
- ◆ Gregory Clark of MD has donated a pen from New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, Jamesburg Dial Cut Over, December 6, 1964.
- ◆ Thelma White of Richmond, VA donated a Forsgate Country Club postcard.
- ◆ Peter Outerbridge of Staten Island, NY donated a Forsgate Country Club postcard.
- ◆ William Holzschuh of Harrison, NJ donated a Forsgate Farms milk bottle.
- ◆ Allan Brown of Monroe Township, NJ donated a 1979 article about the Lincoln Coach, a photograph of the 1939 senior trip to Washington D.C. and a calendar that the Association produced in 1979.
- ◆ Linda and Auburn Hudlow of Jamesburg, NJ donated a Singer Sewing machine that was once used in the clothing factory that was located in the Star Theatre/Elks Club. The machine dates back to 1935 and was produced in Elizabeth, NJ.
- ◆ William Ravitz of Skillman, NJ donated a 1940 Will Rogers Calendar courtesy of Van Liew Motors.
- ◆ Richard and Barbara Reinhardt of Helmetta, NJ donated an 8<sup>th</sup> grade diploma and a perfect attendance award dated 1933.
- ◆ Henry Richards of Jamesburg, NJ donated several record books related to the Jamesburg Odd Fellows, dating from the early 1890s through 1920.

Do you have any Jamesburg artifacts hiding in your house? If you find some, we're interested in them. Give us a call if you find some and want to give them to us.

### HELP OUR BUSINESS COLLECTION GROW

If you are a Jamesburg business owner, have promotional materials from Jamesburg businesses, or know someone who does, please consider donating your items. The association is in search of business cards, magnets, pens, pencils, stationary, pins, envelopes, and correspondence from businesses of today and yesteryear.

If you're in doubt about an item's value, let the Jamesburg Historical Association take a look! For more information or to donate items, contact Borough Historian Tom Bodall by e-mail, [webmaster@jamesburg.net](mailto:webmaster@jamesburg.net), or send items to the mansion at the following address: Thomas C. Bodall, The Jamesburg Historical Association, 203 Buckelew Avenue, Jamesburg, NJ 08831.

### HISTORY TO COME ALIVE IN JAMESBURG



History will be coming alive in Jamesburg on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, between 1:00-5:00 p.m. when the Association hosts "Meet The Presidents" at *Lakeview*. The event will feature reenactors portraying Presidents Washington and Lincoln. Both presidents will speak about his "Jamesburg" connection, Washington's camping in nearby Monroe on his way to the Battle of Monmouth and Lincoln about his trip to Trenton in 1861 and riding in James Buckelew's coach from the train station to the state house. The restored coach is on display in *Lakeview*. In addition to meeting with the presidents, visitors will be able to view the Jamesburg Train Room containing a scale model display of early twentieth century Jamesburg, tour the mansion, talk with Revolutionary and Civil War reenactors, and view a slide presentation of Jamesburg of yesteryear. Admission is free; free will offerings will be graciously accepted.

### A PEEK AT THE PAST

In January 1905 the world was shocked to learn of the defeat of the Czar's troops by the Japanese Third Army. The Russian garrison of five thousand troops, led by General Stiessel, had surrendered when it became apparent there was no relief on the way. Shocked and demoralized by their defeat at the hands of the Japanese, the Russians were escorted to the railroad station for their long journey back to Moscow. The General spoke of his faithful service to his Tsar through three wars, and his plan to retire to spend his remaining years with his family. This was the first sign the Imperial Russian Army was a paper tiger, and the later triggered the revolution and events that plagued the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

A tidal wave swept in from the North Sea and crashed onto the English shore along 200 miles of coastline from Scarborough to Dover. Cars, carriages, carts, buildings and fishing boats were swept up and smashed. Many small homes were ripped off their foundations and taken out to sea, while other were smashed go pieces with their residents inside.

Closer to home, construction was about to begin to dam the Millstone River at Kingston (in South Brunswick) to build Carnegie Lake in Princeton. This would provide a lake for Princeton's rowing team, as well as recreational use. It was planned to cover 1200 acres and to be stocked with fish. It would also provide a venue for the Princeton University's rowing team.

History is really only past current events, organized and edited by those who are published. If your want to take a peek back in time, you can log on to Cranbury Library, [www.cranburypubliclibrary.org](http://www.cranburypubliclibrary.org) and access back issues of the *Cranbury Press*. Closer to home, you can go onto [www.Jamesburg.net](http://www.Jamesburg.net) and look up what's happening.

### WE'VE COME A LONG WAY IN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

But we've got a lot more to do! Your donation of your time, and talents, as well as your continued financial support, will help the Jamesburg Historical Association carry out its mission to preserve Jamesburg's treasures!



*Lakeview in 1979, before restoration*



*Lakeview today, a building we can be proud of!*

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