

Partners in History

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Spring 2015



Put on your dancing shoes for a night of family fun as the Readington Museums hosts its bi-annual Barn Dance on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. The dance will be held inside the eighteenth century Wade-Wyckoff Barn at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead located at 114 Dreahook Road in the Stanton section of Readington Township. This family friendly event is a wonderful way to have fun with the entire family. No experience is necessary. Caller Betsy Gotta will give easy to follow instructions before each dance so even a beginner will be able to dance the night away. There is a suggested donation of \$5.00 per adult and \$2.00 per child. Groups of six or more please call for a reservation. For more information call 908-236-2327.

Eversole-Hall House Gets Makeover

The Readington Museums thanks Hunterdon Paint for nominating the Eversole-Hall House to participate in the Benjamin Moore & Company's *Your Mainstreet Matters* program. Its generous donation was used to repair and paint weather damage to the Eversole Hall House located on Main Street in Whitehouse Station, NJ. This pre-Revolutionary museum site was first renovated by community volunteers, and opened as a museum in 1991. The house is currently used to interpret life in the 1830s.



Monday Mornings to Return this July

Registration is now open for the Monday Mornings kids program. Please visit our web site to view flyer and information. Call or email to register.



Readington Museums

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“I Want to Stay in the 1700s”—First Graders Visit



Vrouw Bouman demonstrates how to make a whirly gig.

First graders from Readington Township visited the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead early this spring. Huddled in their winter jackets and boots, they tramped up the walk onto the patio where Time Travel Guide and history intern Barbara Krasner explained the origins of the house, its materials, the corncrib, and the barn. She then took them back into time, brought them into the house, and introduced them to Vrouw Bouman (Museums' Program Director, Margaret Smith). Vrouw Bouman demonstrated how she makes her stew. She asked the children to smell her fresh herbs like basil and oregano and explained how she makes toothpaste with ashes and mint. She escorted the children upstairs and passed out tufts of sheep's wool, showing how she cards the wool. As they practiced, Time Travel Guide read them a picture book, *When I Was Built*, by Jennifer Thermes. The highlight for the first graders, however, was making whirly gigs with Vrouw Bouman. After a mid-morning snack of cookies (thank you, Betty Ann Fort!) and apple juice, the children, now wearing their whirly-gigs around their necks, headed back to their horseless carriage (bus). One student remarked, “I don’t want to go back to 2015. I want to stay here!”

Fifth Graders at the Farmstead

During the week of April 27, more than 200 fifth graders from Holland Brook School arrived in their big yellow horseless carriages at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead for two hours of immersion in the eighteenth century. The transformation began with the boys donning period-appropriate shirts and the girls, petticoats, short gowns, and aprons.

Four stations stood ready for them. Mistress Fort showed them different types of lanterns and taught them how to dip candles with her “Dip, drip, go” refrain. Then depending on the day, they either visited the print shop or spent time at the spinning wheel. Out at the barn, they joined

the Continental Army and learned some basic soldier skills. In the house, they visited with Vrouw Bouman and learned what it takes to run a farm. These activities engage the children in age-appropriate hands-on tasks that can enhance classroom experiences. They’re not just learning history. They’re learning science, math, ethics, and courtesy.



Betty Ann Fort teaches candle dipping.



Students learn techniques to become soldiers

Summer Lecture Series Sizzles

This summer the Readington Museums resume our popular lecture series. All programs take place at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Barn in Stanton on Friday evenings from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. Refreshments are served.



"Remembering Dorothy: An Oral History Retrospective"

Our history intern, Barbara Krasner, will present the results of our "Remembering Dorothy" oral history program within the context of Broadway life on **June 26**. Dorothy, of course, is Broadway actress Dorothy Stickney, former owner of the farmstead.

Barbara is a candidate for the M.A. in History at William Paterson University. Her specialties are oral history and twentieth-century America.



"The History and Archaeology of Rowlands Mills, a Nineteenth-Century Roadside Village Beside the South Branch"

On **July 31**, Richard Hunter, president of the Trenton-based historical and archaeological consulting firm Hunter Research, presents the results of excavations and research for the New Jersey Department of Transportation before the dualization of Route 31 between Flemington and Clinton. In particular, Dr. Hunter will talk about Rowlands Mills and the fascinating use of daybooks of a Ewing blacksmith shop.

Dr. Hunter received his B.A. in Archaeology and Geography from Birmingham University (U.K.), an M.A. in Archaeological Science from Bradford University (U.K.), and Ph.D. in Geography from Rutgers University. He serves on the board of the Trenton Downtown Association, and formerly served on the board and as president of Preservation New Jersey and chair of Hopewell Township Historical Preservation Commission. He is a trustee of the Trenton Museum Society. He has authored many publications about New Jersey archaeology and history, including his most recent contribution, "Historical Archaeology in Trenton: A Thirty-Year Retrospective," in *Historical Archaeology of the Delaware Valley, 1600-1850* (2014).



Lenape Program

On **August 28**, Susan Plaisted, proprietress of Heart to Hearth Cookery, a food history business based in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, conducts a program about our local Native American tribe, the Lenni Lenape. Plaisted holds a B.S. in food and nutrition and an M.S. in health education. Her specialty is American and Native American food during the Colonial Period.

Open House Happenings



On April 12, architecture historian Christopher Pickell discussed the Dutch structural influences at the 1741 Bouman-Stickney bank house.



Under the direction of William Magalio, the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Fiddle Club play inside the pre-Revolution Wade-Wycoff Barn during the Dutch architecture tour.



Mike Allen, naturalist and ornithologist, points out a chickadee during the spring nature hike on May 3, 2015.



Nichole Gerding makes butter for the March 1st open house.

Calendar 2015

The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead is located at 114 Dreahook Road, in the Stanton section of the township. Donations for all programs are gladly accepted.

Saturday, May 16

7:00-9:30 p.m.

Barn Dance

Betsy Gotta

Friday, June 26

7:00– 8:30

Lecture: *Remembering Dorothy: An Oral History Retrospective*

Barbara Krasner

Friday, July 31

7:00-8:30

Lecture: *The History and Archaeology of Rowlands Mills*

Richard Hunter

Friday, August 28

7:00– 8:30

Lecture: *Lenape program*

Susan Plaisted