

Volume 4, Issue 3

Summer 2013



READINGTON MUSEUMS

# Partners in History

## Travel to the 19th Century and Visit Mrs. Hall in Her Home



The Readington Museums presents *Visit with Mrs. Hall*, on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mrs. Hall plans to open her home to visitors while she demonstrates domestic chores and textile work of the 19th century. The event will be held at the The Eversole-Hall House located on 511 Rt. 523 (blue house next to the Readington Twp. municipal building). This house was originally built by Charles Eversole, a German immigrant and weaver by trade, in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. After Mr. Eversole's death, his grandson eventually sold the house and a portion of the surrounding land to Abraham Hall, a farmer and shoemaker, who enlarged the house and added the second story.

The house remained occupied, without indoor plumbing until 1988, when the Township purchased it. After renovation by community volunteers, it opened as a museum in 1991. The house is used to interpret life in the 1830's, and opens once a year for the third graders attending Readington Township Schools. During this open house everyone will have a chance to enjoy this experience.

The program is free, but donations are gladly accepted. Prior registration for groups of six or more are required. For more information please call Program Director Kimberly Costa at 908-236-2327, or e-mail the staff at

[readingtonmuseums@gmail.com](mailto:readingtonmuseums@gmail.com).

### Readington Museums

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## Antique Tools of New Jersey

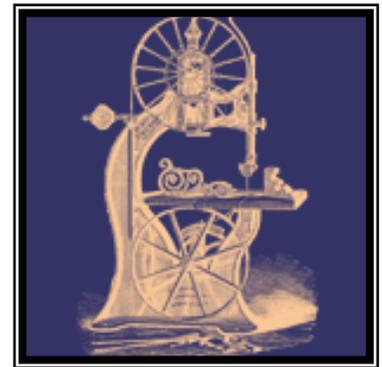
Historic tool enthusiast, Bob Garay, will present *Antique Tools of New Jersey* on Friday, August 30th beginning at 7:00 p.m. This lecture is part of the Museums' Friday Night Summer Lecture series. It is held inside the historic Wade-Wyckoff Barn located at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead, 114 Dreahook Road in the Stanton section of Readington Township. There is a \$5.00 suggested donation.



Garay will display an eye opening assortment of spectacular tools that have survived the past 100+ years in fine condition. An emphasis will be placed on the tools and tool makers of New Jersey during this time period. Attendees will be able to participate in a show-and-tell format as we play a game of "Whatsits" with some of the tools displayed. Feel free to bring an antique tool you would like to know more about.

Bob Garay is president of *CRAFTS*, the New Jersey antique tool club; has

written articles for the Tool Shed, a publication of *CRAFTS*; has worked with the History Channel on their series about the history of tools, *The Toolbox*; and was recently a featured guest on WNTI radio show *Value This*, with Brian & Leon. Mr. Garay is a Navy veteran where he was a metal worker for six years, and a retired shop teacher where he emphasized the use of hand tools to develop craftsmanship.



## Colonial Beer Brewing Demo Attracts Crowds

Historic brewer Rich Wagner demonstrated Colonial Beer Brewing for the Museums' May Sunday Open House program at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead. Mr. Wagner showed the step-by-step process of taking water and grain and turned it into beer. Unfortunately, samples were not given, but many enjoyed the aroma that filled the air.



For hundreds of years folks in Europe knew better than to drink the water, as everyone knew water could make you deathly ill. Instead, they brewed and drank beer, including children. So, it was a natural jump for immi-

grants arriving in the New World to bring their tradition of brewing and drinking beer here. Much of the beer was brewed at home, until such time as breweries could be established in larger towns and cities. Today, there is a resurgence of interest in home brewing. Though today you will find exotic flavors or seasonal brews, the basic method of beer production has not changed.

Rich Wagner has been researching Pennsylvania brewing history since 1980, and has done extensive research into Colonial breweries. In 1990 he started to interpret seventeenth century brewing techniques at William Penn's Bake and Brew House at Pennsbury Manor and soon afterward worked with a cooper to construct his own reproduction of a seventeenth century brewing system. Today he devotes his time to research, writing, speaking engage-

ments and demonstrating the brewing practices of antiquity. Rich is a regular contributor to *Mid-Atlantic Brewing News*, the *American Breweriana Association's Journal*, the Eastern Coast Breweriana Association's *the KEG*, and has just come out with a book entitled *Philadelphia Beer – The Heady History of Brewing in the Cradle of Liberty* (History Press).



Rich Wagner displays hops and barley.

# Monday Mornings at the Museum Returned this Summer

The return of *Monday Mornings at the Museum* proved to be another success. This summer's program was planned, organized and administered by Samantha Lelah for her Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Samantha, a senior at Hunterdon Central, directed activities during all four consecutive Mondays throughout July and August. Over 35 children registered for the program. Many created a historical or nature themed activity involving a project, hike throughout the farmstead's 68 acres, and/or tour of the 1741 Dutch bank house.

The first Monday focused on the history of shelters by constructing log cabin homes. The children used large milk containers and



Samantha Lelah assists Alyssa Dahl with her log cabin.

chose either rolled newspaper or popsicle sticks to build their structures.

On the second week, the kids learned facts about lady bugs, made lady bug scenes using thumb prints and followed up with a lady bug hunt while hiking through the Bouman-Stickney trails.

The following Monday captured the child's natural skill of moving and shaking while mastering the art of butter making. Each child added heavy cream to a small jar and shook it until the liquid thickened into but-



Children showcase their butter and tin punch designs with Girl Scout, Samantha Lelah, and volunteers: Michaela Smith, (third row) Joe Tronolone, Cassie Smith, and Michael Tronolone (fourth row).

ter. This took about 15 minutes of shaking. Each participant was able to enjoy his/her own homemade butter on a slice of bread. The day concluded with learning about the history of tinsmithing and making his/her own tin punch design.

On the final week, the group planted squash and parsley seeds in egg shells and then decorated flower pots to house the shell and plant. The program concluded with the discussion of traditional lighting in history, whereas each child dipped his/her own candle to take home.



Griffin Galoway enjoys his freshly made butter with bread.

Supporting Samantha were Museum Assistant, Margaret Smith, and museum volunteers, Catherine DeLessio, Michaela and Cassandra Smith, Michael and Joseph Tronolone, Hannah, Emily and, Susan Lelah.

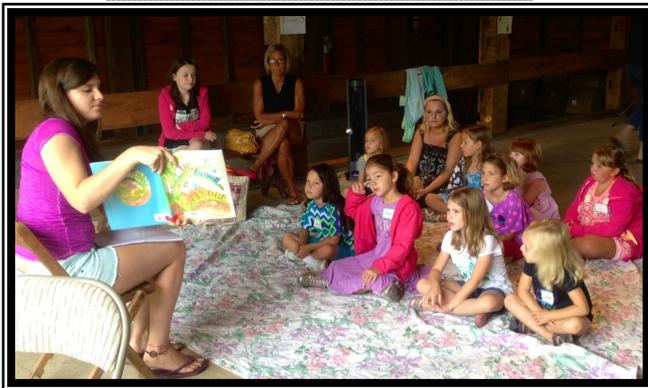
## More from Monday Mornings



Morgan Dwyer dipping her candle with Samantha and Emily Leleh



TinSmith experience by punching tin with nails and hammers.



Children listen to Samantha Leleh read story about vegetables before planting their own



Samantha Leleh (back right) with children sharing their lady bug scenes

## Calendar 2013

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

### Friday, August 30

7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Antique Tools of New Jersey with Bob Garay  
\$5.00 suggested donation.

### Sunday, September 8

1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Come visit Mrs. Hall as she opens her home to visitors. The *Eversole-Hall House* is located at 511 Rt. 523 (blue house next to the Readington Twp. municipal building). Free, donations accepted.

### Sunday, October 6

1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Photography Walk with photographer D.A. Hermann  
Free, donations accepted.

### Saturday, October 19

7:00-9:30 p.m.  
Barn Dance with Betsy Gotta  
There is a suggested donation of \$5.00 per adult and \$2.00 per child. Refreshments served.

### Sunday, November 3

1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Open Hearth Cooking  
Free, donations accepted.

### Sunday, December 1

1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Annual Christmas Program