



Partners in History

2012 Program Schedule offers A Little Something for Everyone

The Readington Museums is proud to offer a variety of programs and lectures during 2012 with something sure to please everyone in the family. Our Open House Sunday programs are held the first Sunday of the month February-May and September-December from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The programs are free, but donations are happily accepted.

April 1

Presenter Nancy Leary, of Apple Annie Productions, will discuss the history of hand-painted canvas floor cloths as you watch them being created.

May 6

Harry Greenberger returns with the popular Gunsmithing in the 18th century.

September 9

18th & 19th century Historic Stenciling

Noted artist New Jersey artist Deborah Mores will be on hand to teach 19th century techniques for room and floor stenciling.

October 7

Open House at Cold Brook School- spend the

afternoon in 1826 learning to cipher, do orthography, roll hoops and more. A family friendly event.

November 4

Women's Clothing of the Civil War. Using period originals clothing historian Suellen Tatrai will show what it took for a woman to get dressed during the Civil War years.

December 2

Christmas with Jane Austen. Come find out what it was like to celebrate Christmas in the Regency period. Open hearth cooking demonstration, dancing and crafts.

On Saturday, May 19

and October 13 7:30-9:30 p.m. Join Betsy Gotta as she calls our first Barn Dance of the season. This family friendly event is great for all ages, no prior experience or partner needed. \$5.00 donation for adults and \$2.00 for school-age children.

Our Friday Night Summer Lecture series offers an eclectic mix of subjects. Lectures begin at 7:00 p.m. There is a \$5.00

donation suggested, refreshments served.

Friday, June 29

Finding Polly Burling, Author Sue Huesken will explain how she 'found' the owner of a hand-written receipt book from 1750. Great for genealogist and loves of Colonial history.

Friday, July 27

The Camden and Amboy Railroads with railroad expert John Kilbride

Friday, August 31

Ghosts of Central NJ, with local author Gordon Thomas Ward.

October 20- 28 and November 3-4

Annual Exhibit
One Home-Three Wars: Women during Wartime in Hunterdon County
The exhibit will feature costumes, artifacts and personal accounts of three of the ten wars the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead has seen in its two hundred and fifty year history as a home.

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Did You Know:

- *The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead is part of the Round Mountain Hiking Trail system?*
- *Three of the four sites that make up the Readington Museums were built prior to the Revolutionary War?*
- *All 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students attending Readington Twp schools attend programs at the Museums each year?*

Annual Exhibit to Feature Historic Clothing

The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead has stood as a silent witness to eleven major wars during its 250 year history as a family home. What could the walls tell us, if they could talk, about life on the home front for women during some of the most tumultuous times in our history? This year's annual exhibit *One House-Three Wars: Women During Wartime in Hunterdon County* will explore the experience of life on the home front. The exhibit will run from Saturday, October 20 through Sunday, October 28, with two additional weekend dates of November 3 and 4th.

The exhibit will offer a glimpse of what life was like for women during the Revolutionary period, Civil War and

World War II. Using a collection of fully costumed mannequins, dressed authentic fashions from each of the periods, and a collection of artifacts, the exhibit will explore what it was like for the average women trying to make do, often in a time of great upheaval and grief.

Historical clothing expert Suellen Tatrai will also present the program *Women's Clothing of the Civil War* on Sunday, November 4th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in conjunction with the exhibit. Ms. Tatrai will demonstrate, from the inside out, what it took for a woman to get dressed during the years of the Civil War.



Gowns such as these two will be featured in the fall exhibit One House-Three Wars: Women during wartime in Hunterdon County.

New Dutch Pottery

Museum Committee member Helen Farrant is a talented potter and ceramic artist who has presented programs for our 5th graders during their school program held each May. When Helen was approached to reproduce a number of 'odd' pottery items that would have been

found in Dutch homes, but are hard to find today, she was excited about the challenge of reproducing period correct pottery. She made a matched set of an ink well and sander and a brazier. This small, squat three-legged pot with a handle was used as both an ashtray for pipes

as well as a way to hold coals while doing some delicate table top cooking. These items are often seen in 17th century Dutch paintings. The staff thanks Helen for making such beautiful and functional objects.



World War II Uniforms and Artifacts Needed for Exhibit

The impact of World War II on local Readington residents and Hunterdon County will be one of the focuses for the upcoming fall exhibit. Museum staff is currently seeking clothing, artifacts and person remonstrance's from World War II to use in the exhibit *One House-Three Wars*.



Do you have a Woman's WWII uniform or period clothing you'd like to share? Call us!

If you, or someone you know, has women's clothing, especially military uniforms, or personal

artifacts (e.g. letters from soldiers, women's enlistment papers), or stories of what life was like in Readington during this period, and would be willing to have the items exhibit or share your information, please call Program Director Kimberly Costa.

First Open Hearth Cooking Class a Success

On Sunday, January 29 the Readington Museums held its first Open Hearth cooking class taught, by Program Director Kimberly Costa. Seven students, including Museum Assistant Margaret Smith, gathered in the kitchen of the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead to prepare a period correct 18th century meal using the home's original fireplace.

Students were welcomed upon arrival and given an information packet including safety information, copies of original and modern recipes they were to make that day. Basic safety instructions about working in and around an open flame were reviewed. Next, students were asked to go out to the woodpile and choose what they thought was

a good piece of wood. This was done to introduce proper fire building for cooking.

All five original receipts, as they were called in the 18th century, were reviewed before the students chose which dish they wished to prepare. Museum Assistant Margaret Smith and Nancy Erb made a carrot pudding, while Nancy's husband Eric worked on White Fricassee. Anne Marie Anderson made Beans in the German Fashion. Bob Capraon made Queen Cakes and local Stanton residents Becky and Eva made Eggs in Croquettes. When everything was ready everyone sat down and sampled each dish, all of which were delicious. Student Anne



Museum Assistant Margaret Smith and Nancy Erb

Marie stated during the meal that she took the class because she had no idea that you could actually cook a complete meal using just open flame, "I only thought you could make stew." Since this class was such a success additional cooking classes will be offered in the future. Please email us if you are interested in more information.

Last Newsletter ?

In an effort to streamline delivery of our newsletter and to make sure that everyone on our current mailing list wishes to continue to receive the newsletter, we are asking you to return the enclosed postcard back to us after choosing one of the three options. You may continue to receive the newsletter in paper form, switch over to the faster (and color version) PDF via e-mail, or

opt to drop your name off the mailing list. ***If we do not receive your post-card back this will be the last newsletter you receive.*** If you do not wish to list your email address on the post card please mail back the postcard and then send the email address to: readington-museums@gmail.com

***This could be your
LAST Newsletter- We
need YOUR HELP!***

Remember, copies of the current newsletter can always be found by visiting our web site. Thank you for your help in our effort to 'go green' and streamline our newsletter

New Photographs of Dorothy and Howard



Over the past few months thirty photographs of Dorothy Stickney and Howard Lindsay have been purchased by the Museums for our collection. The major-

ity of the photographs are a collection of publicity shots distributed to the press as a way to promote the opening of the 1949 production of "Life with Mother" which opened on Broadway that same year. This play was the sequel to "Life with Father", which ran for eight years, and still holds the title of the longest running play in Broadway history. It is during this time that

Dorothy and Howard purchased the Farmstead to use as their country retreat. One of the photographs depict Howard placing a very substantial diamond necklace around Dorothy's neck. The back of the photograph states that the necklace was designed specifically for the show by Cartier and was worth \$180,000.00! One can only imagine what that necklace would be worth today.

www.readingtonmuseums.org

We're on the Web:

Readington Museums
114 Dreahook Road
PO Box 216
Stanton NJ 08885



Calendar 2012

The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead is located at 114 Dreahook Road, in the Stanton section of the township. \$5.00 suggested donations for all lectures and programs.

Sunday, March 4

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Lace making demonstration
Watch and learn the lost art of hand-made lace as the ladies of the Lost Arts Lacers of North Jersey teach their craft. Donations accepted.

Sunday, April 1

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Hand-painted floor cloths
Presenter Nancy Leary, of Apple Annie Productions, will discuss the history of hand-painted canvas floor cloths as you watch them being created.
Donations accepted.

Sunday, May 6

1:00-4:00 p.m.

18th Century Gunsmithing
Harry Greenberger returns to the BSF to talk about gunsmithing in the Colonial period and the impact of Jacobsburg, PA on local firearms. Donations accepted.

Saturday, May 19

7:00-9:30 p.m.

Join Betsy Gotta as she calls our first Barn Dance of the season. This family friendly event is great for all ages, no prior experience or partner needed. There is a \$5.00 suggested donation for adults, \$2.00 for children, refreshments served.

Friday, June 29

7:00 p.m.

Lecture: *Finding Polly Burling*
With author Sue Huesken
Find out how a small, hand written receipt book led to the discovery of a forgotten Quaker woman in 18th century New Jersey. Refreshments served.