
◆ The General Store ◆

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NEWSLETTER OF THE RALSTON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Summer 2015



The Boy Scouts from Troop 1 in Mendham help open the 50 year celebration with the procession of the Color Guard.

50 Year Celebration of the Opening of the General Store Museum was Highlight of 2014

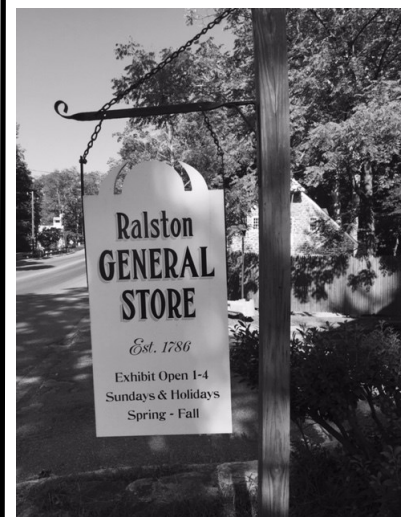
Last June, the 50th anniversary of the General Store Museum was held on the lawn of the Ralston Manor House. The program included a color guard procession by Boy Scouts Troop 1, the Pledge of Allegiance, presentation of awards for the Stamp Design Contest, singing of the National Anthem by Mason Moran and the unveiling of the quilted wall hanging. A proclamation by Mendham Township Mayor, Maribeth Thomas was also read to the attendees.



Quilted Wall Hanging featuring Stamp Contest Winners is on Display at the General Store

As a way to involve students in the 50th celebration of the opening of the General Store Museum, a stamp design contest was developed and 65 entries were received. There were three age categories and the winners were as follows:

Sophia Keoskey - grade 1
Georgia Fox - grade 4
Elizabeth Grimaldi - grade 4
Josephine Gutowski - grades 6-8
Emma Schaberg - grades 6-8
Roberto Ritger - high school



A new sign stands in front of the General Store Museum. The old one was destroyed during a winter storm last year.

The President's Message

The end of summer is quickly approaching and so is the closing of the Ralston General Store Museum for this year's season, so don't forget to pay us a visit before October 18, 2015. This has been a very busy year for the Ralston Historical Association. On June 15, 2014, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the General Store Museum. At this time I would like to thank those who made this celebration such a success. The Mendham Township Boy Scout Troop 1 processed, presented the Flag, and led The Pledge of Allegiance. The Star Spangled Banner was so beautifully and professionally sung by Mason Moran. I would like to extend a special thanks to Mayor Maribeth Thomas and the Mendham Township Committee for issuing a Mayoral Proclamation regarding the historical significance of the Ralston General Store Museum, and to Ray Nadaskay, Chair of the Mendham Township Historic Preservation Committee, for his presentation of the proclamation at the ceremony.

I would also like to thank all of the students from the Mendham Township Schools and the Mendham High School who participated in the postal stamp contest. Some of the students' designs were made into a quilted wall hanging that has now become a part of exhibit at the Museum. Last but not least, I would like to thank all of the trustees and their families for all they did to make this celebration such a special day for all.

During the past year, the Museum has had a "face-lift". Three sides of the building have new, stained, wood

siding and windows have been repaired. A new sign hangs in front of the building, and due to the hard work of the RHA trustees, bushes were trimmed and the store cleaned extensively for the opening on Memorial Day weekend. When you visit the Museum, you will now also be able to view DVD's about the Museum Collection, the History of John Ralston, the General Store and Post Office and the History of Mendham Township. I would like to thank PeggNet Computers of Mendham for donating their services to convert the old videos into DVD's so we might share them with you.

We plan for our next fundraising projects to have tours of historical homes in the Ralston area (October 2016) and then in the Brookside area (October 2017). In order to have these plans come to fruition, we need many volunteers, we need YOU! The following article appeared in the Summer 2010 newsletter of the Ralston Historical Association. It says it best:

When you volunteer, you give back to the community by helping to preserve the Ralston General Store Museum, a local national treasure. What you may not realize is that volunteering also benefits you! You can make new friends, enrich your knowledge of our local history, and feel good that you've made a difference. Whether you are an accountant who can provide guidance to our board or a student interested in gaining some experience, your donation of time is greatly appreciated. Here are some of the ways you can help:

Become a Board Member (meets 7:30 PM

on the first Thursday of each month)

Share your expertise (e.g., accountant, legal, marketing, etc.)

Research / Write articles for the annual newsletter

Participate in our Spring and /or Fall Clean Up (e.g., dusting and artifacts, cleaning windows and sweeping floors)

Help with Special Events

Even a few hours of your time can make a big difference. Please let us know how you can help by calling 973-543-7834 or sending an email note to rjp543@verizon.net.

Please carefully consider becoming a member of the Ralston Historical Association and helping with these projects. I look forward to meeting many of you at our annual meeting to be held on October 8, 2015, 7:30 P.M. at 4 Country Lane in Mendham Borough. Please join us and learn more about the work of the RHA.

AnneMarie Hornyak

President—RHA

**Ralston Historical Association
Annual Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 2015
7:30 PM
4 Country Lane
Mendham, NJ 07945**

RALSTON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS—2014—2015

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*Sara Dean Link
*Ralph & Pat Rhodes
Drs. Michael & Victoria Stewart

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Joseph Manfredi
Mary Jane Van Fossan

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David & Nancy Bailin
Robert & Jutta Ferrer
David & Francis Hinkley
Marino Family
Allan & Shirley Phillips
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Joan and Robert Scialla

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Celeste Bianca
Josephine Daley
Alice Dannebaum
James & Aretta Muir
Otto & Ruth Rentsch
Charles Rudershausen
Joseph and Barbara Szoke

Sustaining MEMBERS

Barbara Conroy
Rosa David
Robert & Linda Perkins

* Building Fund Contributor

RHA Annual Meeting
October 8, 2015, 7:30 PM
4 Country Lane
Mendham, NJ 07945

Ralston Historical Association
313 Mendham Road West
Mendham, NJ 07945



Ralston Historical Association

Established in 1941

President—AnneMarie Hornyak
Vice President—Greg Duer
Secretary—Pat Rhodes
Treasurer—Jeff Purcell

Trustees

Janice Backer
Paula Duer
Margaret Hogan
Tracy Kinsel
Kris Lamb
Helen Machleder
Joann Moretti
Cathy Nodoro

RHA Annual Meeting—Thursday, October 8, 2015
7:30 PM at 4 Country Lane, Mendham, NJ 07945
Visit our website: www.ralstonmuseum.org

2015—2016 Membership Renewal Form

Please indicate your membership information

New Member ___ Renewal ___ Matching Gift ___

John Ralston Society (\$1,000.00 one time)
Life Member (\$250.00 one time)
Sustaining Member (\$100.00 per year)
Family/Institution Member (\$40.00 per year)
Individual Member (\$250.00 per year)
Senior Citizen (\$15.00 per year)
Building/collections Fund \$ _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

The Ralston Historical Association is always looking for volunteers to help in a variety of ways. If interested, please include your name and phone number below or send an email to rjp543@verizon.net.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

RHA is a 501(c)3 organization. Please make your tax deductible check payable to:

Ralston Historical Association
313 Mendham Road West
Mendham, NJ 07945

Please include your email address if you would like a receipt.

Email Address _____