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# ◆ THE GENERAL STORE ◆

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NEWSLETTER OF THE RALSTON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

SPRING 1995

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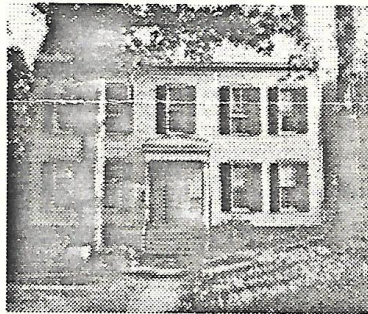
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## MANOR HOUSE TO BE SITE OF ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, June 4, 1995, at 2pm, the trustees of the Ralston Historical Association will host their annual meeting at the Ralston Manor House, on Rt. 24 west and Roxiticus Rd. in Mendham Township.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1937, the historic two and a half story frame house was built in 1781. The original eight rooms, each with its own fireplace, display wide plank flooring and ten foot high ceilings. Remains of slave quarters still exist in the third floor attic. Today it is the home of Ralph and Patricia Rhodes.

Historic photos of Ralston and lithographs by local artist Lucille Hobbie will be some of the items on display. Tours of the home and the General Store will be given throughout the afternoon and light refreshments will be served. Association members and their guests are invited to attend. Please call Ed Claus (201) 543-9725 or Marge Davidson (201) 543-4347 for reservations.



### Trustee Nominations

The following members have been nominated as trustees for a three year term to begin June 1995:

Catherine Emmons  
Rose Carlin  
Ed Claus

Merrie Claus  
Jeff Purcell

## HISTORIC BUILDINGS TO BE SAVED AT SCHIFF

In a memorandum from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Historic Preservation Office, James F. Hall, Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources has reached an agreement with developer David Jackson "which calls for the preservation of a group of buildings that are representative of the consecutive eras of the district's historic development."

The Schiff Manor House as well as the Carriage House, Patrol Cottage 8, the Boat Barn, the Pump House, and the Pavilion are required to be preserved and /or rehabilitated.

The ruins of the Banked Structure, Saw Mill and Devore Farm are to be protected from damage and vandalism by the developer.

Schiff Hall, Hillcourt House and Barn and other existing structures at the former Boy Scout camp, now owned by Jackson, are eligible to be demolished after an historic recordation has been made of the site.

## General Store repaired - Building fund established

The long overdue exterior repair work and repainting of the General Store has almost been completed. The trustees have only approved repair work which they believe is important to maintaining and preserving the structure. In all cases, a concentrated effort was made to either preserve or enhance the historic character of the building.

The basement level of the store was in the worst condition as a result of moisture from the dirt floor basement and its proximity to the roadway. A number of framing timbers are still in need of replacement.

On the first floor, the changes were primarily cosmetic. The west front pilaster, trim board and rear window trim were rebuilt. Parts of the front porch overhang were badly

rotted and needed replacement. An inappropriate exterior ceiling light was removed. The glass window frame was also removed from the front door and wood panels were inserted to reflect the original construction.

The most interesting work was done on the second floor, west side of the building. A roof extension with a working pulley was reinstalled after an examination of old photos of the store provided sufficient evidence that it had been original to the structure. A second floor doorway was also reconstructed based on evidence found in the attic framing. All three of the second floor windows have been reglazed and repainted.

The trustees debated much about painting vs. staining the wide pine boards on the front of the store. Due to the age of the wood and its softness,

experts advised a thorough scraping and a coat of oil base paint as a primer. The finish coat was done with two coats of latex. The large front windows, currently behind the refitted shutters, require some repairing and reglazing. The oak siding on the east side of the building is in need of replacement.

The trustees have decided to establish a special building repair fund. Aside from a \$500 per year donation from the Township, which doesn't even cover the annual fire and liability insurance on the store, we rely on the generosity of our members for support. We hope you'll consider adding a little extra to your dues this year so that we can continue to maintain Mendham's only museum property.

## RALSTON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION 1994-1995

### LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. E. W. Adams  
Mr. and Mrs. T. Andruskevich  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Bigham  
Mrs. Wilson Britten  
Mr. Calvin Carver, Jr.  
Mr. Edward Clauss  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Davidson  
Mr. and Mrs. H. DeNeufville  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Devine  
Ms. Beirne Donaldson  
Dr. Robert Dorian

Mrs. Ada R. Erickson  
Mr. Louis Farrelly  
Mr. Sam Fornaro  
Ms. Patricia F. Kellogg  
Ms. Dorothy MacNeil  
Mr. and Mrs. A. Merck  
Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Pitney  
Mr. and Mrs. James Porter  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rhodes  
Ms. Wilma L. Sagurton  
Ms. Inge Schnee

Ms. Darby Anne Scott  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Spruth  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl G. Taylor  
Ms. Henrietta S. Thomas  
Mr. Edwin Thompson  
Ms. Carye S. Watson  
Mr. Alan Willemsen  
Mr. and Mrs. H. Wilmerding  
Mr. Robert D. Worley  
Ms. Patricia Zimmerman

### PATRON MEMBERS

Mrs. Maida B. Adams  
Ms. Helena Alves  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Betz  
Ms. Katherine Bonomo  
Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Buchanan  
Mr. and Mrs. Owen Carlin  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Clauss  
Mrs. Merrie Clauss  
Mrs. Dolores C. Crammer  
Mr. and Mrs. T. Curtiss  
Ms. Jean Dauernheim  
Ms. Lucretia Feldner  
Mrs. Franklin Flaherty  
Mr. P. Wayne Frey  
Mr. and Mrs. T. Graedel  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Grattan  
Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Greidanus  
Ms. Lucille Hobbie Heimrod

Mrs. J. Hutton  
Ms. Robin Johnston  
Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Kinsel  
Mr. Roy Levine and Terry Nist  
Ms. Valerie D. Lyle  
Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Machenberg  
Mr. Ernest E. Maw  
Mr. Allan H. McAlpin, Jr.  
Mrs. Thaw Malin  
Stuart and Kirk Materne  
Mrs. Kathleen A. Marino  
Ms. Muriel Mercer  
Mr. Raymond Nadasky  
Ms. Catherine A. Omegna  
Ms. Christine Palmer  
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Patten  
Ms. Jane Peterson  
Dr. Rene A. Pigeon

Mr. Robert J. Purcell  
Ms. Deborah A. Richman  
Mrs. Martha V. Robinson  
Mr. Matthew Rohsler  
Mr. and Mrs. E. Rolin  
Dr. Leslie D. Schlessinger  
Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Spence  
Mr. William F. Steinen  
Mr. Klaus Steiner  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stillson  
Ms. Betty Alice Strater  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Taboada  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wagner  
Ms. Kim Wentworth  
Mr. and Mrs. Neibert Wright  
Ms. Kiyoko Yamashita

### REGULAR MEMBERS

Mr. John E. Aibel  
Ms. Patricia Barry  
Mr. and Mrs. F. Bartenstein, Jr.  
Mrs. William M. Berenbak  
Mr. Carl H. Bergelt  
Ms. Ann F. Caskey  
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis C. Cooper  
Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Corsico  
Ms. Laurie Crowley  
Mr. Rudolph H. Deetjen, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael DeFelice  
Mr. and Mrs. W. Dunnington, Jr.  
Mr. Peter Dworman  
Ms. Catherine Emmons  
Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Ewels  
Mrs. Alice Findlay  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fox

Ms. Rhoda Galembo  
Mrs. Richard E. Gillis  
Mr. Frank W. Goodhart  
Mr. and Mrs. Thor Gustafson  
Mr. Richard Hahn  
Ms. Helen B. Hauser  
Mr. Edmund J. Kelly  
Mr. H. A. Ketchum  
Mrs. Dorothy Kobin  
Ms. Marie Lorraine Lee  
Mr. Henry Lingerman  
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Link  
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Miller  
Mrs. Ann B. Mills  
Ms. Janet Mills  
Mr. John Wills Patten  
Mr. and Mrs. William Plumyers

Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Pugsley  
Mrs. Joan Purcell  
Ms. Bierce Riley  
Ms. Catherine Sandbach  
Dr. Andrew C. Schenkman  
Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund E. Schorr  
Mrs. Janet Schurter  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Shullman  
Ms. Diana Simon  
Ms. Mary H. Smith  
Mr. Peter J. Tol  
Mr. Sam K. Tolley  
Mr. and Mrs. Creighton Wagner  
Ms. Nancy J. Watt  
Mr. and Mrs. H. White, Jr.  
Ms. Gertrude G. Zander





Ralston General Store  
1781-1941

## Ralston Historical Association

In 1941, after 150 years of service, the old Ralston General Store and Post Office was to be abandoned. At that time, a small group of local residents decided to preserve the building that had been the center of their community for as long as anyone could remember. In 1964, the building was opened to the public as a museum. Due to the generous contributions of our members, we have been able to preserve this building for over 50 years. As Mendham and the surrounding area continues to lose more and more of its historical past to development, it becomes even more important to preserve our local history. To help us in this effort we ask that our members contribute their ideas and suggestions on how to share Ralston's past with the generations to come. Please take a few minutes and respond to the survey below. Thank you.

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| 1. Has your family visited the Ralston Museum in the past two years?  | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| 2. Would you like to receive the newsletter semi-annually?            | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| 3. Would you like to become more involved in the Museum's activities? | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| 4. Are the museum's hours convenient for visiting? [Sunday, 2-5pm]    | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| 5. Did you attend the house tour we had in October, 1993?             | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| 6. Do you own an historic home in Ralston?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| 7. Would you be willing to open your home for a Ralston House Tour?   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| 8. Have you visited other local historic sites recently?              | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |

Please add your comments below:

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I hereby apply for membership in the Ralston Historical Association 1995-1996

<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership \$10.00 per year	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership \$20.00 per year	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership \$100.00 one time	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Matching Gift
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund \$ _____	

Mr., Mrs., Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name
Address
City/State/Zip

*If you would like to serve one Sunday afternoon at the store, please include your telephone number [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]*

Please make your check payable to the: **Ralston Historical Association**  
**P.O. Box 301**  
**Mendham, NJ 07945**

