
◇ The General Store ◇

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NEWSLETTER OF THE RALSTON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Spring 2013

My Town: Through a Child's Eyes, Showcases Mendham Township

We are the 4th grade Gateways class for the 2012-2013 school year. We participated in a project called "My Town: Through a Child's Eyes." The reason why we had a part in this special project is because Gateways is a class that is offered through our school's gifted and talented program in which Social Studies is the content area that we study. We were introduced to this project when we went on a field trip to the Westin Hotel in Morristown near Acorn Hall. The purpose of this trip was to learn about the concept of this project along with the necessary steps to complete it. Mendham Township Elementary school along with six Morris County public schools participated in this program sponsored by the New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented, Inc. and the Morris County Historical Society. When we attended the workshop at the Westin Hotel, we learned that we were going to create a museum quality exhibit of our town with the use of historical research and lots of photographs. We spent three months doing research on Mendham Township to find out what is unique about our town. We created a multi-faceted display of our research with artifacts, pictures and reports. In January, we



Mendham Twp. Elementary School 4th Grade Gateways Program students from left – Elizabeth Campos, Matthew Shin, P.J. Ryan, Molly Jendryka, Emma Mangino, Ethan Ryan, Sofia Baggio, and Ellie Romweber.

presented our own museum quality exhibit about Mendham Township to officers of the Historical Society and also to our peers.

In early January, our teacher Mrs. Smyth, was approached by the Cultural Arts Committee about a school mural that would be painted in one of the hallways in the building. To our surprise we found out that the school mural that every student and staff would be able to paint was of the history of "Our Town." The artist used the pictures from our display to paint onto the

walls. With this, we presented our project to the entire school so that when they painted they could understand the concepts and point of why this was chosen. We are honored and humbled to see that the Gateways class was mentioned on the mural. It's something that we will remember always.

This project had such an impact on our lives and our educational experiences that we will never forget it. Each one of us has reflected and appreciated certain

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The President's Message

It's amazing how you can live in each item. Come and see an a town for many years and not original lantern once used at the realize all your town has to offer. Black Horse Inn. The toaster we This past fall the Ralston Historical have on display is nothing like Association sponsored a Farm the toasters of today. Learn how Tour. We had six area farms on people kept their feet warm the tour, Backer Farm (photo while riding in a buggy. We have above), Hidden Pond, Middle Val- literature regarding Mendham ley, Miller Hill, Pleasant Valley and and its history. There are many Ralston Farms. Each one is antiques and other related items unique. They offer everything from that might interest you. Stop in pumpkins, pies, Christmas trees, and meet our docents. They can eggs, wool blankets and even beef. answer most of your questions Who knew? It was a wonderful regarding items you'll see in the day for all that attended and the Museum. Don't wait 10 years to best for me was getting to know visit the Museum. Stop in this the farmers. summer and see one of Men-

I've lived in Mendham Town- dhams hidden treasures. ship for 19 Years and it took me 10 The Ralston General Store will years before I paid a visit to the reopen its doors on Memorial Ralston General Store. We have Day Weekend, Sunday May 26. many lighting instruments and a We are open Sundays and Holi- booklet explaining the purpose of day from 2-5 PM through mid-

RHA ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Ralston Historical Association will be held at 1 PM on July 12, 2013 at the General Store Museum, 313 Mendham Road West (Rt. 24) at the intersection of Roxiticus Road. Trustees and officers will be elected, last year's accomplishments will be

Showcase cont'd

aspects of this project. The following are direct quotes from each one of us who participated in this event:

Sofia Baggio- "When we put the last picture on the board, it was amazing to see that we did all of that and we are just 4th graders."

Ellie Romweber- "The one thing that I learned the most was about the history of Mendham. I never thought that I can learn this much about my town."

Ethan Ryan- "This project made me so happy because I have been living here for 7 years now and I never bothered to learn the history before."

Elizabeth Campos- "The best thing about this project was being able to work with my classmates and the knowledge that I gained about my town."

Molly Jendryka- "I felt this project made me get to know the students in my class better because I had the opportunity to interact with each and every one of my peers."

PJ Ryan- "I had a great time doing this project because I never thought that I would like history so much and I do!"

Matthew Shin- "Before this project I wasn't sure why the history of my town was important. Now, I'm proud of my town and all the great things that it has."

Emma Mangino- "My favorite part was the commercial because we kept trying different styles that worked for us until we found the perfect one that worked! It was very factual and it had humor at the same time."

Our research presentations will be displayed at the Morris County Historical Society at Acorn Hall in an exhibit entitled "My Town: Through a Child's Eyes." The Exhibit will open to the public on April 28 and run until June 2 at Acorn Hall. Each district will hold a

RALSTON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION 2012-2013

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Ralston Historical Association
313 Mendham Road – West
Mendham, NJ 07945



Ralston Historical Association
Established in 1941

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Secretary – Kris Lamb
Treasurer – Pat Rhodes

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Paula Duer
Margaret Hogan
Anne Marie Hornyak
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RHA Annual Meeting – Sunday, July 12, 2013
1 PM at the Ralston General Store
Visit our website: www.ralstonmuseum.org

2013-2014 Membership Renewal Form

Please indicate your membership information

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Corporate /Matching Gift _____

John Ralston Society (\$1,000.00 one time)
Life Member (\$250.00 one time)
Sustaining Member (\$100.00 per year)
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*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: _____

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

