Chester Historical Society's NEWS & VIEWS

June 2024

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Hello, CHS Members and Friends, happy Spring 2024! it has been a busy Spring for the Chester Historical Society and we are eager to share the news. Please read on.

Antiques & Collectibles Appraisal Show

On March 2 CHS held an Antiques & Collectibles Appraisal Show at the Chester Library. Jon Felz (in the blue coat) from RZM Fine Arts & Antiques was an entertaining and knowledgeable appraiser. We had a full house. Over 100 items were appraised by Jon. He provided a bit of background as well as an estimate of the value. Items from amber jewelry, and paintings, to a violin were appraised. We all had fun if not riches. Thanks to CHS Program Chair, Meg Sullivan for organizing the event and to all CHS members who helped.

Rockefeller Center Open House and Chester Day Activities

May 4 was a busy Saturday in Chester. CHS members participated in both Morris County's Pathways of History and Chester Day. An open house at Rockefeller Center attracted over 50 visitors. Peter Maddi, Meg Sullivan, Lois Taylor, Maureen Davidson, and Peg Hill were helpful docents. CHS members worked on several Chester Day beautification projects. Zinnia Cheetham (lower left, dark blue top) and Susie Christensen weeded and refurbished the landscaped area next to Rockefeller Center. The trails were cleaned up and the boardwalks at the Chester Furnace Historic Site were repaired by Troop 9, parents, and friends. Troop 9 is led by Scoutmaster Naved Surve (lower right, far right).

In June, there were three important meetings that CHS members participated in 1, Larison's Turkey Farm Development; 2. Main St. Capital Improvement Plans; 3. A 100th Anniversary Celebration for Hacklebarney State Park hosted by the Chester Historical Society.

Larison's Turkey Farm Proposals to the Mayor and Council

At the June 5 Mayor and Council meeting, Robert Berlant, the owner of the properties encompassing Larison's Turkey Farm Corner and property on Mill Ridge Lane, presented three development scenarios. Each scenario would dramatically change Larison's Corner and the Turkey Farm Inn differently. The public was invited to attend and comment. The Borough has made available the owner's concept drawings on their website as a PDF at https://chesterborough.org/government/news/447-upcoming-public-presentations.
The PDF has information on three scenarios including drawings and supporting images. The scenarios use several acronyms: THG, STHG, and COAH. THG refers to townhomes on Mill Ridge Lane, STHG refers to Stacked Townhomes, and COAH refers to affordable homes that would help the Borough meet its affordable housing obligation.

The **Wawa scenario**, has 32 Stacked Townhomes, 20 Townhomes, and 36 affordable housing units, for a total of 88 homes. The Wawa store and gas pumps would be west of the Turkey Farm Inn which is not demolished. The **180 Home scenario** has 124 Stacked Townhomes, 20 Townhomes, 36 affordable homes, and no Wawa. The Turkey Farm Inn is moved or demolished. The **80 Home scenario** has no Wawa, 60 Townhomes, and 20 affordable homes. There are 16 fewer COAH homes and the owner has requested a "Payment In Lieu of Taxes" (PILOT). The Owner stated that the economics only allow building 20 rather than 36 affordable homes. Concerning the PILOT, Mayor Hoven explained that would increase property taxes for residents. Mr. Berlant presented images of how the Turkey Farm Inn potentially would be altered if it were reused. No traffic studies were presented.

More than a dozen Borough residents made comments at the meeting. All were very concerned with how the development would negatively affect the town's aesthetics, historic ambiance, traffic, wastewater management, schools, and the historic Turkey Farm building. No decision was made at the meeting. The Mayor and Council will consult with the town planner and affordable housing attorney. The Turkey Farm saga will continue.◙

Arterial Presentation: Chester Main St. Capital Improvements Plan

At the June 17, 2024, Mayor and Council Meeting, Arterial Consultants provided a progress report on the Main St. Capital Improvements Plan. The project area is Main St. between Rt. 206 and Collis Ln. The public was invited and participated. Arterial gathered information from site walks, stakeholder meetings (including CHS), and the Public Open House on Jan. 17 at Fieldhouse. James Ribaudo, Director of Operations, presented their key findings, three strategies for improvement, and implementation steps. Shown below are the three strategies, implementation steps, and an example of one of the implementation steps (**in bolded type**). The full Arterial presentation of 37 slides can be found using a link on the Chester Borough website at https://chesterborough.org/government/news/454-arterial-capital-improvements-plan-presentation-link. I strongly encourage you to look at the PDF.

Strategy 1: Create a unique and enjoyable pedestrian experience.

a. Install efficient lighting along Main St. for pedestrians and vehicles
b. Extend sidewalks at corners and mid-block crossings where parking is not permitted and install seating and street trees.
c. Relocate crosswalk signs to comply with MUTCD Standards
d. Install brick driveway aprons at all driveways along Main Street
e. Extend the sidewalk in front of Taylor's Ice Cream Parlor
f. Install a flush concrete walkway in front of the firehouse

Strategy 2: Reinforce the identity and brand of the historic shopping district

a. Establish gateways at each end of the Historic Shopping District and Municipal Field
b. Develop a wayfinding signage network along Main Street, including information kiosks at Municipal Field, the Perry Street intersection, and the Grove Street intersection
c. Develop a design for decorative banner poles
d. Develop a consistent furniture palette that is appropriate for Chester
e. Reinstall all roadway signs on decorative signposts

Strategy 3: Create a variety of gathering spaces along Main Street

a. Install a series of seating areas & pocket parks along Main Street

b. Expand the sidewalk in front of Municipal Field to create a promenade

The comments from the Public were mostly positive, but concerns were expressed about the lighting recommendations, the sidewalk extensions, the changes in front of the firehouse, and the fence in front of the promenade. Arterial will take the feedback from the meeting to augment their improvements plan. ◙

Hacklebarney State Park 100th Anniversary Celebration

CHS celebrated its 100th with several events in June. The exhibit "Hacklebarney State Park – History & Nature – Celebrating 100 Years - Paintings, Images, and Haiku - Reflect and Enjoy" was on the Chester Library Art Wall in June (below). Over 30 Haikus have been paired with paintings and images of Hacklebarney State Park. A selection of eight of the haikus, paintings, and images are shown on the next page. Thanks to all who contributed.

On June 12, a 100th Anniversary Celebration was held in the evening at the Chester Library. Folks gathered to enjoy birthday cake, and a non-alcoholic sparkling wine, Ed Ng presented "Fascinating Facts – Hacklebarney's History – Amazing Stories. Note the title is a haiku! The talk is recapped in the following article and a video is at https://www.facebook.com/historicchesternj/. CHS welcomed Hacklebarney State Park Supervisor Patricia Kallesser and members of her staff to the party. Thanks to Alison Dahl and CHS members for organizing and serving the cake and bubbly. ◙

Walk the rocky paths
Dream by the cascading streams
Time stands still for now

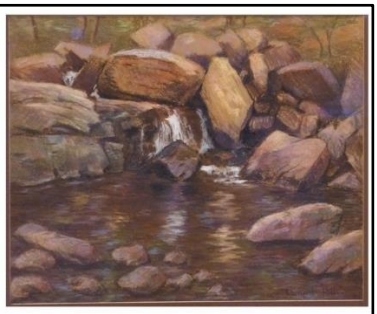
Haiku – Lois Taylor
Image – Ed Ng

Rainbow, Brook, and Brown
Trout Hits Green Wooly Bugger
In the Black River

Haiku – Ed Ng
Image – Ed Ng

Water tumbling down
Gentle breezes, rustling leaves
Tranquility reigns

Painting by Lamont Hill
Haiku by Peg Hill

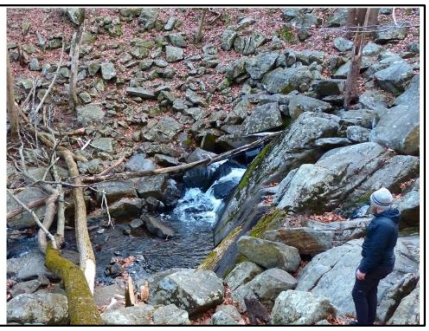


Natural order
of nature is disorder
See Hacklebarney.

Haiku – Alison Dahl
Image – Ed Ng

Hiking by the stream
Huge boulders towers above
The woods are quiet

Haiku – Janet Allocca
Image – Ed Ng



Full Bright Beaver Moon
Harbinger of winter ice
The Black River glows

Haiku – Ed Ng
Image – Ed Ng

Brook Trout in Trout Brook?
Longing looks from the wood bridge
The rocks shout – not here!

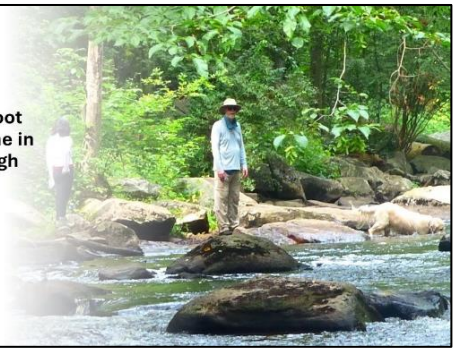
Painting by Donna Kellesser
Haiku by Ed Ng

Hiking on the path
Wishing my companion would
Let me off the leash

Haiku – Elizabeth Dowd
Image – Elizabeth Dowd

Round rock underfoot
Black River invites me in
I hear the frogs laugh

Haiku – Ed Ng
Image – Ed Ng



Iron currents flow
Through deep ravines cut from rock
Who heckled Barney?

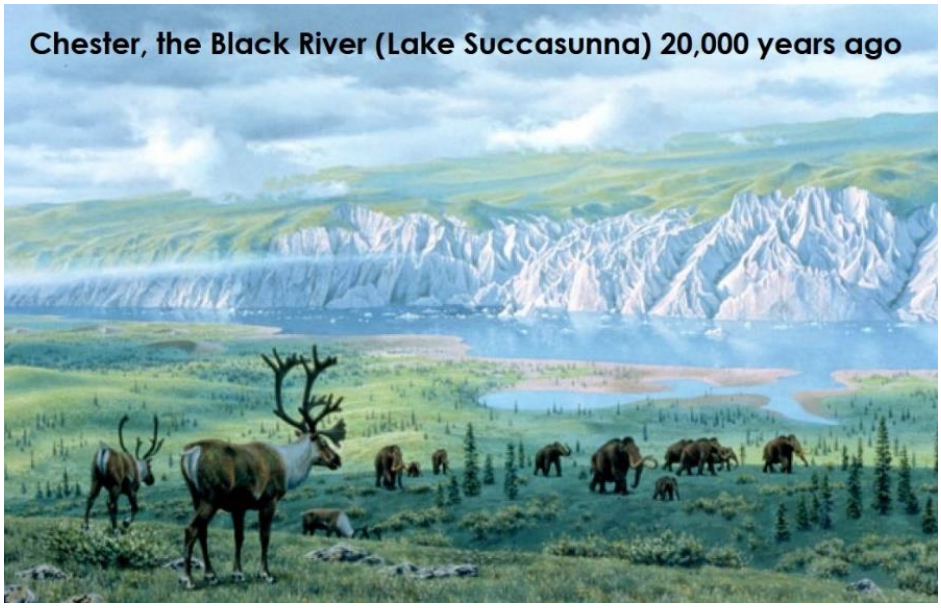
Haiku – Curt Viebranz
Image – Ed Ng

Fascinating Facts -Hacklebarney's History -Amazing Stories by Edward Ng

The Chester Historical Society and the NJ Park Service are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Hacklebarney State Park. Peter Osborne's book, *Hacklebarney and Voorhees State Parks* published in 2004 is the go-to source for information on Hacklebarney State Park's history[1]. It is informative and very well written and illustrated. A number of fascinating stories have arisen which I hope will complement the information in the book. Here are eleven of them. They are in chronological order, starting about 200,000 – 500,000 years ago. Each section is headed by a haiku which was written for the "Haiku for Hacklebarney" portion of the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

The mile-deep ice sheet - Half a million years ago - Birthed Hacklebarney

There have been three recent glacial advances during the current Pleistocene Ice Age affecting Chester.[2] The glaciers had a major impact on Hacklebarney's physiography. The most recent glacial advance was the Wisconsinan Stage which lasted from 85,000 years ago until 11,000 years ago. The previous advance was the Illinoian Stage which lasted from 191,000 until 130,000 years ago. Pre-Illinoian stages have been given various names but geologists decided to group them as simply Pre-Illinoian. The Pre-Illinoian glacial advance went as far south as Somerville, about 17 miles south of Chester. The glacier may have been over a mile thick. The ice scoured the land and helped create Seward Hill, Mt. Paul, and Hacklebarney Gorge, The Illinoian and Wisconsinan glacial advance did not reach as far south as Chester but still had impacts.



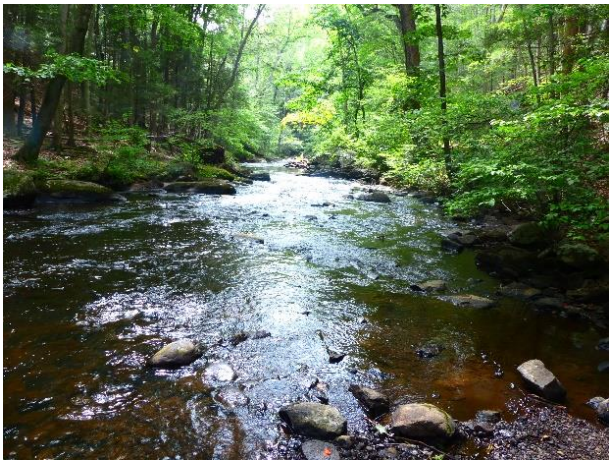
Geologist David Harper has found that before the pre Illinoian glaciation the Black River drained **northward**, but then became blocked when the Illinoian "wall of ice" advanced into the Black River valley. The valley then ponded to become Glacial Lake Succasunna which drained south through Cooper Mill once the blockage receded. An artist's depiction of the ice, glacial lake, giant caribou, and mammoths is shown in the figure[3]. The Black River resumed northward flow but was blocked again by impacts of the Wisconsinan glacier. Silt deposited into the lake during Wisconsinan

[1] Peter Osborne, *Hacklebarney and Voorhees State Parks* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing 2004).
[2] John Puffer, "The Pleistocene (Ice Age) of Chester, New Jersey"," *Chester Historical Society's News & Views,* November 2021, 5-8.
[3] Environmental Stewards, Rutgers University. 2012. "The Glacial Geology of New Jersey – Lecture Notes".

glaciation filled the valley to an elevation higher than the out-flow stream at Cooper Mill and prevented the Black River from returning to its northward course after the ice melted[4]. So the Black River flows south into Hacklebarney State Park and through Hacklebarney Gorge.

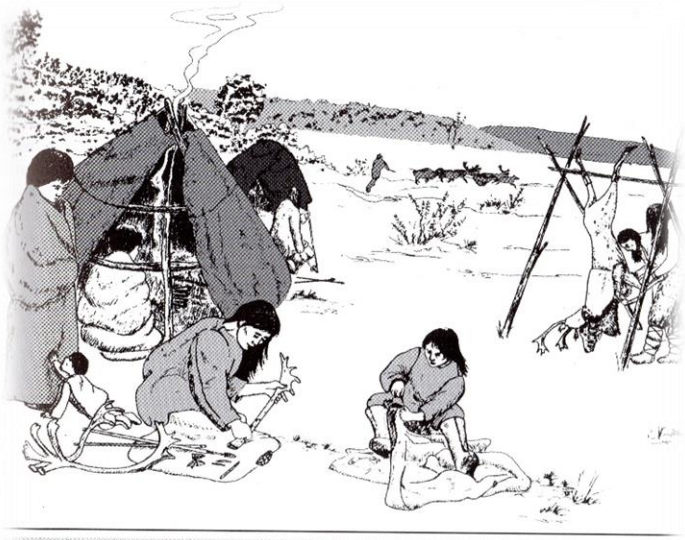
One river, three names - Alamatonk, Lamington - And Black all the same

Black or Lamington or Alamatonk River? What is proper? They all are! The 1853 Lightfoot and Geil Map of Morris County[5], shows the Black River flowing south from Randolph and Roxbury Townships into Chester Township. The Black River flows southwest and when it reaches the western border with Washington Township, the designation of the river changed to "Alamatonk or Lamington River". "Alamatonk" is the Lenape name for the river meaning black earth or black rock bottom. Europeans translated and adopted the name "Black River". The name "Lamington" is derived from the Lenape "Alamatonk".



Lenape lived here - For twenty-plus thousand years - They are here, unseen

The giant elk (or caribou) and wooly mammoths in the artist's depiction[6] are long gone, but the impact of another inhabitant remains – the indigenous people, the Lenape. Research reported in 2021 and 2023 shows that humans were in the White Sands National Park, New Mexico, 21,000-23,000 years ago[7] [8]. The abstract states: *These findings confirm the presence of humans in North America during the Last Glacial Maximum… providing a temporal range extension for the coexistence of early inhabitants and Pleistocene megafauna.* It is reasonable to visualize the Indigenous people, the Lenape, in this scene on the shores of Glacial Lake Succasunna and the Black River – for thousands of years.



ure 3.16. Small Paleo-Indian encampment showing hunters pursuing a carbou herd in the distance. ile men eviscerate and skin a slain caribou (right). A woman (center) defleshes a hide, and another indi

The history of the Lenape since their arrival in New Jersey is meticulously recounted in Herbert C. Kraft's encyclopedic book, *The Lenape-Delaware Indian Heritage - 10,000 BC to AD 2000*[9]. He provides copious supporting evidence that the Lenape were in New Jersey during

[4] David P. Harper, *Roadside Geology of New Jersey* (Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press Publishing Co. 2011), 177-180.

[5] Lightfoot, Jesse, Samuel Geil, and Robert Pearsall Smith. *Map of Morris County, New Jersey: from original surveys*. [Morristown N.J.: J.B. Shields, publisher, 1853] Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/2012593679/.

[6] Environmental Stewards, Rutgers University. 2012. "The Glacial Geology of New Jersey – Lecture Notes".

[7] Bennett, Matthew R. et al. 2021. "Evidence of humans in North America during the Last Glacial Maximum". *Science* **373**, 1528.

[8] Pigati, J. S., Springer, K. B., Honke, J. S., Wahl, D., Champagne, M. R., H. Zimmerman, S. R., Gray, H. J., Santucci, V. L., Odess, D., Bustos, D., & Bennett, M. R. (2023). Independent age estimates resolve the controversy of ancient human footprints at White Sands. *Science*. https://doi.org/adh5007

[9] Herbert C. Kraft, *The Lenape-Delaware Indian Heritage: 10,000 BC to AD 2000 (Lenape Books, 2001).*

the Wisconsinan Stage glaciation. Frances Greenidge[10] reports that thousands of Lenape arrowheads, hundreds of spears, tomahawks, axes, drills, hoes, grinding stones, polishing stones, pendants, and pottery pieces were found on Chester farms and fields. Due to disease, disruption, and malfeasance from European settlers and leaders, many Lenape were driven off their lands and out of New Jersey. Many Chester roads were built on Lenape trails. Main St. and Hillside Rd. are good examples.

Hacklebarney Mine - Chester's Most Historic and - Mysterious Name

The Hacklebarney Mine was the oldest, the most productive, and the last mine to close in Chester. From 1760 to 1896 it produced 250,000 tons of iron ore, most of it after 1876. The Weldon brothers emigrated from England and first developed the mine and also built furnaces to process the iron ore.

George S. Dufford (1864-1945) was born in Middle Valley and grew up in his family's 1747 home there. He was a man of many talents and one of them was writing about the history of the area. Here is his account of how the name "Hacklebarney" came about.[11]

Hacklebarney seemed a peculiar name to designate these early settlements, and I imagine, only a very few of the older generation know how the name originated. Many years ago, my father, the late Elijah Dufford, born Oct. 5, 1828, whose birthplace is now included in the present Hacklebarney Park, told me the story of its origin, which follows.

While building these furnaces and opening the iron mines, Weldon brothers knew a furnace master must be found; one who knew the temperatures necessary for the proper production of their product and how to maintain that temperature. Lack of this, for only an hour, might chill the molten mass, which meant the demolition of the entire furnace and later blasting out the cold mass of half-melted iron.

He must also know the exact properties of ore, limestone and charcoal necessary and how often and in what quantities they should be dumped in the furnaces from the top.
Such a man they found somewhere, in the person of a six-foot, two-fisted, red-headed son of Old Erin, Barney Tracey, by name. Under his red hair, Barney housed a temper just as red, which, like most Irish tempers, after the initial explosion, soon subsided; when he was again the rollicking Barney, his subordinates all loved and by the same token, loved to tease. They soon found his bark, much worse than his bite; this display of temper and rush of sentences, half Gaelic, half English, providing many enlivening scenes into their rather drab lives.

Hence, when the men felt the lack of diversion, one could tell another: "Let's start something. Go HECKLE BARNEY." The transition from Heckle Barney to Hacklebarney being one of pronunciation as a tribute to the foreman they all loved, they gave the small village, the name Hacklebarney, the name still used to designate, aside from the park, just a memory: for aside from the old Lower Hacklebarney Mill, the little village have long gone the way of all flesh.

[10] Frances Greenidge, *Chester, New Jersey – A Scrapbook of History – 1713-1971*,
[11] George S. Dufford, "Hacklebarney Once Busy Industrial; Iron Mines Dotted Area Where Thousands Go Now for Day's Outing", The Courier News, July 2, 1937, 13.

Yes! Hackiboni - Progenitor of the name – No! Barney Tracey -
There are several problems with Dufford's explanation. Foremost is that Barney Tracey was a furnaceman, not a miner. It is hard to imagine a mine owner naming a mine after a furnaceman. There were 35 other iron mines in Chester. They are all named after a location, e.g. Peach Orchard, or the original owners of the mine, e.g. Skellenger. None are named after a furnaceman. An alternative to George Dufford's explanation is that of Charles A. Philhower, "noted educator, historian, and authority on New Jersey Indian lore[12]". He commented in his book, *The Language of the Lenapes* that " 'Hackle' is probably a variant of 'Haki' meaning ground, and 'barney' is a variation of 'bonihen', to put wood on the fire. Hence 'Hackiboni', is to put wood on a fire on the ground, a bonfire."[13] It makes more sense that the original owners of the mine would have named their mine after the location and anglicized and adopted the original Lenape name for it: Hacklebarney.

Dam the Black River - 8 million gallons per day - All flowing to Plainfield. In 1910, Plainfield was growing rapidly and there was a fear there would be insufficient water in the future[14]. One solution was to draw water from the Passaic River at Berkeley Heights. However, many towns were already drawing water from the Passaic River and would certainly object. Engineer James H. Fuertes did a study on the situation and provided a report to Plainfield. He suggested damming the Lamington (Black) River at Hacklebarney, creating a reservoir upstream, and piping water from the new reservoir 25 miles to Plainfield. In his report, he writes:

"If a dam be built at the site mentioned (Hacklebarney) for the purpose of supplying Plainfield with 8,000,000 gallons of water daily some years hence, there will be some months each year when, the natural stream flow at the site being less than 8,000,000 gallons daily, water would be drawn from the reservoir, and none would flow down stream for the 26.85 square miles of the watershed below the dam. That is, for some months of each year the stream would be dry."[15]

[12] "Charles A. Philhower, 83, dies; Jersey Educator and Historian", *The New York Times*, January 4, 1962, 33.
[13] "Backyard Recreation Area", *The Bernardsville News*, June 26, 1957.
[14] "Suggests Union Water Plant: L.V.F. Randolph Discusses A Project Which Is Important At This Time", *The Courier News*, December 17, 1910, 1, 9.
[15] "Legal Points in Water Questions: W.S. Angleman Asked by Commission to Answer Them", *The Courier-News*, January 23, 1911, 1, 4. The newspaper article quotes the 26.85 square miles as "above the dam". It makes more sense that the 26.85 square miles are "below the dam" which is what was used.

We don't know what the planned route from Hacklebarney to Plainfield would have been, but we can use Google Maps to help us visualize a possible route if the pipeline were to coincide with the route a walker would take. The elevation declined, from 860 feet to 95 feet, which would make a pipeline feasible.

No dam on the Gorge - Great Alamatonk runs free - Desecration dodged

A dam on the Black River at Hacklebarney would have been catastrophic for the residents, the environment, and the natural beauty of the Hacklebarney area. However, the potential cost of the project, especially compensating property owners affected by the dam and water diversions, proved to be too expensive and risky for Plainfield to move forward. The dam was never built, the Black River Gorge was not flooded, and Hacklebarney was not destroyed.

There were Bories three - Navy Head, Artist, and Ours - Saintly Adolphe E.

Adolph(e) E. Borie was a name shared by three notable men from an old Philadelphia family, prominent in shipbuilding, banking, and brokerage businesses. Arguably the most famous was Adolph E. Borie (1809-1880). Notice that there is no "e" on the "Adolph". The Mathew Brady photograph of him is shown below. He was a successful Philadelphia businessman. He served a brief but consequential stint as President Grant's Secretary of the Navy. He is known for mandating fair wages at the Brooklyn Naval Yard and desegregation at the Washington Naval Yard. He was a supporter and patron of the arts. The second Borie was his nephew, Adolphe E. Borie (1877-1934). He was a successful artist who painted in Philadelphia, New York, and several cities in Europe. He studied with William Merrit Chase and Thomas Anshutz. He was best known for portraiture (his self-portrait is below), still life paintings, and landscapes. His paintings are displayed in several museums including Harvard and the Woodmere Art Museums.

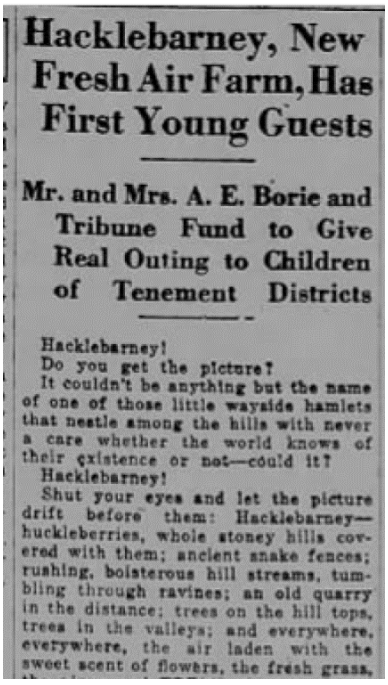
The third Adolphe E. Borie (1866-1954) was also born in Philadelphia and was another nephew of the Navy Secretary and cousin to the artist. He was a vice president of the

Secretary of the Navy - Adolph E. Borie - M. Brady

Artist Adolphe E. Borie Self Portrait

Philanthropist Adolphe E. Borie Passport Photo 1920

Bethlehem Steel Company and a partner of an industrial engineering firm. During World War One he was president of the Savage Arms Corp. and retired in 1918. The 1910 census showed he lived in Hempstead, NY. The 1920 census shows he lived in Chester NJ after retiring. Chester was his home for 22 years. He married Sarah Palmer Barnes (1878-1955) and they had no children.



Hacklebarney, New Fresh Air Farm, Has First Young Guests

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Borie and Tribune Fund to Give Real Outing to Children of Tenement Districts

Hacklebarney!
Do you get the picture?
It couldn't be anything but the name of one of those little wayside hamlets that nestle among the hills with never a care whether the world knows of their existence or not—could it?
Hacklebarney!
Shut your eyes and let the picture drift before them: Hacklebarney—huckleberries, whole stoney hills covered with them; ancient snake fences; rushing, boisterous hill streams, tumbling through ravines; an old quarry in the distance; trees on the hill tops, trees in the valleys; and everywhere, everywhere, the air laden with the sweet scent of flowers, the fresh grass,

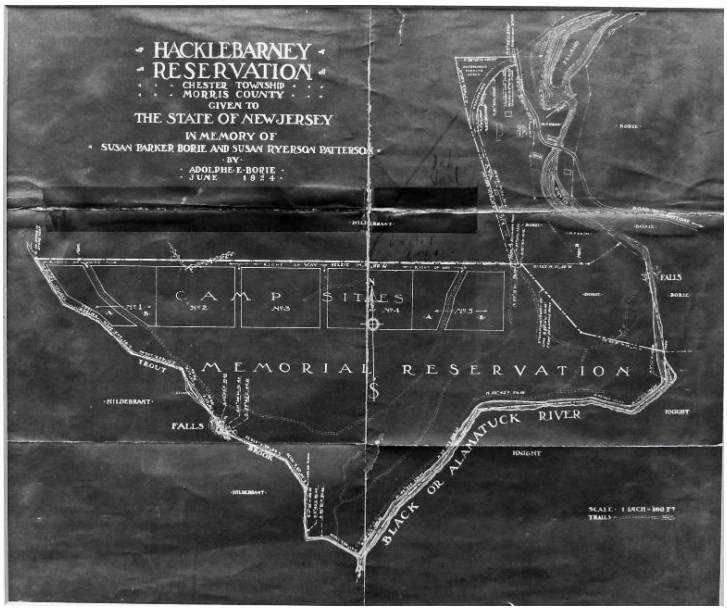
Sarah and Adolphe - Founded Hacklebarney to - Share the Fresh Air

It is somewhat incongruous that the president of the company that designed and made one of the most feared weapons in WWI, the Lewis Automatic Machine Gun, was also a longtime, large benefactor of New York Tribune's Fresh Air Fund. The Bories provided relief to tenement boys from New York City on their "Hacklebarney Fresh Air Farm". Existing buildings on the Farm were converted into dormitories and an indoor sports hall. "Mrs. Borie has expended much time and infinite care in working out the details of the project and is planning the comfort and happiness of their guests, present and future."[16] A total of 175 tenement boys selected by the Tribune came each summer.

Given the fulfilling experiences of the Hacklebarney Fresh Air Farm, it is not surprising that the Bories would create a plan to make it permanent but also enable more people to enjoy the Fresh Air Farm. They entered into discussions with the State of New Jersey. A bill was introduced and adopted for the creation of the Hacklebarney Memorial Reservation. The agreement stipulated that the 32 acres could only be used as a forest demonstration area, a public picnic ground, or a public vacation center, but not for any commercial use. It was also agreed that a memorial could be erected on the grounds to Susan Parker Borie and Susan Ryerson Patterson.[17]

Borie's thirty-two - To nearly thousand it grew - Nature's acres

The June 1924 map (right) shows the original 32 acres. The main triangular portion was bordered by the Black River on the east and Trout Brook on the west. The Bories donated another 91 acres in 1929 and 56 acres in 1935. The neighboring Hilderbrant family donated another 16 acres. The Bories remained active in planning the park. They donated land to enable and advocated for moving the entrance from the northeast corner to the northwest corner of the park, where it is today. They wanted to make it easier for people to visit the park. For the next 30 years, the park would remain at about 200 acres.



[16] "Hacklebarney, New Fresh Air Farm, Has First Young Guests. Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Borie and Tribune Fund to Give Real Outing to Children of Tenement Districts", *New York Tribune*, June 12, 1919, 15.
[17] "State May Get Chester Property", *Bernardsville News*, Feb. 7, 1924, 2.

"The Green Acres Program was created in 1961 to meet New Jersey's growing recreation and conservation needs."[18] The State bought land and provided grants or loans to municipalities or nonprofit organizations to buy land for Green Acres. They also encouraged the donation of land. Starting in 1964 and ending in 1998 an additional 786 acres were added to Hacklebarney State Park. In 1965 the Sterling Security Corp./Basset Foundation donated 223 acres. In 1967 Anita Merle-Knight Smith donated 113 acres. Land purchases totaling almost $3 million bought another 363 acres. Small acreage purchases and donations brought the total up to today's total of 979 aces.

Suzette Survived - Titanic's Sinking, later - Earned Croix de Guerre.

One of Borie's stipulations was for a memorial plaque at the entrance of the park. A very impressive one was installed. "Two women of rare vision, character, and courage" are named: Adolphe's mother and her granddaughter (his niece). We don't have much information on his mother, but memorializing her was important to Adolphe.

Who was Susan Ryerson Patterson (image[19] below), who preferred being called "Suzette"? She survived the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 but her father did not. But to describe her as just a Titanic survivor would be an injustice.

During World War I Susan travelled to France in June 1917, not long after the United States declared war on Germany. She served as a nurse and as a bacteriologist in an army field hospital. During the fighting she also drove an ambulance, carrying wounded soldiers to safety through the fighting. The French Government recognized her gallantry and awarded her the Croix de Guerre.[20] This is a high honor and equivalent to the Bronze Star or Silver Star in the US military. She and her husband George Washington Ryerson, also a Croix de Guerre recipient, settled in Morristown, NJ. She died in 1921 at the age of 30 of appendicitis. Perhaps her early death was another reason the Bories wanted to honor her memory three years later with the founding of the Hacklebarney Reservation.

The memorial plaque states, "This woodland is given to the State of New Jersey by Adolphe E. Borie…" I think in 1924 the convention

[18] "Green Acres Program", Department of Environmental Protection, accessed 5/12/2024, https://dep.nj.gov/greenacres/

[19] The image is from her passport application (issued Oct. 8, 2018) to return to the US with her husband. The application lists her occupation as "Red Cross Work".

[20] *Encyclopedia Titanica* (2018) Susan Parker Ryerson (ref: #255, last updated: 19th August 2018, accessed 10th June 2024 05:51:54 AM). https://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/titanic-survivor/suzette-ryerson.html

was to credit only the male donor. I do not doubt that Sarah Borie was an ardent supporter of the donation.

The C. C. C. Boys - Were Roosevelt's Tree Army - At Hacklebarney

The Great Depression officially started in 1929. Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) was elected president in 1932. The New Deal was FDR's program to try and resuscitate the economy. Part of the New Deal was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) intended to put young men to work on conservation projects in National and State Parks. They built new roads, trails, bridges, pavilions, picnic tables, overlooks, and park buildings. A large amount of effort was spent rehabilitating and restoring forest health, earning them the moniker "Roosevelt's Tree Army". CCC work at Hacklebarney State Park started in 1935 with many of the CCC Boys from Voorhees State Park coming to do the work. One of the more visible CCC projects was the relocation of the entrance after the Bories donated more land to make it possible. With the onset of WWII in 1941, the CCC Boys moved into another chapter of history, but they could look back to a job well done in Hacklebarney.

One hundred years plus - The Borie's wishes fulfilled - We are so blessed

On June 5, 2024, Hacklebarney Memorial Reservation now State Park celebrated its 100th Anniversary. The Bories originally had 175 tenement boys enjoy the Hacklebarney Fresh Air Farm in 1919. During the 2017 fiscal year, it was estimated that 174,000 people visited Hacklebarney State Park[21], not all of them tenement boys! That is a thousand-fold increase. The philanthropy of the Bories, the Basset Foundation, Anita Merle-Knight-Smith, and all who donated land, deserve our gratitude. The New Jersey Green Acres Program added the other 500 acres and we should recognize the success of the program to preserve open space in New Jersey. The Bories' wish that "This woodland is …to be forever preserved for the benefit of youth" has been granted to our benefit. The hard part of the wish is the "forever" that is the task that is passed onto us.◙

Bonus Fascinating Facts:

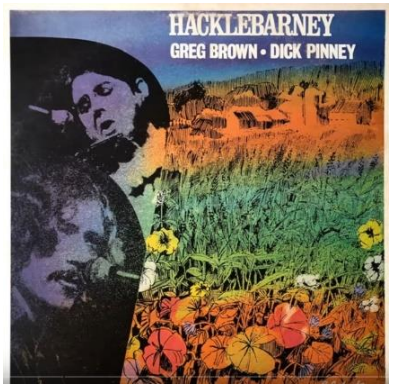
Sopranos Mob Hit - Murdered at Hacklebarney -R.I.P Matt B.

More in the realm of entertainment trivia than history, Hacklebarney had a brief role in the "From Where to Eternity" episode, airing on March 12, 2000, of the hit HBO show, The Sopranos. Tony Soprano and Salvatore "Big Pussy" Bonpensiero track down and murder Matt Bevilaqua. Salvatore notes, "He's way the f___ out by Morristown-Hacklebarney State Park". Tony adds, "Over by that 'George Washington slept here house'". James Gandolfini, who starred as

[21] Michael Sol Warren, *Millions of people visit N.J. state parks. Here are the most popular*. "NJ Advanced Media for NJ.com", https://www.nj.com/entertainment/2018/06/most_popular_nj_state_parks_2017.html. (Accessed June 14, 2024)

the mob boss Tony Soprano (pictured above), once lived in Pottersville.[22] [23]

The Pied Piper Of - Hacklebarney Iowa -Greg Brown Folk Singer



Yes, there is a Hacklebarney in Iowa. Its most famous son is songwriter, singer, guitarist, and entertainer Gregory Dane Brown. With over 30 albums and numerous cross-country tours, Greg Brown is well-known in the folk music world. He was born in 1949 in the Hacklebarney section of southeastern Iowa. He grew up on a farm that was homesteaded by his family since 1846. *His seasoned songwriting, storytelling, and music are deeply rooted in that place.*[24] His 1974 album is titled *Hacklebarney* (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbUyrstGG94). His song *Hacklebarney Tune* is at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuWa49_p4b4.◙

Upcoming Events, Acknowledgments, and Contact Information

Haiku for Hacklebarney will continue throughout 2024. If the spirit moves you and a Hacklebarney-inspired haiku happens, please share it. Email it to haiku4hacklebarney@gmail.com. We will publish the haikus with images (if supplied) in an online album. A haiku is a short poem where the first line has five syllables, the second line has seven syllables, and the third line has five syllables. The lines don't have to rhyme.

The November 2024 newsletter will include the second installment of Zinnia Cheetharm's "In Search of Chester's Shoddy Mill" and Alison Dahl's second installment "The History of 111 Main St." better known as the Chester House or Publick House and now the PH Steakhouse. We will also get an answer, thanks to the investigating skills of Sally Brander, on the mystery sculpture at the Chester Library. Of course, more mysteries will be uncovered!

Keep up with CHS events on our Facebook https://www.facebook.com/historicchesternj/.

Have a wonderful and safe summer and autumn,
Ed

CHS Trustees and Officers: President – Edward Ng Vice President – Alison Dahl
Treasurer – Anita Rhodes Corresponding Secretary – Lois Taylor Social Media – Zinnia Cheetham
Recording Secretary- Marla Jackson Archives – Alison Dahl Programs – Meg Sullivan
Membership – Vacant Trustees – Ed Hanington, Elaine Hanington, Peter Maddi
CHS Newsletter Editor: - Edward Ng (Historical photos and maps are usually from the CHS archives unless so noted. Modern photos are by Edward Ng except as noted.)
If you would like to join CHS or if you have stories or pictures to share, please talk to a Board member or contact us at (908) 844-6717 or chester.historical.society@gmail.com, or CHS Box 376 Chester NJ 07930.

See the next page for a membership form and membership information. You can help keep Chester's history alive and relevant to your life by becoming a member.

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[22] Wikipedia contributors, "From Where to Eternity," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=From_Where_to_Eternity&oldid=1216953236 (accessed June 10, 2024).
[23] C.G. Wolfe, *Mob "Hit" in Hacklebarney*, "The Black River Journal", 2010.
[24] Richard Sommerville, *The Pied Piper of Hacklebarney*, "The Union", https://www.theunion.com/news/the-pied-piper-of-hacklebarney/article_adf2e201-34e5-510c-a4e3-b71a047bf431.html

CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 376
Chester, NJ 07930

Membership Form

(Membership year runs from Oct. 1 ending Sept. following year)

New____ Renewal Info Unchanged____ Renewal Info Changed _____

Name:_____
First Name(s) Last Name(s)

Street Address/P.O.Box_____Apt. No.____

Town_____ State_____ ZIP_____

Today's date_____ Phone _____

Email address_____

Schedule of Annual Membership Dues

Individual ..... $15.00/person x No._____ = $_____

Family (includes children under 18)..... $ 25.00/family _____ = $_____

Business..... $100.00/person x No._____ = $_____

Life Membership ..... $200.00/person x No._____ = $_____

Voluntary Additional Donations (thank you for your generosity) _____ = $_____
(The Chester Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED.....$_____
(Please make checks payable to **Chester Historical Society** and mail CHS PO Box 376 Chester NJ 07930)

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP CHESTER'S HISTORY ALIVE!

Current members can give a guest membership to a new member for free! CHS is offering each current individual member or family membership, the opportunity to give **one free guest** membership to a **new** member. The guest membership will be in effect until September 30, 2024. The guest membership would be non-voting, but the guest would be able to attend all meetings, including the Annual Meeting, and receive digital copies of the newsletter. If you want to give a guest membership, please check this box ☐ and we will email you a guest form.

If you would like the newsletter delivered by U.S. Postal Service check this box ☐ (Delivery by email is the most cost-effective for CHS, but if you want a paper copy that is OK. Announcements of programs and events are usually sent by email. Please provide your email in the section above.

Questions? Please contact us by phone: 908 866-6717 or email: chester.historical.society@gmail.com
Additional information and past newsletters are available at the CHS website www.historicchesternj.com