Chester Historical Society's NEWS & VIEWS

November 2024

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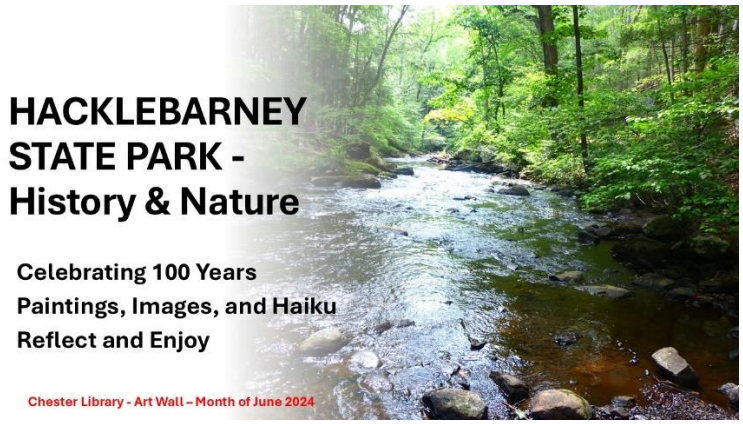
HAVEN'T RENEWED OR NOT A MEMBER? GO TO PAGE 16 AND PLEASE RENEW OR JOIN! IT'S EASY.

Hello CHS Members and Friends. Season's Greetings! Rather than do a President's year-end letter, how about a President's year-end picture recap? Here goes!

Our two major programs were held at the Chester Library (thank you, Emily Searle, Kim Harwanko, and Sally Brander for helping): In March the Chester Historical Society Antiques and Collectibles Appraisal Show with Jon Felz. Another Appraisal Show is scheduled for 2025.

In June the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Hacklebarney State Park started with a talk *Fascinating Facts - Hacklebarney History - Amazing Stories* by Ed Ng. Then birthday cake!

CHS had two exhibits on the Chester Library Art Wall. In June as part of the 100th Anniversary of Hacklebarney State Park, we featured *Haiku for Hacklebarney* with almost 40 haikus and images. In October, we selected and featured 25 images with *FACES from the Chester Township Council Chamber History Displays*. The images are shown in a subsequent article.



CHS members were active in several projects for Chester Day to help clean up and beautify our community. Susie Christensen (L) and Zinnia Cheetham (R) renovated the landscaping at Rockefeller Center. CHS also participated in Morris County's Pathways of History. Docents Peter Maddi (L), Meg Sullivan (R), Peg Hill (not shown), and Lois Taylor (not shown) welcomed visitors to an open house at Rockefeller Center.

CHS actively worked to preserve and adaptively reuse not only Rockefeller Center but also Larison's Turkey Farm Inn (L), the Stone Barn at Glenlora (C), and the trail at the Chester Furnace Historic Site where Scouts from BSA Troop 9 repaired several boardwalks.

At the end of September, we held our annual meeting at the historic PH Steakhouse, 111 Main Street. President Ed Ng, Treasurer Anita Rhodes, Archives Chair Alison Dahl, Program Chair Meg Sullivan, and Social Media Chair Zinnia Cheetham (shown in the image) gave reports. After Maureen Davidson gave the Nominating Committee report, Ed Ng was re-elected as President (Thank you), Marla Jackson was re-elected as Recording Secretary, and Elaine Hanington, Ed Hanington, and Peter Maddi were re-elected as Trustees. Congratulations and thank you for your service to the Chester Historical Society to help keep Chester's history alive to enrich our lives. A delicious lunch followed the business meeting.

The History of 111 Main Street – Part II by Alison Dahl

The saga of Chester's historic brick building continues from where we left off in the November 2023 CHS News & Views newsletter. Part Two highlights what life was like in Chester, significant influences, and a few interesting events that occurred related to this famous landmark between 1900 and 1970.

At the turn of the 20th century, Chester was adjusting to the painful end of its Iron mining boom, known as "Chester's Iron Heyday". Gone were the days when miners, diners, boarders, itinerant workers, and travelers frequented what was then named the Chester House -- arriving on horseback, in carriages, buggies, wagons, by train, and on foot. For many years, Chester House was known far and wide for its food, drink, and as many as sixty-five rooms for boarders and overnight guests. That all changed when the mines closed.

When mass production of automobiles began in 1901, and the telephone was coming into its own, "George Conover and Alonzo P. Green organized the Chester Telephone Company, beginning as a two-phone line between Mr. Green's drugstore and the railroad station at Muskrat". [1]

In 1903, Chester's high school-aged students attended Roxbury High School, commuting to and from school by train, then by school bus, for nearly fifty years.

The Chester House wasn't the only inn in town. "Andrew J. Rockafeller…managed several hotels in Chester, operating the Depot House (now Bernie's Hillside Lounge) for many

[1] Frances Greenidge, *Chester, New Jersey – A Scrapbook of History*, Chester Historical Society, 1974) 123

years…He bartended for the owner, Charles Cumback, and after his death, continued for Mrs. Cumback. From there he went to the Crossroads and was the proprietor of what he called the Flagstaff Inn…He stayed until it was sold to "Gus" Bird in 1908. Rockafeller then took over management of the Chester House from U.E. Thorpe." [2]

In 1905, Mary Budd transferred ownership of the Chester House to her son Joseph Budd and his wife Jennie B Budd. It was about this time that "Monroe Budd set out a lot of the maples in the village …' Big thirty-foot trees.' " [3] They grew to magnificent size and beauty.

An advertising pamphlet *American Suburbs*[4] noted that "Chester is…reached by two railroads – the Central and the DL&W – 53 miles from New York…Chester is the business center of an important agricultural district … Farms raise grain, potatoes and fruit for market, and a supply of fresh vegetables and products of all kinds in abundance…Village stores supply all necessaries at modest prices…The climate is healthful and agreeable, the air pure and bracing, and the region one of picturesque beauty. As an industrial location…along the Black River are many fine manufacturing sites. Land for factories…unlimited. Electric light and power are available. Good railroad service, freight rates low, coal cheap, plenty of labor available…Public sentiment is in favor of industrial development."[5]

It was about this time that L.T. Current purchased the Depot House at Muskrat and renamed it the Anthracite Hotel. The train crews on the overnight shifts enjoyed its "clean rooms and good food", assuring steady patronage.

The "Law-and-Order League of Chester" was organized by local men, according to its Constitution and By-Laws, "for the suppression of vice and immorality" because of the "lawlessness of the town." The men cited a fight that had occurred, and the "condition of a drunken man in the gutter covered with blood". There was no police protection…until the Law-and-Order League asked the Township Committee to appoint a Constable for the town. In 1909, Daniel McDonald was sworn in as the first Constable. Any resident could

[2] Greenidge, 125
[3] Greenidge, 125
[4] Greenidge, 126
[5] Greenidge, 125

belong to the League, and most of the "best" townsmen did, 45 signing the constitution. William Collis was elected president.[6]

By 1909, streets and homes were lit by electricity. Gilbert Y. Hopler bought the general store at Main and Hillside, across from the Chester House, which he operated for many years, making it his long career.[7]

Distilleries flourished, producing "Apple Jack and Apple Brandy – some known as "Jersey Lightning". Second only to iron it was a flourishing industry that had grown out of early farmers distilling their own "spirits" on their farms. Now they carted their apples to the nearest distillery and continued to do so until prohibition came in 1919. We know of nine distilleries in Chester…one of which was the Carlisle (Location unknown) "A man was killed when the still blew up." [8] Surely, there is more to this story.

1920 and 1930 US Census records show the Fleming Family owned, operated, and resided at the Chester House. Reportedly, under the Fleming brothers' proprietorship, business boomed. Supposedly, prohibition put a damper on the purveyors of alcoholic beverages in the '20s and early '30s – but perhaps not so at the Chester House. A 1929 entry in the Chester House guest ledger features the signature of Col. Charles A. Lindbergh. That same year, Route 31 (now Route 206) was built. Noteworthy is that blasting for it caused at least one mine cave-in behind the Main St houses!

Chester House Hotel Entrance 1937
Historic American Buildings Survey

"Early in the Depression years, the Federal Government created a number of agencies, three of which affected Chester…The Civilian Conservation Corps (which built the field house at Hacklebarney State Park), the Works Project Administration…and the Historic American Buildings Survey, perhaps the first Federal agency to recognize…buildings of historic interest...Unfortunately, only three in Chester were surveyed." The three were The Chester House Hotel, calling its condition in 1937 "good", the Isaac Corwin House which later formed part of Larison's Turkey Farm Inn, and the John Drake House, later the Everett Skellenger house, and now Weichert Realty at 142 East Main Street." [9] The image of the Chester House at the beginning of the article and the image of the entrance hall are from HABS.

In 1934, the DL&W railroad stopped running. Then in 1938, the Chester House was sold to Harriet P. and Charles W. Ramsey. The Fleming family moved out – but only for a short time. That same year, Charles Vliet purchased the Crossroads Inn and hired Thomas Dean as proprietor. The Dean family lived at the Inn until 1946. "Saturday nights became a regular meeting place for family and friends"[10]

"Chester responded to World War II, sending 147…to the Armed Forces, nine who did not return. Those at home did all of the things being done in towns everywhere – living by ration stamps…maintaining a 24-hour airplane watch…doing all kinds of Red Cross and Civil

[6] Greenidge, 127
[7] Greenidge, 127
[8] Greenidge, 87 and 88
[9] Greenidge, 144
[10] Greenidge, 143

Defense work, buying War Bonds, and working at various war jobs."[11] "Unquestionably the greatest lift to the morale of Chester boys and girls in Service was a newsletter [The Honor Roll] from home every month." An excerpt from one of the issues states "Mr. Mansfield has square dancing in the Chester House dining room every Friday and Saturday night. Big crowds. Lots of fun…"[12]

In 1940, the Chester House was sold back to the Fleming family, who reopened it, with John & Marion Mansfield as proprietors. Over the next few years, the red brick exterior was painted white and the original mahogany bar was moved from downstairs on the Hillside Road side to its present location. The Chester House became famous for its duck dinners – attracting over 600 every Sunday from as far as New York and Pennsylvania. In 1950, however, business declined, the Chester House closed, and over the next few years, the hotel's age began to show.

Lloyd Fleming

Chester — Funeral services for Lloyd Fleming, 60, former owner of the Old Chester House in Main St., will be conducted tomorrow at 1:30 p. m. in the Smith Funeral Home, Dover. The Rev. Joseph Walsh, pastor of the Morris Plains Presbyterian Church, will officiate. Interment will be in Presbyterian Cemetery, Fairmount.

Mr. Fleming was found dead Tuesday in the cellar of the vacant hotel, state police at Netcong reported. Following an autopsy, death was attributed to a heart attack. Assistant County Physician Nicoll reported Mr. Fleming had been dead several days.

The body was discovered by Joseph Ammerman of Chester, who was making a routine inspection for the owner, Paul Baruch of New York. Troopers were unable to explain how Fleming gained entrance or why he went back to the old hotel.

The hotel and restaurant had been closed during the past year. Mr. Fleming and his brother, Burt, of Little Falls, sold the place in 1940. At his death, Mr. Fleming was employed as a chef at the Morris County Golf Club, Convent.

Mr. Fleming, who was born in Long Valley, also leaves a son, Mark D. Fleming, with who he resided, and one grandchild. His wife died in 1936.

Sadly, in 1951, the historic structure suffered a fire in the dining room. The next year, Lloyd Fleming was found dead in the cellar of the hotel. His obituary is to the right.

"… Happily, about 1953 it was purchased by the Chester House Corporation and renovated. The porches were removed, and the pillars added, the upstairs back ballroom turned into bedrooms, and the Chester House was back in business."[13] It reopened in 1955 with Elmer Rinhard as proprietor - but not for long. In 1957 the corporation filed for bankruptcy. The Estate of Chester House, Inc. was transferred to Milton Blevin.

Henry A. Brandes reopened the business in 1959, advertising the restaurant and hotel as the "Olde Chester House". The total population of Chester in 1960 was 2862. By 1970, it nearly doubled…with 1400 in the Borough and over 4000 in the Township.[14] "The Olde Chester House changed hands again, was refurbished inside and the name changed to "Chester Inn". Fine food was served, and jazz bands performed every Friday and Saturday evening."[15]

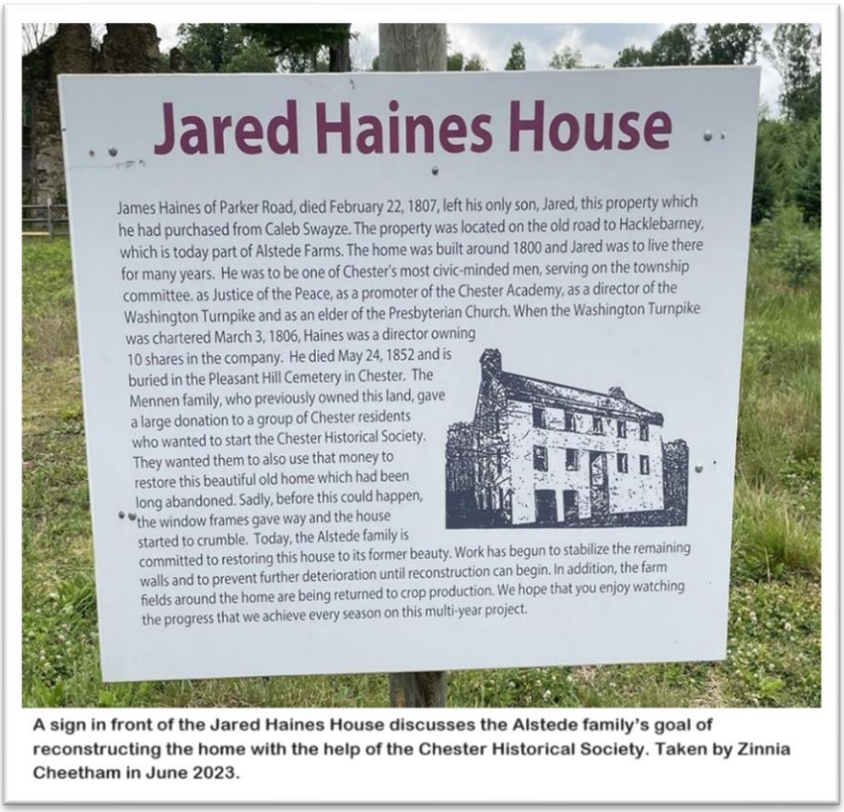
This brings us to the end of Part II of the history of Chester's famous landmark. In the upcoming newsletter look for *Part III: 1970 to the Present* including the Grand Opening of PH Steakhouse in 2022 (see image to the right). If you enjoyed these tidbits, there is so much more in the CHS' invaluable publication -- Frances Greenidge's *Chester New Jersey – A Scrapbook of History* which is available at the Chester Library or purchased from CHS. ◙

[11] Greenidge, 146
[12] Greenidge, 147
[13] Greenidge, 152
[14] Greenidge, 154
[15] Greenidge, 156

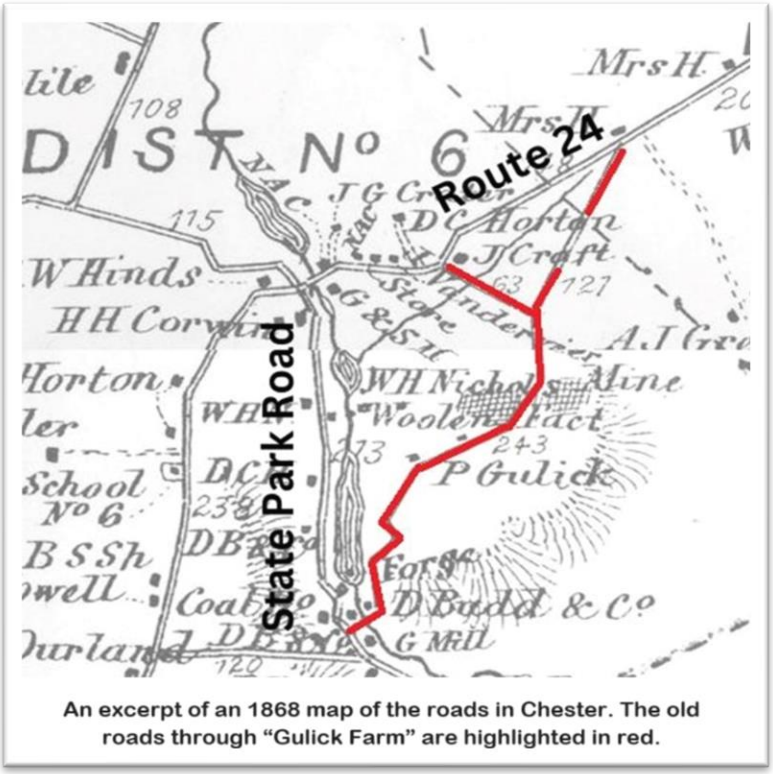
In Search of Chester's Shoddy Mill - Part Two by Zinnia Cheetham

The history of the Shoddy Mill began with the Haines family. According to "The History of Morris County", the Haines family was one of the early colonizing families to settle in Chester in the years following the Revolutionary War. James Haines arrived in 1783 from Long Island, New York, and purchased farmland from Caleb Swayze. The farmland went by several names, including 'Hideaway Farm', 'Gulick Farm', 'Mennen Farm', and eventually, 'Alstede's Farm'. The Haines family were wealthy farmers and according to "Chester: A Scrapbook of History", James' son, Jared, was said to have built a house made of "heavy stone, lime, and clay, with small stones and straw to make them strong, and square cut nails used wherever there was wood". My research indicated that the ruins of the house should still exist along the former road from Kay Pond leading up to Route 24, and they are still present on the Alstede property. The road, however, is not. Gladys Hunt described the now-defunct road as "a road leading from the bridge that's at the end of the pond" which "comes out on Route 24 by Mennen Farm". Using historic maps from Morris County's Planning and Preservation Department and aerial imagery, we can reconstruct roughly where the old road once ran and place the ruins in context along it. While the old road has since been closed due to safety concerns related to cave-ins due to the mining industry in the area, the section closest to Route 24 seems to have been preserved as an internal road on the Alstede Farm property. When I contacted Alstede Farms regarding research for this article, they graciously allowed me to visit the site and visit the ruins of the "Jared Haines house" which still stands on the property.

Ruins of the Jared Haines House. Taken by Zinnia Cheetham in June 2023



A sign in front of the Jared Haines House discusses the Alstede family's goal of reconstructing the home with the help of the Chester Historical Society. Taken by Zinnia Cheetham in June 2023.



An excerpt of an 1868 map of the roads in Chester. The old roads through "Gulick Farm" are highlighted in red.

Using historical maps and aerial imagery, the re-created path of the original roads is overlaid on the image.

It was Jared Haine's son, Stephen Roger Haines, who is recorded as building the Shoddy Mill on the Haines property around 1823. However, Stephen's time in the shoddy business was quite short. He quickly partnered with an established expert in the wool manufacturing trade, William Hanford Nichols (alternatively spelled Nicholas). Nichols was a professional "Fuller" who moved to Ralston from New England. While Greenidge stated that Nichols was from Vermont, other records indicate that his parents immigrated to Connecticut and that that was where William was born. According to Greenidge, their early agreement was signed in May of 1823, and it was arranged that Nichols would source the necessary equipment and "instruct Haines to the best of his ability in the fulling and colouring business during the season of fulling". Meanwhile, Haines was to board Nichols and work the "Carding Machine". Other costs, including hiring a "clothier", and profits, would be split as equal partners. Their venture into fulling, shrinking, and felting wool cloth by applying heat, moisture, or pressure, only lasted several years. After several years of partnership, Nichols purchased the mill from Stephen in 1827 and additional land in the following years from Henry Hedges, David Horton, and John Crater. Haines meanwhile is recorded as being a surveyor, lawyer, and craftsman according to Greenridge, and eventually relocated to Newark.

Meanwhile, William Nichols settled into life in Milltown with his wife, Nancy, and they had a son, also named William Nichols. While the Nichols family is not one of the most well-known families in Chester's history, William Hanford Nicholas Jr. was a witness in the legendary trial against General Nathan Cooper. William records in his own words that, "I have lived there [near Cooper's mills] all my life, within a quarter of a mile of the mill." and that he lives "on the Black River below Cooper's mill" and had been working in the "wool manufacturing" business. At that time, he stated that his father owned the mill, and it was powered by waterpower from the river.

William Jr. married a relative newcomer, Louisa Vanderveer, the daughter of James Vanderveer, who became a long-time owner of the Milltown General Store. The Vanderveers moved to the Milltown area in 1832. Greenidge suggests in "Chester, A Scrapbook of History" that James Vanderveer likely purchased the Milltown General Store after the death of General Nathan Cooper in 1879. However, additional research shows that this was not the case. While General Nathan Cooper built the original store, James Vanderveer gave a deposition in 1867 which states that he "was in the mercantile business at Cooper's mills" from 1832 to 1863, indicating that the property was sold to Vanderveer when the General was about thirty years old.

William Jr. and Louisa married in 1853 or 1854 and as a wedding present, James, gifted Louisa and William Jr. a home at 257 East Main Street. Alongside the record of his marriage, William Jr's occupation was listed as "Fuller". William and Louisa had four children, but Louisa unfortunately passed away in 1863 at only 27 years old. Interestingly, this is also when it was recorded that William took a hiatus from his career as a fuller. Perhaps in part due to her death or changes in circumstances with her family, William worked at the Milltown General Store in 1863 and 1864. Presumably, he returned to the mill until he died in 1876. After his death, his children chose not to continue the family business, and the mill began to be leased. In the 1880's, a J.T. Shepherd utilized the mill in his carpet weaving business and then a Mr. Lancaster rented the property to produce blankets. In 1891, William Jr's daughter Anna and her husband William Chardavoyne purchased their siblings' shares of the property. They also moved into the house at 14 State Park Road, which had long had an association with the Shoddy Mill site.

After three generations, the mill was sold to Horace Subers in 1900. However, ownership did not last long, and later that year, the Shoddy Mill property was sold again, this time to John Kean II. Kean was the last private individual to own the property. Few records exist to indicate the relationship Kean had with the property and there are no indications that Kean ever lived on the property. Gladys Hunt only mentioned his name when she shared that he was their landlord at the time that they were living at the Shoddy Mill. Following the death of John Kean, the Morris County Park Commission purchased his estate containing the Cooper Mill and the Shoddy Mill from his descendants in 1963 and created a public park, which remains open to the public to this day.

This article has been years in the making and is a testament to the impact of oral histories on preserving history. When I searched for Gladys Hunt, I discovered that she died within four years of her interview with Ivins Smith! Gladys Hunt would have been forgotten if not for Ivins transcribing their interview during her final years. These documents were then evidently lost in the intervening years one page of the transcript and her accompanying drawings are still missing, so without him encouraging me to find them, her history could have been forgotten again. Without their joint efforts, this component of my historic research at the Cooper Mill site wouldn't have happened and I never would have discovered this treasure trove of information linking multiple Chester families together and uncovering the history of a site that was built two hundred years ago, in 1823. I want to emphasize that oral histories, and other first-person resources, are great tools to preserve and share history for future generations. If you or someone you know has stories to share about the past in Chester, please reach out to the Chester Historic Society to ask about preserving your oral history. ◙

Mort Carl and *Antiphon*: A Chester Mystery by Sally Brander

First installed on the library lawn in 1983, *Antiphon* is the work of Ohio-born artist Mortimer Robert Carl. However, for many years the name of the sculpture and the artist were forgotten. Recent research has solved that mystery. The sculpture was originally meant to be a one-year loan and exhibition; however, Carl's passing shortly after resulted in its remaining in place. As such, the artist and his work should be remembered, which begins with a proper introduction.

Mortimer Robert Carl was born June 26, 1905, in Cuyahoga, OH. Better known to his peers as Mort, Carl's early life was spent wearing a variety of hats: a Cuyahoga gymnasium instructor, a health club sales promoter in NYC, and a self-employed writer in Woodstock, NY. No location captured his heart like Ajijic, Mexico–where countless other creatives had flocked[16]. Here he met his second wife, Helen Kirtland, who was a former dress designer in New York. Together with Mort, the couple established a successful textile business together with their original woven designs still being produced in Ajijic today.

As an artist, Mort Carl was neither limited in medium nor location. In addition to experimenting with textiles, he painted. His large paintings were exhibited in San Francisco, Mexico City, and Guadalajara with names such as "Construcción vertical" and "Composición en color." His work is defined by broad, dense strokes and a desire for scale that perhaps manifested into the two-meter-tall *Antiphon* more than 20 years later.

Mort Carl's final home was in Long Valley, New Jersey. Germaine, his third wife approached Chester Library in 1983 about exhibiting her husband's artwork on the property for one year. Mort's sculpture, *Antiphon,* was installed in 1983. Shortly thereafter, he fell ill and passed on November 15, 1985. The sculpture was left in place at the Chester Library.

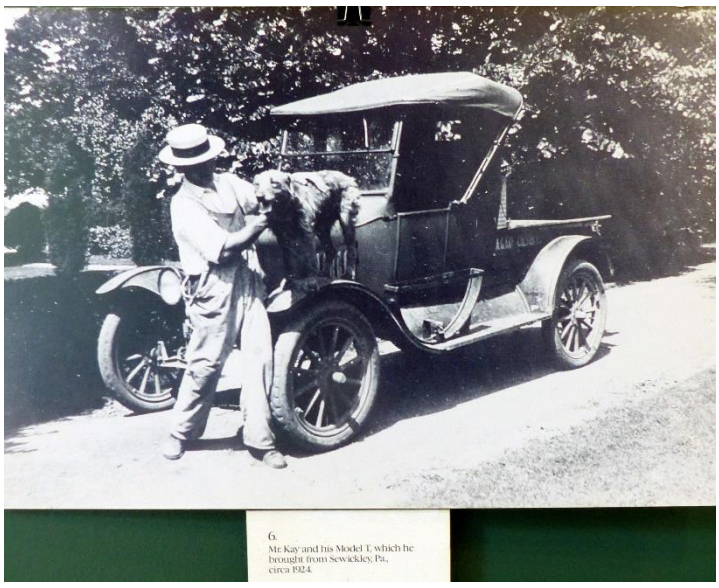
The word "Antiphon" denotes a psalm or verse sung responsively, often as a refrain. Patrons who visit Chester Library should walk counterclockwise from the entrance and see *Antiphon* sitting peacefully on the east side of the building. Katie Goodrich Ingram, stepdaughter of Mort, remembers him vividly as an impassioned artist who hosted soup dinners and tennis parties. While we will never know him, we can know *Antiphon.*

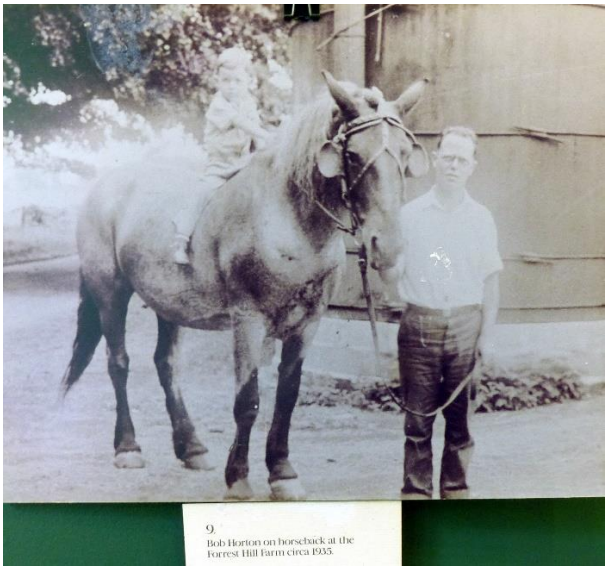
[16] "Writer and sculptor Mort Carl lived in Ajijic in the 1940s and 1950s." by Tony Burton. Accessed May 11, 2024. https://LakeChapalaArtists.com/?p=8126. The 1955 image of Mort Carl is from this article with credit to El Informador.mx.

Images from the CHS Library Exhibit *FACES* of Chester by Edward Ng

Ken Caro, Chester Township Mayor from 1990 to 1998, led the effort to illustrate local history on the Township Council Chamber walls. After a recent renovation of the Chamber, he asked for historical photographs from residents and the Chester Historical Society. The photos were copied and mounted on the walls (see photo above). The historical displays were so popular that other residents wanted to share their historical photos of relatives, schools, houses, animals, and the countryside. The number of photos increased from about 40 to 90 on the walls of the Chamber and stayed on the walls for 30 years. In 2024 the Council Chamber was to be repainted, and the photos were removed by Jimmy Hunneman (Chester Township DPW) and Ed Ng (CHS). The photos were given to the CHS.

From the ~90 photos, we selected 25 with **faces** in them, and were displayed on the Chester Library Art Walls in October 2024. Each photo is numbered and has a short description.





9.
Bob Horton on horseback at the Forrest Hill Farm circa 1935.

10.
A farm vehicle from Hetch Hetchy, so named by Miss Mooney. It is also known as Swackhammer Farm. Miss Mooney appears to be driving the truck.

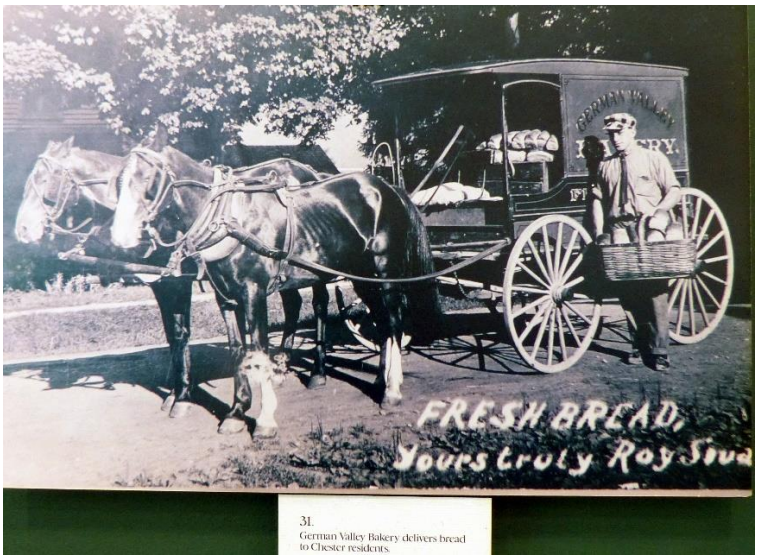
14.
Warren and Glenroy Stroud circa 1922.

21.
Teacher and students at the Hackettstown School No. 7 circa 1912. Pictured: Laura Hilldebrant, Mahlon Pitney, Essie Wortman, Mary Cafe, Lloyd Hilldebrant, and Ruth Hilldebrant.

27.
The Sturzenczzer Embroidery Factory, later known as Cooperative Industries.

32.
Chester Township's first library.

37
The Rockefeller Orchestra, which often played at the Mushrat.

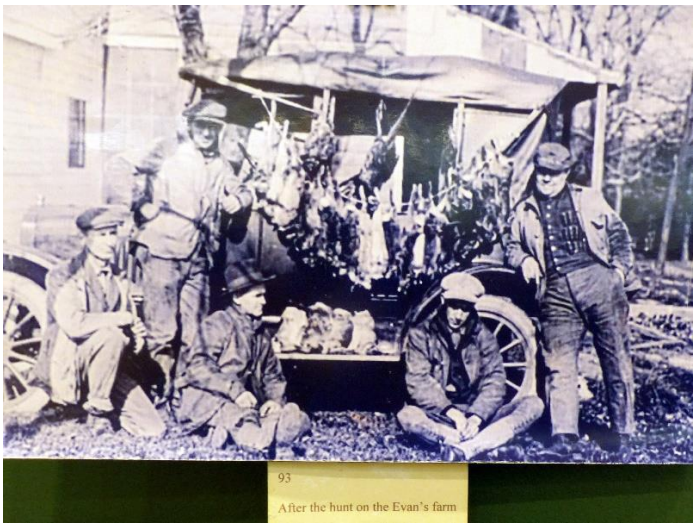


31.
German Valley Bakery delivers bread to Chester residents.

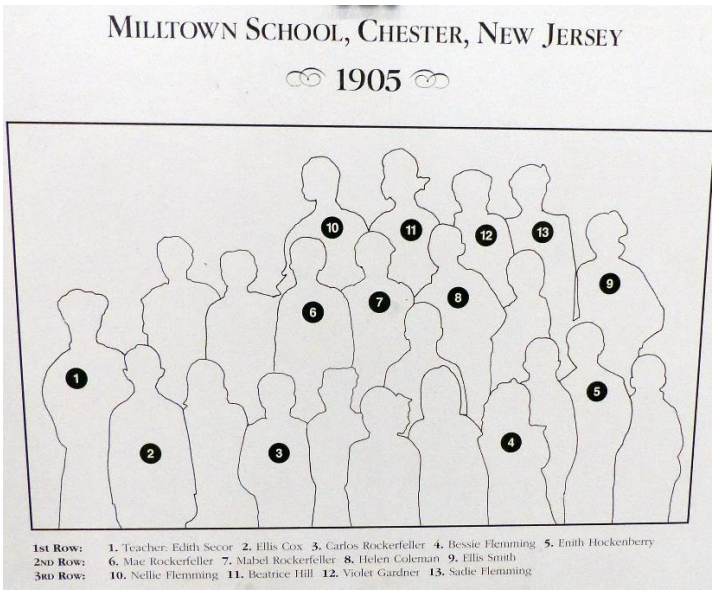
42
Aaron and Mary Cregar (Mary was the daughter of Steven Wortman.)

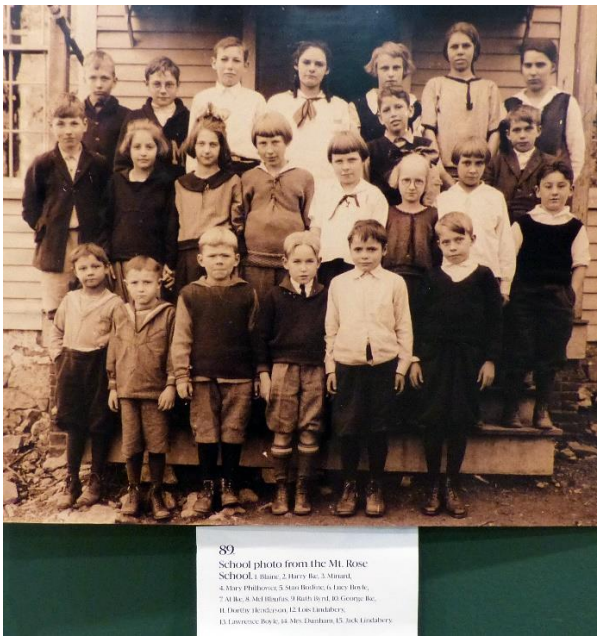
35.
The "roaster" adjacent to Williamson Lane. (Bea Case and Dot Rogallsky)

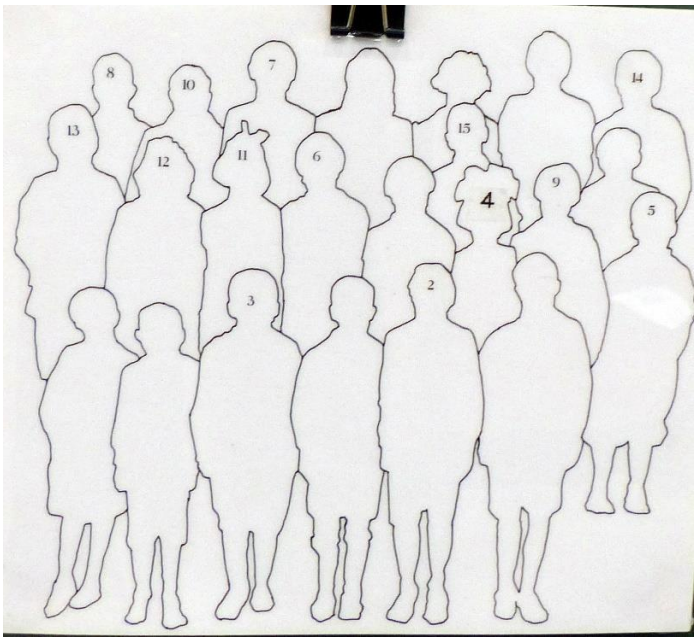
90.
The Township Garage (currently the Police Building). Wilbur Hayworth and Bob Sullivan.



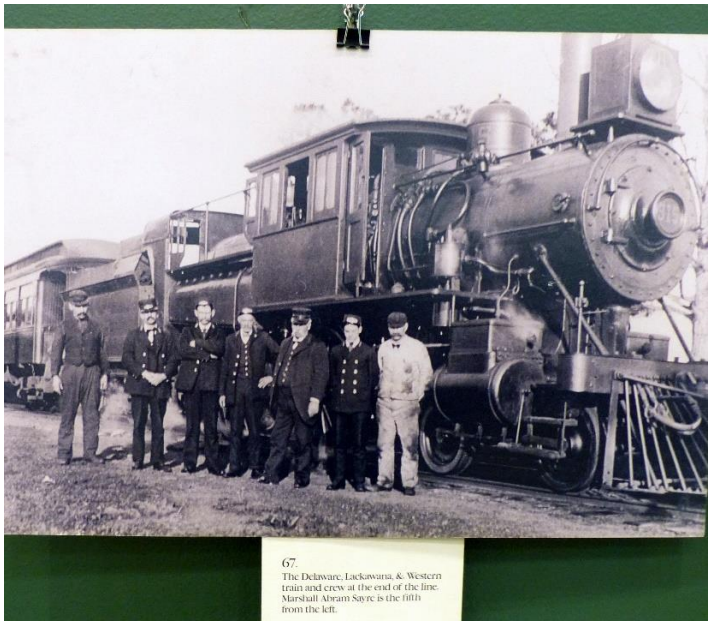
93
After the hunt on the Evan's farm


MILLTOWN SCHOOL, CHESTER, NEW JERSEY
1905
1ST ROW: 1. Teacher: Edith Secor 2. Ellis Cox 3. Carlos Rockerfeller 4. Bessie Flemming 5. Enith Hockenberry
2ND ROW: 6. Mae Rockerfeller 7. Mabel Rockerfeller 8. Helen Coleman 9. Ellis Smith
3RD ROW: 10. Nellie Flemming 11. Beatrice Hill 12. Violet Gardner 13. Sadie Flemming


89
School photo from the Mt. Rose School.



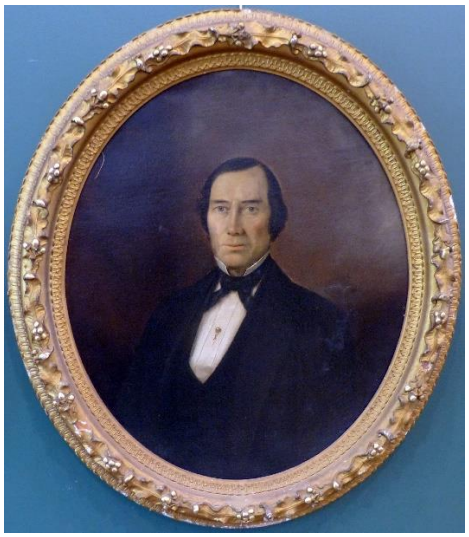
63
Jennie Hedges Sayre in the garden at the John Budd farm on Larison Road circa 1910. She is the photographer for photographs numbers 66-69 in this exhibit.


67.
The Delaware, Lackawana, & Western train and crew at the end of the line. Marshall Abram Sayre is the fifth from the left.

66.
A canoe trip down the Black River around the turn of the last century.

71
Walking down Oakdale Road to the train station @ 1915. Frank Van Allen, Catherine Derby, Agnus Van Allen.

Mary M. Swayze


Samuel W. Swayze II

W. Edwin Collins

As you can see from the image of the Chester Township Council Chamber at the beginning of this article, for over 30 years W. Edwin Collis separated Mary M. Swayze (1848-1908) from her husband Samuel W. Swayze II (1838-1913). We have the pleasure of reuniting them or at least their portraits. Mary's maiden name was Mary Woolley Backer. She was born in Chester in 1848. Samuel was born into a pioneering Chester farming family. Mary and Samuel were married in 1873 and had three children, Mary, Belle, and Theodore. According to the US Census, by 1870 they were living in New York City. Samuel was a clerk in the Customs House. After Mary died Samuel moved back to Chester where he died in 1908 and is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Samuel W. Keavy, Theodore's grandson, donated Mary and Samuel's portraits to CHS. Keavy noted that the artist was Henry Krause who was born in Hamburg, Germany but emigrated to the USA. He was an active artist in New York City from the time of the Civil War. Krause is known for his portraits. It seems he painted Mary and Samuel's portraits while he was working as a clerk and living in New York. We are still researching the W. Edwin Collis portrait. Collis was a substantial historic Chester figure. More about that later. At least for now, he isn't coming between Mary and Samuel. ◙

Upcoming Events, Membership, Organization, and Contact Information

Mark your calendars for an enriching series of programs. More information will be sent out closer to the date of the event.

- January 1 – **CHS MEMBERS ONLY**: Open House at the Pfaffs to view and learn about Beth's extensive German Christmas ornament collection, 11:30 – 1:30
- January 22 - James Lewis, head of the Caroline Foster History and Genealogy Center, will talk about the research resources and how to conduct research at the Center at 6:30 pm at the Chester Library.
- February 15 - 1 pm, Susan Simon from the Morris Area Genealogy Society will speak about DNA and researching your ancestors.
- March 1st -Antiques and Collectibles Appraisal Show with Jon Felz of RZM Fine Arts and Antiques at the Chester Township Community Barn, 11 am to 4 pm.

Thanks to those who have already renewed their membership or recently joined CHS. If you have not done so, please act now. The membership dues for an individual is $15, a family is $25, a business is $100, and a Life Membership is $200. There are two ways to renew or join. **Online:** We have set up SignUp Genius to record contact information and allow you to pay the membership dues using a credit card. Click on the link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA8AE29A5F8CF8-52650915-renew
Follow the directions on the SignUp Genius webpage. CHS will not share your information with third parties. In addition to the membership dues, there is a 50 cent plus 5% handling fee which is paid to Stripe the payments platform handling the transaction. That translates to a $1.25 fee for individual membership and a $1.75 fee for a family membership. Once your transaction is complete, a receipt will be emailed to you. Thank you! That's all.

Mail: If you are **NOT** using the online system, download the membership form attached to this email or from http://historicchesternj.com/home/membership.html. Mail the filled-out membership form and your dues/donation check to Chester Historical Society, PO Box 376, Chester NJ, 07930. If you have questions, please reply to this email or send a note to chester.historical.society@gmail.com.

Don't delay. Renew or sign up today. Help keep Chester's history alive to enrich our lives.

CHS Trustees and Officers: President – Edward Ng Vice President – Alison Dahl Treasurer – Anita Rhodes Corresponding Secretary – Lois Taylor Recording Secretary- Marla Jackson Archives – Alison Dahl Programs – Meg Sullivan Social Media – Zinnia Cheetham Membership – Vacant Trustees - Elaine Hanington, Ed Hanington, and Peter Maddi
CHS Newsletter Editor: - Edward Ng
CHS Archives Team – Alison Dahl (captain), Lois Taylor, Peg Hill, Elaine Hanington, Maureen Davidson, Meg Sullivan, Marla Jackson, and Bill Donahue.

Historical photos and maps are usually from the CHS archives except as noted. Modern photos are by Ed 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) 866-6717 or chester.historical.society@gmail.com, or CHS Box 376 Chester NJ 07930. Membership information and a downloadable membership form are available at http://historicchesternj.com/home/membership.html .