



The Town Crier.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER—THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BLOOMFIELD
Editor: Marguerite Elliott Producer and Art Director: Frederick Branch



VOLUME I, NUMBER 2

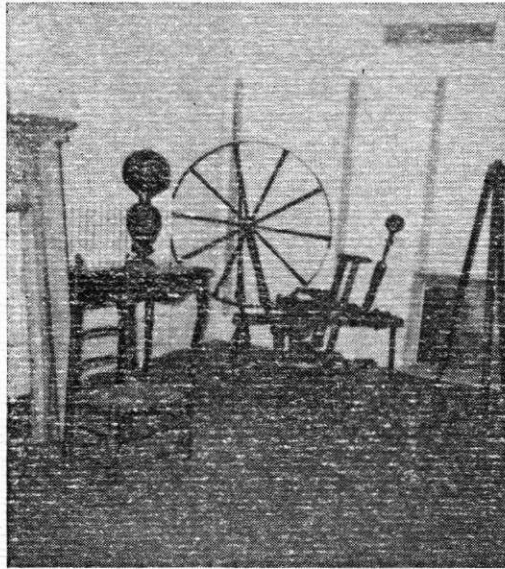
BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

MAY, 1969

Mayor Davis to Cut Ribbon at Formal Opening of Historical Museum

At the opening of the Museum on May 4, 1969, at 3 p.m., Mayor Walter J. Davis will participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Destiny! Deacon Davis (1796) to Mayor Davis (1969). Fate has decreed that the "Davis" name link the past with the present. Living history of Deacon Davis' era is being preserved in the new Museum for the present and future inhabitants of Bloomfield.



A corner of the Historical Society of Bloomfield Museum.

Bloomfield Public Library Commends Society

The Library's primary function in the community is to provide information and cultural enrichment to its patrons. The Board of Trustees of the Bloomfield Public Library is pleased to welcome this permanent museum to the Library Gallery because it adds an important visual dimension to the community's knowledge of its Bloomfield heritage.

We congratulate the Historical Society of Bloomfield and its hardworking committee for the care with which this fine collection of Bloomfield memorabilia was assembled and catalogued and the good taste and imagination with which it is displayed. We are proud to house it and make it available to the community.

Mrs. Roy E. Sjogren, President
Board of Trustees
Bloomfield Public Library

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Historical Society Museum to the Gallery of the Bloomfield Public Library. The Board of Trustees and I consider this cooperative venture another step forward in our endeavor to make the Bloomfield Public Library the cultural center of the community.

Howard S. Vogt, Director
Bloomfield Public Library

MAY 21st MEETING

The last meeting of the Historical Society will be May 21st, 8 p.m. at the Civic Center.

One hundred years ago on May 21, 1869, David Oakes II was born in Bloomfield. His widow, a remarkable woman, lives in her splendid home in Bloomfield, a home which Frederick Branch, Preservation Officer, has started proceedings to have designated as a Historic site. Recently, Mrs. Oakes gave to the museum the wedding dress of Mrs. Harry E. Richards which Joseph Maloney will display in a magnificent window at Lipton's in honor of the Museum's official opening.

Theodore Hock has promised a dynamic speaker for the evening. Another highlight: the Nominating Committee (Mr. John O. Ambler, Mrs. Helen Andrews and Mrs. Roy E. Sjogren) will present nominees for the new slate of officers for the coming year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I took office as your President in May of 1967 I had one goal in mind—finding a permanent home for the Historical Museum. As this newsletter goes to press the achievement of that goal is imminent.

There were times during the last two years when the dream of having a museum seemed like it would never materialize into reality. But months of planning coupled with hard work enthusiastically performed by our members made it come true.

Many people labored diligently on this project but there are some who have done much more than others; therefore, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to praise Mr. and Mrs. John O. Ambler, Frederick Branch, Mrs. David Johnson, Mrs. Louis Pangaro, Mrs. Emile F. Portsch, Mrs. Howard E. Riggan and Mrs. Charles A. Sherlock. Without their untiring efforts we would have been in a terrible bind. A sincere thank you goes to them and to all the other members who helped to achieve this long-sought goal—*The Historical Society of Bloomfield Museum.*

—Mrs. Peter Dorn

P.S.: This newsletter, THE TOWN CRIER, is the BRAIN-CHILD of Marguerite Elliott. She and Frederick Branch are to be congratulated!

OOPS!

Mrs. Betty Babicz we are sorry we made you a "Miss" in our last issue. We take off our apology hat to you.

AN INVITATION

The Historical Society of Bloomfield, N. J. is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to advancing knowledge, understanding and appreciation of localized history. It extends to you a cordial invitation to become a member or sponsor. For further information, please write to the editor.

Many Indian artifacts have been found around the Town, indicating that tribesmen most likely hunted for food in Bloomfield.

Before sitting down to wait for your ship to come in, be sure you have sent one out.

DISCOVERY

Did you locate the gas lights mentioned in our first issue? Colonial Village—S.E. corner of Beach and Elm to S.W. corner of Beach and Oak. Several hundred feet along Oak St., Elm St. to Church St., East.

Did you know that Glen Ridge was the last section of Bloomfield to break away from the town in 1895?



GENERAL JOSEPH BLOOMFIELD

THE TOWN CRIER

594 Bloomfield Avenue
Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003

OFFICERS

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HISTORY

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Membership in the Historical Society of Bloomfield, N.J. is for young people as well as adults. Objectives of the organization for the young are:

1. Rousing the interest of young people in the history of their home town, county, and area.
2. Bringing history to life outside of a textbook.
3. Promoting good citizenship and pride in heritage.
4. Giving youth a chance to evaluate present-day events in the light of the past as well as the future.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY GETS OWN SEAL

A seal, which will be used to identify the Society, will appear on THE TOWN CRIER, stationery, promotional material and activities. It was designed by Marguerite Elliott and drawn by Frederick Branch.



Visitation hours to the Museum will be Wednesday, 1 to 3 o'clock. Programs will be announced in future issues of THE TOWN CRIER.

Historical Society Museum

Many of the exhibit items which are now housed in the Museum of the Historical Society of Bloomfield were at one time owned by the Bloomfield Historical Committee. As early as March 7, 1930, this Committee was in operation and collecting material for an exhibit at the Bloomfield Public Library. An article which appeared in *The Independent Press* at that time stated "The increasing public interest in lending or giving to the committee any objects or documents that pertain to local history, speaks well for the eventual value of the planned exhibit." The article continued by saying that "It is hoped that a sufficiently large collection will soon have been made so that early opening to the public for inspection and appreciation can be expected".

When the Historical Committee ceased to function, the various items collected were stored in the Bloomfield Public

Library. During the 1940's and 1950's, many school children visited the Library's "Attic Museum" and were intrigued by Bloomfield's old school bell; an early manual vacuum cleaner; a spinning wheel; an ox yoke; and many other historical articles. In 1962, when Bloomfield celebrated its 150th anniversary, the Library approved the transfer of ownership of the museum collection to the newly created corporation called Bloomfield's 150th Anniversary 1962, Inc.

Items Stored

For several months, the museum items were exhibited at Bloomfield College. At the close of this exhibit, the items were stored in Brookside School, an elementary public school in Town, while the museum awaited permanent quarters. When the 1962 corporation ceased to exist, ownership of the museum collection was transferred to the Historical Society of Bloomfield. Near the end of 1968, the museum items were moved back to the gallery of the Bloomfield Public Library, which is now the permanent headquarters for the Historical Society's Museum.

New Acquisitions

Through the years, the coordination of the acquisitions, processing and cataloging of the museum gifts, has been handled by the Reference Department of the Bloomfield Public Library, and even today items still continue to arrive in the office of Mrs. David A. Johnson, Reference Librarian at the Library and Curator of the Museum.

Among the treasures of the Museum are: a doll's cradle, made by Jacob Leu, a Swiss cabinet maker, who moved from Newark to Bloomfield about 1857; a foot stove used in the historic Church on the Green long before the days of central heating; numerous costumes and dresses, including an early wedding gown given by Mrs. David Oakes II; a fireman's lantern with "Chief, BFD" engraved on glass; and World War II ration books and stamps.

150 Donors

The list of donors to this Museum numbers over 150 and includes not only Bloomfield residents but former Bloomfield families and friends who literally found treasures in their attics and recognized the value of giving these museum items to the Historical Society's Museum.

—Dorothy Johnson

Bloomfield College Centennial COLLEGE HISTORY TO BE PUBLISHED

Bloomfield College and Seminary was founded in Newark in 1868 and moved to Bloomfield in 1872, where it occupied the property formerly owned by the Bloomfield Academy. The graduates of Bloomfield College have rendered a good account of themselves in the spheres of human activity.

Watch for the *History of Bloomfield College*, written by Dr. Harry Taylor, Professor Emeritus of History, for publication this spring.

WELCOME MAT

The Historical of Society Bloomfield welcomes the following new members:

BLOOMFIELD:

Mr. Wayne Almquist
409 Franklin Street

Mrs. Edward J. Begley
149 Essex Avenue

Mr. William H. Clinton
37 Orange Street

Mrs. Walter Marshall
17 Elm Street

Mr. and Mrs. Henrik Tvedt
211 E. Passaic Avenue

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Ward, III
40 MacLeod Lane

Mrs. Edmund G. Warren
31 North Avenue

EAST ORANGE:

Mr. Richard Hazen
P. O. Box 688

GLEN RIDGE:

Mr. Ross D. Sackett
78 Ridgewood Avenue

VERONA:

Mr. Dennis Spence
35 Mountain Avenue

It may be interesting to note, and in keeping with the style of THE TOWN CRIER, this issue (as was the last) is set by hand in type designed by William Caslon.

Mr. Caslon was the best known of the English typesetters and displayed his roman and italic types in 1734.

It is printed on a press patented by the Chandler and Price Co. on April 17, 1887 and probably manufactured about the turn of the century.