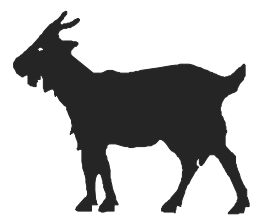


# Nannygoats



Vol. 12, Issues 1 and 2    *Newsletter of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society*    Spring & Summer 2014

Welcome to our double issue of *Nannygoats*! We hope you enjoy these amazing images we've packed into this special edition. Our collections have an unbelievable number of fantastic photographs – and the collection is growing all the time. We are always looking for ways to share them, and this issue will give you a very small sampling of what we have. We also have a very exciting opportunity to share some of these images with a new audience, through the Transformations Gallery at the Old Franklin Schoolhouse (see page 15 for more information about this exhibit and the associated events happening there).

In light of the coming redevelopment of the parking lot at Pearl and New Streets (see page 5), Metuchen's Main Street has been the topic of much conversation and news coverage lately, so we decided to take a quick look back at some well known street views to see what changes have taken place. You will notice there are a lot of corner shots and many iconic mid-block spots are not shown; this is because there are a lot more street trees now, which block good views during most seasons, so we were slightly limited in views we could show.

We hope you enjoy this special "Then & Now" feature!

## Look Back @ Metuchen's Main Street



**Top Left:** Danford's Corner, Middlesex Avenue at Main Street in 1956. Note the men (employees?) standing in the doorways. **Top Right:** The same corner in 2014, occupied by La Gateaux Bake Shop. **Bottom Left:** The southeast corner of Main Street and Hillside Avenue (undated, but prior to 1961 based on city directories), showing the Jersey 5-10-25 Store, The Young Set, and Hubbles Appliance. **Bottom Right:** The same corner earlier this year, showing Variety Village/To Be Continued Bookstore Boutique, The Brass Lantern, and the former Lucca's Coffee Shop under renovation.

The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society was founded in 1974 with the primary purpose of promoting an interest in and appreciation of the history of the Borough of Metuchen and of Edison Township.





**Top Row:** The northwest corner of Amboy Avenue and Main Street, showing the Victorian Office Rentals' 18<sup>th</sup> century John Hampton House in 1956 and then in 2014. **Middle Row:** View looking northwest along the west side of Main Street between the rail line and New Street towards Morris Stores in 1956-57 and Main Street Trattoria, Sylvia's Tailoring, and Brewed Awakening this past spring. **Bottom Right:** View looking north towards the northeast corner of Main Street and Hillside Avenue, showing Metuchen Delicatessen and Marmax Shoes in 1955, then Metuchen Liquors/Deli and George's Drycleaners in April 2014.





**Top Row:** View looking east towards Main Street between Hillside and Highland Avenue towards The Jewel Shop in 1955 and then in 2014. Note that The Jewel Shop has expanded since that time, taking over the former "Bootery." **Middle Row:** View looking south towards the southeast corner of Main Street and Amboy Avenue, showing The Corner Confectionery in 1956-57, then Vinnie's Pizza in April 2014. **Bottom Right:** View looking northwest along Main Street from Penn Avenue in January 1966, then April 2014. Note Boyt Drugs' neon sign on the other side of the street in the earlier photograph.



## ***The Wizard Returned to Menlo Park!***

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society and the Edison Memorial Tower Corporation (EMTC) co-hosted a special members-only event at the Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park. Although gray skies threatened during the day, the weather cleared in time for the special unveiling of the Centennial Plaque, originally dedicated in 1947 honoring Thomas Edison's 100th birthday. Stolen in 2009, it was locally known as the Fireman's Plaque due to the annual celebration at this site by the Menlo Park Volunteer Fire Co. #1. The plaque was recast thanks to the efforts of the EMTC and the Township of Edison.

Following the ceremony, members were treated to lemonade and a special tented performance of Raconteur Ventures' staged "radio style" performance of "The Wizard of Menlo Park." The play, starring Michael Jarmus, Carlyle Owens, Laurence Mintz, and Alex Dawson, features Thomas Alva Edison as he reflects back upon his long, dynamic career as an inventor, scientist, and businessman. The Society looks forward the conclusion of the repairs and renovations to the Memorial Tower and hopes to return again to help celebrate their completion.

*Above: Michael Jarmus, as Edison, poses in the museum.*



## **BATTLEFIELD LISTED ON REGISTERS**

On June 26, 1777, the Battle of the Short Hills was fought in the hills of what is now North Edison. The engagement at the Short Hills was one of the last acts in a complicated series of maneuvers by King George's military land forces in the Spring of 1777 in an effort to lure George Washington and the Continental Army out of the Watchung Mountains. After failing to defeat Washington at Short Hills, the British left New Jersey on June 30, 1777. On May 9, 2014, the Short Hills Battlefield Historic District, the largest historic district in Middlesex County, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, thanks largely to the efforts of longtime Society member Walter R. Stochel, Jr. and the American Battlefield Protection Program that funded the project. Copies of the nomination, prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., are on file in the Society's archives and provide a wealth of information about the district's history and significance.



*Stochel donned a red coat for the camera at a Society presentation about the historic battlefield at the Plainfield Country Club on July 5, 2014.*

## **CIARDI COMPLETED**

This June the Society completed the inventory and finding guide for its recently acquired "Ciardi Collection," donated by the late poet's daughter, Myra Ciardi Watts, in May 2013. As previously noted, most of Mr. Ciardi's papers are housed at the Library of Congress (LOC), and the society use the LOC format to catalogue the materials. The inventory revealed the collection contains 1089 items; 7 boxes plus framed drawing; approximately 10.17 linear feet. Many of these items reflect the difficulties Ciardi experienced due to his political ideology, and many others appear to be unique to this collection (unpublished and unavailable elsewhere). Copies of the inventory and finding guide are on file in the Grimstead Room and will be available online and other repositories by the end of this year. Many thanks to Jennifer Warren for conducting the work, and to the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission for partial grant funding to conduct this project.

## ***Nannygoats is in its 12<sup>th</sup> year!***

We've been publishing *Nannygoats* for a dozen years now. Want to be a part of that history? We encourage submissions about a wide range of diverse topics – a history of your family, house, local event? Send it in!

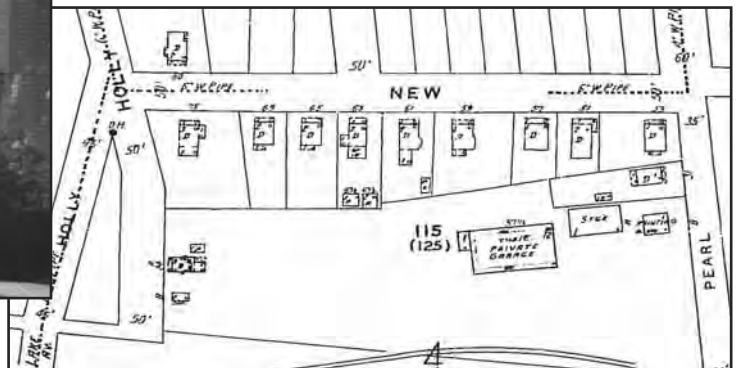


# Changing Face of New Street



According to records in the Society's archives, big changes were proposed along New Street in Metuchen in the late 1950s. Joseph Costa (yes, of the Costa Ice Cream family) was Mayor and the houses, businesses, and industries located in the area bounded by Pearl Street, New Street, Lake Avenue, and the railroad were slated for demolition and redevelopment. You can see some of these buildings in the photograph included here. Most of these were demolished in

the 1960s, and when the proposed redevelopment did not progress, the bulk of the parcel began to serve as a commuter parking lot as it still does today.



Two structures notably remained; the building on the east end of the lot, currently the Parking Authority building, and the American Legion Fugle-Hummer Post 65 on the west side of the lot. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century maps and directories indicate that the Parking Authority building was once a morgue associated with "JM Pettit – Undertaker," who resided on Middlesex. Pettit eventually went into business with Arthur Hillpot (who once served as Mayor of Metuchen) and through changing partnerships, this business is now the Costello-Runyon Funeral Home on Middlesex Avenue at William Street. By the 1929, however, the building was in use by the Bradstreet & Woolever printing company.

Society records indicate that the American Legion has an interesting history as well. The main portion of the building was originally part of an annex constructed sometime between 1910 and 1920 at the rear of the Franklin High School\* but was moved to its current site ca. 1930 for use by the Fugle-Hummer Post.

Well, Joe Costa's redevelopment plan appears to be moving ahead now, and both the Parking Authority and Legion building will be coming down during the next couple of years. In advance of this, the Society has begun documenting the structures – the first being that of the Legion Hall. Post Commander Walter Zjawin graciously invited us in to take photographs of the building and their collections (which will, of course, be transferred to the new Legion Hall being constructed not far away at Wernik and Calvin Place). The Society took nearly 100 photographs of the Legion Hall this past March for its archives, and prepared archival copies for the Post as well.



*Top:* current view of the Pearl Street Parking lot. *Above left:* a 1956 photograph of New Street between Holly/Lake Avenue and Pearl Street. Main Street is just visible in the background. *Above right:* an excerpt from the 1929 Sanborn map of the area. *Bottom left:* an undated postcard image of the Fugle Hummer Post, postmarked 1950.

*\* Built in 1909 and demolished 1999, the Franklin School (not to be confused with the 'Old Franklin Schoolhouse' built ca. 1807 or the no-longer-extant wood frame 'Franklin School' built in the 1870s) was the large brick building located on Middlesex Avenue where the Franklin Square condominiums are now.*

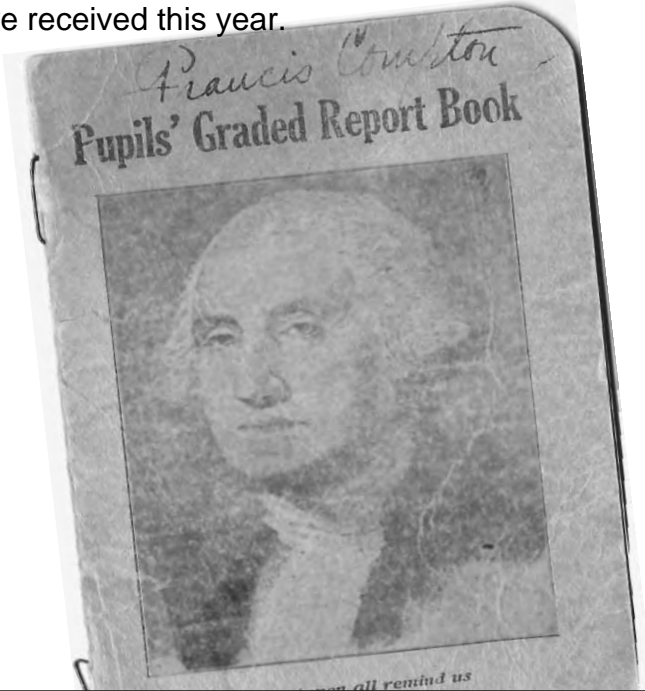


## NEW IN THE @RCHIVES...

The Society continues to be the lucky recipient of generous donations – many, but not all of them photographs – that help us fulfill our mission to “preserve the past for the future.” We are always on the lookout for ways to share these wonderful items with the public, and over the next few pages you will see some of the many items we have received this year.



In April 2014, Ken Stephens donated thirty-two local police-related items, mostly framed, including badges, patches, decals, and photographs... one even shows Society Board Member Russell Gehrum!



For the school year 1915-1916, Francis Compton did well enough to be promoted from Third to Fourth Grade. We know her marks, but you will have to visit the archives to see them! This small “Pupils Graded Report Book” was found in a high school yearbook and provides a glimpse into a child’s educational past. Under parents’ signatures at the end of the booklet we find the name “Wm. H. Compton.” Considering the timeframe, Francis would have likely been attending school at the Franklin School on Middlesex Avenue (1909-1999), since neither the Washington (now Moss) nor Edgar Schools were constructed and the two previous Franklin Schools (built ca. 1807 and 1870) were no longer in service. The 1920 federal census shows a 12 year old Frances Compton living with her father William H., mother Emma, and two siblings at 51 Carson Avenue. In 1930, the census shows a 22-year-old Frances living on Elmwood Avenue and employed as a hairdresser in a beauty salon.



## NEW IN THE @RCHIVES...

A set of eight small black & white photographs showing the May 3, 1936 laying of the Metuchen Public Library's cornerstone certainly increases our understanding of the fanfare surrounding the construction of this beautiful building, but also gives enticing glimpses of surrounding properties and people of the day.



Handwriting on the reverse of the bottom left image indicates that "Reverend Zimmerman" was the speaking at the microphone, the tall figure at the left is "Compton," then "Hunt," "Hillpot," "Prickett," "Hull," and "Humphries." Cross-referencing with a program (on file in our archives) from the cornerstone laying ceremonies reveals that Lewis Compton was the Assistant State Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, Professor Theodore B. Hunt laid the cornerstone, A.K. Hillpot was the Mayor at the time, Harold W. Hull was president of the Library Board Association, and Reverend George Humphries gave the prayer at the ceremony. "Prickett" is most likely Charles A. Prickett, Editor of the *Metuchen Recorder*. According to a long-time Society member, the building shown in the bottom right was once the office of Dr. John D. Witmer, who owned the building from 1935 – 1966. He then sold it to the Dorothy Dufault Agency, which had their office there for many years. It is now an orthodontist's office.



## NEW IN THE @RCHIVES...



The spectacular photographs on this and the following page were taken in 1914 at 100 Hillside Avenue in Metuchen. In all, twenty-three high resolution copies of original photographs were donated by the current owners, Brent and Carmen Field, and all are now on file in the Society's archives. The previous owners, the Frizells, bought the house in 1988 from the Bailey family and added the family room, master bedroom, conservatory, garage, and patio wall. Of particular interest in these stunning images are the historic interiors and clothing styles, which are much less often documented than building exteriors.





## NEW IN THE @RCHIVES...





# NEW IN THE @RCHIVES...



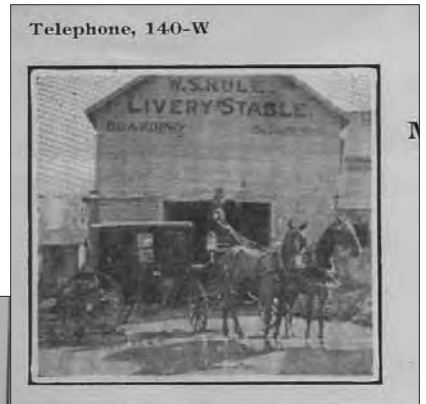
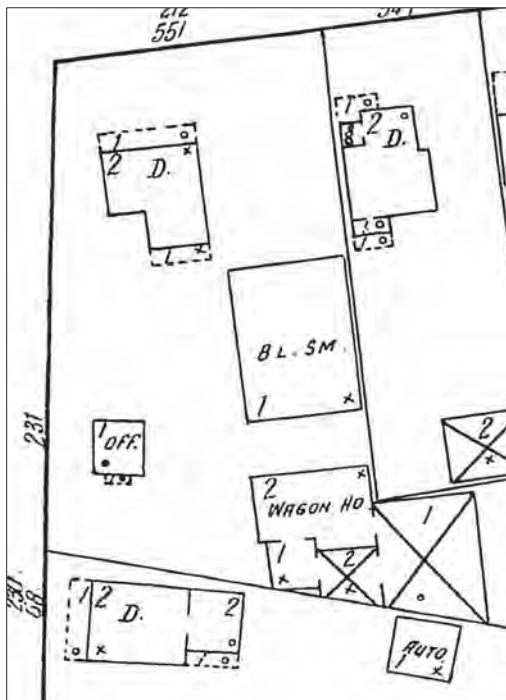
At a recent program in New Brunswick, Society Board member Andy Kupersmit was handed a small file of correspondence dating from the early twentieth century. The letterhead on a few of the documents, dated 1912 and 1913, is what holds relevance to the

Metuchen-Edison Historical Society: W.S. Rule Livery and Boarding Stables. While no exact location or address is provided, by cross-referencing with other documents and images in the archives, we are able to share a little bit more about this business.

The 1900 federal census lists a Winfield Rule living in Metuchen with his wife of thirteen years, Alice, and daughter, Ethel, age 12. A 1909-1910 directory lists a Winfield Rule as owning a "livery stable" and the federal census for 1910 lists him as living on Middlesex Avenue. Grimstead photographs of Middlesex Avenue in the 1930s show an outbuilding which clearly matches the Rule property – the remains of the "W.S. RULE LIVERY & STABLE" is even still visible. This photograph is identified as being one of the buildings at 551 Middlesex Avenue, and was associated with a house (also captured in the Grimstead photographs, see below). Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from 1920 show this small complex along the south side of Middlesex Avenue, near the intersection with Pearl Street – in fact, it seems the stable/garage shown is viewed from the Pearl Street side of the property.

The 1928 directory lists a Johnson's Garage at 70 Pearl Street, which also matched with the 1929 Sanborn maps and the name on the 1930s Grimstead photograph. Can't picture where all this was? The house and blacksmith shop would have been about where Seemore

Appliance and its front parking lot are now, and the stable/garage would have been situated in the parking lot behind it.



## BRAVE LOCAL CHILD CONQUERS GIANT SEA CREATURE IN EDISON!

What's this all about? Well, it's Society Board Member Byron Sondergard fresh with victory over "Greed" at the *Light Dispelling Darkness* fountain in Roosevelt Park. Why are we printing this, other than to show how fantastically cute our board members were as tots? Because you never know when a family photograph might include local history significance.





# The Danish Home in Edison Celebrates its 100th Anniversary

*by Society Board Member Byron Sondergard*

At the Danish Home in Edison, New Jersey, a celebration paying tribute to its 100 years of service was held on May 18, 2014. As a member of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society Board of Directors (AND a Dane), I was happy to be among the 150 or so invited guests.

Present to speak about the importance of the Danish Home to Edison and to New Jersey, as well as about its evolving role over the decades, were New Jersey State Senator Peter Barnes, and Ambassador Jarl Frijs-Madsen, Consul General of Denmark, headquartered in New York City.



The Garden State Symphonic Band, conducted by Chris Pedersen, presented a concert of American and Danish music, and the Danish Café, from Red Bank, NJ, provided a luncheon of traditional Danish open-faced sandwiches, pastries, and desserts.

The century-long history of the Danish Home began in 1914, when a Victorian house with a 72 acre tract of land was purchased by Danish Lodges. The Victorian house is identified in then-contemporary postcards as being the Danish Home for Aged, in Metuchen (see image on following page). It was to be a self-sufficient retirement home for members of the Danish Brotherhood and Danish Sisterhood of the Eastern United States. By 1917 a farm manager was hired, wheat and vegetables were being grown, and livestock provided meat and eggs. A 1917 farm "census" listed 4 horses, 4 cows, 2 calves, 3 pigs, approximately 80 chickens, and 10 ducks.

The Danish Home for the Aged continued to serve its intended purpose well, and in 1949, across the street from it's original location, and now with an Edison address, a new and larger building was constructed [see below]. In the shape of a traditional Danish house, much of the labor was contributed by





members of the Danish Lodges, many of whom were, by profession, carpenters, masons, and plumbers. And behind the Danish Home a mausoleum was built (see photograph below), to be made available to the Brotherhood and Sisterhood Lodge members.

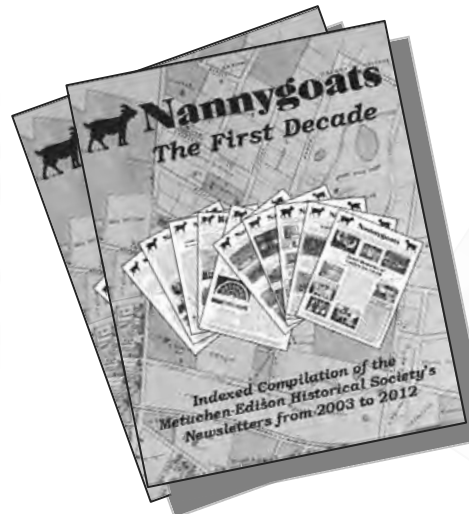
During the ensuing decades parcels of land were gradually sold off, most notably for what became route 287. Although the Danish Home has not been a retirement home since 2002, it continues to serve the



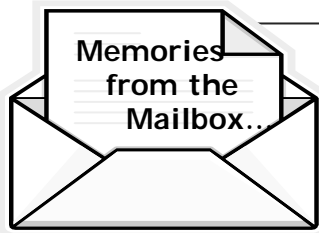
Danish community in many capacities. The Danish Home Board continues to meet monthly, as does a genealogy group, the Brotherhoods and Sisterhoods regularly hold meetings, DANE (Danish Archives North East), has offices in the building, and the Danish Home now serves as a cultural and heritage center, with a museum, to honor those Danes and their families who emigrated to the United States.

## GOT MERCH?

One way the Society funds its activities and collections is by selling a variety of books, postcards, notecards, and other items. Have you seen our custom designed old Colonial Cemetery t-shirt? What about our Ayers-Allen House napkins, perfect for any ghostly and/or 18<sup>th</sup> century get-together? Our coloring book of local sites, suitable for young and old alike? Check out the Society's website at [www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org](http://www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org) for a list of items, or visit our Café Press store at [www.cafepress.com/mehs](http://www.cafepress.com/mehs) for even more customized items.







April 14, 2014

Hello. My name is Bob Stokes. I grew up in Metuchen and left in 1964 after high school. We have lived in Washington Township, Morris County, for 32 years and my wife and I are members of the Washington Township Historical Society. She has also served as Chair of our Historic Preservation Commission for many years.

Just off our "Beacon Light Road" in Washington Township in the 1920's an Airway Tower with a rotating red beacon located was built to help the airmail planes fly the night route to Chicago. We had a general sense of where it was located. Well a local resident got very interested in our tower and did some Google/Historic Aerials work. Armed with pictures of little specks in a field from 60 years ago last Saturday a small group of us, including three or four nearby homeowners, found the concrete pad where the tower was under a bunch of dirt and branches and leaves. Amazing how open farm land turns into woods.

In looking at information on other Airway Towers we noticed there was a Perth Amboy tower. Of course when I checked it out it was not in Perth Amboy at all but was on Beacon Hill Road. I probably walked within 100 yards of the site a thousand times as went up and down Grove avenue walking to MHS. And I sent to your very nice site and eventually found George Muha's article from the Summer of 2010 [Volume 8, Issue 2]. I knew the family. I lived on Tulsa Avenue and they lived on Myrtle Avenue. His son George was a year behind me at MHS.

If you have anything about the tower's earlier use, which George mentioned, or if people wrote in saying they remembered anything before WW II, would you please give us a call or send us a note? If there is anything we would be more than happy to take a ride down when you are open or the library is open if things are there and we can share things we know about our tower. We, too, had people looking for planes and have hear the tower site was one of them. Even in WW II it was very rural out here.

What I guess should not be all that surprising when you think about it is how "Beacon" hill or this or that wound up as street names near beacons.

-Bob and Eileen Stokes, sootcat2@msn.com

*Please contact the editor for the Stokes' home address or telephone number.*



June 30, 2014

We were very pleased to have Jo Ann Kendrick, the great-great-great-great-great-granddaughter of the builder of the Ayers-Allen House, visit this afternoon. She had come from Colorado with her husband, Jim, to do genealogical research and see this house as well as some other places her ancestors had been. Happily, we were able to share with her much of the research that Marion Stone had gathered about the house and family as part of the National Register Nomination she wrote for then-owner Mrs. Louise King in the 1980s. Jo has done a huge amount of research on the Ayers family and welcomes any other descendants to get in contact with her via email at [Jaykz4@aol.com](mailto:Jaykz4@aol.com).

-The Reuter Family, Metuchen



# 1928 Directory of Metuchen, Columns 13 and 14

Below are the thirteenth and fourteenth columns of entries from a 1928 Directory of Metuchen that includes both addresses and telephone numbers of local residents. The small "r" after the name indicates the entry is for a "residence." The Society began reprinting the entirety of this directory in the Winter/Spring 2010 issue of *Nannygoats*.

Reilly Thom r Tingley rd...Metuchen-284-W-3  
Rein N r Iselin...Metuchen-258-R  
Remensnyder J P r 45 Elm av...Metuchen-679-W  
Renninger R D r 48 Homer...Metuchen-852  
Reynold H C r 64 High...Metuchen-46-W  
Rhoades Chas L r 266 Lake av...Metuchen-292-M  
Ricardo R r Oak Tree rd...Metuchen-107-W-2  
Richter F r Bonhamtown...Metuchen-692-W  
Riddle L E r 112 Lake av...Metuchen-151  
Riddle L E Jr off Station pl...Metuchen-616  
Residence 67 Spring...Metuchen-433  
Riesz M r Amboy rd...Metuchen-516  
Roberts G Mrs r Iselin...Metuchen-556-J-2  
Roberts-Gordon J A r 227 Main...Metuchen-103-M  
Robins M R Miss r 28 Homer pl...Metuchen-629-M  
Robins N r 443 Middlesex av...Metuchen-129-W  
Robinson M Mrs r Main...Metuchen-587  
Rock R B r 375 Middlesex av...Metuchen-571-R  
Rodenburg Wm r Forest av...Metuchen-534-W  
Roehrs G r 778 Middlesex av...Metuchen-650  
Roehrs Geo r 778 Middlesex av...Metuchen-55  
Rolle Isaiah r 43 Rose...Metuchen-631-J  
Rolle J H r 68 Gramh av...Metuchen-138-R  
Ronnau M r 25 Highland av...Metuchen-251-M  
Roos C A r 11 Sylvan av...Metuchen-631-M  
Rose Chas sand Nixons...Metuchen-21-R-1  
Rose Stanley r Highland av...Metuchen-124-R  
Rosenvinge O P r 19 Thomas...Metuchen-219

## ROSENVINGE-PERRY CO.

Commonwealth Bank Building  
407 Main St., Metuchen, N. J.

Insurance Motor Vehicle Agency Real Estate

TELEPHONE: METUCHEN 460-233W

Rosling P A r 28 Amboy av...Metuchen-595  
Ross D r 282 Amboy av...Metuchen-277  
Rossi E r Highland av...Metuchen-620  
Rossiter A Mrs r 159 Durham av...Metuchen-259-M  
Roswall V r Penn av...Metuchen-529-R  
Rowland W T prntng 115 Highland av...Metuchen-604  
Roxsbury Jos Mrs r 289 High...Metuchen-531-M  
Royal Arcanum Grand Regent Office 407 Main...Metuchen-500  
Ruegger P T r 299 Le Grande av...Metuchen-405  
Rule C C r 44 Home...Metuchen-82-R  
Rule M garage Iselin...Metuchen-688  
Rumler Henry A plumbing & htg—  
472 Main...Metuchen-2  
Residence 423 Grove av...Metuchen-36-R  
Runyon M D r 291 Woodbridge av...Metuchen-482  
Ryan W D r Main...Metuchen-594  
Salemone A music & radio shop—  
465 1/2 Main...Metuchen-192-J  
Residence 91 Maple av...Metuchen-298-R  
Salomone R tailor 402 Main...Metuchen-565  
Salton I r Amboy av...Metuchen-167-W  
Sand & Gravel Service IncBonhamtown...Metuchen-256  
Sayers J J r Fords...Metuchen-437-M  
Scanlon J F r Menlo Pk...Metuchen-107-J-2  
Schalau J Henry r 32 Highland av...Metuchen-159-J  
Schenck S C r 296 Amboy av...Metuchen-178  
Schneider G Mrs-nrs Iselin...Metuchen-570-M  
Schneider H r 43 Rector...Metuchen-596  
Schoenknecht W L r 52 Kempson pl...Metuchen-540  
Schoonover J L r 100 Main...Metuchen-325  
Schuh A r 277 Durham av...Metuchen-250  
Schultz Wm r 587 Middlesex av...Metuchen-3-J  
Schurig F Mrs r 72 Woodbridge av...Metuchen-418-R  
Schwalie John r Lafayette rd...Metuchen-432-W  
Schwalie M r Lafayette rd...Metuchen-1-R  
Schwalie N plumber Maple av...Metuchen-254  
Schwartz J r Iselin...Metuchen-570-W  
Schwartz S bchr 426 Main...Metuchen-567  
Scruggs Jessie Mrs r 163 Durham...Metuchen-15-M  
Searle W J r 375 Amboy av...Metuchen-292-J

Searle Wm J r 375 Amboy av...Metuchen-292-J  
Seel C Jr r 249 Amboy av...Metuchen-298-R  
Seigel G H r 55 Eggert av...Metuchen-397  
Seguel Mahel Mrs r Hampton pl...Metuchen-157-J  
Seller Ralph G r 64 Hillside av...Metuchen-10-R  
Shannon H D r 29 Elm av...Metuchen-298-M  
Shmelzer T J r 48 Maple...Metuchen-443  
Shohl R Mrs r Iselin...Metuchen-352-M-2  
Silence W A r Oak Tree rd...Metuchen-107-W-1  
Slik Ida M Miss r Iselin...Metuchen-36-J  
Slizer Geo S r 79 Graham av...Metuchen-300  
Simensen E Mrs r Woodbridge av...Metuchen-384  
Sinclair Geo Fredk r Thomas...Metuchen-686  
Skomba V r Fords...Metuchen-532-R  
Skoquist E r 20 Wilbert...Metuchen-248-J  
Skov V B r Fords...Metuchen-253-M  
Skyberg T r 52 Home...Metuchen-82-J  
Slaight Howard W r Thomas...Metuchen-322-R  
Slavicek B r 9 Maple av...Metuchen-689-W  
Slavick W Jr r Nixons...Metuchen-241-W-1  
Smadbeck W & A Inc Iselin...Metuchen-194-W-2  
Smalley H r 25 Clinton pl...Metuchen-210-M  
Smith A G Mrs r 319 Middlesex av...Metuchen-377-M  
Smith A J r Bisset pl...Metuchen-203-M  
Smith Arnett G Jr r 299 Woodbridge av...Metuchen-602  
Smith Geo genl store Iselin...Metuchen-91-W-2  
Smith Geo r Park pl...Metuchen-356  
Smith H T r 40 William...Metuchen-207-J  
Smith J N Mrs r 23 Lincoln av...Metuchen-187-W  
Smith K S r 56 High...Metuchen-46-M  
Smith L S r Lafayette av...Metuchen-1-W  
Smith Oscar T r 40 Linden av...Metuchen-205-M  
Smith W A r 55 Hillside av...Metuchen-687  
Sokolski Albert r Eggert av...Metuchen-367-W  
Solt Geo A r Amboy av...Metuchen-466  
Soper E K r Robins pl...Metuchen-540  
Sorensen J M r 199 Amboy av...Metuchen-493  
Sorensen Jens r 198 Woodbridge av...Metuchen-98-J  
Sortore E J r 19 Home...Metuchen-54-W  
Sortore F J r 355 Main...Metuchen-376-W  
Spear E B r 24 Grove av...Metuchen-669  
Spencer Wm A r Amboy av...Metuchen-317  
Spoerl Elmo E r 5 Pleasant...Metuchen-492  
Stahl J r 52 Thomas...Metuchen-311  
Standard Oil Co of N J serv sta Lake...Metuchen-753  
Stanton B F r 59 Carson av...Metuchen-541  
Stark B L r 18 Lauradale av...Metuchen-177-J  
State Police New Jersey Lincoln highway...Metuchen-382  
Steinmetz Fritz r Amboy av...Metuchen-430-W  
Stevens C K r 18 Sylvan av...Metuchen-449-M  
Stevens Dalton r 153 Chestnut...Metuchen-44-J  
Stevens H M r 13 Sylvan...Metuchen-734  
Stevens W D r 153 Chestnut av...Metuchen-44-J  
Stevenson J E r 351 Main...Metuchen-504  
Stevenson M Miss r 351 Main...Metuchen-504  
Stewart C R r Fords...Metuchen-627-M  
Stillick F H r 18 Lincoln av...Metuchen-489  
Stillman W D r Iselin...Metuchen-194-M-2  
Stilo J V r 98 Essex av...Metuchen-440-M  
Stockhammer C H Mrs r Chestnut av...Metuchen-28  
Strusz Wm r 179 Amboy av...Metuchen-278-M  
Struve H r Pleasant av...Metuchen-536-W  
Swackhamer M D r 59 Elm av...Metuchen-545  
Szloboda S r 29 Maple...Metuchen-386-J  
Tagliaboschi L r 156 Main...Metuchen-695-M  
Tait Thorfin r 64 Hillside av...Metuchen-10-R  
Tappen A J Mrs r 24 Clinton pl...Metuchen-210-W  
Tate Nelson Rev r Central av...Metuchen-132-J  
Tausig W plumbg 27 Hillside av...Metuchen-654  
Taylor Wm G r 36 Maple...Metuchen-328-W  
Ten Eyck Bros saw mill Oak Tree dr...Metuchen-451  
Ten Eyck M r Oak Tree rd...Metuchen-107-J-1  
Ten Eyck R r 19 Durham av...Metuchen-155-W  
Ten Eyck R C ser sta Middlesex av...Metuchen-740  
Testa C r Carlton...Metuchen-575-W  
Testa Wm r Carlton...Metuchen-166  
Theiss J H r 35 Linden av...Metuchen-637  
Therklsen V r Dartmouth...Metuchen-537-R-1



## Local History Mystery?

The Society's Grimstead Room archives are located in the basement of the Metuchen Public Library and may just have the answers to your local history questions! For more information, contact us or stop by and visit during our open archives hours the first Saturday of most months from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Check out these housing prices in the excerpts below from "Why Metuchen is a Desirable Residence," a real estate booklet published by C.C. Campbell in 1916.**

No. 52. A House on Pearl Street, consisting of six rooms and bath, having gas and Hot-air Furnace. Lot 40 by 160 feet. Cellar concreted. House built three years ago. Price, \$3,700. Sold on easy terms; 10 per cent cash, Balance in monthly payments.

No. 53. House No. 2 Pearl Street, consisting of seven rooms and bath, a large attic; Concrete Cellar, Gas, and Hot Air heating, Range in kitchen. Lot 40 by 160 ft. Price, \$3,900. Sold on easy terms. Ten per cent cash, the balance in monthly payments,

No. 54. A House on Middlesex Avenue opposite the Public School, consisting of 6 rooms and bath, large attic, concrete Cellar, gas and hot air heating, range in kitchen. Lot 40 by 160 feet. Price, \$4,000; Sold on easy terms: ten per cent cash, the balance in monthly payments.

No. 55 House on Middlesex Avenue, corner lot 40 by 160 feet, consisting of seven rooms and bath, large attic, concrete cellar, gas and hot air heating; range in the kitchen. Price, \$4,400. Sold on easy terms; ten per cent cash, the balance in monthly payments, 5 minutes walk from the station.

No. 56. A House on Main street, consisting of seven rooms, and bath steam heat. Lot 40 by 70 feet; excellent side walk, 3 minutes walk from the station. Price, \$4,800.

No. 57. A House on Highland Avenue with 11 rooms, excellently located; house may be used for one or two families.. Price 3,300.

No. 58. A House with 9 rooms and bath; 4 on lower floor, finely raised and paneled, decorations in parlor. Mirror over fire place to ceiling, Buffet built in dining room, and whole floor artistically decorated. 4 rooms on second floor, and two on third. All modern improvements, and Electric lights; cellar under whole house. Lot 250 feet on Amboy Avenue and 150 feet deep, and covered with Shade and fruit trees. Also Poultry House and driven well. Price, \$5,500; \$500 down and \$25 monthly, and pay Taxes and Insurance and water rents. Ten minutes walk from the station.

No. 59. A House and Lot on La Grand Avenue; French roof, with ten rooms, and all modern improvements, desirably located, 8 minutes walk to the station, and in good order. Price, \$4,500.

No. 60 House and Lot situated on one of the most desirable Avenues in Borough of Metuchen, House 9 rooms, all modern improvements, including Steam heat Also Stable and Poultry House. Lot two and 15-100 acres, and on high ground, and a large quantity of choice fruit of all kinds. Price, \$10,000.

Published by

**The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society**

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The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The name of the newsletter, "Nannygoats," is taken from the title of a collection of anecdotes, articles, reminiscences, and letters compiled by photographer J. Lloyd Grimstead. He took more than 2,800 photographs of the Metuchen-Edison area, mostly during the 1930s, which make up 80 percent of the Historical Society's photographic collection. The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society dedicates this publication to Lloyd Grimstead, as a way of honoring him for collecting and recording so much of our local history.

## LOOKING BACK



*Unexpected Images from the Archives*

This fall, Transformations Gallery at the Old Franklin Schoolhouse will host an installation of some of the Society's most interesting and beautifully composed images from its archives. Most of these come from the Frey-Sen Collection donated by David Glasofer in 2007, and date primarily from the 1950s and early 1960s. The exhibit can be seen during any of the public events at the schoolhouse as well as by appointment. In addition, there are two special opportunities to see the show. The first is during the Gallery Walk Metuchen on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 12pm to 5pm when all six galleries in Metuchen will be open, and guides will be available in advance online and around town.

In addition, on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm, Transformations will host a special reception for Society members and friends, which will include a showing of the 1930s "Metuchen Movie." Light refreshments will be served, and all of these high quality prints, custom-mounted in archivally stable frames, will be available for sale. Many thanks to Transformations Gallery Directors Amy Brooks and Judy Weinberg for this great opportunity and their work helping to organize this exhibit and the reception.

**Gallery Walk Metuchen**  
Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 12pm to 5pm

**Special Exhibit Reception**  
November 16<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm

AT THE OLD FRANKLIN SCHOOLHOUSE

**TRANSFORMATIONS**  
GALLERY





**Metuchen-Edison Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 61**  
**Metuchen, NJ 08840**



On Facebook? Join the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society's Facebook Group and keep up to date on local history news and events. Plus, each week we host a "Grimstead Guesser" contest you can enter to win historical society merchandise.

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

***METUCHEN COUNTRY FAIR***  
***Saturday, October 11, 2014***  
***10:00am to 4:00pm***

Don't miss the annual Country Fair in downtown Metuchen – held this year on the second Saturday (with rain dates the following Saturdays). The Society will once again host a double booth at the fair, and with this year's fair theme of "Movies," we have a few treats in store for our visitors. As always we will have informative displays and our full array of merchandise available for sale. Society members interested in volunteering for a shift at the fair should contact Steve at 732-713-9080 or [popopies@hotmail.com](mailto:popopies@hotmail.com).

***"LOOKING BACK"***  
***Exhibit Reception***  
***Sunday, November 16, 2014***  
***1:00pm to 4:00pm***

Join us for a special reception for the "Looking Back" exhibit featuring over two dozen of the Society's most beautifully composed and unexpected images. Rediscover our recent past through these little-known images that are as visually interesting as they are historic. See page 15 of this issue for more about this exhibit. We also plan to screen the 1930s silent film of Metuchen during the reception.

***Transformations Gallery***  
***Old Franklin Schoolhouse***  
***491 Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen***