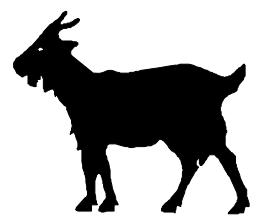


# Nannygoats



Vol. 11, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society

Summer 2013

The year 2013 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Lincoln Highway, the first transcontinental automobile road. Named in honor of President Lincoln, it runs through Edison and Metuchen as Middlesex Avenue, Route 27, and the Lincoln Highway. But in reality this historic roadway travels from Times Square in New York City all the



Saturday, June 22, Society members and the public gathered at the Old Franklin Schoolhouse to wave on the Lincoln Highway travelers with special flags as they passed through our towns. This group of new and vintage vehicles was the East Coast caravan, and had stopped at the historic Edison Memorial Tower and site of

## Honoring the Hundred-Year Highway



way west to California. It is a road that was purposefully designed for pleasure touring, and although a great deal of the road has disappeared and the routes have been replaced by superhighways, much still remains and is still travelled by fans such as those in the Lincoln Highway Association (LHA) and its numerous state chapters. It has been studied by the National Park Service, and been the subject of songs and film documentaries.

In celebration of this auspicious anniversary, the Society placed two commemorative markers in advance of the Lincoln Highway Association-organized caravan of vehicles that travelled the highway in honor of its centennial; one marker at Metuchen Borough Hall, and the other at the foot of Christie Street in Edison, near the Edison Memorial Tower.

Then, during the morning of



Edison's Menlo Park Laboratories on its way south towards Kingston for its first lunch stop. They then went onward to Kearney, Nebraska to meet up on June 30<sup>th</sup> with the West Coast caravan that had departed at the same time from California.

There is much more to learn about the Lincoln Highway, so if you are interested, check the many resources available, and visit the Lincoln Highway Association's website: [www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org](http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org).

*Top left:* Society members, Metuchen Borough Council Members, and the LHA's Bernie Cooney gather to unveil Metuchen's marker. *Top center:* Detail of the reproduction marker installed. *Top right:* Well-wishers gathered to wave on the caravan. Photograph courtesy of Metuchen Living. *Above center:* Classic car parked outside the former Washington Hose Company in Metuchen. Photograph courtesy of Metuchen Living. *Left:* Classic car passing through Metuchen. Photograph courtesy of Lauren Rabinowitz.

**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.**

## NEW IN THE ARCHIVES...

Once again, the Society has been the lucky recipient of generous donations that help us "preserve the past for the future." Among these are an original April 24, 1865 edition of *The New York Herald* that details the arrangements for President Lincoln's funeral, donated by Mr. William Smith of Metuchen. An anonymous donation, postmarked from Milwaukee, consisted of a set of Camp Kilmer postcards (see Page 5), reportedly found in a relative's scrapbook. The Matochshoning-Rebecca Cornell Chapter of the National Society Daughter of the American Revolution framed and donated their early twentieth-century chapter flag, used by Metuchen's Matochshoning chapter prior to its merger with Rebecca Cornell. Society Director Phyllis Boeddinghaus donated a promotional can opener from the Sunnyside Deli on Oak Tree Road.



Above: The embroidered silk flag, framed and donated by the Matochshoning-Rebecca Cornell Chapter.

Left: The banner on the front page of the April 24, 1865 edition of *The New York Herald*. Below: One of the many framed photographs donated as part of the Ciardi Collection.



And, perhaps one of the most significant donations the Society has ever received was recently donated; what we have named "The Ciardi Collection" was given to the Society by the late poet's daughter, Myra Ciardi Watts in May. Most of Mr. Ciardi's papers had been donated to the Library of Congress, but she had held on to these items, and now, due to a move, desired to give them to the society. A "reconnaissance-level" inspection of the materials revealed files of letters, notes, and sketches, as well as honors and degrees, film canisters, and much more – in all, nine boxes of materials that belonged to world renowned poet and translator. As these items need to be inventoried and archivally stored, we have applied to the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission for partial grant funding to conduct this project. When completed, we plan to have a public program to not only show the collection, and will feature the materials in an upcoming edition of this newsletter.

## Jim Halsey Society Director and Long-Time Member

We regret to share the news that James F. Halsey passed away on May 2, 2013 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Mr. Halsey was 78 years old, born in Millville, N.J., and lived in Morgan and Perth Amboy before moving to Edison 50 years ago. He was employed as a civil engineer with the Port Authority of N.Y. and N.J. for 38 years, retiring in 2000. He was an Army veteran serving with the 11th Airborne in Austria where he was an M.P. He attended Sayreville High School and graduated from Rutgers University in 1962 with a B.S. and B.A. in Civil and Mechanical Engineering. He also received his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Rutgers. In addition to his involvement with the Society, he was a member of the American Legion Father and Son Post in Edison, the Edison First Aid Squad #1, and the Central Jersey Bicycle Club.

James was predeceased by a daughter Karen M. Quinn, two brothers Robert E. and Richard Halsey and a sister Cheryl Tierney. Surviving are his loving wife of 56 years Marie Rolfe Halsey, two sons Kevin and his wife Ronna of Dingman's Ferry, PA, Matthew Halsey of Edison and a daughter Susanne Hopewell of Highland Park. Also surviving are seven grandchildren, Jason, Aimee, James, Ryan, Harley, Phillip and Kelly and nine great-grandchildren.

Many in the Society remember Jim's work at St. James Church & Cemetery in Edison, his frequent contributions to Nannygoats, and his tireless work as Treasurer and Membership Chair for this organization.

# POSTCARDS FROM THE POST

## *a Kilmer Connection*

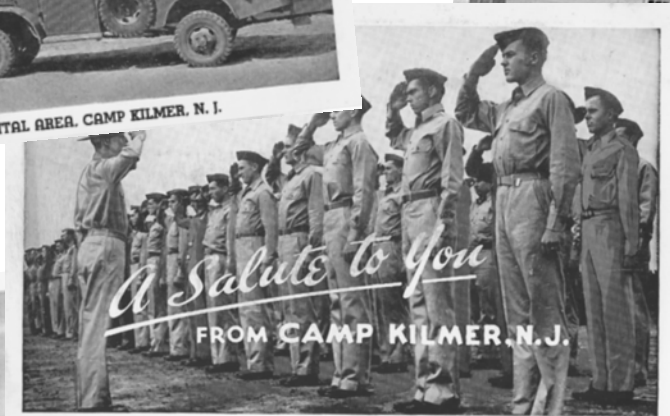
As mentioned in *New in the Archives* on Page 2, the Society recently received an anonymous donation of a set of twelve Camp Kilmer postcards (see images of five of these below). The envelope containing the cards was postmarked from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and contained only a note that they had been found in the scrapbook of the sender's aunt.

In the Fall of 2008, the Society featured Camp Kilmer in *Nannygoats*, and it has turned out to be one of our most widely read issues. Not surprising, really, considering that more than five million (yes, *million*) troops passed through the installation.

Many know that the camp was named for Alfred Joyce Kilmer, a sergeant in the Army during World War I, who was killed in action near the Ourcq River in France in July, 1918. Prior to serving in the war, Kilmer had been an accomplished writer and poet, noted for his famous poem, "Trees," first published in 1913. He was married at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Metuchen to Aline Murray in 1908, and lived in New Brunswick.

It makes sense that the marriage would take place in St. Luke's... the bride was the step-daughter of the Henry Mills Alden, a long-time vestryman of the church, and the groom was one of Alden's many literary friends. Alden, editor of *Harpers Weekly*, was often referred to as the "Dean of American Magazine Writers" and after he moved to Metuchen in the 1860s, he was often visited by famed figures such as Mark Twain, William Dean Howells, Helen Keller, Joyce Kilmer, Ogden Nash, Joseph Pulitzer, and Mary Wilkins Freeman.

Soon after receiving the donation of these postcards, this editor watched an interview with the actor Val Kilmer, who was discussing his new role as Mark Twain. Could Val Kilmer be related to Joyce Kilmer? Online biographies of the celebrity confirmed that they are in fact second cousins, revealing an odd "Kilmer Connection"; the actor is playing the writer who socialized with his second cousin's father-in-law here in Metuchen. Perhaps we'll send Mr. Kilmer a copy of this newsletter, in case he is unaware of this fact.





# Was Metuchen Real Estate a Good Investment in 1870?

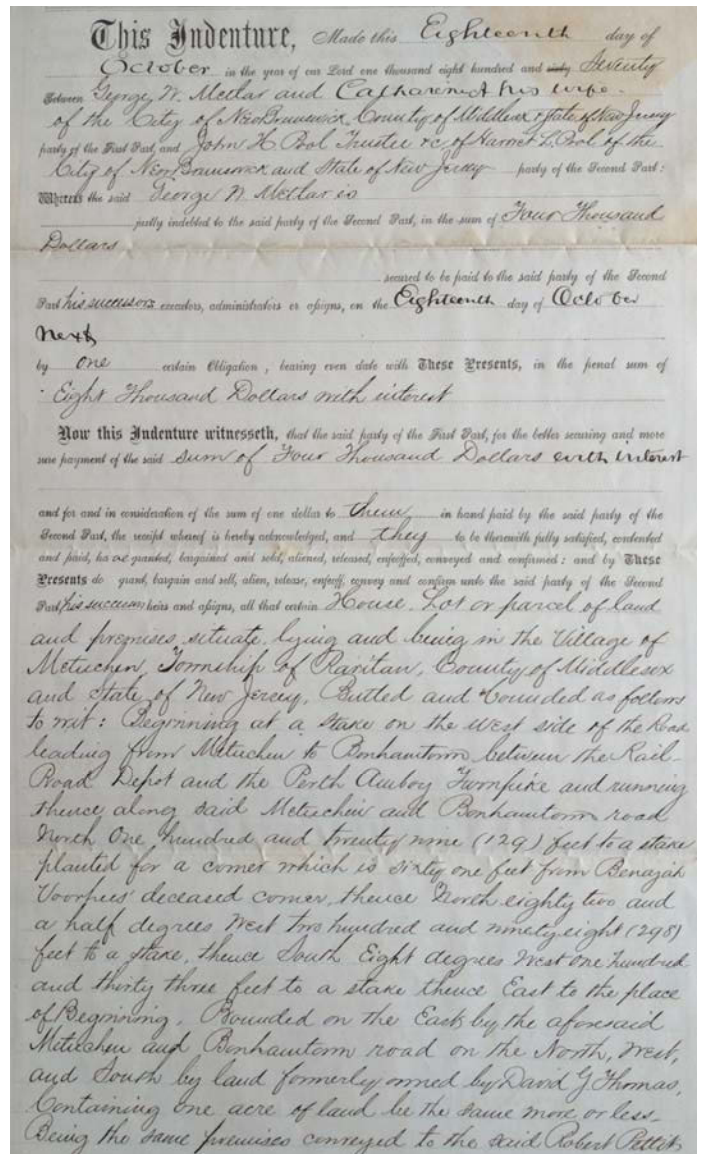
By Andy Kupersmit

The writer found this item (see image at right) on eBay about seven years ago. This item is a deed from October 18, 1870 for the purchase of a piece of real estate in Metuchen. George W. and Catherine A. Metlar purchased the property for \$4,000 from John H. Pool, Trustee of the estate of Harriet L. Pool, both of New Brunswick. The piece of land is defined as a

"House, Lot or parcel of land and premises situate lying and being in the Village of Metuchen, Township of Raritan, County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey. Butted and bounded as follows to wit: Beginning at a stake on the west side of the road leading from Metuchen to Bonhamtown between the Railroad Depot and the Perth Amboy Turnpike and running thence along said Metuchen and Bonhamtown road North One hundred and twenty nine (129) feet to a stake planted for a corner which is sixty one feet from Benajah Vorhees' deceased corner, thence North eighty two and a half degrees West two hundred and ninety eight (298) feet to a stake, thence South Eight degrees West one hundred and thirty three feet to a stake thence East to the place of Beginning. Rounded on the East by the aforesaid Metuchen and Bonhamtown road on the North, West and South by land formerly owned by David G. Thomas, containing one acre of land be the same more or less. Being the same premises conveyed to the said Robert Pettit by deed of William W. Cathcart and wife dated the twenty second day of April A.D. 1869 and recorded in Middlesex County Clerks office in book 107 of Deeds on page 509."

To determine if this was a good investment, first, the writer looked into the property portion of the deed. There are two parts to the deed. The first is the location of the property and the second is the size of the plot of land. The location is described as "...Beginning at a stake on the west side of the road leading from Metuchen to Bonhamtown ..." Fortunately, at the intersections of this road and Woodbridge Ave in Edison (Route 514) and this road and Route 1, there are signs that direct traffic North to Metuchen and South to Bonhamtown. That road is currently known as ... Main Street (Route 531). The deed continues "... between the Railroad Depot and the Perth Amboy Turnpike." Once again, luckily, only one road runs between Perth Amboy and Metuchen. That road is Amboy Avenue (Route 501). "Between the Railroad Depot and the Perth Amboy Turnpike" locates this piece of land as being on North Main Street between the train station and Amboy Ave. Currently, that piece of land has a Victorian Office Rentals property built on it.

The second portion of the deed is the size of the parcel of land. The deed reads (paraphrased) 129 feet along Main Street, then 298 feet deep, then 133 feet then back to the point of origin; this is estimated at 130ft x 300ft = approximately 39,000 square feet or 0.9 acres. Assuming



the land was undeveloped, the Metlars paid \$4,000 for 0.9 acres or \$4,444.44 per acre. According to online calculators, \$4,444.44 in 1870 would equal approximately \$76,222 in 2010. Considering an acre in Metuchen is worth about \$1,000,000 even in today's depressed economy, it sure sounds like a good investment to this writer.

Having completed this task, the focus now shifts to the two participants in the sale – the Metlars and the Pools. While not exactly Metuchen and Edison related, it is very much related to Middlesex County.

George W. Metlar was born May 7, 1826 in New Brunswick NJ. George's father was Samuel Metlar (Mettler). The 1830 census lists the occupants of Samuel's home on Water Street in New Brunswick as a man and a woman between 20 and 29 and a boy under 5. George married Catherine Ann Van Doren (1834-1913) in 1852, and they had five children, William (1855-1943), Elizabeth (1857-1944), Anna (1861-1918), John (1870-1959), and Katherine (1863-1952). Metlar died May 10, 1912, three days after his 86th birthday, and is interred in

Elmwood Cemetery on Georges Road in New Brunswick near Rutgers' Douglas/Cook campus (see below, image of grave marker from [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) and obituary from *The New York Times*). Upon Catherine's death, she was reported to have a \$100,000 fortune (see bottom left, obituary from *The New York Times*).

George W. Metlar was an entrepreneur and real estate investor, and according to his great, great grandson Gary Williams, (with whom this writer enjoyed a very nice e-mail exchange where Mr. Williams sent many of the images in this piece), George owned a clothing store at No. 1 Paterson Block in New Brunswick (see license at bottom right). He had significant real estate holdings in Middlesex County but primarily in New Brunswick and Piscataway in the area where the Rutgers Campuses now are located.

Phase II/III archeological investigations on the Route 18/27 (Albany Street) site between July 31 and October 23, 2003 are documented in a 2007 report by John Milner Associates, Inc., and reveal much about the area. The Route 18/27 Interchange site is located at the base of

the Cornelius Low House, one of the finest pieces of Georgian architecture in the country, from the Pool family for \$14,000. The Low House is still standing and is now a museum on Rutgers Piscataway campus just on the north side of the Raritan River. Harriet Pool's father in law had purchased the house from Low's son in 1793.

The Metlar name can still be found in present day Piscataway in at least two places. First is Route 18 which was called Metlars Lane once it crossed the Raritan River from New Brunswick (prior to the recent highway construction). In addition, the Metlar-Bodine house is named after George, who purchased it in 1894. The Metlar-Bodine house held historical documents until it was damaged by fire in 2003 and, sadly, many of the irreplaceable documents were lost.

Harriet L. Pool was the daughter of Isaac and Cornelia Lawrence. Isaac (1768–1841) was a prominent merchant and banker, serving as the president of the New York branch of the Bank of the United States. Harriet married John Adams Pool (c1800-c1869). According to the 1850 census, the Pools lived on a farm in Piscataway, and Harriet was ten years younger than her husband. One of their children was John H. Pool, who married Sophie Stuart, daughter of Naval Cmdr. Charles S. Boggs, in New Brunswick in 1862.

According to C.C. Vermeule (1936), John A. Pool had been trained as a medical doctor, but practiced little. He and his brother apparently made money off their business at Raritan Landing and from real estate transactions. Vermeule claims that John was born in the Low house and lived there until his death in 1866.



1912, at his residence, 2,051 5th Av. Notice of funeral hereafter.  
**METLAR.**—Entered into rest, on Oct. 18, 1912, George W. Metlar, aged 86 years. Funeral services from his late residence, Raritan Landing, New Brunswick, N. J., on Monday afternoon, at 2 o'clock.  
**MESEROLE.**—On Oct. 18, 1912, at 539 Madison Av., New York City, after a short illness, Abraham Meserole, beloved son of Evelina

## MRS. G. W. METLAR DIES AT RIVER ROAD HOME

Mrs. Catherine A. Metlar, widow of George W. Metlar, died at her home at the Landing, on the River Road, early this morning after ailing for some time, although she had not been confined to her bed until the past five weeks.

The deceased was formerly Miss Van Doren, of Millstone, and was a sister of the late Jacob Van Doren, of Millstone, whose death occurred a few years ago. The old Van Doren homestead at Millstone was a resting place of George Washington on his march from Princeton, and about two years ago the daughters of the American Revolution placed a marker at the front of the house, the ceremony being witnessed by many hundreds of people.

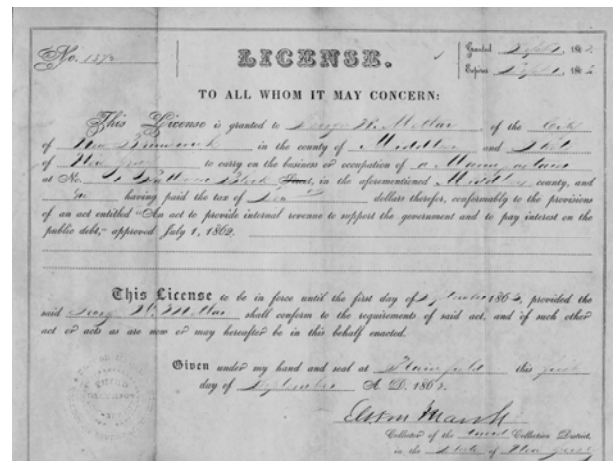
Mrs. Metlar was a woman who, by her lovable ways, drew about her a large circle of friends, by whom she will be greatly missed. During her last illness she was attended by Dr. J. P. Schureman, of this city, and Dr. Egbert Le Fevre, of New York.

Mrs. Metlar is survived by the following children: William Metlar, of Beechwood Heights, near Bound Brook; John V. D. Metlar, of the River Road; Misses Elizabeth and Mary Metlar. Mrs. Paul F. Williams. Another daughter, Miss Kate Metlar, died a few years ago. Also the following grandchildren: Edwin F. Metlar, who is with the Howell Lumber Co.; Kathrine P. Metlar, of Landing Road; Miss Mary Elizabeth Williams and George Metlar Williams, children of Paul F. Williams.

The deceased had lived at the beautiful River Road home for the past 40 years, and previous to that he family had occupied the property now used as the Children's Industrial Home, and at one time lived in the Bayard Kirkpatrick property, on College avenue. Mrs. Metlar was an active member of the Second Reformed Church, and the funeral services will be conducted by Dr. John A. Ingham at her home on Friday. Undertaker Hubbard has charge of the arrangements.

Albany Street where the city of New Brunswick began and one of the major themes of the report is the transformation of the block over time. The site included eight historic lots, four facing Albany Street, and four facing Water Street. According to the document, the Pools and Samuel Metlar lived on Water Street in New Brunswick. It is logical to speculate that they were in the same or similar businesses (which probably involved use of a ship that was docked near there) and included the real estate business. Isaac Lawrence, Harriet Pool's father, also had extensive real estate holdings in the area.

In addition, the Metlars purchased other properties in Middlesex County from the Pool estate. One year after this purchase, in 1871, Metlar purchased





## **Metuchen High School's Class of 1931 *History of Metuchen***

**The following is continued from the Class of 1931's *History of Metuchen*, which is being reprinted in *Nannygoats* serially (beginning with Volume 5, Issue 2, Summer 2007). While the history contains some known factual & grammatical errors, the document is reproduced exactly as originally written.**

### **THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF METUCHEN**

Two very necessary features in the life of any town are the fire department and the police force. Of the two, the fire department has the much longer history.

Before the year 1875 Metuchen and had no organized fire department. In case of fire nearby neighbors would run with pails of water and attempt to put it out.

Our first firehouse, a small frame building large enough to hold the wagon and a few men, was situated on the Presbyterian Church grounds where the new addition is now being built. Later this building was moved to Main Street and when the present one was built in 1885 it was sold and moved back of Robbins Hall.

Our first efforts in fighting fire resulted in the wagon bucket brigade which was followed by the two wheeled wagon and hose, and still later came wagon drawn by horses when they were available. When they were not, it was drawn by men. This wagon was equipped with about three hundred feet of hose.

A story is told which actually illustrates some of the woes of the early fire department. After three men had pushed the wagon up the station hill and halfway down Woodbridge Avenue they found that the leg of someone's kitchen table had been

burning but had already been put out. You can picture the disgusted looks on the faces of the tired man when greeted with the announcement!

A fireman's parade, the largest ever held in Metuchen, was given in 1897. Firemen from all over took part in it. Two of our firemen were sent to New York to purchase five hundred dollars worth of new equipment for the occasion and Mr. Kramer furnished complete uniforms for the department at seven dollars and a half dollars a piece. After the parade a supper was given in Robbins Hall.

The fire department had twenty-six members in 1887 and gradually increased until it reached one hundred. A Mr. A.G. Smith, Sr., the chief during this owned his own horse, had a telephone connection in the stable and one in his bedroom. It took him but a few minutes to get dressed, drop the harness on the horses, and arrive at the scene of the fire. To a great many of the older firemen of the Eagle Hook & Ladder Company, Chief Smith was known as "the daddy of the fire department." Mr. Smith bought the building for the Washington Hose Company.

From time to time we have been adding to and improving our fire department. At present there are between sixty and seventy volunteer members. Extensive modern equipment has already been provided and Mr. John Breen, Jr. is our present fire chief.



This photograph, on file in the Society's Grimstead Room Archives, shows a horse drawn team driven by (as identified on the reverse) Leb Morris. They are posed outside the Eagle Hook & Ladder Company house on Main Street. The building still stands, but the wood frame building immediately left of it is gone, and in its place is a masonry structure housing Hailey's Harp & Pub.

**Next Issue:  
"Police" and the  
conclusion of this  
serial reprinting.**

## Did Lucille Ball Live in Metuchen?

## Did a Beatle Marry an Edison Resident?

The Society's Grimstead Room archives, containing thousands of local history images and documents, are located in the basement of the Metuchen Public Library... and may just have the answers to these questions, and more! For more information, contact us at 732-906-0529 or wstochel@earthlink.net. Or, just stop by and visit during our open archives hours the first Saturday of most months from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Upcoming dates are September 7, November 2, and December 7, 2013.



## Potter's Crossing Marked

On Sunday, July 28, 2013, approximately fifty people gathered to celebrate the unveiling of a marker in Edison Township that commemorates the site of Potter's Crossing. This predominantly African American community, centered around Grove and Inman Avenues, began in the early twentieth century and by the 1950s had grown to include churches, businesses, homes, a fire department, and even a baseball team that played semi-pro black teams from Newark and Jersey City. In the 1960s the community was razed for an urban renewal project that included the Inman Grove Shopping Center and senior housing. John Richardson has done a great deal of work to document the former community, and without efforts such as his, a great deal of important local history would be lost forever.

Published by

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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.

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

## 1928 Directory of Metuchen, Column 11

Below is the eleventh column 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*.

N J Sand & Clay Co Nixons... Metuchen-349-J  
N Y Tailoring Co 402 Main... Metuchen-565  
N Y Telephone Co  
See N J Bell Telephone Co.  
Nielsen A M r 37 S Main... Metuchen-386-W  
Nielsen Holger r 2nd... Metuchen-438  
Nielsen Marie Miss GN r  
102 Woodbridge av. Metuchen-418-M  
Nielsen Olaf A r Fords... Metuchen-437-W  
Nielsen S r 1st... Metuchen-536-M  
Nielsen J r 31 Home... Metuchen-81-W  
Nilson L M r Glencourt av... Metuchen-272-W  
Nixon Lewis r Middlesex av... Metuchen-197  
Noe Eugene r 569 Middlesex av... Metuchen-13-R  
Noe R F r 87 Highland av... Metuchen-153-W  
Nogrody A r Fords... Metuchen-263-R  
Nonnenberg A r Amboy av... Metuchen-173-W  
Norton W S r 21 Bissett pl... Metuchen-561  
Novak P butcher Iselin... Metuchen-419-W-1  
Residence Iselin... Metuchen-288-J  
Nuber Wm A r 412 Main... Metuchen-116-J  
O K Lunch Lincoln hwy... Metuchen-769  
O'Brien & Breen plumbers High. Metuchen-368-W  
O'Connor M J r 32 Brunswick av... Metuchen-316  
Oehlers H C r 80 Highland av... Metuchen-174-J  
O'Hara Martin J r Fords... Metuchen-253-R  
Oksanen John A r Main... Metuchen-56-R  
Oksen E r Maple av... Metuchen-169-R  
Oliver H D r 532 Middlesex av... Metuchen-141-R  
Oliver M restrnt Iselin... Metuchen-649  
Olmezer L r Central av... Metuchen-299-J  
O'Neill T F r 55 Charles... Metuchen-744  
O'Neill Wm r Iselin... Metuchen-59-R  
Opitz J delctsn Amboy av... Metuchen-371-W  
Oppelt F r 272 Maple... Metuchen-39-M  
Orchid Beauty Parlor 407 Main... Metuchen-521  
Orr H J r 49 Home... Metuchen-82-M  
Orton M S Mrs r 56 High... Metuchen-46-M  
Osborne Geo r 76 Myrtle av... Metuchen-378  
Ostergaard M W r Amboy av... Metuchen-527-W  
Ostergaard S C r 211 Amboy av... Metuchen-81-M  
Ortscheid F A r  
New Brunswick av... Metuchen-536-R  
Ottarson W F Rev r  
New Dover rd... Metuchen-249-J  
Oxenford Grace A Mrs r  
2 Graham av... Metuchen-99-R  
Packard P K r Pleasant... Metuchen-529-W  
Paffendorf J C r Durham av... Metuchen-236-W  
Paige Jos B r 24 N Thomas... Metuchen-455  
Parfinuk A r 175 Cntrl av... Metuchen-633-W  
Parker Edith Mrs r Plainfld av... Metuchen-144-W  
Parvis L E K r Iselin... Metuchen-450  
Pascall C A r 952 Middlesex av... Metuchen-267  
Pasterak Frank r Fords... Metuchen-269-J  
Pates C r 3 George... Metuchen-204-R  
Pattison W P r 150 Chestnut... Metuchen-640  
Patzwahl J F r Morris av... Metuchen-706-W  
Paul's Meat Market 212 Main... Metuchen-452  
Residence 212 Main... Metuchen-452  
Payne R M r 16 Homer pl... Metuchen-629-W  
Pearse F M P r 484 Middlesex av... Metuchen-414  
Beck Lewis T r 280 Grove av... Metuchen-16-M  
Peins F B r Menlo Park... Metuchen-158-W  
Peins Rudolph r Menlo Park... Metuchen-158-J  
Penna R R Co Freight House... Metuchen-409  
Ticket office Metuchen... Metuchen-52  
Pennoek L J r 20 Graham av... Metuchen-327  
Perry A r est & ins 407 Main... Metuchen 460  
Residence 340 Amboy av... Metuchen-233-W  
Perry A r Gibian... Metuchen-412  
Perry Gilbert r 6 Walnut... Metuchen-746  
Pete's Trucking & Express  
19 Thomas... Metuchen-219  
Petersak Steve gror S Main... Metuchen-349-W  
Peters John J r Raritan Manor... Metuchen-269-W  
Peterson H C r Fords... Metuchen-527-J  
Peterson L H r 541 Middlesex av... Metuchen-141-W  
Peterson Wm K r Auborne... Metuchen-475-W  
Petes Taxi Service Corp 295 Main... Metuchen-181  
Petoletti L R drugs Iselin... Metuchen-773  
Pfaff H tea room Plainfld rd... Metuchen-774  
Pfeiffer C O r Amboy av... Metuchen-218-R  
Pfeiffer Edw Mrs r Amboy av... Metuchen-218-M  
Pfeiffer F R r 85 Woodbridge av... Metuchen-343-W  
Phillips J T r 29 Washn pl... Metuchen-153-R

## SCANDAL!?

The excerpt here was sent to the Society by frequent contributor Nicholas Di Brino of Yonkers, who found this tidbit during a perusal of the October 20, 1909 edition of *The New York Times*.

The 1909-1910 Directory of Metuchen indeed lists a Dewitt Rogers, grocer, as having a business on Main Street and residing on Amboy Avenue.

Reading between the lines, one can nearly imagine this being torn out the plot for a *House of Cards*-style miniseries.

### A CANDIDATE ASPHYXIATED.

**Dewitt Rogers of Metuchen Found  
Dead in Newark Furnished Room.**

Dewitt C. Rogers, owner of the chief grocery store in Metuchen, N. J., was found dead in Newark, N. J., in a furnished room at 26 Centre Street. His death is believed to have been caused by coal gas. A woman who accompanied him was found unconscious.

Rogers was 55 years old, prominent and wealthy. He was a graduate of Rutgers College and was running for Councilman in Metuchen on the Republican ticket and was sure of election. He was married and has two children.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**September 7, 2013**  
**Metuchen Farmer's Market**

Visit the Society's tent at the Metuchen Farmers Market on Saturday, September 7 from 9am to 2pm. Society merchandise and information will be available. The market is located in the Pearl Street Parking Lot.

**October 5, 2013**  
**Metuchen Country Fair**

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Metuchen Country Fair! Volunteers will be needed to staff our booth and greet visitors. Please contact Steve at 732-713-9080 if you can work a shift.



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

### NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

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[www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org](http://www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org).



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