



Old Porch– New Porch: Renovations at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead

Everyone’s house needs a little fixing from time to time. It is no different here at the Readington Museums. The harsh winter and mounds of snow took its toll on the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead’s stone porch. The porch, originally thought to be installed by Howard Lindsay and his

actress wife Dorothy Stickney, sometime in the 1940’s, was recently found to be substantially older. An image of the house, showing the porch as it is seen today, was found in a 1936 edition of Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses, by Fosalie Fellows Bailey, titled as the Fitts House, Stanton.



The Fitts House, aka the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead as it looked in the early 20th century.

The porch, which is made from a combination of various materials, including local field stone, was brought down to its founda-

tion, given a new base, the stones re-layed and cemented. Plans for placing two period correct benches on either side of the door are the works for the future. In addition, to the porch repair the Museum Committee recently painted the kitchen floor of the home. The floor, put in by Dorothy Stickney, was a combination of old floor tile and yellow paint. The new floor was painted with a high tech paint which will last for years. The staff wishes to thank the Committee members for their hard work painting the floor and staircase.

Inside this issue:

Renovations at BSF	1
Lecture	2
Garden and Orchard	2
Meet our Summer Intern	2
3rd and 5th Grade School Programs	3
New Exhibit	3
Calendar of Events	4

114 Dreahook Road
 PO Box 216
 Stanton NJ 08885
 Phone: 908-236-2327
 E-mail:
readingtonmuseums@netcarrier.com
<http://www.readingtontwp.org/ReadingtonMuseums>

Our last Friday Night Lecture will be presented on Friday, August 26th as Jim Walker presents *Post Offices of Hunterdon County*. This lecture will be based on his book of the same name. Books will be available for sale.

The lecture begins at 7:00 p.m. sharp. There is a \$5.00 suggested donation for adults, and refreshments served. No reservation necessary.

The Readington Museums wishes to thank Dan Allen for his work in the garden at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead. Not only did Dan come and perform much needed maintenance, he also planted sunchokes (Jerusalem Artichokes) and potatoes. Dan also installed signs and supplied the garden with two lovely chairs, so that visitors may sit and enjoy the garden.

Dan has generously offered to plant fruit and nut trees in the orchard and field area this fall. These trees will be a welcome addition to the grounds and should be ready to bare fruits and nuts in a few years. Thanks again Dan!

If anyone is interested in helping with the BSF garden please call the office or email the staff.

Meet Brittany Gajewski– Summer Intern

The Readington Museums welcomes summer intern Brittany Gajewski. Brittany is a Secondary Education/History Major at Rider University. As a young girl, she enjoyed participating in the Museums school programs and attended two summer Museum camps. Because of these great experiences, Brittany contacted the staff, wishing to help offer the same positive experience she had at the Museums with others, while learning the skills needed to run a small museum.

Brittany is a team player, and willing to help do any job necessary for the running of the

Museums. Since she began on May 13, 2011, she has participated and planned on and off-site school programs, including the teaching of 18th c. English Country Dance for the 5th grade program, archived and accessioned quilts and coverlets using *Past Perfect*, and she continuously keeps house at the Museums through general cleaning and maintenance. Finally, Brittany has researched and prepared an exhibit which is currently on display in the lobby of the Municipal Building. Brittany has learned a plethora of valuable lessons of running a small mu-

seum, and has been a wonderful asset to the Museums and our mission.





Museum Committee member Betty Ann Fort and long time volunteer Christine Delessio teach 5th graders the importance of candles in the 18th century.

The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead is proud to have held its “Colonial Life” program this past spring for the fifth grade students from Holland Brook School, of Readington Township School District. Over a period of five days in May 2011, the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead buzzed with two hundred-fifty students who rotated through four different stations during their visit. Based on New Jersey Core Curriculum

Standards for Social Studies, each student had a taste of what life was like during the 18th century at the Bouman’s Farmstead. Each student had the opportunity to meet Vrouw Bouman, join the local militia to learn military tactics, make candles, visit a daily craftsperson or try some English Country

dancing.

In addition, the Museums were able to offer a tour of the Farmstead to two groups of 7th grade students participating in a nature hike and picnic in May and June, 2011.

Dates for programs for the 2011-12 school year have been finalized. All 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes in the township will be making a return to the BSF next year.

For the People, By the People: Local, State and Federal Finds in the Archives of the Readington Museums, is now on display in the front lobby of the Readington Township Municipal building. The idea for the exhibit came to summer intern Brittany Gajewski as she helped organize the Museums’ archives. Items in the exhibit include Presidential letters, a local family’s photo album with pictures of Abraham Lincoln and his wife, a collection of items from President Regan’s visit and more. The most interesting item is the original voting box for Readington Township, still containing the last ballots from a 1933 primary. The exhibit can be seen during business hours Monday-Friday, 9:00-4:00 p.m.

Program Director Kimberly Costa teaches Emi Moore how to survey.

3rd Graders Learn 18th Century Surveying

This spring the Museums staff traveled to the schools rather than the reverse. The third grade program, normally held at the Eversole-Hall House was presented at Three Bridges and Whitehouse Schools. During this abbreviated program, students met an 18th century geographer in Washington’s army, por-

trayed by the Program Director, and learned the basics of surveying open land. The students had the opportunity to use period correct tools such as the surveyor’s compass, Gunter’s chain, and pole, while taking on the role as “surveyor”, “chain man”, and “pole man”. Each student also recorded

the field measurements and recorded them on their individual map.



Readington Museums
114 Dreahook Road
PO Box 216
Stanton NJ 08885



Calendar 2011-12 All programs held at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead unless noted

Friday, July 29

7:00 pm

Lecture: History of the NJ Boardwalks.

Friday, August 26

7:00 pm

Lecture: Post Offices of Hunterdon County.

Sunday, September 11

1:00-4:00 pm

Gunsmithing

Sunday, October 2

1:00-4:00 pm

Ghost Stories of New Jersey

Saturday, October 15

7:00-9:30 pm

Barn Dance with Betsy Gotta

Sunday, November 6

1:00-4:00 pm

Open Hearth Cooking

Sunday, December 4

1:00-4:00 pm

Christmas Event

2012

Sunday, February 5, 2012

1:00-4:00 pm

Cooking with Mother Goose

The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead is located at 114 Dreahook Road, in the Stanton section of the township. \$5.00 suggested donations for all lectures and programs.