

Thistle



Vol. XXII

May 1997

“The Glitter and the Gold: Fashioning America’s Jewelry”

Riker Brothers, Bippart and Co., Unger Brothers, Wordley, Allsopp & Bliss, Kerr and Co.,...some of the makers whose marks you will be looking for on your or your mother’s jewelry, or at the flea market or next estate sale, after you have been introduced to the exquisite work of these and other 1850-1950-era Newark jewelry makers, at the historical society’s next annual meeting in June.

On May 7, 1997, Newark Museum will unveil their “gem” of an exhibition on Newark’s jewelry makers. At the society’s annual meeting, on June 10th at 8:00 p.m., in the Millburn library, local expert Janet Zapata will introduce you to many makers that are relatively unknown today.



Newark was a major jewelry manufacturing center at the turn of the century. Through her slide presentation Ms. Zapata will examine this important industry and will draw relationships to firms, such as Tiffany & Co. and Cartier, that commissioned work from the Newark makers. Trademarks will also be shown and discussed.

Janet Zapata is an art historian, consultant and frequent lecturer who specializes in American jewelry and silver. As the former archivist at Tiffany & Co., she was involved in numerous projects for the firm, such as curating the exhibitions “The Silver of Tiffany & Co.: 1850-1987” at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in 1987 and “Tiffany: 150 Years of Gems and Jewelry” at the American Museum of Natural History in NY in 1988.

She has written for The Magazine Antiques, Silver Magazine, and The Antique Collector, among others, and is also the author of The Jewelry and Enamels of Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Ms. Zapata is a consultant for the jewelry department at Christie’s in New York and the Louis C. Tiffany Museum in Nagoya, Japan and an adjunct teacher in the graduate program at the Cooper-Hewitt/Parsons Masters Program in the History of the Decorative Arts. She is co-curator, with Ulysses Dietz, on this exhibition of jewelry by Newark makers.

Please be our guest at this fascinating look at what may be a small, exquisite piece of history sitting in your house, too!

"When Will You be Open?"

is the question we are most frequently asked and while we are not finished organizing the records and files that are still being gathered from their sundry homes over the past years, we have arranged to have the train station open once a week, from 2:00-4:00 pm on Wednesday afternoons, starting immediately.

We will be there working on putting our archives in order and members are welcome to stop in during that time, to look around, to lend a hand with some of the filing and sorting, to inquire about anything with which we may be able to help, or just to watch!

Books and magazines still need to be stamped with our name and organized on our shelves, files need to be rearranged in the filing cabinet and newspapers and maps need to be sealed in mylar. Members are invited to lend a hand or keep us company as we do it. There is no need to call first (unless you would like just to confirm that we are there).

A Matter of Fax

The historical society now has a phone/fax answering machine. Our new number, for both the phone and fax is: (201)564-9519.

Early Mill/Short Hills Maps

Many historical society members have asked how they can get early maps of Millburn/Short Hills and we are happy to report that Lynn Vigeant, owner of Maps of Antiquity in Montclair, has notified the society that she has for sale four 1906 maps of Millburn and/or Short Hills. The maps are 31"x 22", unframed, linen-backed, and softly colored. They are from the 1906 Mueller Atlas of Essex County and show the shapes of the structures on the property, the landowner, and identify the

material of which the structure is made. Each map is \$75.00.

For more information, please call Lynn Vigeant at (201)744-4364.

The News Item.

Vol. 1. SHORT HILLS, N. J. DECEMBER, 1888. No. 10.

(December 1888)

Last Sunday, the first in December, was a day of glory out of doors. At noon as I passed along the highway and by the edge of the woods, I met some of my neighbors, whom the unusual brightness of the day had drawn out of their houses. The air was mild, the sky was unclouded, strips of bright green grass were to be seen on the south side of hedges, the field brooks trickled into the road side ditches as if this were the spring of the year, and through the leafless woods and from the brown uplands I looked upon soft landscapes stretching far away. I am glad, said I, that I live in Short Hills.

More Treasures

The society is very grateful to continue to receive artifacts from generous past and present residents. We are excited to be able to preserve, share and use for reference, bits and pieces of Millburn-Short Hills history.

Our sincerest thanks to the following people for enriching the lives of all residents by their donations:

- From Harriet Greenholtz, a Short Hills School visor
- From Mr and Mrs V. Benes, three framed early maps of the town and a framed sketch of Short Hills from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper
- From Gail Engelschjon and Thomas Rung, numerous receipts from Millburn businesses (1870-1885), an 1878 tax bill, an early illustrated booklet of Millburn and area businesses, local cookbooks and much more ephemera.
- From the Lynn Rogers-Eisenbeil, township clerk, an 1896 survey of "the Newark and Morris Turnpike"
- From Mrs. John L. Kemmerer (Mary Liz), courtesy of her sister, Mrs. Roy Bumsted (Anne), 1930+ newsletters from the Short Hills Country Day School (see excerpt below) and the book "Beginnings: 1700-1800"
- From the Wyoming Club, courtesy of Sue Moritz, an early photo of the courts
- From the Younger family, an Apple Macintosh computer and printer

Frequently generous gifts such as these are given to the society at special events and are often to different society officers. This may mean that an acknowledgement may be overlooked because it was not recorded at the time and the gift was filed by the time The Thistle was prepared. If your gift was not ac-

knowledged here, PLEASE contact us at 564-9519 and leave a message or Lynne Ranieri at 379-5032 and remind us, that we may properly acknowledge it and clarify the records. These contributions are used to assist the society or inquirers in research on homes or families in the township. These gifts greatly enhance our archives and provide the foundation for future exhibitions. When you clean house, please consider donating to the archives.



An excerpt from the March 1931 Short Hills Country Day School newsletter, donated by Mary Liz Kemmerer:

"The Sixth Grade Cactus"

Poor Little Cactus
Can't prick anymore
He has had lots of practice
But he fell to the floor.

It's dry on the desert
But it is drier still
In the Sixth Grade room
On the window sill.

John Warner



Only Four Sandwiches

Among the treasures the historical society relishes receiving are memories. Short Hills resident Mrs. Ralph Hiscano (Peggy) recently shared some memories of instruction in the finer points of etiquette that she was given by Miss Lucy Baird of Baird's School:

- At a job interview, always look the interviewer in the eye
- (At a social affair) never take more than four tea sandwiches

"Crazy Maids," Unmanageable Wives, & That Darned Flag Pole

(The following are more excerpts taken from the 1916 Millburn police blotter.

Note: The obstreperous flag pole was in the exact center of the intersection of Millburn Ave and Main St. It now stands safely in Taylor Park!)

Dec. 15, 1916 Chief Coaney reported that some one had stolen a diamond stone out of Mrs. Nat Tyler's ring valued at \$200. The stone was taken out of the ring sometime between the 10 of Dec and 13. James B. of Short Hills Ave was at the house at about 5 pm Dec 10 and asked how he could get in later in the night as the maid had gone out and locked the door. It was arranged so he could get in to tend the fire. I made a trip to Rahners Jewelrys Store, but could not get a chance to talk to him, so I called later & learned James B. came in with a stone (diamond) that the Jeweler said looked like the one missing from the Nat Tyler house and ordered it put in to a ladies ring, paying \$5.50 for the job. He called on Dec 18 at George Rahners store at 3:30 pm and took the ring with him. On Dec 19 I sent for J.B. at the B. home. His sister said she would tell him. At about 4:30 pm Dec 19 he called at the Police Station. I took him in the back room and talked to him about the missing diamond. The first word he said was, "I don't know why I done it. I will bring it back tomorrow morning, but I said he must bring it back to night. He said he would. He returned the diamond at about 6 pm to Mr Tyler and Mrs Tyler and asked their forgiveness and promised to never repeat the offense. Mr and Mrs Tyler said they would give him another chance and would not make a complaint against him.

Dec. 22, 1916 Mr. Kilgore called in and reported his Japanese butler was drunk. I went up in Town Car with Officer Tighe and arrested his butler. After appearing before the Judge, was fined \$10.75. Paid

Dec. 27, 1916 Took a dog away from Mr. Gibson's house on White Oak Ridge Rd at the request of Mrs. Gibson who did not want it any longer.

Feb. 2, 1916 Mrs. Chas. F. Reported that her husband was coming home drunk and would not work. I got him work at Dillingham's place, working for Larsen. He told Wright he would take the job Feb 3, next morning.

Feb. 11, 1916 Officer Ruban of Springfield called & asked Capt. Brodesser to help him find a Mrs. Williams of Chelsea, Mass, who ran away with a married man, leaving her husband. She took her baby with her.

Feb. 19, 1916 Miss Durand telephoned in and wanted Police to come up to her house as she had a dog in her cellar that was disturbing their rest at night. Officer Nagel & Capt.

went up in Car and took the dog and placed him in the pound 2 pm Feb 19. Feb 21 at 4 pm shot the dog.

April 3, 1916 Rimback van drove to left of flag pole. Accident.

April 11, 1916 Mr. Kneass of Short Hills called in and said Agnes Botchitt, a servant in his employ, had locked herself in her room and would not open the door. He thought she was intoxicated. Officer Nagel & myself went up to Mr. Kneass and found the servant under the influence of liquors. We brought her to the Police Station. We kept her until the next morning. She appeared to be quite sick. Dr. Campbell treated her.

May 1, 1917 Officer Nagel arrested Mike Noonan of South Orange Village, charged with driving an auto while under the influence of intoxicating liquors and also with destroying Public Property by running into the flag pole in the center of town, Millburn Ave & Main St. breaking 4 glass globes to the value of about \$10.00. The defendent was released in \$100 cash bail.

June 7, 1917 Milton Adler of Newark, NJ was arrested by Special Officer Coughlin, charged with going to the left of the flag pole. He was fined \$5.65 by Judge McGee.

June 27, 1917 Mr Lange of Short Hills complained that boys were swimming in South Pond naked and would like to have Police put a stop to it. The boys will be permitted to swim after they get a bathing suit & a permit from Mr. Hartshorn

June 27, 1917 Mr & Mrs Nash of Old Short Hills called at Police Station. Wanted to know what kind of people the W. family were. I told them so far as I knew they were O.K.

April 8, 1918 Received a telephone call from a Mr. Simpler of Knollwood Rd & Highland Ave that his maid had gone crazy. While he was calling up a Dr. she ran out of the house. He wanted Police to come up & take care of her. Officer Nagel & Capt. Brodesser went up & found his maid at the S. Hills RR station. Her name is Katherine T. of NY. Dr Campbell ordered her committed to Morris Plains Insane Hospital.

April 12, 1918 Kate M. Was taken to Overbrook Hospital on complaint of her husband who said he could not manage her. I sent Officer Nagel & Tighe over with her.

July 21, 1918 Special Officer Lyons arrested Chas. H. Of Baker Rd, Vaux Hall, charged with going on the wrong side of the flag pole, Main & Millburn Ave. He left \$10 for his appearance on Monday night.

In the past, leather books were treated with a leather dressing; however, application of an oil or leather dressing can have a more adverse effect than beneficial and is, therefore, not recommended.

The preservation procedures described here have been used by the Library of Congress in the care of its collections and are considered suitable by the Library as described; however, the Library and/or the International Book Collectors Association will not be responsible for damage to your collection should damage result from the use of these procedures.

**Sources for
Archival Supplies
for Your Books**

The following suppliers are (alphabetically-listed) sources for archival/preservation/storage materials for your books - or photos, heirloom textiles, artwork, etc:

Archivart, 7 Caesar Place,
Moonachie, NJ 07074
1-201-804-8986

Gaylord Brothers, PO Box 4901,
Syracuse NY
13221-4901
1-800-634-6307

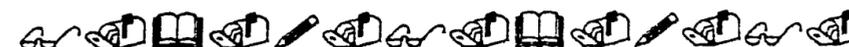
Light Impressions, PO Box 940,
Rochester, NY
14603-0940
1-800-828-6216

Searching for...

The historical society regularly gets requests for help with searches for information on early residents of Millburn and Short Hills. It is hoped that some of our readers may also have information about the "missing people". If you do, please call 564-9519 and we'll pass on the information...

Meeker - Mary Meeker Haggett of New Albany, Indiana seeks information about the parents of Timothy Meeker, Sr. He was born in 1708 at Elizabethtown, NJ and died at Northfield, NJ on 12/22/1798

Rosé - Rev. David Moreno of Mahwah, NJ seeks information about Dr. Julius David Rosé, former chaplain to the 7th NJ Volunteer Infantry and headmaster of St. Stephen's school in Millburn. Dr Rosé was later affiliated with Christ Church in Short Hills and died in Short Hills in Sept 1890. He is interred at St. Stephen's cemetery in Millburn. On Aug. 7, 1999, the 7th NJ re-enactors will lead a commemorative service at the tombstone.



If you would like to volunteer to help with any of the many activities in which the society is presently engaged, or if you would like to share your memories with the society (either here or in person), please let us know below. Just complete the section below, with your name and address, then tell us what you would like to do or share, in the blank space after that. The sheet can be mailed to the society at: PO Box 243, Short Hills, NJ 07078.

Name _____

Address _____
(City/State/Zip)

Phone _____

I am interested in:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Museum operations | <input type="radio"/> Programs |
| <input type="radio"/> Archives/preservation | <input type="radio"/> Oral history interviews |
| <input type="radio"/> Docents | <input type="radio"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="radio"/> Database | <input type="radio"/> Computer/Web site |
| <input type="radio"/> Other interest(s) _____ | |

Calendar of Society Events

Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 pm Train station

Building is open for visitors

Tues, June 10 8:00 pm Millburn library

Annual meeting; Janet Zapata on "The Glitter & the Gold"

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