

GLEN ROCK HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY PRESENTS:

# GLEN ROCK HISTORY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2014

## THE MUSEUM AT THE STATION IS NOW OPEN!

One of our major goals for 2014 has now been met. The **Museum at the Station** is now open once a month! Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, we are able to open the building to the public on the last Sunday of each month, from 1 to 3 pm. In addition to our permanent displays featuring items and scenes from early Glen Rock, we will have changing themes in our display cases. Currently, our cases contain material from the Glen Rock Police Department and handmade ornaments and pen-and-ink drawings by the late Jim Aber. Please stop in the Main Line Station often to learn something new about our

borough.

Thanks to great public support, the sales of our DVD **"The Rock in the Glen"** have been fantastic. We have sold out of the original order and will have additional copies available in early February. We are selling the discs for \$15.00 apiece, with all proceeds earmarked for our film digitization project. This project is to transfer our holdings of IDA Parade films (going back to 1935) to digital format so that we can once again see this amazing footage. We are



partnering with Glen Rock TV to show the transferred parade films on Channel 77.

Please don't forget about our **Lenape Storytelling Program** (see below), co-sponsored with the Friends of the Library, on March 29th at 2 pm. Watch the Glen Rock Gazette for registration information.

## LENAPE STORYTELLING PROGRAM ON MAR. 29TH

Professional storyteller, Julie Dellatorre will be presenting an afternoon of Lenape tales in a family program at the Glen Rock Public Library on March 29, starting at 2 pm.

The Lenape people have a rich storytelling tradition.

Lenape stories teach about their heritage and origins; they teach about relationships, between each other and with the natural world; they teach about respect. Storytelling was meant to be a community experience with all ages involved. It is said that Glen Rock's Big

Rock was a gathering place for such an event.

Complimenting Julie's stories, the display cases at the Library will be filled for the month of March with Lenape artifacts and materials, many on loan from the Upper Saddle River Historical Society.

## WISH LIST:

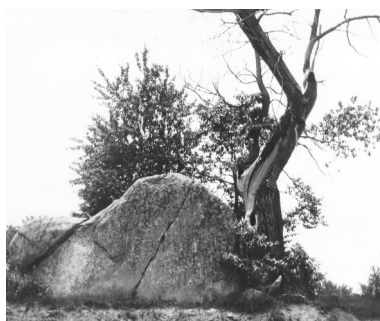
- *Vintage clothing*
- *Glen Rock photos*
- *Erie Railroad items*
- *Vintage toys*
- *Old tools*
- *2004 & 2011 town calendars*
- *Family letters*
- *WEBMASTER!*

## LOOK INSIDE:

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## CHESTNUT TREES & FIELDSTONES



The chestnut tree next to the unexcavated Rock was already dying in this photo taken around 1890.

There was a time when “the spreading chestnut tree” was a common sight in America. That was before a devastating blight in the early 1900s decimated the stock.

Chestnut trim was very common in Arts & Crafts style houses, which

prized the organic in a quest to bring the outdoors inside. Chestnut trees grow tall and straight with long, unbranched trunks. The wood

is durable and has an attractive grain. Chestnut trimwork would generally be left unpainted and was often stained with a dark finish. Chestnut doors, window trim, cabinetry and built-ins were especially popular in bungalows and four-squares built circa 1910 to 1930.

Another common material found in local houses of this period is fieldstone, used for foundations and fireplaces. These rounded stones, often

of granite, are not native geologically to this area. Rather, these stones were deposited here—like our Big Rock—by the Wisconsin glacier about 15,000 years ago.

The red sandstone used in the old Dutch farmhouses throughout Bergen County is the true native stone. The farmers would usually orient their homes to the south or southeast in order to maximize the warmth of the sunlight.

## NEW JERSEY’S 350TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY IS  
BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH

2014 marks New Jersey’s 350th birthday. Here are a few notes from New Jersey African-American history.

- New Jersey was the last northern state to abolish slavery.
- New Jersey was the only northern state not carried by Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 election. He also lost the

state in the 1864 election.

- Slaves were common on Dutch farms in Bergen County. Men tended stock and raised crops; women were generally used as domestic help.
- Most New Jersey slaves came from the West Indies, not directly from Africa.

- Following World War I, NJ was a prime destination for southern blacks looking for better jobs in the north during the Great Migration.
- New Jersey was the first state (in 1947) to constitutionally outlaw racial segregation in public schools and the militia.

## GLEN ROCK & SEARS HOUSES



Sears “Claremont” model

A recent post on Facebook resulted in another Glen Rock house being added to our inventory of Sears catalog homes. The owner noticed the Sears markings on materials removed during a renovation, and he was able to identify his home as the Sears’ Claremont model.

Sears began to sell building materials through its mail order catalog around 1895. In 1908, they expanded the business to offer complete homes (in pieces): 22 styles priced between \$650 and \$2,500. The prices included plans, specifications and most materials—usually shipped to the buyer via railroad car. The kit homes were big

business for Sears and other suppliers, such as Aladdin Homes, until the Depression hit.

Glen Rock is the perfect place to look for these well-constructed homes (we’ve got railroads!). If you think you are the lucky owner of a catalog home, please contact the GRHPS and we will try to help you identify your model.



## HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR OLD HOME MOVIES

The GRHPS is transferring our old IDA film reels to DVD format. Here are a few tips for your own old films:

1. Nitrate film, popular between 1900 and 1939 (but still available as late as 1951) is highly flammable. If you think you have nitrate film, seek advice from a specialist ASAP.
2. Acetate (aka Safety) film will give off a strong vinegar smell if it is decomposing. Do the sniff test when opening the canister.
3. The sooner copies are made of old films, the more likely their contents will be preserved. Make sure to keep the original film after copying.
4. Handle older film as little as possible. Always rewind film evenly and not too tightly, with the emulsion side out.
5. Store films around 68 degrees F and less than 50% humidity.
6. Store films in metal film cans or plastic boxes. Store the canisters lying flat, in stacks less than one foot tall.
7. Label film cans on the outside with date, film size, subject and length.



Sporting events, like this 1960 Mayors Cup photo, are popular themes in home movies. (Coach Gene Tuite with Thomas & Victor Quinn)

## RECENT DONATIONS & ACQUISITIONS

Did you know that Glen Rock was once home to acres of strawberry fields? The GRHPS recently purchased a Bergen County strawberry basket from around 1825. These little baskets would be filled with berries and put out on roadside stands for sale.

The GRHPS has received a wonderful donation of Byrd School materials, including a written history of the school

by (former principal) Ethel Wright. A separate gift of school photos from the 1950s and 1960s includes pictures of school "mixers" and physical activities. Look for some of these photos to be posted on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/glenrockhistory](https://facebook.com/glenrockhistory)).

A "new" (for us!) Erie Railroad City Directory from 1915 has been added to our

library, thanks to another generous donor. City Directories are a great source of information for anyone researching a family or town history.

We are grateful for all donations and thank our donors for remembering the GRHPS as an appropriate repository for town treasures.

"THE FARTHER  
BACK YOU CAN  
LOOK, THE  
FARTHER  
FORWARD YOU  
ARE LIKELY TO  
SEE."

- WINSTON  
CHURCHILL

## POLICE BLOTTER

The GRPD Blotter from 1932 contains the following entries:

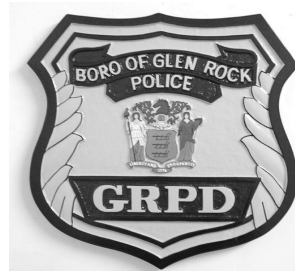
**Dateline: March 1, 1932.** Ridgewood Police reported Col. Charles Lindbergh's baby had been kidnapped from Princeton, NJ. Child was wearing sleeping gown.

**Dateline: March 3, 1932.** Ridgewood Police received

report concerning Lindbergh baby case: two men and a woman were seen boarding a train at Trenton NJ at 12:30 pm 3/2/32. Description as follows: Woman—about 5 ft 6 in in height, red hair, wore black hat and pony-skin overcoat. Man #1—about 5 ft 7 in in height, wore black overcoat. Man #2—no description. Their destination unknown.

**Dateline: May 11, 1932.** Ridgewood Police sent the following report: Lindbergh baby found at 3:15 pm, partly buried near Hopewell estate. Identified by his blond hair—had a fracture of the skull and was wearing some of the clothes that baby had on at time of its disappearance. Body was badly decomposed.

**Dateline: June 10, 1932.** Ridgewood Police reported one [male person of interest] operating a green coach car. Wanted in Lindbergh case.





# GRHPS

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VISIT OUR FACEBOOK  
PAGE:

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
GLENROCKHISTORY

THE GRHPS IS A 501(C) 3 ORGANIZATION.  
DONATIONS ARE TAX-EXEMPT TO THE FULLEST  
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## The GRHPS Mission Statement:

To heighten the public's awareness of, and appreciation for, the history, growth and development of Glen Rock, New Jersey.

Can't bear to part with your treasured photos or letters? We understand! The GRHPS can scan your originals for our collection so that you retain your treasures while we add the information contained therein to our archives.

Help us continue to learn about our borough's past.

Our next meeting is: Thursday, February 20, 2014

7:30 pm. at the Main Line Station

Meetings are held on the THIRD Thursday of the month, September through June.

## DVDs AND GRANDMA'S HATS

1964 was a momentous time in Glen Rock's history as the borough celebrated its 70th birthday. To commemorate the milestone, "The Rock in the Glen" film was made.

The 47-minute film traces Glen Rock's history from the beginning (1894) up through Glen Rock Day at the 1964 New York World's Fair.

The GRHPS is pleased to make this film available to the public, thanks to our film digitization project. "The Rock in the Glen" DVDs are being sold for \$15.00 apiece, with all proceeds earmarked for additional film digitization. Please contact us at GRHistoricalSociety@gmail.com or phone Sue

Tryforos at (201) 447-3865 if you'd like to purchase the DVD. Local pick-up makes it easy to get yours now! (DVDs can be shipped for an additional \$4.00).

The GRHPS is also raising funds for projects and acquisitions by selling home-made winter hats, hand knit with love by Grandma (really!). Visit our shop at [www.etsy.com/shop/GmasHats](http://www.etsy.com/shop/GmasHats). We are offering a variety of hats for kids and grown ups, including hats in Glen Rock school colors. Thank you, Grandma, for donating your time and materials.

We value our supporters!



Come visit us!

### MUSEUM AT THE STATION SCHEDULE

We will be open from 1—3 pm on the following dates:

Feb. 23, 2014    March 30, 2014    April 27, 2014

May 25, 2014    June 29, 2014