

The Roundabout

Issue 1

May 2007



Sayreville Historical Society

425 Main Street, PO Box 66, Sayreville, NJ 08871
732-390-7048 www.sayhistory.com history@sayhistory.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Carol Kadi

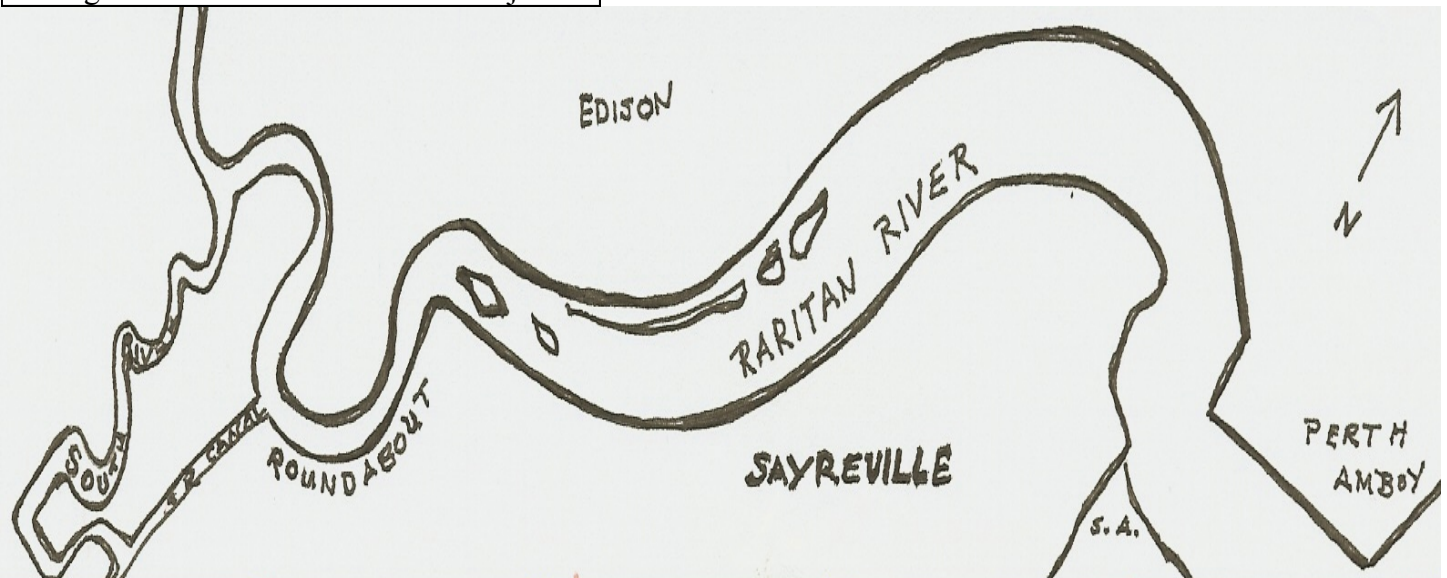
Requests for Sayreville information come from all over the nation. The people calling believe we have absolutely everything about Sayreville in our inventory. In fact, we only have what the good people of Sayreville have donated over the years. Members such as Ed Pytel and Florence Cooney do the best they can to answer the questions asked. We have many "holes" in our collection that need filling. Think about the unused historical items in your attic or garage of no value to your family. Then think about the Sayreville Historical Society Museum where these articles and records can live again and help others. It is unfortunate, but often valuable archival or museum materials are thrown out after a person dies. We would appreciate being called to look over the materials before the dump truck trundles off to Fort Grumpy.

If you donate an item to the Sayreville Historical Society Museum, be sure to fill out and sign a form which identifies the object.

DONATIONS

As of January 31, 2007 the Sayreville Historical Society is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We are now classified as a public charity. All contributions to us are deductible if no consideration is received in return. For example, dinner tickets are not deductible. Contributions of \$250 or more require a written statement from us, listing the cash contribution or a description of the donated item to be included with the donor's income tax filing.

Carol Kadi and John Kosakowski were assisted in the changeover to this new status by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission workshop on NJ Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. We applied for assistance and were contacted by Jerrold N. Poslusny, Jr. of Cozen O'Connor of Cherry Hill. He oversaw our application and advised us on amendments required. The federal and state requirements sometimes differed. The only fees required were filing fees and mailing costs. No legal services were billed. Locally, we need to thank Ann Rafano of The South River Historical & Preservation Society and Bernard Matuszewski of this organization for their help.



Items For Sale

Borough of Sayreville Coverlet with pictures of early Sayreville, 50"x70", fringed, two-layer, washable, 100% cotton, jacquard-woven in the USA, handsome and practical, \$45. Make check payable to Sayreville Historical Society, include your name, address and phone number. Mail orders to Amy Puchala, 45 Foch St., Sayreville, NJ 08872.

The Plunge Through the Trestle from THE JUGGERNAUT, a DVD said to be "one of the greatest thrillers in theatrical production ever witnessed" was the silent movie train crash reel filmed in 1914 at Sayreville's Bailey Park. Informative booklet is included. Both are available for \$10 with membership. Make check payable to Sayreville Historical Society, include your name, address and phone number. Mail orders to Adele O'Hara, 24 Avon Way, Parlin, NJ 08859.

Sayre & Fisher Informational Signs

The entrance sign to the newly dedicated Buchanan Riverfront Park will be improved. Historical information will be added to the sign to indicate it was the site of the Sayre & Fisher brickyards. Six other signs will be attached to the railing of the deck near the boat ramp. The signs will include information and pictures from our archives. The titles are Early Sayreville, The Workers, Transportation, The Sayre & Fisher Area, Over A Million Bricks Per Day, The Founders.

With the approval of the Mayor and the Borough Council, Jay Cornell at CME assisted Carol in the design planning. Historical Society members Ed Pytel and Theresa Strek submitted information and Dori Nielsen assisted in the selection of pictures. Christine Dominik, Ed Pytel, John Kosakowski and J. Lorraine Laubach proofread.

This newsletter was made possible by contributions of the Matuszewski family and friends.

Museum Improvements

The museum now has an operating elevator and a handicapped-accessible restroom. The construction was started last summer. Grants sought by the Borough of Sayreville for several years made the improvements possible. Numerous other changes are visible such as new bathroom fixtures, most light fixtures and paint. Thank you to the Borough of Sayreville and to its Buildings and Grounds Department.

Extended construction caused incredible dust accumulation. A small army of Society members under the leadership of John McCormack spent days cleaning. The paneled or tiled walls were wiped clean. All the shelves and cabinets were cleaned.

With preservation in mind, Christine Dominik presented a plan to the executive board which was accepted and followed throughout the process. Christine also proposed professional framing for three artifacts: the county map which was hanging in the main room of the museum, the Arion Society photograph group in the Entertainment Room, a visually descriptive map of Sayreville donated by Ed Kolodziej.

Christine and Katherine Boehm are now working diligently to complete museum displays so that the museum can reopen to the public.

Volunteer Comments

Everyone in the Sayreville Historical Society is a volunteer. All are important. To give you an idea of the work done, we asked for their view of their work. Florence Cooney said, "Tracking genealogy clues has always been fascinating to me. We sometimes have inquiries along this line, and finding information to pass along is very satisfying. Although our resources are limited, we always make an effort." Theresa Strek said, "The tremendous influx of new donations to the museum and the recent major renovations have created a huge cataloguing backlog. We look forward to returning to cataloguing all new items received and renumbering all previously catalogued items." The callers are our usual outreach to our membership and would also serve as emergency communication in a crisis. Winnie Coman gives her view, "As a phone volunteer I call each member on my list a few days before a meeting. It not only serves as a reminder but promotes interest in the program. It's also a nice way to keep in touch with those unable to attend. They know they are not forgotten."

John McCormack and Abraham Lincoln



Abe, portrayed by Bob Costello, was our speaker at the February 8, 2007 meeting.



Sayreville Historical Society
 425 Main Street, PO Box 66
 Sayreville, NJ 08871

Call us: 732-390-7048

Write to us: PO Box 66, Sayreville, NJ 08871

Visit our museum: 425 Main Street, open Sundays 1:30 - 4:00. Group visits are accommodated

Visit our website: www.sayhistory.com - E-mail us: history@sayhistory.com

Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month, September through June, at the Senior Center, 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Total amount enclosed _____

ANNUAL DUES

- Individual \$10.
 - Seniors (62 and over) \$6.
 - Students (under 18) \$4.
- Check: ___ new ___ renewal

Checks payable to
 Sayreville Historical Society.

Attach list for additional persons and mail to:

Phyllis Baumann
 Sayreville Historical Society
 18 Quaid Street,
 Sayreville. NJ 08872