



# The Town Crier.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER—THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BLOOMFIELD



VOLUME I, NUMBER 5

BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

JANUARY, 1970

## 1970 BEGINS

### Happy New Year

Our crystal ball reveals the "Ways and Means" chairman, Dean David O. Roberts, planning a vigorous fund raising project to aid the programs of the non-profit Historical Society. An annual benefit has been proposed—complete details to be presented at the January meeting and will appear in the next issue of this publication.

Membership dues are insufficient to cover essential expenses needed to operate the popular Museum and finance the printing of THE TOWN CRIER. This fund will also make possible new historical and educational programs which will bring pride and inspiration to our citizens.

It is recommended that full support be given to Dean Roberts' proposed project.

## 1969 REMEMBERED

### Auld Lang Syne

This was the year a promise was fulfilled. On May 4 the Museum opened to an over-flowing crowd. Mrs. Peter Dorn, president of the Society, said, "The fulfillment of the promise made to the townspeople in 1962 during the 150th Anniversary Celebration, for the establishing of a permanent museum didn't just happen. Many different quantities and qualities went into making this promise a reality."

### Footprints On The Moon

"One small step for a man—one giant leap for mankind". 1969 saw human footprints on the moon. The courage of our 1969 astronauts was a testament to the spirit of man.

## D.A.R. Presents Oil Portrait to Historical Society

Mrs. Kenneth McCormick, on behalf of Mrs. Robert Prince, Regent of the Bloomfield Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presented to the Historical Society of Bloomfield at its November meeting a framed portrait of General Joseph Bloomfield. The portrait of the former governor, philanthropist, Major in the Revolutionary War and General in the War of 1812, was done in oils from a smaller print by Mrs. Prince.

During the presentation, Mrs. McCormick said, "Nothing is really ended until it is forgotten. Whatever is kept in memory still endures, and is real. We give thanks for the men and women of other gener-

It is probably one of the better known facts about Bloomfield that the town was originally much larger than it is now, and that over the years it has given up considerable territory to form other good-sized towns, such as Belleville in 1839, Montclair in 1868 and Glen Ridge in 1895. These areas were known by other names (such as Cranetown) long before being set apart from their parent community, but there were other settlements that never made it; their names having passed out of use and been forgotten. Or have they? Here are the names of a few sections of

## CALENDAR JOTTINGS

January 21, 1970 (Wednesday), 8:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Dr. Kenneth B. O'Brien, Jr., new president of Bloomfield College, will be the speaker at the meeting of the Historical Society.

### Mrs. Dorn To Address Historical Society

The Irvington Historical Society will hold a meeting at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 22, featuring Mrs. Peter Dorn. Topic: "Creating Interest In Your Historical Society".

## CEDAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Recently, Mesdames L. H. Coombs, Peter Dorn and David Johnson of the Historical Society of Bloomfield extended a "helping hand" to Mr. E. Leslie Jacobs, president of the Cedar Grove Society on the formation of their new Historical Society.

ations, who bequested to us the real fruitage of their lives. Especially tonight we give thanks for the loyalty and faith, the courage and self sacrifice which were the foundations of our nation.

"Therefore we, the members of the Major Joseph Bloomfield Chapter of the D.A.R., in grateful recognition of the service of General Bloomfield, a patriot of the American Revolution, hereby present this portrait to the Historical Society of Bloomfield."

Mrs. Peter Dorn, president of the Society replied, "We are honored to accept this treasure. It will occupy a prominent place in the Bloomfield Museum."

## SOME FORGOTTEN VILLAGES

old Bloomfield that are still used in some form or another. Do you remember Soho? Or Doddtown? Or Montgomery?

### Soho

Soho is the most likely to be familiar, inasmuch as the name has been used well into modern times as a station on the Erie R.R. (until it was changed to Bellwood Park). The Essex County Isolation Hospital is still referred to as "Soho Hospital" in the newspapers. The name for this part of Belleville came from the large numbers of English immigrants from the Soho Section of London who settled here in the 19th Century to work in the old copper mill, which stood at the present intersection of Franklin Avenue and Mill Street.

### Doddtown

Doddtown was named for the obvious reason that the part of Bloomfield on the East Orange boundry was settled and owned by a large number of families with the Dodd surname. A sawmill, owned and operated by various members of the Dodd family for over 150 years, stood in what is now Watsessing Park until it was demolished in 1886. A map of 1865 marks the name of the settlement in very emphatic type. The name is now used by (of all things) a gas station at the corner of Dodd and Prospect Streets: "Doddtown Amoco".

### Montgomery

Montgomery's name is kept alive by a brick schoolhouse built around the turn of the century on Mill Street, with the legend

—continued on page 2, col. 1

## OAKES TREE FUND

A fund is being established to raise monies to put a plaque near the tree to tell its history and story of its preservation (see TOWN CRIER—November). Contributors will be acknowledged in the CRIER.

Donors: Mrs. A. C. Blasi, Miss Eleanor M. Bloomfield, Frederick Branch, Mrs. L. H. Coombs, Mrs. Charles H. Demarest, Marguerite Elliott, Mary Etta Higgins, Maybelle Holmes, Eugene C. Mehrhof, Mr. and Mrs. K. I. McCormick, William F. Nordt, Mrs. David Oakes, Mrs. William Ports, Morris Rubin, Robert Ryerson, Mrs. S. and Miss Margaret Sherlock, George V. Siver, Dean David O. Roberts, and Mrs. Hazel White.



GENERAL JOSEPH BLOOMFIELD

## THE TOWN CRIER

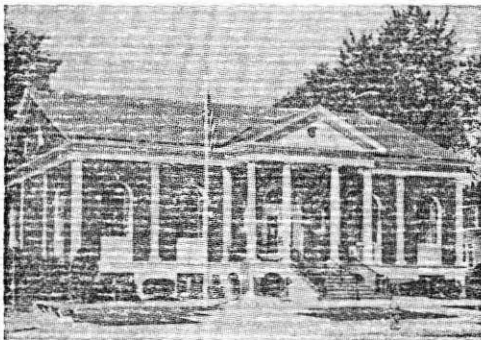
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FREDERICK W. BRANCH



### MUSEUM

90 Broad Street (third floor)

### OPEN

WEDNESDAYS—1:30 - 4 p.m.

### WELCOME MAT

The Historical Society of Bloomfield welcomes the following new members:

#### BLOOMFIELD:

Mrs. Robert Citrino  
Mr. and Mrs. James P. Dennison  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Diller  
Rev. Michael Hansen  
Miss Elizabeth Hodgkins  
Mrs. Jack Hoffman  
Mr. Andrew E. Svenson

#### GLEN RIDGE:

Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Black

### APOLOGY

We apologize to Mr. Leonard H. MacBain for misspelling his name in the last issue of THE TOWN CRIER.

### Some Forgotten Villages

(continued)

"Montgomery No. 2" carved boldly over the main entrance. Next door is the Montgomery Presbyterian Church which is older than the school, although it has been remodeled in the style of the 18th Century and, consequently, looks quite new. The roots of this organization go back as far as 1836. Montgomery was a cluster of about 20 houses on our 1865 map, which carefully labelled it in letters as large as those used for Doddtown, and Montgomery Street still takes vehicles from the center of town to where the little village of Montgomery used to be. FWB

## Charles Ives in Bloomfield

### Organist at "Old First"

Charles Ives (1874-1954), America's great original in music, was organist at Old First Presbyterian Church, Bloomfield, from May 1, 1898 to May 1, 1900, shortly after his graduation from Yale.

Old church calendars convey information that Ives led a song service the third Sunday of each month. There are several references to a "Psalmist Hymnal," which may have been made up of his own settings of the Bible. On November 5, 1889, the choir canticle was "The Light That Is Felt," by C. E. Ives, from a poem by Whittier. Another Ives vocal work, "Country Celestial" was sung by a tenor on July 31, 1889. It is regrettable that the church does not have a copy of the "Psalmist Hymnal", nor do they have any of Mr. Ives' compositions.

Most of Ives' music is sprinkled with snatches of religion, patriotic and folk tunes popular at the turn of the century.

Ives was the son of the town bandmaster in Danbury, Conn. He went into the insurance business to avoid "starving on dissonances" and became a very wealthy business man. Evenings, week-

ends and lunch hours he devoted to composing music. His music was an avocation until his retirement in 1930. He worked in a visionary's isolation, turning out a steady stream of revolutionary works that presaged the atonal experiments of Schoenberg and Stravinsky.

His works were neglected because Ives insisted that he receive no royalties and publishers no profits. His "Third Symphony" lay unplayed in his West Redding, Conn. barn for 42 years before it was finally performed—and then it won the Pulitzer Prize (1947).

Ives' "Second Sonata-Concord, Massachusetts 1840-60" is considered exceptionally great music. One critic stated it is the greatest music composed by an American.

As the Charles Ives phenomenon grows, new facts of his genius come into focus and 1970 finds recordings and performances of his music in great demand.

However, we are reminded that recognition never came to him during his lifetime. It did not bother Ives, he explained, "whether he be accepted or rejected, whether his music is always played or never played—all this has nothing to do with it—it is true or false by his own measure."

When he played at "Old First" the organ works he used, according to programs, were written by Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, and Gounod, to name a few.

Charles Ives had a crackling imagination, vigor, vitality and a keen sense of humor. He always said that the church congregation does not truly enjoy singing. "The very religious people always sing sharp and the back-sliders always sing flat." ME

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Peter Dorn, president, announces the following new Historical Society appointments:

Miss Irene Brummerstedt has been named Program Chairman. She replaces Mr. Theodore Hock, who has resigned this office but continues as an enthusiastic member.

Miss Betty Kingsley has been appointed Membership Chairman.

Mr. Eugene C. Mehrhof, Jr., has been named Chairman of Reception and Registration.

## A Local History Lesson

**H**ISTORICAL HERITAGE has been marked with authenticity in Bloomfield. The 28 historic sites markers have been refurbished, and starting in this issue we will tell you how to locate them. February has been proclaimed History Month, so plan a history "Walkabout" or "Rideabout".

Tour begins facing south towards Bloomfield Avenue on Municipal Plaza. On the lawn of the Municipal Building is the

#### 1. Old Cannon

The cannon is a French Field piece which was used in the Colonial wars. It was purchased in 1812 by the Township to salute special occasions. Known as the Jackson-Gildersleeve cannon because of antagonistic factions which sought to control it.

Proceed to Bloomfield Avenue and turn left to Orange Street. On the left on Orange St. at No. 85 is the site of the

#### 2. Peloubet-Pelton Organ Factory

which was located on the corner across from Schering Corporation. The 2½ story frame building on the corner is one of three main buildings used for the manufacture of the world famous organs and musical instruments.

Return to Bloomfield Avenue and continue south-easterly down Bloomfield Avenue to Willard Avenue. Turn left on Willard and follow it to Franklin Street. On the northwest corner of Willard Avenue was the site of the

#### 3. First Bloomfield School House - 1758

It was originally a one-room stone structure about 15 x 25 feet which was enlarged in 1782. The land was donated by Moses Farrand. The School bell was rung to proclaim liberty to Bloomfield residents, July, 1776. The cornerstone and Liberty Bell still exist.

— To be continued —

"Let the past bury its dead" would be a better saying if the past ever died."

—John Galsworthy