



The New Town Crier

Official Newsletter of the Historical Society of Bloomfield



BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07003

March 2017

SAVE THE DATE

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

BLOOMFIELD CIVIC CENTER

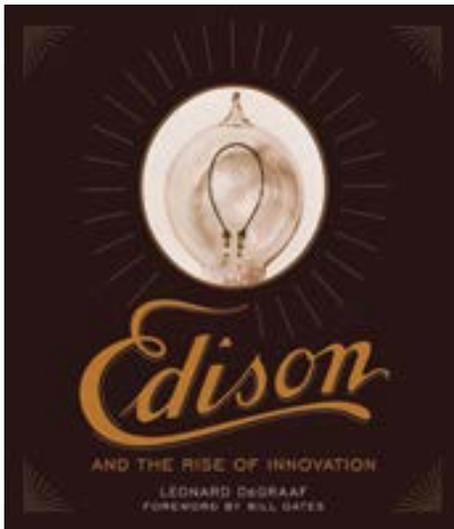
84 Broad Street,
Bloomfield, NJ

7:30 PM

EDISON & THE RISE OF INNOVATION

Presented by Leonard DeGraaf

Thomas Edison National Historical Park Archivist Leonard DeGraaf will speak about his book, *Edison and the Rise of Innovation*. Thomas Edison (1847–1931) was more than history’s most prolific inventor. He combined scientific knowledge, well-

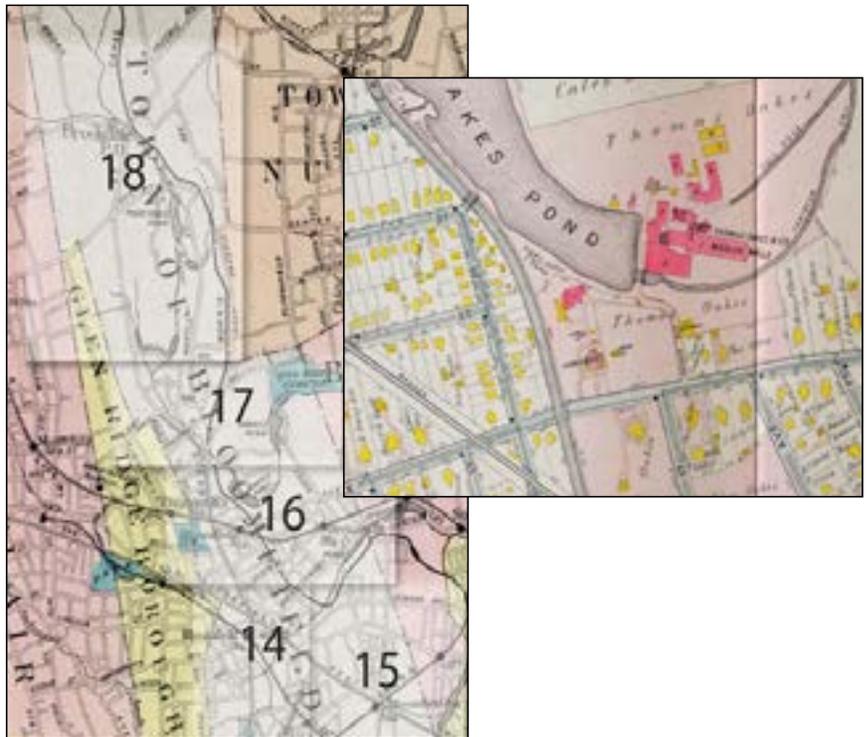


equipped laboratories, talented collaborators, investment capital and a bit of showmanship to change the way we develop new technologies.

Edison and the Rise of Innovation chronicles Edison’s life and work, making lively and lavish use of rarely-seen historic photographs, lab notebooks and advertising material. Published by Sterling Signature in October 2013, it was produced in association with the Edison Innovation Foundation,

HSOB adds 1906 map collection to website

The Historical Society of Bloomfield recently added a collection of 1906 maps of Bloomfield to its website. The beautifully detailed, colored maps are from the *1906 Mueller Atlas of Essex County*. Website visitors can look up neighborhoods and see what nearby streets and houses existed in 1906 or follow the path of the Morris Canal through Bloomfield. The maps can be found at: <http://hsob.org/maps>



the Charles Edison Fund and the National Park Service. Another famous innovator—Bill Gates—wrote the foreword to this fresh look at Thomas Edison.

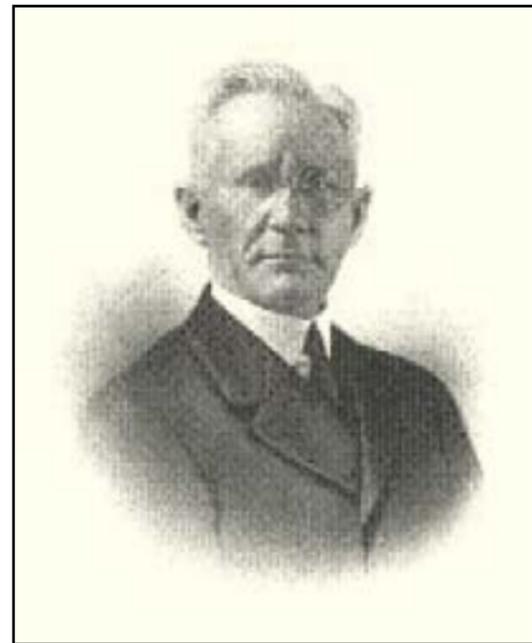
Edison and the Rise of Innovation introduces the inventor who did more than just invent the phonograph, incandescent electric light and motion picture camera, he translated ideas into commercial products, creating dozens of companies to manufacture and market his inventions. The book reminds us that Edison still matters because he faced the same questions modern innovators confront today: Which ideas should I develop? How do I raise money to support research? How do I motivate my team? What’s the best way to manufacture and sell my products?

Before joining the National Park Service in 1991, DeGraaf was on the staff of the *Thomas A. Edison Papers* at Rutgers University. He is the author of *Historic Photos of Thomas Edison* (Turner Publishing, 2008), and his articles have appeared in the *Business History Review* and other publications. He received an MA in history from Rutgers University.

CHARLES GRANVILLE JONES—ARCHITECT

By John Debold

During the World War II siege of Leningrad in 1941, the curator of the famous Hermitage Museum, to keep the priceless artwork out of the hands of the notorious art-stealing Nazis, removed the paintings from the museum to other locations in Russia. When the Russian soldiers were given a rest in the empty museum, the workers gave them a tour of the empty frames, in their usual places with their labels, and described in elaborate detail the former artwork, not unlike the way they would to a blind person. The famous Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston still shows and describes the empty frames of the 13 masterpieces by artists such as Rembrandt, Manet, Degas and Vermeer, stolen from the museum 27 years ago in the worst art heist on record.



Bloomfield has many great sites from our history as an Essex County-area farming community in the 1600s, for which we must use our imagination. One such instance in the last few years is HSOB Trustee Rich Rockwell’s popular “walks” of the important Bloomfield portion of the 1824 Morris Canal.

I cite these examples to demonstrate the story of Charles Granville Jones, a prolific architect who designed some of Bloomfield’s most beautiful and interesting homes and buildings—many of which are now gone. We have a great example of his private residence commission that you can easily visit in our treasured “Oakeside” on Belleville Avenue (added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981), but for his other homes on the block of Belleville Avenue and vicinity, you’ll have to peer at the empty frames, as it were, by that I mean the Garden State Parkway, to

Charles Granville Jones: 1836–1938

which these homes designed by architect Charles Granville Jones fell victim.

Jones was the son of Irish immigrants who arrived in America in 1834, prior to the potato famine. He was born in 1865, at the end of the Civil War, in Brooklyn, NY. He settled in Belleville, NJ and married in 1889. Jones



Fairview School on Berkeley Avenue, completed in 1899



Watsessing School on Prospect Street

studied with his architect father. In 1886, he opened his own firm in Manhattan.

Jones designed both public and private buildings, and many were built in and around Belleville. In Bloomfield, we are fortunate to have nearly all of his actually designed or influenced (as in the



Bloomfield Senior High School in 1912 (left) and in 1937 (right).

case of Center School and Brookdale) public buildings still standing. Examples are Watsessing School, Brookside School (now Brookside Manor Apartments on Essex Avenue), Fairview School and our classic 1911 Bloomfield High School.

Jones was a most prolific architect in his 73 years of life, designing numerous churches and town halls including various schools in Belleville, as well as its Town Hall. The next time you travel to the end of Belleville Avenue at Washington Street in Belleville, notice the town hall, and then take notice of the similarity to, and the beauty of, Bloomfield High School. It is a good probability that there are numerous other Jones-designed homes and public buildings sprinkled about the area. Can you find any?

Jones died in 1938 and is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Port Jefferson, NY, along with other family members. While we “use” our schools, we seldom take notice of their timeless beauty. He left his classic influence on the landscape for a hundred years, and if we don’t eventually pave over everything, we can enjoy his work that is still standing for another hundred years.



Brookside School, now Brookside Manor Apartments, on Essex Ave.



Pictured at left are two Jones-designed 1895 homes (the one in the foreground and the one to the left of it) where you will have to use your “empty-frame” imagination.

Standing to the left of Oakeside, on the Parkway Bridge, you will picture in your mind these two gems. Thomas Oakes was the owner of the left “turreted” one. His father, David Oakes, originally purchased the land from William Williamson (for whom Williamson Avenue was named). It is said that the cupola that Charles Granville Jones added to the roof was inspired by George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate.



General Joseph Bloomfield

THE NEW TOWN CRIER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF BLOOMFIELD

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- Anne Carlino, *Recording Secretary*
- Emma-Lou Czarnecki, *Treasurer*
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- Nicholas D'Angelo, *Layout*
- Richard Rockwell, *Contributor*
- John Debold, *Contributor*

The Welcome Mat

A cordial welcome is extended to the following *new* members of The Historical Society of Bloomfield. We hope to see you at our next meeting:

- Dean Cole & Denise Belanger
Bloomfield
- James Curran
Bloomfield
- William & Cindy Hergenhan
Bloomfield
- Kevin Sherry
Glen Ridge, NJ

Cryptogram Wiz Kids

The winners of our *Bloomfield Brain Buster* from the October 2016 issue were:

- Bruce Anderson
- Jane Bond
- Heather Carr
- Audrey Gregg
- Jean Kuras
- Eileen Larkin
- Janis Lee



The answer to the puzzle is: "The Collins House of Bloomfield, which predates the Morris Canal, is one of the few remaining examples of the East Jersey Cottage style of architecture in the United States."

Nominees for Executive Committee for 2017 election

(Election to be held at the March, 2017 Meeting)

Position	Candidate
President	Jean Kuras
Vice President/ Program	Richard Rockwell
Treasurer	Cindi Debold
Recording Secretary	Anne Carlino
Corresponding Secretary	Mary Shoffner
Membership	John Debold
Curator	Dorothy Johnson
Publicity & Promotion	Ava Caridad
Trustees	Joseph Barry
	Emma-Lou Czarnecki
	John Debold
	Mark Scurman

Reminder!



No longer being a member of the HSOB can sour your disposition and wreck your social life, like the young woman on the right. *Don't let this happen to you!* Please be sure to renew your 2017 membership. Renewal forms are available at www.hsob.org or can be picked up at the museum or any HSOB meeting. The HSOB is a non-profit organization, therefore all dues and donations are considered a tax-free contribution. Help keep the HSOB strong with your continuing membership!