

Views From The Veranda

“The Church of the Presidents~Long Branch, NJ”

Monday, February 20th, 2017 at 8pm

82 Union Street~Montclair, NJ



ART SUPPLEMENT TO APPLETON'S JOURNAL—THE BEACH AT LONG BRANCH.

The Beach at Long Branch—wood cut illustration
by Winslow Homer 1869

Long Branch, New Jersey was a resort town in the late 18th century, named for its location along a branch of the South Shrewsbury River. In the 19th century it was a "Hollywood" of the east, where some of the greatest theatrical performances were held. It was visited by presidents Chester A. Arthur, James A. Garfield, Ulysses S. Grant, Benjamin Harrison, Rutherford B. Hayes, William McKinley, and Woodrow Wilson. *Seven Presidents Park*, a park near the beach, is named in honor of their visits. *The Church of the Presidents*, where all seven worshipped, is the only structure left in Long Branch associated with them.

The Victorian Society in America, Northern New Jersey Chapter is pleased to present historian Jim Foley. Mr. Foley serves as the Historian for the Borough of Deal, NJ and as President of the Board of Trustees of the *Long Branch Historical Museum* aka *The Church of the Presidents*. Mr. Foley's presentation will focus on the history of the church: its building and surrounding community that attracted more US presidents than any other church outside of Washington, DC. The Victorian era of the Jersey Shore will also highlighted.



Church of the Presidents

Come celebrate President's Day with us on February 20th at 8pm!



Meetings of *The Victorian Society in America, Northern New Jersey Chapter* are normally held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 8pm at the Montclair Women's Club - 82 Union Street - Montclair, NJ. Meetings are free for members - Non-members \$5 - Yearly membership only \$30! Why not consider joining today or giving a gift membership to a friend? Call Catherine Sullivan at 973-762-6453, or send her your contact info at 9 Vose Avenue Apt 220, South Orange, NJ 07079. If your last name begins with the letters **E, F, G, & H** please bring refreshments to the next meeting. Any questions please contact Christina at 973-744-5916 or email christina.mayer@fmglobal.com.



Greetings from the President

Dear Members:

We started our New Year with a sterling talk on silver given by our perennial favorite speaker Ulysses Grant Dietz. He started his speech by telling us that no one really needs silver. Yet to every civilization such as the Romans, Egyptians and Aztecs, silver was equated with appreciation, divinity, money, and power. A gift of precious silver meant that you were precious. He showed silver items given as gifts for new babies, weddings, work achievement, retirement, anniversary, politics and to just "show off". The use of silver peaked during the Gilded Age, but now is presently ignored by anyone under the age of 50.

At one time it touched almost every aspect of life. I was amazed to learn the city of Newark was the largest producer of silver spurs in the country. If you missed our meeting you will have an opportunity to visit a new exhibit on silver at the Newark Museum: "Style, Status, Sterling: the Meanings of Silver in America."

Be sure to attend February meeting when James Foley will speak on the history of Long Branch. Long Branch was the precursor to Newport, Rhode Island. There are still vestiges of great estates such as the Guggenheim Mansion or Shadow Lawn, President Wilson's Summer White House. Many of the local streets bear the names of people that lived on them: Garfield, McKinley and Pullman. Even the name of Hollywood, California has its roots in Long Branch. Can't wait to learn more about this special town.

Remember to start gathering things around your home you no longer love and bring them to our silent auction fundraiser in March. This will benefit the national VSA Summer School Scholarship Fund.

See you on Presidents Day! Did you know that Long Branch was the summer residence of seven US Presidents? Ulysses S Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley and Woodrow Wilson.

-Jane 



Bob Markham and Ulysses Dietz with a silver teapot belonging to President Grover Cleveland's grandfather

Mark Your Calendars Events



Vintage trade card to advertise Merrick's sewing thread, circa 1885.
Photo by Popperfoto/Getty Images

“White House Tea Social” Saturday March 18th, 2-4pm

Come celebrate New Jersey's own President Grover Cleveland's 180th birthday at an authentic White House Tea Social, hosted by the President and First Ladies themselves: his sister Rose Elizabeth Cleveland and his wife Frances Folsom Cleveland. Delicious tea dainties and freshly

brewed teas, prepared from original White House recipes will be served by period costumed hostesses. *“Fine Dining in the 19th Century”* will be presented by noted historian and professor emeritus, Dr. David Cowell. For the first time, the newly acquired, rare wax museum figures of these First Ladies who served in President Cleveland's two terms (1885-89 & 1893-97), each outfitted in their inaugural finery, will be on display. Event will take place at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 271 Roseland Avenue in Essex Fells, NJ. Reserve now by emailing gibsonalice30@gmail.com or calling 973-228-1293. Mail your check for \$30/person, made payable to “GCBMA” to: 14 Kramer Ave, West Caldwell, NJ, 07006.

“The League of Historical Societies Meeting” (lbsnj.org) will be held on **Saturday, April 1st, 2017 9am-4pm** at the WheatonArts and Cultural Center (wheatonarts.org) in Millville, NJ. \$25/person covers registration, continental breakfast, lunch, all programs and afternoon tours. WheatonArts has earned regional, national, and international recognition for its unique collections and programs. Located on 65 wooded acres in southern New Jersey, WheatonArts is a true

Pineland Sanctuary! There will be a program on the South Jersey Glass Tradition, demonstrations at the Glass Studio, a tour of the *Museum of American Glass*, and many other venues to visit. Send your contact info along with a \$25 check payable to the WheatonArts and Cultural Center, 1501 Glasstown Road, Millville, NJ 08332. For more information and directions, call 856-825-6800 or contact Jane at 732-832-1878.



GlassWeekend '17

“VSA Summer Schools”: Newport-June 2-11; Chicago-June 15-20; London-July 1-15

The national Victorian Society in America invites you to study architecture, art, landscape and preservation at one of their internationally-acclaimed Summer Schools. Enjoy lectures by leading scholars, private tours of historic sites, engaging social experiences, and behind the scenes opportunities at museums and galleries. Open to graduate students, architects and the general public, the Summer Schools are academically rigorous and physically demanding. Tuition costs include expert instruction, shared accommodation, some meals, tours, and admissions. Competitive scholarships are available for London and Newport. Applications are due by March 1st. There is also a special **Symposium and Study Tour** in Richmond, VA on **March 24-26th**. Please visit the national website for more info at www.victoriansociety.org.





"On a sunny Fall Saturday, 46 Victorians set off by bus to explore 19th Century Brooklyn. Under the direction of legendary tour guide Louis Singer, we had an informative, delightful and sometimes surprising look at Brooklyn's glorious past.

From our approach over the Manhattan Bridge, and the contrasts of Flatbush Avenue, we were dazzled by the immense and diverse charm of the borough. Under the Brooklyn Bridge, we got an awesome view of the Victorian monument. We visited a restored brownstone, a mansion and a church with Tiffany windows, toured neighborhoods from Park Slope to Cobble Hill to Fort Green-Clinton Hill, and strolled down a street near Prospect Park where every facade offered some joy of 19th c. architecture. The day included a delicious lunch at the 1879 seafood emporium, Gage & Tollner's, a tantalizing look at Upjohn's gates to Greenwood Cemetery, and a stroll through Brooklyn Heights to the Promenade. The only regret participants voiced was not having enough film!

Our thanks to Susan Smisko for a wonderful day."

nota bene: the above article is taken directly from our **1985** archives.



Check out this new website: www.DiscoverNJHistory.org made possible by a collaborative partnership between the *Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area* and the *New Jersey Historical Commission*, and generously funded by the *Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation*.

You will find stories relating to the themes of Diversity, Liberty and Innovation: by virtue of its location and diversity, NJ is in many ways a microcosm of the US; New Jersey also played a pivotal role in the American Revolution; and the world has been reshaped again and again by people from and things created in New Jersey. From Edison's light bulb, to the Atlantic City boardwalk, to the first intercollegiate football game, New Jersey's innovations and innovators have had an impact around the nation and around the world.

"It Happened Here: New Jersey" features dozens of the 90-second videos produced during NJ's 350th anniversary year in 2014, as well as other educational resources for students, teachers and researchers. Videos include topics such as: the Campbell Soup Company, invention of the telegraph, Einstein in Princeton, and the Five New Jersey signers of the Declaration of Independence.



THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA

www.VictorianSociety.org

Northern NJ Chapter

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The VSANNj is part of the only national non-profit organization committed to historic preservation, protection, understanding, education, and enjoyment of our nineteenth century heritage.

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82 Union Street is handicap accessible

