



Views From The Veranda

"The O'Fake Family View of the World: An African-American Family Emphasis on Gentility and Manners in 19th Century Newark"

*Monday, March 20th, 2017 at 7:30pm
82 Union Street~Montclair, NJ*

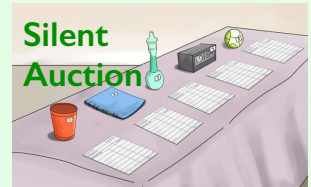
The Victorian Society in America, Northern New Jersey Chapter is pleased to present Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps, who will present information on the O'Fake family of Newark and Jersey City. The O'Fakes were a prominent African American family of musicians who in late 19th century Newark taught music and the socially graceful dances of the day in their Newark studio. They were founders of St. Phillips Episcopal parish in Newark (now merged with Trinity Cathedral) and their influence on regional culture is worthy of discussion and exploration.

Dr. Epps has been a leader devoted to public service throughout her career. She is President and CEO of *1804 Consultants*, an organization dedicated to the advancement of educational and cultural organizations. She most recently served as President and CEO of the New Jersey Historical Society. Dr. Epps earned her Bachelor's Degree from Douglass College, her Master's from Seton Hall University, and completed her doctoral program at Drew University.

Please join us March 20th at **7:30pm** (note time change) for an engaging program and the Silent Auction.



Emma Amelia O'Fake Evans
Photo courtesy of the New
Jersey Historical Society



Our March meeting also features our much-anticipated **Annual Silent Auction!**

Please donate your gently used treasures, and have fun bidding on other great finds in our annual fundraiser! The national VSA scholarship fund provides for qualified candidates to participate in the VSA internationally acclaimed summer school programs in Newport, Chicago, or London. These are in-depth studies of the multifaceted architecture and culture of the nineteenth century. Visit the national website at www.victoriansociety.org for more info.



*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 **I, J, K, & L** 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:

Our February meeting was impressive. Jim Foley spoke about the history of Long Branch, NJ and the restoration of the Church of the Presidents. It is the only church outside of Washington, DC to have had so many sitting presidents worship at. Long Branch had been the summer resort for seven presidents and even more First Ladies! Mrs. Pierce, Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Johnson were noted to have enjoyed the beaches at Long Branch as well. After the lecture one of the members noted that it is amazing how much history the State of New Jersey has. Some members recommended that we schedule a

chapter trip there.

Our Spring trip will be on May 13th. We will be going to the charming town of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. It is also known as the "Switzerland of America" because of its picturesque scenery, mountainous location and architecture. We will tour a private home and the historic Asa Packer Mansion.

We have an excellent speaker for our March meeting, Dr. Linda Epps. She was supposed to speak to us last year but unfortunately we got snowed out. March also includes our annual silent auction to raise money for the national VSA summer school scholarship fund. Do some early Spring cleaning and bring all the things you no longer love and we'll auction them off.



~Jane 

5 Ideas for a Victorian St. Patrick's Day**

1. **Attend an historic event.** Did you know that the first St. Patrick's Day parade was in New York in 1762? A group of Irish men serving in the British army during the French and Indian War marched through the streets of New York City. Today, the largest parades are in Boston and New York. For a more intimate and authentically Victorian experience, visit the restored 1845 Cherry Hill Farmhouse in Falls Church, Virginia for a Celtic music concert.
2. **Eat meat. Lots of meat.** During the Victorian era, St. Patrick's Day was a religious holiday in Catholic Ireland, its atmosphere comparable to that of Thanksgiving in America. While the holy day fell in the middle of Lent, the Roman Catholic Church lifted restrictions against eating meat for the day so that Irish communities could celebrate their patron saint.
3. **Brush up that Irish accent** by reading great literature aloud. Some favorite Irish writers: *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw (the only writer who won both a Nobel Prize and an Oscar for the same work, which was later adapted into the beloved musical *My Fair Lady*).
4. **Give greeting cards.** The Industrial Revolution transformed expensive, hand-made cards to mass-produced ephemera. Antique St. Patrick's Day cards today are affordable collectibles.
5. **Be grateful.** When one thinks of St. Patrick's Day in the Victorian era, one can't evade the Irish potato famine which lasted from 1845-1852, killing one million and forcing another million to leave their homeland. There's good reason to think of St. Patrick's Day as similar to Thanksgiving. As you feast on corned beef and cabbage, take a moment to be grateful for simple things like the freedom to enjoy goofy, green-dyed food with family and friends.

"Tell Your Friends" Events



"The Twilight Tour: Evening at Craftsman Farms" - March 11th, 5pm You'll see Gustav Stickley's Log House in a new light, a soft evening light, accentuated by the amber glow of the home's original copper lanterns. This tour takes visitors through the Stickley family home, delving into Stickley's story while exploring the development of electricity in New Jersey. Light refreshments will be served after the program at the museum shop. \$5/members, \$12/non-members; tickets must be purchased in advance by calling 973-540-0311 or by visiting online at stickleymuseum.org.

"White House Tea Social" Saturday March 18th, 2-4pm at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 271 Roseland Avenue in Essex Fells, NJ. Come celebrate New Jersey's own President Grover Cleveland's 180th birthday at an elegant afternoon tea. 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.



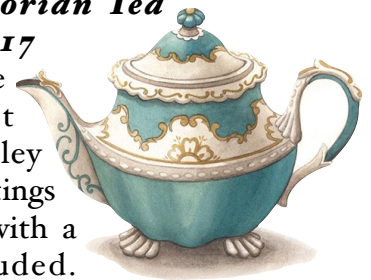
"Oriental Painting" by Lynn Vergano - March 23rd at 12pm hosted by the Madison Rotary Club and open to the public. Lynn is an award-winning artist and VSANNJ member who will be the featured speaker at this luncheon meeting to be held at Rod's Steakhouse (in their Victorian Room) in Morristown, NJ. For info and reservations call 973-377-6314.

"The League of Historical Societies Meeting" (lhsnj.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. 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.

Lambert Castle Victorian Tea April 21st-23rd, 2017

Reserve now for the annual tea at Lambert Castle located at 3 Valley Road, Paterson, NJ. Seatings at 12pm and 3pm daily with a musical program included. Reservations required by calling 973-247-0085 ext.201. \$45/person.



"White Lace and Promises: Two Centuries of Weddings" until September 30th, 2017 at the Gloucester County Historical Society, 58 N. Broad St., Woodbury, NJ 08096. A fantastic exhibit featuring over 50 gowns. Also showcased are bridal accessories including headpieces, veils, shoes, fans, lingerie, and jewelry. Documentation such as invitations and wedding certificates, along with beautiful photographs from many of these weddings, are also on display. The museum is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 1-4pm, and the last Sunday of the month September to May, 2-5pm. Admission is \$5/person. Call 856-848-8531 or visit gchsnj.org.



If you know of any event or program that might be of interest to our readers, please send details to Rose at 19valleyrose@gmail.com.



“Cameo in Jewelry: 1830-1930”

April 15, 1996 8:00 P.M.

Montclair Women's Club

82 Union Street - Montclair

VSA/NNJ Board member, Nancy Cooper, will return to this year's schedule with a discussion of the history of cameo carving and its use in jewelry. She will draw on examples of shell cameos from the Victorian and Edwardian Eras as she describes the care of cameos; tips on dating and pricing of cameos and materials for mountings, such as gold, gold-filled,

silver, jet and brass.

Slides will illustrate the material presented and will be used as the central backdrop for the lecture.

Other materials, such as hard stone, coral, jet, lava stone, celluloid, gutta percha and glass, along with a history of each will also be included.

Nancy is a member of both the National and local chapter of the Victorian Society in America, the Morris County Historical Society and the Costume and Textile Society of New Jersey. She has served as a docent at Acorn Hall for 7 years and is involved in the National Historic Trust and the Association for Preservation of Civil War Sites.

Attendees are invited to bring examples from their own collections. A bibliography for further study will be offered.

nota bene: the above article is taken directly from our **1996** archives.



Lynn Vergano and Princess June Chao
National Arts Club Awards Night
March 2nd, 2017

Congratulations to VSANNJ member **Lynn Vergano**, the recipient of *The Hope and Grace Foundation Award* for watercolor at the National Arts Club 118th Annual Exhibiting Artist Members Exhibition on March 2nd, 2017 in New York City. Her painting entitled “*Norma-Autumn on the Beach*”, will be on display until March 23rd at the Grand Gallery of the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South, NYC.



THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA

www.VictorianSociety.org

Northern NJ Chapter

PO Box 717

Montclair, NJ 07042

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

