

**Local Spotlight: Repository Holdings
Roxbury Township Historical Society
& Roxbury Township Historic Trust
209-211 Main Street, Ledgewood, New Jersey**

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Roxbury Township with its colorful past filled with tales of the Lenape tribes that were the earliest inhabitants, the riches of the "black rock" or iron ore mined and forged here, the shot and cannon produced for the Revolutionary War effort, the construction of the Morris Canal all are pieces of the history that formed this township. There are six villages which compose Roxbury Township: Port Morris, Lower Berkshire Valley, Landing, Ledgewood, and Succasunna. Also one-third of Lake Hopatcong lies within the township.

Just off Route 10 with its' noise and traffic lies a quiet street which houses a treasure trove of New Jersey history. This is Main Street in Ledgewood, NJ, known before 1890 as Drakesville. Here you'll find the buildings of the Drakesville Historic District, which the Roxbury Township Historical Society and the Roxbury Township Historic Trust proudly monitor. These buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



The Silas Riggs Colonial Saltbox House, was the home of Silas Riggs and his large family, he was a tanner who produced the leather pouches used to transport iron ore from the Roxbury mines; he also worked on the construction of the Morris Canal. The Saltbox House is charmingly decorated with many period pieces, which include a rope hung bed and a large weaving loom in the attic. The kitchen with its large foreplace is very impressive. Preserved from destruction in 1962 and moved to

its current site this house shouldn't be missed.

The next building is the King Canal Store built in the early 1800s, walking in here is like walking into a time capsule, it hasn't changed since 1928 when it was closed after the death of Theodore King, the storekeeper. The store is filled with the actual wares sold at the time, every thing from canning jars, bolts of material, old bottles, scales, old coffee grinders, to the old store register. Also found are post office shelves and sorting cubbies which originate from the time the store served as the Ledgewood Post office. In its heyday the store thrived due to the proximity of the Morris Canal, then just across the road.





The final house in this Historic district is the King House, built in the Italianate style in 1878. This museum house a schoolroom exhibit showing a classroom in the early 1900s. There are photos of the original one-room schools from around the township. The house has many original pieces from the King family in the parlor.

Most of the items in the King House and King Canal store have been catalogued with "PastPerfect" software by the Roxbury

Historic Trust. The list is available in the King House. Inquires can be sent to roxburyhistorictrust@gmail.com, on Facebook at "The Museums of Drakesville". The website is www.roxburynewjersey.com/trust. The Roxbury Township Library is located at 103 Main Street, Succasunna, NJ.

There is a 1.6-mile "Walking Tour" of fifteen properties starting at the Drakesville Historic Park. It includes the remnants of Plane #2 of the Morris Canal. Many of these properties are on one or both of the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. The free brochures are available from the exterior box at the King Canal Store.

The Roxbury Township Historical Society was founded in the 1962. Hundreds of stories, photos and memories from the township's founding in 1740 to the 1980's are preserved in three volumes of "The History of Roxbury Township" compiled and edited by Annie Stelce Hosking and Harriet Meeker. If your relatives lived in any of the six villages of Roxbury Township, these books are wonderful views into their lives during this time period. The books are available at the Silas Riggs Colonial Saltbox House. The website is www.roxburynewjersey.com/society-salt.htm

An interesting upcoming event at the Saltbox House is the annual Candlelight Supper occurring on December 7, 2018. No reservations are required.

The Special Projects Group started compiling an inventory of the Roxbury Historical Society Archives. The cemetery records of the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna, NJ from 1767-1995 are just one of the many treasures in the archives.

The Special Projects Group (SPG) members have been visiting local repositories to learn what genealogy related materials might be available for review by our members in researching their ancestors and/or gaining historical context to enhance their stories. In the series of articles we share the main features of our interviews with repository members spotlighting the information, collections and features available for research at each location. Visit the *Special Projects* page at <https://mags-public.weebly.com/> to read the twelve previous spotlight articles and to view the compiled inventories.

If you know of a local repository that the SPG should visit, or one that you wish to cover with us for a future article, please contact the Special Projects Group Committee at maryjosolomon@gmail.com