The prospect of mineral wealth had inspired the building of a railroad to Chester. Chartered in 1867 as the Chester Railroad, it was taken over by the Morris & Essex, which in turn came under the control of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western (DL&W). Connecting with the main line through Dover, the branch was operated as the familiar “Lackawanna” starting in January 1869. It was this rail outlet that inspired visions of developing Ironia into a great industrial center. The severe economic depression that began in 1873 withered these dreams, but meanwhile had given Ironia a name and a sense of community. Even with its much-diminished expectations, Ironia, now a bucolic rural hamlet, had become significant enough to attract services such as a store and post office, in addition to its regular train service. The railroad was dismantled and operations ceased during the mid-1930’s.
The Museum’s volunteer program welcomes community involvement. Volunteers play a vital role at the Museum, performing tasks that are necessary to fulfill the Museum’s mission to educate the public and preserve Randolph’s past. In recent years, many Boy and Girl Scouts have come forward to assist with assorted maintenance tasks while earning the rank of Eagle Scout or Gold and Silver awards. These are the highest awards obtainable by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, respectively. The Historical Society of Old Randolph recognizes the achievement, and is grateful to the following Scouts who have helped at the Randolph Museum in the past several years:

- Stephanie Mygas - Garden of native New Jersey plantings – Gold Award
- Tony Kmush - Construction of basement shelving - Eagle Award
- Noel Thomas, Boy Scout Troop 50 - Collection Inventory – Eagle Award
- Girl Scout Troop 1957 - Inventory, museum maintenance and exhibit refurbishment – Silver Awards
- Danny Matthews - Refurbishment of garden benches, back gardens and back pathway – Eagle Award
- Daniel Rios, Troop 50 - Re-building of the museum’s mine exhibit – Eagle Award
- Eric McKee, Troop 50 – New well roof, garden fence, landscaping - Eagle Award
- Andy Draghi, Troop 53- Collection inventory – Eagle Award

**History of Morris County, New Jersey, by W.W. Munsell, circa 1882**

“RANDOLPH is the most central township of Morris county and the largest in population, and excels the other townships in prospective prosperity. Randolph Township was formed from Mendham Township in 1805, and so named after Hartshorn Fitz-Randolph, one of its most eminent residents.

Situated in the northern highlands of the State, the country is uneven and hilly, which is favorable to health and affords landscapes beautiful and picturesque. The soil, if not the most fertile, yet possesses those essential elements which under wise cultivation will render it abundantly productive; but the mineral resources beneath the soil have attracted and will continue to attract more attention and yield a more liberal remuneration to the workman than the soil itself. Iron ores of the richest quality are found in great abundance.

The assessors' figures for 1881 were as follows:
Valuation of real estate, $1,254,550; personal property, $293,900; debt, $28,100; polls, 1,608; School tax, $3,879.21; County tax, $3,612.92; Road tax, $5,000; Poor tax, $300.”
On behalf of the Randolph Museum, the Historical Society of Old Randolph expresses sincere gratitude to our members, docents, and sponsors for their generosity to the Museum. We hope all our friends and neighbors will join us to help support our mission of promoting, preserving, and celebrating the history of the Township of Randolph.

**Individual Memberships**

Anne Antonucci  
Anne Fiechter  
G.F. Harris  
Janet Lorey  
Marcia Rumsey  
Connie Stroh

**Family Memberships**

Alt Family  
Baum Family  
Bender Family  
DeMelfi Family  
Hari Family  
Martone Family  
Scott Family  
Smith Family  
Turner Family

**Senior Memberships**

Joyce Armstrong  
Bob and Joan Brembs  
James and Doris Bush  
Lois Cope  
Carol Ferrari  
Mary Joyce Gorine  
Evelyn Hammaren  
Pat Hogan  
Jane Moore  
Evelyn Novak  
Stanley Saltz  
Thelma Sellmann  
Celeste Stracco  
Leonard Sunshine  
Jack and Phyllis Yacker  
Vincent Yannetti

**Sustaining Annual Memberships**

Todd Tuttle  
Judith Stewart

**Lifetime Memberships**

Francine DeLucia  
Dorothy Roff  
Leonora Whildin

**Sponsors:**

Bagel Express: Matilda  
Idyllwood Duo: Kris Lamb / Anthony Campanella  
Knothe’s Farm / Knothe Family  
Millers Hill Farm / John & Ruth McAndrew  
Sun High Orchards / The Green and Bostrom Families

**Special Allocated Donations to:**

Building Fund  
Jane Moore  
Vincent Yannetti  

Scholarship Fund  
Thelma Sellmann  
Leonard Sunshine  
John and Mindy Turner
Become a member of the Historical Society of Old Randolph

With your membership, you also have the opportunity to help with our Township Museum.

What’s so GREAT about volunteering at the Museum?

- You don’t have to like history to do it.
- You can do it once for an hour and never come back, quit your job and devote your whole life to the HSOR, or anything in between. You’ll still make a difference and we’ll be VERY grateful for your help.
- You can come by yourself and make new friends.
- Whatever you do — you’ll feel good about the contribution you’ve made!

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THINGS TO ASSIST WITH AT THE MUSEUM:

Give tours to people who visit our museum.
This is not hard, but you will need some training. Invite your mom, son, daughter or friend to do it with you, and volunteer time will double as quality time with a loved one!
- Enables us to open the museum on a regular basis and teach more people about our Town.

Help inventory our collections— spend a few hours with friends, a laptop and scanner looking at really interesting old stuff, writing descriptions down, and archiving them. If you think looking through an old attic filled with family treasures is fun — wait until you start working on Randolph’s ‘attic’! Objects from the 1700s to the recent past are waiting to delight and inform you!
- Lists and photos of our collections will give us a better handle on what we own and enable us to create more exhibits and programs.
- Lists help students and researchers.

Post program flyers up around town or at work
Do this with your Saturday errands — it couldn’t be easier, but the extra PR will go a long way to help the Historical Society!
- Makes people aware of programs and increases attendance — so more people learn about our town’s history and take pride in its past.

Interested? Give us a call or send us an email and we’d love to meet you. Thank You!

Call: 973.989.7095          Email: HSOR@juno.com
Events held at the Museum during the Spring and Summer of 2015:

We enjoyed fresh tree-ripened Peaches and Homemade Peach Ice Cream, thanks to Sun High Orchards. Thanks also to Bagel Express for keeping our Ice Cream fresh and cold.

Held on Sunday, August 16, 2015, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Visitors also enjoyed the special annual exhibit: ‘Gizmos and Gadgets’

Vintage tools and household items from yesteryear were displayed and children got a chance to interact with tools now considered extant. Special thanks to our Board Members for their assistance: Celeste Stracco with cutting up peaches and doling out ice cream, and Marcia Rumsey for the special peach punch on that hot but pretty Summer day!

‘Randolph Reminisces’ Programs at the Museum

- April 2015: Randolph native Holly Ackerman Bergstein discussed her experiences working at Ackerman’s Hotel, a popular Mount Freedom resort during the early part of the twentieth century. Her Grandfather, Isidore Ackerman was the proprietor and principal original owner of Ackerman’s Hotel.

- June 2015: Patricia Briant – lifelong Randolphian and historian for the Millbrook United Methodist Church. All in attendance enjoyed her personal accounts and history for one of Randolph’s oldest landmarks.

- August 2015: Randolphian Ginny Miller, a Randolph Museum member and volunteer/docent, gave an interesting yet touching account of her life story – it was an inspiration to all in attendance.

WHERE: The Randolph Museum
WHEN: Saturday, December 5, 2015
12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to the Holiday Open House at the Randolph Museum! Enjoy refreshments and musical entertainment by The Idyllwood Duo - Kris Lamb on flute and Anthony Campanella on guitar. This popular duo will perform musical selections from around the world.
2015 Board Members

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<th>BOARD MEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gail M. Hari</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celeste Stracco</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Lorey</td>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcia Rumsey</td>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
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<td>Anne Fiechtler</td>
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Formed in 1979, the Historical Society of Old Randolph (HSOR) is a non-profit organization created to promote and preserve the unique heritage of Randolph Township. We are in need of Volunteers to devote any time they can to our Township’s Museum, in any capacity, including joining as Board Members. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact us at 973.989.7095 or via email at: HSOR@juno.com

The Randolph Museum is only open Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., April through the first Sunday in November (including Easter and Mother’s Day). Individuals or groups seeking a guided tour may call the Museum at 973.989.7095 and leave a message or via email at: HSOR@juno.com.

Please consider making a lasting gift to the Randolph Museum in your will or estate planning.

Thank you.