



## Introducing Our First Oral History Project: Remembering Dorothy Stickney

The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead, as you know, is named for its first owner, Thomas Bouman, and its last owner, Dorothy Stickney, whose husband bought her the property as a gift. The Museums Committee has decided to launch its oral history program with a specific project to collect, document, and archive memories of Dorothy. If you'd like to participate in the program, please contact Barbara, our History Intern, at [readingtonoralhistory@gmail.com](mailto:readingtonoralhistory@gmail.com) or 908-236-2327. We'd love to hear



what you remember about Dorothy, her husband, Howard, and the farmstead.

## As the Butter Churns

Did you know farmer's cheese is a common spring staple? This is just one of the facts you can learn from food historian Nichole Gerding as she leads us in a delectable program. She will also discuss dairying in the eighteenth century and will demonstrate churning butter. Join us at this Open House program on **Sunday, March 1**, from 1:00-4:00 pm

at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead, 114 Dreahook Road in Stanton.

If using a GPS, use Lebanon, NJ 08833. This is a free family friendly event, although donations will be gratefully accepted. In case of inclement weather, please call the Museums to find out the status of the program.



### Readington Museums

P.O. Box 216

Stanton, NJ 08885

Phone 908-236-2327

Fax 908-236-2306

[readingtonmuseums@gmail.com](mailto:readingtonmuseums@gmail.com)

[www.readingtonmuseums.org](http://www.readingtonmuseums.org)

# Meet the Readington Museums New Intern

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Public History graduate student Barbara Krasner

William Paterson University public history graduate student Barbara Krasner joined our team in February. Barbara's specialty is oral history and she'll be helping us inaugurate the Museums' first oral history project: Remembering Dorothy Stickney. She'll be assisting with the school programs, our newsletter, and processing donations to the Museums. Barbara also has an M.B.A. in Marketing and an M.F.A. in Writing for Children & Young Adults. She teaches creative writing in the English department at William Paterson and is the published author of several local histories, a few hundred history articles, and history-based poems and short stories. Please help us welcome Barbara!

## Tasty Treats at Open Hearth Demonstration

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The February 1<sup>st</sup> open house at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead brought over 45 visitors to enjoy the sights and smells of Dutch cooking over the Farmstead kitchen's open hearth. Historic cooks, Connie Unangst and Nichole Gerding, demonstrated the colonial skills to make jumbles (cookies), chocolate pie, egg pie, chicken stew, and potato cakes using period correct receipts books, (recipies).

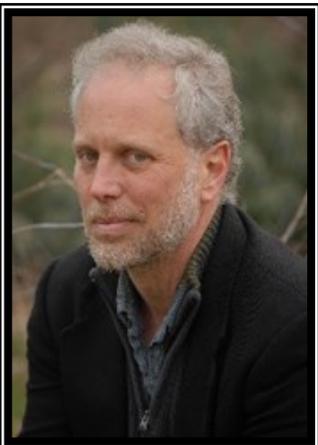


Connie Unangst and Nichole Gerding show off their chocolate pie and egg pie.

## The Dutch Architectural Influence throughout New Jersey

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In 1741, a Dutch homesteader erected the building now known as the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead. But just how typical is the building of Dutch architectural design? Find out on Sunday, April 12, from architect Christopher Pickell, who will deliver a talk about Dutch architecture in New Jersey. As commissioner for the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, Mr. Pickell has been involved in historic preservation and restoration projects in Hunterdon and Mercer counties. He is the Principal Architect of the Flemington firm of Pickell Architecture, lauded for its work in adaptive reuse projects. This Open House takes place at 1:00 pm at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead.



Architect Christopher Pickell



## Local Scout Builds Homes for Bluebirds



Matthew Sidler, 14, of Readington Township and a freshman at Hunterdon Central Regional High School, recently completed his Eagle Scout project for the Readington Museums. Sidler is currently a Troop Guide with Three Bridges Boy Scout Troup 186, led by Scoutmaster Herbert Rottner. This project involved the construction and placement of bluebird houses along

the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead's open space nature trail. Houses were constructed of weather-resistant cedar and mounted on metal fence posts. According to Sidler, the open grasslands and scattered forests of the farmstead provide the ideal habitat for bluebirds.

Congratulations, Matthew, on your achievement!



Installation of bluebird houses along the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead nature trail. Left to right: Michael Sidler, Joe Rottner, Kyle Mattson, Drew Peterson, and Matthew Sidler

## Monday Mornings to Return this July

We are pleased to announce the return of Monday Mornings at the Museum for kids ages 5-12. These hands-on craft programs will be held on four consecutive Mondays –July 6, 13, 20, and 27, between 10:00 a.m. and noon, at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead. Children will have a chance to make a historical or nature inspired craft with a new theme offered each week. The cost of each program is \$3.00 per child, per day. Registration information will be forthcoming.



# Sint Nikolaas Day Success



Plaisted shows ingredients for poffertjes



Michelle makes a Sinterclause



Making Dutch shoe ornaments

As a way to honor the Dutch heritage of the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead, the Readington Museums celebrated Dutch Sint Nikolaas Day with over 45 visitors on Sunday, December 7, 2014. Traditionally, children in Holland set out their wooden shoes to be filled by Sinterclause, or St. Nikolaas, on the evening of December 5th. If the children have been good the good saint will fill their shoes with toys, gifts and candies the

next morning. At the Farmstead, historic cook Susan McLellan Plaisted, from Pennsbury Manor, demonstrated authentic 18<sup>th</sup> century Dutch cooking using the Farmstead's original open hearth. Plaisted's specialty of the day included poffertjes, Dutch pancakes and oliebollen, or Dutch donuts. The event also featured a St. Nikolaas craft for children to take home, and homemade Dutch cookies and cider to share.



## Springtime Hike



Brothers Mike and Dan Allen will take Bouman-Stickney Farmstead visitors on a nature hike during our Open House program on **Sunday, May 3** between 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Mike Allen is a Readington-raised naturalist and ornithologist. He has spent the past 15 years working in bird research, conservation, and education for diverse organizations, including New Jersey Audubon Society and Rutgers University. His bird research work has taken him to far-flung locations, including Alaska, Cuba, and Brazil. Dan Allen, PhD, also raised in Readington teaches chemistry at Hunterdon Central Regional High School. He is an organic farmer and one of the founders of the Readington Community Garden.

## Calendar 2015

The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead is located at 114 Dreahook Road, in the Stanton section of the township. Donations for all programs are gladly accepted.

**Sunday, March 1**  
1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Open Hearth Demonstration—  
Churning Butter  
Nichole Gerding

**Sunday, April 12**  
1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Dutch Architecture in NJ  
Christopher Pickell

**Sunday, May 3**  
1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Nature Hike  
Mike and Dan Allen

**Saturday, May 16**  
7:00-9:30 p.m.  
Barn Dance  
Betsy Gotta

Readington Museums received an Operating Support Grant in 2014 from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State.