

The Brainy Borough

Listed here are some of the accomplished residents who have made Metuchen, NJ the "Brainy Borough."

Henry Mills Alden, Editor of *Harpers Weekly* and often referred to as the "Dean of American Magazine Writers." Moved to Metuchen in the 1860s, and was often visited by famed figures such as Mark Twain, Mary Wilkins (Freeman), William Dean Howells, Helen Keller, Joyce Kilmer, Ogden Nash, and Joseph Pulitzer.

Edward Ardolino, Noted sculptor, among his projects are the entrance pediments to the National Archives.

Frank Ballou, Cartoonist for magazines such as *Puck* and *Judge*.

Julia Hart Beers (Kempson), Artist associated with the Hudson River School and one of the first American-born women to be recognized as a painter and an artist.

Helen Christine Bennett (Mrs. B.F. Maupin), Non-fiction writer for periodicals such as the *American Magazine*, *Pictorial Review*, *McCall's*, and *Collier's*. Published "American Women in Civic Work," in 1917, now considered an important resource on the history of the Suffrage movement.

Peter Edward Burrowes, Lecturer, essayist, and poet, noted for his early 20th century Socialist writings. Author of "The Crime of Richard Ruby," and "Revolutionary Essays in Socialist Faith and Fancy."

Captain Charles B. Carman, Architect and engineer known for his work at Raritan Arsenal.

Helen C. Carvalho, Writer for the *NY Evening World* under the pen name of "Neil Neilson."

S.S. (Solomon Solis) Carvalho, Journalist and later manager of all Hearst Publications.

John Ciardi, Award-winning writer and poet

Kate Claxton, Considered one of the best "emotional" actresses of her time, famously survived the Brooklyn Theatre fire of 1876.

William Coleman, Writer, associated with the agricultural magazine "The Country Gentleman."

Charles L. Corbin, Partner in the Jersey City Law Firm of Collins & Corbin, specializing in railroad taxation.

René Coudert, International Lawyer.

William W. Crehore, Civil Engineer, named president of the Typewriting Telegraph Company in 1906.

Anthony DiLorenzo, Noted sculptor and ornamentalist.

William Dinwiddie, Journalist and photographer, particularly known for his work as a war correspondent and the famous photograph of Teddy Roosevelt and his "Rough Riders."



Frank F. Dole, Noted dog fancier and kennel editor of the *New York Tribune*.

Charles S. Edgar, Clay magnate.

Clement W. Fairweather, Architect and president of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) from 1927 to 1929.

Manning Freeman, Democratic "Boss" of Middlesex County.

Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman, Renowned and prolific author who famously socialized with Mark Twain and other literati of her day (see the Fall 2009 edition of *Nannygoats* for more information on Ms. Freeman).

Frank Gallagher, Journalist for the *Brooklyn Citizen* and *Brooklyn Eagle*, and served as State Senator for King's County New York.

Abel Hansen, Ceramic & Porcelain Engineer, President of the New Jersey Clay Workers' Association.

Thomas L. Hanson, Secretary to New Jersey Governor Larson.

Charles F. Heartman, Collector and dealer in rare books and noted publisher in the field.

Douglas Hicks, County Prosecutor.

Dr. A. Clarke Hunt, Sanitation Expert.

Dr. Theodore Whitfield Hunt, Professor and Physician.

Joyce Kilmer, Poet, remembered most for his poem, "Trees" (he did not live in Metuchen, but was married in St. Luke's to Henry Mills Alden's step-daughter).

Gustav Lindenthal, Civil engineer and bridge designer known for the Hell Gate and Queensboro Bridges.

Jerome Lemelson, Prolific Inventor.

Chester Lord, Managing editor of the *New York Sun* for over 30 years.

Dr. J.G. Mason, Reverend and prominent nominee and candidate on the Prohibition ticket.

Roy H. Minton, Ceramics engineer and author on the use of materials and kilns.

Dr. C.C. Mook, Associate Director of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Museum of Natural History.

Ruth R. Mook, Geologist, studied at Wellesley and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Lewis Nixon, Naval Architect.

Mary Stanahan Hart Pattison, Suffragist, womens' club leader, and domestic engineer who published scientific analyses of methods to make women's work in the home more efficient.

F.M.P. Pearse, Assistant US attorney of Newark, secretary to Governor Silzer.

Aylin Pierson, Architect.

Hester Martha Hunt Poole, Feminist writer, associated with Clara Barton, Susan B. Anthony, Frances Willard, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Founder of the Quiet Hour Club.

Francis Marmaduke Potter, First Rhodes Scholar from Rutgers, Principal of Vorhees College, Vellore, India, and Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions.

J.K. Powell, Real estate agent and president of N.J. Realtor's Association.

Charles A. Prickett, Editor of the *Metuchen Recorder* and highly involved with the 1915

battle with Glen Ridge over the title "Brainy Borough."

Dorothy Richardson, Special writer for the *New York Sunday Herald*, published "The Long Day" about the life of a working-class girl in 1905.

Mr. Philip T. Ruegger, President of the Oil Association of N.J. and the Lorraine Oil Company.

George Silzer, Lawyer, Governor of New Jersey from 1923 to 1926.

F.G. Sinclair, Officer of the Bank of the United States.

E. Holden Spear, *New York World* Business Manager.

W.D. and Dalton Stevens (brothers), Artists and illustrators, primarily for periodicals.

Thomas.W. Strong, extremely successful late 19th century engraver and publisher.

John L. Sullivan, Heavyweight boxing champion and first American sports hero to become a national celebrity and the first American athlete to earn more than one million dollars.

C.B. Veghte, President of the New Brunswick Trust Company.

Charles Volkmar, Renowned ceramist and painter.

Frederick A. Whitaker, Partner in General Ceramics, Co.

Walter R. Williams, Director and purchasing agent for Woolworth's.

Rev. Edward R. E. Wilson, Bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

Rev. Fred Zimmerman, President of the N.J. Classis of Dutch Reformed Church.

Sources for this list include the April 25, 1915 edition of the *New York Press Sunday Morning*, The Metuchen High School Class of 1931's History of Metuchen, and Stacy E. Spies' *Images of America: Metuchen* (Arcadia Publishing, 2000).

Pictured on the bottom left is Abel Hansen, on the top row (second and third from the left, respectively) are Roy Minton and Frederick A. Whitaker.



From the *Brick and Clay Record*, "Executive Committee of New Jersey Clay Workers Hold Important Meeting," November 4, 1919 (page 862)

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