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NEW CHURCH SHUTTERS, COMING SOON - A WORK IN PROGRESS

CUSTOM SHUTTERS BY BEECH RIVER MILL, CENTER OSSISPEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE - BeechRiverMill.com



MISSION STATEMENT

The Society actively stimulates an awareness and interest in the Walpack area through lectures, tours, publications and special events, such as Van Campen Day, hikes and exhibits at county-wide events.

It promotes collection, preservation and dissemination of Walpack area history and acts as a repository for artifacts of the Walpack area. We also maintain a small museum and book store.

THE WALPACK CHURCH - IT'S OUR TURN TO CARE

by Allyson Schwab-Miller



Sometimes a story is best told through pictures. This is the case with the restoration of The Walpack Church. Dedicated in March of 1872, this beautiful building was once the center of a vibrant community. Today, nearly 150 years later, the weathered and time-

continued on pg. 5

Drone Photo by Tom Dust

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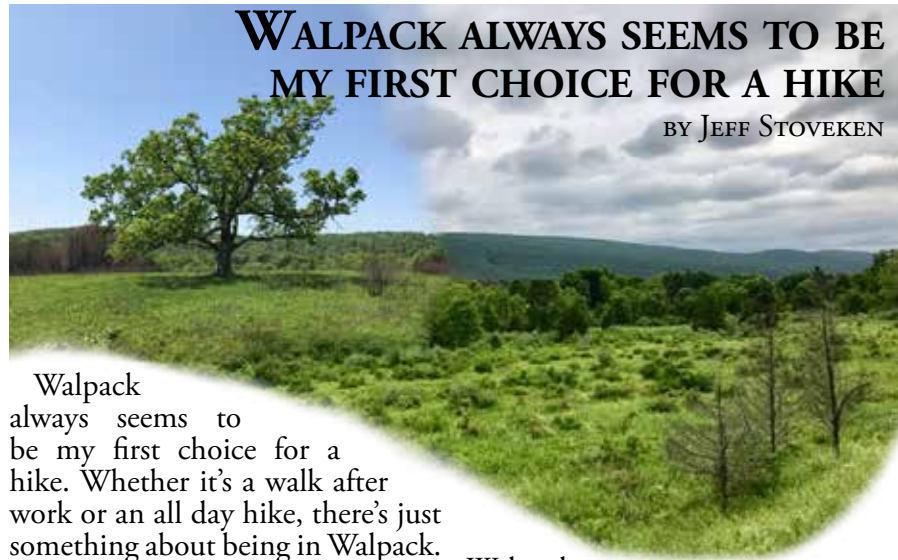
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- Individual \$15
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WALPACK ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE MY FIRST CHOICE FOR A HIKE

BY JEFF STOVEKEN

Walpack always seems to be my first choice for a hike. Whether it's a walk after work or an all day hike, there's just something about being in Walpack. Recently, I was asked why I am drawn to Walpack and the layout of the land immediately popped into my head. The way its features all parallel one another makes it pretty interesting.

The Kittatinny mountains make up its eastern border which provides you with the highest ridge in the state. The Walpack side of this mountain offers you many creeks and waterfalls to explore. Mountain Road stretches along the entire base of this mountain. On the other side of this road is Walpack Valley which is straddled by quite a few one lane bridges and features the original Main Street, Village of Walpack itself. Once you head west out of the village and cross NPS 615, You will slowly climb to the ridge of

Walpack mountain. Descending the mountain in a westward direction brings you to Old Mine Road and very shortly to the banks of the Delaware River.

These two mountain ridges supply you with many hiking trails that criss-cross over and enjoy breathtaking views. The roads mentioned here offer you many miles of mountain biking with loops so you never have to backtrack. Kayaking entitles you to a couple of the most scenic waterways in the state of New Jersey.

Perhaps the most alluring feature of Walpack is that its scenery still resembles what it once was when this was the wild frontier.

Our appreciation and thanks to all the members and friends of WHS who remembered the Society while taking advantage of their employer's *Employee Matching Gift programs*. Your generosity helps projects such as The Walpack Church Restoration.



The Walpack Historical Society would like to acknowledge and express its appreciation to our many Lifetime Members for their generous support.

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 Membership Type:
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Tear off and return with payment.

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The Walpack Historical Society, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Donations are tax - deductible as allowed by law.

SCOUTING IN DWGRNA

If you ask a Boy Scout of a certain age about his scouting experience you will very likely hear about the wonders of the Boy Scout Camps along the Delaware River. Camps with names like Ken-Etiwa-Pec, Pah-aquarra, Weygadt, Cowaw and Mohican saw approximately 250,000 Boy Scouts pass through their gates between the years of 1928 - 1972. Mike Orłowski and Camp Ken-Etiwa-Pec Eagle Scout, Bill Schwab, have gathered Boy Scout memorabilia which is currently on display at the Rosenkrans Museum. Stop by and see the numerous patches, kerchiefs and postcards as well as a photo montage of the various camps and campers within DWGNRA during this time period.



PROOF OF THE LOCATION OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY METHODIST-EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN WALPACK BY SHARON SPANGENBERG

I was recently asked by a trustee of the Walpack Historical Society if I could prove the location of the former Methodist-Episcopal Church at Pleasant Valley in Walpack. James P. Snell in the History of Sussex and Warren Counties page 329 mentions that "a house of worship, built of stone and completed mainly by volunteered labor, occupied the property set apart for that purpose by Robert Bell. Snell continues that in 1834 Robert Bell conveyed "a deed for two lots of ground to be occupied for (sic) church and churchyard" and that "the first person buried in the graveyard was the wife of Isaac Losey who died in 1834."

Some historians have indicated that the church was across the road from the Walpack Center Cemetery at a location on the east side of Mountain Road where there had been excavation.

Several years ago, I and others, independently walked the area around the cemetery looking for the remains of the church. Subsequently, each of us believed that the church was located at a site just south of the cemetery as stone ruins and a large flagstone were discovered in that area.

As a result of my research, I have concluded that the former Methodist-Episcopal Church in Walpack, known as the Pleasant Valley Church was not built at either one of the above two locations, but instead on the west side of Mountain Road within the boundaries of the oldest part of the cemetery.

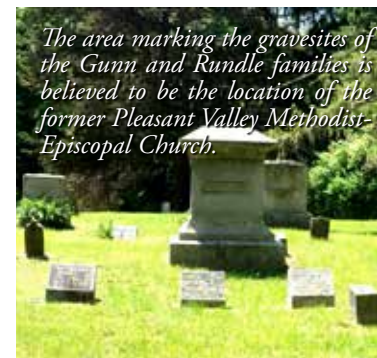
This was proven by reviewing and plotting early deeds to the cemetery.

On May 17, 1834, Robert Bell conveyed .50 acres to Trustees of the Methodist-Episcopal Church in Walpack. The deed indicates that the property was "on the southwest side of the public road leading down Great Flat Brook;" specifically noting that it was "for the only use of a church & burying ground."

On June 4, 1875, 41 years after the initial conveyance, Robert Bell (son) donated .55 acres to the Trustees of the M.E. Church, noting it was to hold and possess the same for a burying ground." One of the deed calls mentions "the corner of the Church Lot." The deed also mentions that the Grantees shall fence this lot and keep it in fence."

In 1909, Emmet H. Bell (grandson) donated an additional 1+ acres of land to the Trustees of the M.E. Church to "hold and possess the same for a cemetery."

From my experience working in Layton Cemetery I recalled that the earliest grave there was located quite close to the church. With this in mind, I searched the cemetery to find Isaac Losey's wife's grave, as Snell had indicated that she was the first buried.



ELANOR
wife of Isaac Losey
died Feb. 4, 1834
AE 54 ys. 4 m. & 19 da.

ISAAC LOACY
DIED APRIL 9th, 1868
AGED 87 YEARS
"MY CROWN IS IN HEAVEN"

Within the boundaries of the first conveyed half acre parcel and in the center of the grassy knoll there was Elanor Losey's gravestone tilted forward because of a tree that is growing around it. Mrs. Losey died on Feb. 4, 1834. Several other stones in the same area show dates of death in 1838, 1840, 1842, 1843, 1847, 1849. I am confident that this group of gravestones stood behind the Pleasant Valley stone church within the boundaries of the cemetery. Although it is believed that Eli Fuller, Sr. died in 1828 and is buried in this cemetery, a gravestone showing his burial location cannot be found.

In addition, and as stated previously, the initial deed dated May 17, 1834 specifically notes that the half acre of land was for both a church and burying ground. This contradicts historical accounts indicating that two separate parcels were donated in 1834.

Could it be that James P. Snell was given incorrect information when he gathered the material to write his book?

I realize that one cannot change past historical accounts. However, after 137 years of misinformation, I am hopeful to 'set the record straight.'

Interesting as well is that Amelia Stickney Decker wrote in her book, THAT ANCIENT TRAIL page 104 that Nicholas Tillman's house was located just south of the cemetery. According to the 1909 deed mentioned above, the north corner of Nicholas Tillman's house was located south east at a distance equivalent to almost 111 feet from the most southern part of the cemetery. On April 1, 1868, the Estate of Jonathan Dimon conveyed this parcel of land to Nicholas Tillman.

It was quite exciting to discover and prove the location of the Pleasant Valley Church as well as the house site of Nicholas Tillman.

On August 19th at 1 pm, I will be presenting the documented facts to the general public followed by a walk to the Walpack Center Cemetery to see the true location of the Pleasant Valley Church, visit the gravesite of the first burial, as well as other significant historical sites in the Pleasant Valley area.

THE WALPACK CHURCH - IT'S OUR TURN TO CARE *continued from pg. 1*



The Walpack Historical Society (WHS) oversaw the removal of the shutters, and the securing of the front facade from both weather and creatures. The shutters then journeyed to Center Ossippe, New Hampshire, where the highly skilled team at Beech River Mill painstakingly used the original shutters as templates to recreate each shutter in its entirety. The finished shutters then journeyed back to the Walpack Center where they await installation. However, there is much to be done prior to the installation of the shutters. Contractors are scheduled to begin work on soffit and siding repairs. Additionally, scraping and lead paint remediation must occur prior to the front facade being painted.

Repairs and renovations on a historical structure such as The Walpack Church are very costly and time consuming. The National Park Service has generously contributed to the funding of this project. Additionally, WHS has launched a major fundraising campaign to help fund the costs of Church repairs. WHS corporate members such as Frances and George Delgado, owners of George's Wine & Spirits Gallery and Fran's Farmhouse Kitchen have

honored Church still anchors the small hamlet of Walpack Center helping to provide visitors with a virtual time capsule of a late nineteenth and early twentieth century rural American village.

Spring of 2018 marked the beginning of the restoration of The Walpack Church.

contributed greatly by hosting "Dinner on the Farm" to benefit the Walpack Historical Society. WHS Trustee Mike Orłowski has spearheaded much of the fundraising efforts by assisting with "Dinner on the Farm" and by organizing the sale of Christmas ornaments made here on Old Mine Road by local artist Joyce Maurus-Sullivan as well the sale of Walpack Fire Department T-Shirts. Many members and friends of WHS have generously donated to The Walpack Church Fund. Donations are still very much needed and every contribution plays a key role in the restoration of The Walpack Church.

WHS has reprised the anonymous quote, "100 Years - Because Someone Cared - Keep Caring." As The Walpack Church's 150th anniversary approaches the torch has been passed. It's our turn to "Keep Caring."

How to Help

Online with PayPal

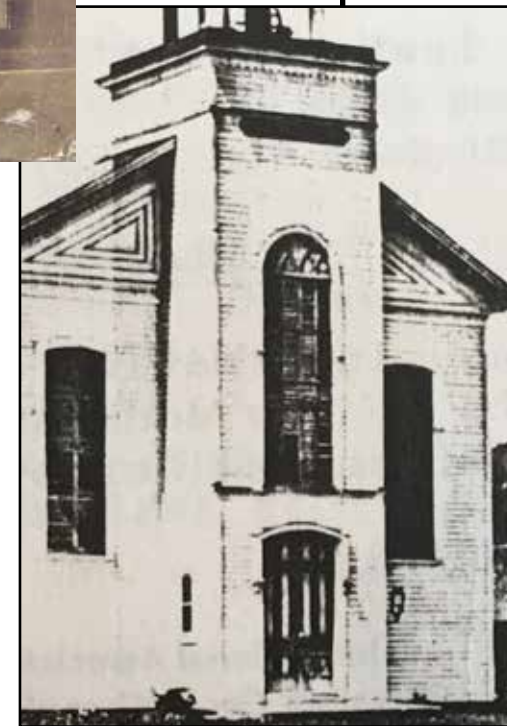
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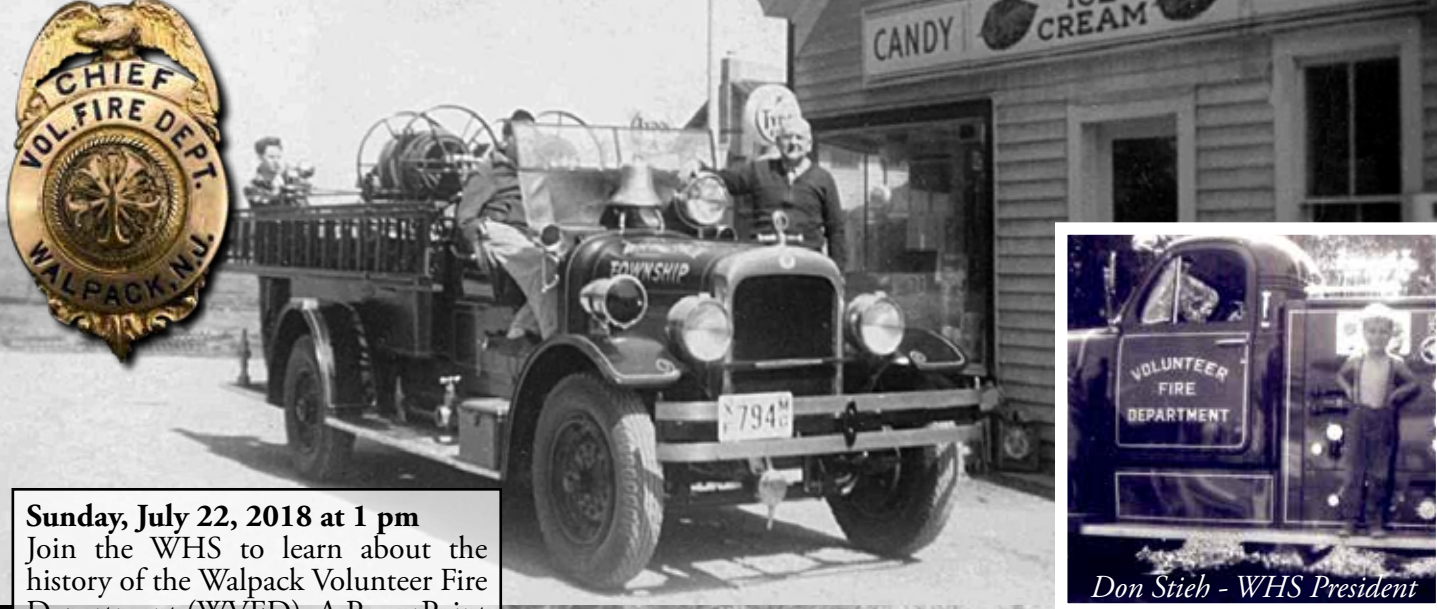
Membership

Join us in the pursuit to preserve the history of Walpack. For only \$200 you can become a lifetime member or it's only \$15 for a year.



THE HISTORY OF THE WALPACK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

A PRESENTATION JULY, 22 BY MIKE ORLOWSKI



Sunday, July 22, 2018 at 1 pm
Join the WHS to learn about the history of the Walpack Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD). A PowerPoint presentation will be conducted in the Walpack Church. The presentation will include never before seen photos as well as stories about WVFD. Several pieces of antique firefighting apparatuses will be on hand on Main Street, weather permitting.



Photos retouched by Tom Dust

A WALK DOWN MAIN STREET - WALKING TOURS OF WALPACK CENTER, SEPTEMBER 23

It has been many a decade since the Walpack Center General Store sold its last cold soda and more than thirty years since the final letter was mailed from the post office located within. The Walpack Historical Society, by special permission from the National Park Service is welcoming visitors for a few brief hours to experience and enjoy the Walpack Center of yore. Please join us on Sunday, September 23rd for our special program, "A Walk Down Main Street and A Peek Inside."

In addition to the General Store/Post Office, we intend to welcome visitors to the former Walpack Schoolhouse. This 1890's structure now serves as The Walpack Township Municipal Building and it is with the permission of the Township Mayor and Committee that we are able to provide access to this charming building.

A one room schoolhouse, it remains largely unchanged from its earliest days.

Additionally, the history sleuths among us have spent hours combing old deed information, vintage newspapers and documents to augment, confirm and refresh our historical knowledge of the Walpack village, its citizens and its surrounds. Much planning and work remains to be done and there are more surprises we hope to feature. Please join us as we open the doors and offer a peek inside a part of our past that has mostly been hidden from view.

The program will begin at 1 PM at The Walpack Church. We will be offering guided tours of the village with interpreters present at individual buildings should you wish to investigate at your own pace. The Walpack Historical Society is proud to WELCOME YOU HOME!

GEORGE'S WINE AND SPIRITS GALLERY & FRAN'S FARM HOUSE KITCHEN

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"WALPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINES"



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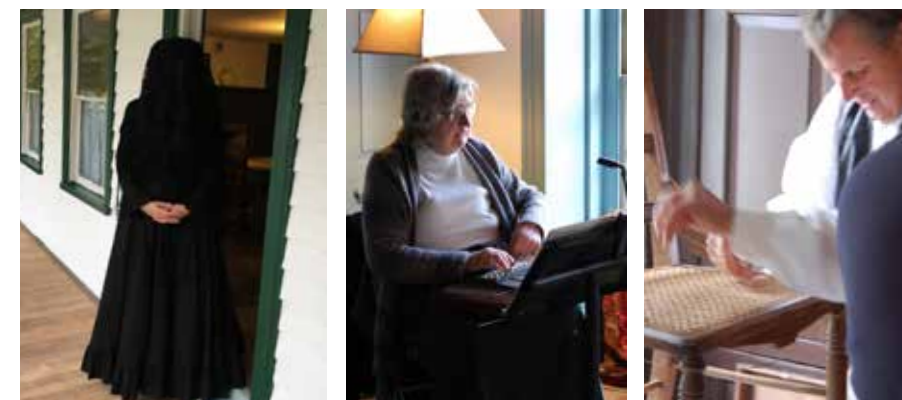
THANK YOU!

The Walpack Historical Society would like to offer a most gracious THANK YOU to the following members and friends who have so generously donated to the Walpack Center M.E. Church Restoration Project and to our General Fund.

Manfred Haertig
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Frederick
Philip Jaeger
Roberta and Janos Spitzer
Sarah Verbeke
Thomas Witter
John and Carol Ford
Maureen Verbeek and Artie Grimes

Laura Davis and Brad Schurter
Richard and Janet Schooley
Liz Farrar
Judy Keith
Beverly Nankivell
Gail and Bill Hoff
Donald Beck
Kenneth Zuber

WE NEED YOU! DOCENTS & VOLUNTEERS



A Docent is a person who acts as a guide, typically on a voluntary basis. We are always looking for new people to help us at our events and meetings throughout the year. Please call, 973-948-4903, and ask to speak with Jen Wycalek to learn more about how you can help play a part in history.

2018 CALENDAR

- April 8 Spring Hike
Cancelled due to storm damage
- April 15 Spring Dinner at
The Walpack Inn
- April 29 Spring Hike
- May 20 Walpack Remembered
- June 24 Mysteries of the Stones
- July 22 Fire Fighting in Walpack
- Aug. 19 Pleasant Valley Church
- Sept. 23 Walking Tour of Walpack
- Oct. 14 Van Campen Day
- Oct. 28 Fall Hike
- Nov. 4 Fall Hike
- Dec. 1 & 2 Walpack Christmas
- Dec. 8 & 9 Walpack Christmas
- Dec. 9 Holiday Dinner

Visit Walpackhistory.org for updates, changes and details.

NEW MEMBERS

Maureen Verbeek and Artie Grimes
Laura Davis, Brad Schurter
and Family
Joyce Maurus-Sullivan
Peter Pawelko and Anne Fitzgerald
Kathleen Taft
Chris Kronyak
John Pettit

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Event Photos by Tom Dust
Walpack Historical Society Newsletter
Designed and Edited
by Dusty Roads Media