

## HARBINGER OF SPRING *continued from pg. 5*

During the later part of the 19th Century, the largest commercial catch of American Shad on the Atlantic Seaboard came from the Delaware River where millions of pounds were annually harvested. The proud days of a burgeoning fish population and the boon to the Delaware River fisheries were victimized and plundered during the early 20th Century by over-fishing and pervasive pollution that brought the species to near extinction in Delaware waters. As shad fishermen and federal fisheries sought to restore the population in the mid 20th century, threats were posed by low rainfall for several years in the early 1960s and more ominously by the creation of the Tocks Island Dam that would have severed all avenues of migration to the spawning areas up river with catastrophic effects to the struggling population. Fishery

## WAS I LOST OR NOT? *continued from pg. 6*

worried since it was getting very dark. Being anxious about it getting darker by the minute and not having a way to contact anyone, it didn't occur to me at the time that the first road I came upon led to the Ennis House and the second road went to the Minisink/Westbrook Burial Ground. I finally got back to my car at 5:35 pm. So, was I lost?

Lessons learned: Have a fully charged cell phone, bring a battery back-up, take my new hand-held compass, don't go so late in the day, and reconsider going by myself.

biologists provided evidence of the potential effects of eutrophication and pollution inherent to reservoirs and along with a growing national environmental awareness, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed into law in 1968. Along with many other conservation efforts and the creation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in 1965, the timelessly free flowing Delaware River would not be restrained, assuring the shad population unimpeded access to their upriver spawning grounds.

A rather tenuous success story to be sure, but according to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and as reported in *The Burlington County Times*, 2017 proved to be the shad's best migratory season in decades with juvenile population surveys even more promising. Hopefully, the upward population cycle will continue and shad will once again populate our river in a great migration in this and future springs.

### 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.

www.walpackhistory.org

# WALPACK historical society

www.walpackhistory.org

Newsletter of the  
Walpack Historical Society

"Preserving a Fine  
Tradition of Caring"

Published Quarterly

January 2018

## THOUGHTS AND RUMINATIONS by Audrey Schwab

As we bid farewell to the old year and set out to usher in a new, it is informative to look at our accomplishments so we can best define what we next have to do.

Thanks to the generosity of our membership and cost and labor sharing with the Park Service, the exterior of the Rosenkrans Museum is freshly painted, has a new front porch and a newly constructed rear entry stair access. An accession committee, led by our Vice President, Christina Cunningham has been working to update our collections, photographs and records and bring some of our archived items into more prominent view. We would love to add to these collections and



Photo art by Tom Dust

display a rotation of exhibits to enhance the experience of both new and repeat visitors. If you have Walpack Area furniture, artifacts or memorabilia to donate or share, we would love to talk to you.

Based on their recent popularity and membership request, we will now have four hikes in 2018; two in the Spring and two in the Fall. We have also added fresh program ideas to our 2018 calendar and hope to inspire new members to join us as we gratefully acknowledge those who have been with us for both the long and short while.

Our goals for 2018 include a refreshing of the interior of the Rosenkrans Museum with a major housecleaning and "all hands on deck" dusting, scrubbing, polishing and sweeping to be accomplished before the museum reopens to visitors in the Spring. We similarly need to do Spring clean-up at The Walpack Church and the Van Campen Inn. Can we make it into an "event" with membership volunteers to assist us in our efforts? We will announce a cleanup date in our April Newsletter.

We are desperately in need of more volunteers to docent at the Rosenkrans Museum, the Walpack Church and the Van Campen Inn. The constant refrain of visitors to the Walpack area is their disappointment that our buildings are so seldom open. Training can be offered on a personal basis when YOUR time allows. We can also accommodate your schedule as to when you are available to docent. Even once or twice during the year would be a wonderful gift of your time.

We also have BIG objectives in the very beginning of their planning stages. A committee is exploring the possibility of the replacement of the main shutter array on the Walpack Church front facade; addressing modest repairs of the clapboard and trim and repainting of the front facade. Stay tuned...

We have much more on our agenda that we hope to address and then share with our members as plans evolve. We appreciate your loyalty, your interest and most of all your continued dedication to the history and legacy of the Walpack Area.






Photo by Alyson Schwab-Miller

WALPACK  
historical society  
PO Box 212, Layton, NJ 07851

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TWO SPRING HIKES



Photo by Allyson Schwab-Miller

**DESTINATION: THE RICHARD LAYTON HOUSE**  
**DATE: SUN. APRIL 8, 2018**

The Walpack Historical Society will be leading a hike to the Richard Layton House in Walpack on Sunday, April 8th. We will meet in Walpack Center at 11:AM and carpool to the property driveway off of Pompey's Ridge Road. WHS President, Don Stieh will be leading the hike up to the beautiful c.1812 stone house, outbuildings and barns where we will be met by Mr. John Spooner, a former resident of the house who will share his memories of the property he knew as a young boy.

This is a hike of a very modest distance (approximately two miles round trip) with a moderate elevation change to one of The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area's most lovely properties. We hope you will join us!

**DESTINATION: HENRY AURANDS' MILL SITE**  
**DATE: SUN. APRIL 29, 2018**

Join the Walpack Historical Society for a pleasant spring hike along Mountain Road to the former location of the Henry Aurands' mill site. On Page 317 of Snell's History of Sussex and Warren Counties, it mentions a 1760 conveyance of 121 acres of land to Hendrick Aurands who was a miller from Walpack. At the time of Snell's writing, he believed this mill was the oldest in the township, if not in the county. This has since been proven incorrect. Although past researchers placed this mill closer to Buttermilk Falls, the true location has been discovered.

This will be a relatively easy hike approximately 1½ miles along the abandoned road which was once part of the Columbia and Walpack Turnpike. Along the way hikers will need to cross a small stream, stepping from rock to rock for about 10 feet. We will then leave the dirt road and proceed west following an abandoned trail downhill towards Flatbrook, briefly stopping at the remains of a stone foundation, then turning south to the site of Henry Aurands' mill.

This will prove to be an enjoyable 3½ mile round-trip hike. We will meet at the Walpack Center Post Office and leave promptly at 11:00 am and head to the beginning point of the hike - carpooling is a must. Hike will be lead by Joanne Wirths and Sharon Spangenberg.

The Walpack Historical Society would like to acknowledge and appreciate all of our many Lifetime Members for their generous support.

BESET BY MALADIES AND AFFLICTIONS *continued from pg. 6*

deaths world wide. Neither New Jersey nor our bucolic Sussex County was spared. The disease was so prevalent that it is said children skipped rope to the rhyme:  
*I had a little bird, Its name was Enza.  
I opened the window, and in-flu-Enza.*



mortality rate was largely caused by complications from broncho-pneumonia.

While researching this article for the Walpack Historical Society, the first snowflakes of the season began to fall and hopes of physically identifying the dates on gravestone memorials turned to an Internet search of 1918 deaths in three Walpack area cemeteries. Albeit a rather lazy and less than thorough search was thusly initiated through the website, Find A Grave ([findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)). Of the 440 graves currently on record for the Walpack Methodist Cemetery in Walpack Center, only three 1918 deaths were found. Two of those occurred in the Fall of 1918 during the height of the nationwide flu epidemic. In both cases, the deceased were members of the military and died of pneumonia at military bases (in Virginia and Maryland).

The frivolities of childhood aside, Jenny Sweetman noted in her *NJ Herald* column (January 2013) that the first reported case of the flu reached Sussex County in September of 1918 and presented a very virulent form in Ogdensburg, Franklin and Hamburg. The resulting heavy

Military installations across the country were ravaged by the disease, due to the return of troops from Europe following WWI and the population density inherent to such facilities. It is difficult to assess the veracity of the website postings of the 217 records for the Bevins-Peters Valley Cemetery and the 257 for the Lower Walpack Cemetery, but it would appear that only a mere handful of deaths could be noted as occurring during the time of the highest incidents of what came to be known as the 1918 Spanish Flu Epidemic. A physical survey of all of the graves in all of these cemeteries would no doubt bring more fatalities to light, but perhaps we might ASSUME that the relative geographical isolation and relatively sparse population density of the Walpack area MAY have spared the residents the worst ravages of the epidemic.

As an interesting aside, those of us who frequently haunt the cemeteries of our beautiful Walpack area may want to take note as to how very hearty and long-lived a good portion of our historic neighbors were; especially given the rather perilous labors and chores that defined a somewhat isolated agricultural community in close cooperation with its sometimes angry river and streams. Absent relatively local physicians and highly reliant upon home and patent remedies, their resiliency was quite remarkable and even as is the case today, though chilblains, the grip, and that commonest of "colds" may beset us, the arrival of sweet Springtime will soon chase them from our door.



MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  New Member  Renewal  Donation

Company \_\_\_\_\_  Rosenkrans Museum Paint Project

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE DELAWARE'S HARBINGER OF SPRING

by Audrey Schwab

The American Shad (*Alosa Sapidissima*) swims stealthily into our Water Gap waters with none of the robin's fanfare nor the hopeful chorus of the frogs of spring; yet the annual arrival of this largest member of the herring family hardly goes unnoticed and is eagerly awaited by our eagles, herons, mallards, and small and large,

including those of the human kind. Shad eggs and larvae are relished by eels and striped bass among other food and sport fishing varieties. Even their post spawning demise and subsequent decomposition helps to fortify the very waters that originally nourished them.

The history of the entire Delaware River Basin and the humble shad is very closely entwined and has ebbed and flowed through the ages as indifference and rampant ill use have challenged both of their survivals. The river's headwaters originate in New York State terminating over

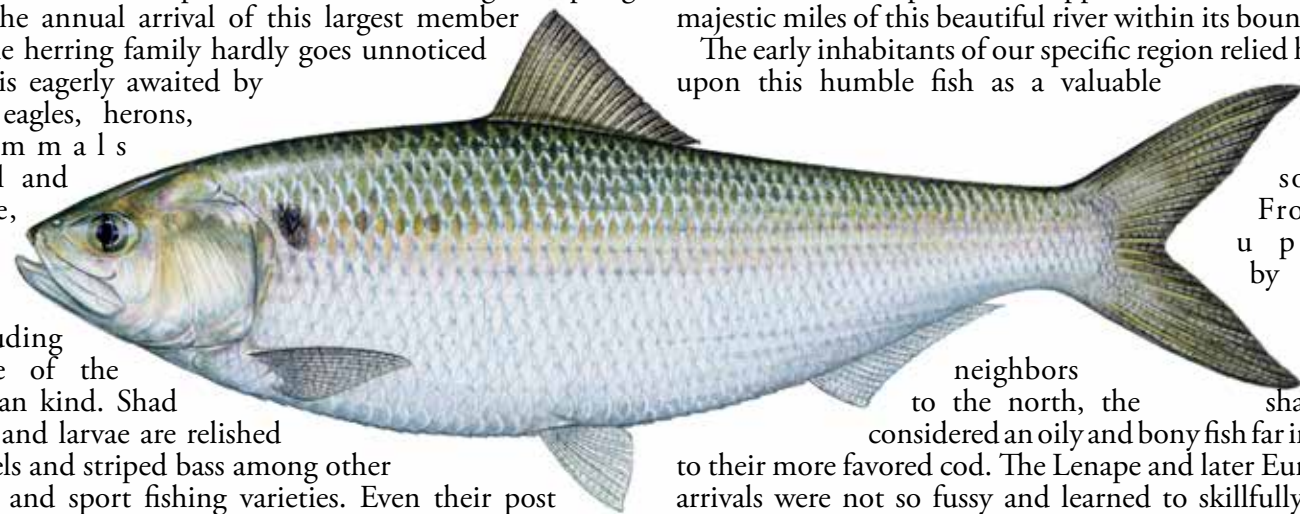
330 miles south as its waters empty into the Delaware Bay. The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is considered to be part of the Upper Delaware and has 40 majestic miles of this beautiful river within its boundaries.

The early inhabitants of our specific region relied heavily upon this humble fish as a valuable food

source. Frowned upon by our

neighbors to the north, the shad was considered an oily and bony fish far inferior to their more favored cod. The Lenape and later European arrivals were not so fussy and learned to skillfully catch their prey using an assortment of creatively constructed weirs, traps and nets. The spring and summer catch was salted or smoked and stored in clay pottery or barrels as sustenance during the harsh winter months when food sources were meager. Legend has it that the apparently very altruistic shad fought their way past British blockades to feed the American troops wracked by winter privation during the springtimes of the Revolutionary War period.

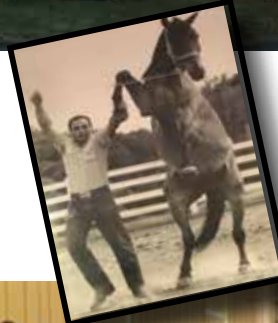
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## 2017 IN REVIEW



*The Church and Schoolhouse - Christmas 2017*



Please check our website and social media pages for more details about our events in 2018.

[WalpackHistory.org](http://WalpackHistory.org)



*Post Office porch repair*



*Corinne Fenner, Supervisory Park Ranger for Interpretation*



*Thunder Mountain Ranch Alumni*



*Rosenkrans museum - VCD 2017*



*Thunder Mountain presentation*

# WAS I LOST OR NOT?

by Sharon Spangenberg

How did you know I needed a compass? Did I tell you how I got lost? Well, let's say I knew sort of where I was but didn't know how far away from the main road I was. So was I lost? Here's my story from December 20, 2017.

What happened was that I left at 3:15 pm to go looking for a "marble monument" that appeared in several property deeds. The monument was supposed to be near the east bank of the Delaware River, west of the former Indian Valley Farm. I went by myself because my husband did not want to go. The problem was I started out too late in the day.

I was heading out from the Delaware River (having not found the monument) and into the trees to get back to where my car was parked. Suddenly, I realized that it was quite dark. I walked where I thought I had come in, and then said to myself that I better check my compass to be sure I was going east. Oh no, the cell phone was dead. How did that happen? I was sure I had 65% charge when I left. Dead cell phone means no compass, no flashlight, and no way of contacting anyone. I knew at once that I had a real problem. I should have been going east, but was I? I kept going. Then I came upon a road. Oh, yoy yoy, I don't remember crossing this dirt road on my way to the river. So, where am I, I wondered? I didn't



know if I should go left or right, so I decided to cross the road because there was a kept field on the other side. I walked through this field, but didn't recognize anything. All I knew was that I had no clue where I was and it was getting darker and darker. I did have enough sense to realize though that I had to be going north because if I were going east, I would have gotten to the Old Mine Road; if I were going west, I would have been at the river; and if I kept the sound of the cars on the Pennsylvania side of the river on my left, then I would not be going south. I also knew that if I kept going in the same

direction, I eventually would be at the Milford Bridge – so I really wasn't lost. Then I came upon another dirt road. I knew there had to be something important nearby because this road had fresh tire tracks in the melting snow. This road had to lead somewhere, but where? I decided to go right on the road. A short distance ahead I saw some objects on my left. What could these be, I thought? It suddenly came to me that I knew exactly where I was; but wondered how I wandered so far from where I wanted to be? The objects were the headstones in the Minisink/Westbrook Burial Ground. Needless to say, it was a long walk back to my car – I'd say about a mile. The whole time I was concerned that my husband would be getting

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## 2017 IN REVIEW



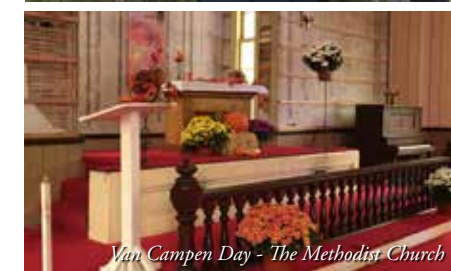
*The Frontier Guard*



*The Van Campen Inn*



*The Van Campen Inn - Front steps*



*Van Campen Day - The Methodist Church*



*The Colonial Musketeers*



*Rosenkrans Museum - Christmas 2017*

## BESET BY MALADIES AND AFFLICTIONS by Audrey Schwab

As the raspy winds of deep winter come rattling our 21st Century walls, windows and doors, we tend to expect the inevitable...sore throats, colds and sniffles and perhaps a bout of the flu. Our circa 1900 Walpack area forebears likewise suffered a variety of ailments that are still familiar to us today and many that were uniquely virulent and deadly to their time.

Death records in the late 1800s often indicated the presenting symptoms of the deceased, but frequently failed to note an exact cause of death and often used rather mysterious medical terms rarely seen today. In the 1800s, puerperal fever, or child bed fever was second only to tuberculosis as a leading cause of death in women of childbearing age. Dropsy, which modern medicine refers to as edema and congestive heart disease, is still a leading cause of death but can be more specifically diagnosed. A serious kidney malady known as Bright's Disease, often suspiciously followed a strep infection and caused inflammation and swelling of the renal system. It was nearly always fatal in the early 1900s. Those of us of a certain age can well remember family members, friends and classmates falling victim to the debilitating effects of rheumatic fever and more devastating the terrible polio epidemics of the early to mid 20th Century. Childhood of the later part of the century was thankfully spared the specter of these afflictions due to rapidly advancing medical research, antibiotics, public health initiatives and Dr. Salk's 1955 vaccine. Scarlet



fever and diphtheria were also a major cause of death in children and often resulted in epidemics, as were the all too common scourges of cholera and typhoid fever which randomly chose its victims giving no heed to age or demographics. Even the relatively isolated and sparsely populated Walpack area was not spared the devastation of typhus.

The June 1993 Walpack Historical Society Newsletter included the following mention of typhoid, as written by then President of the Society, Robert Williams:

In a recent letter sent to me by Mrs. Sabina Senkbeil, she notes that her mother once told her stories of two typhoid epidemics which followed the Flatbrook where people had emptied their outhouses into the brook. Mrs. Senkbeil states,

"You can see this on old gravestones in the cemetery at Walpack Center where whole families died within weeks or days of one another".

Both cholera and typhoid are largely eradicated in the USA today, but in 1900 they were grouped in the category "gastro-intestinal infections" and the number three killer in the nation according to a chart published by "The New England Journal of Medicine". Tuberculosis was the second most deadly with pneumonia and influenza the number one cause of death in 1900.

The devastation wrought by the 1918 world-wide influenza epidemic resulted in 675,000 deaths in the United States with 50 million *continued on pg. 7*

## REFLECTIONS ON SUPPERTIME by Bob Brandt



Bob Brandt

Bob Brandt responded to the WHS's request for mealtime memories in Walpack with the following reflections of time spent at Hattie Knight's table as a teenage farm hand at The Knight Farm on Old Mine Road during the summers of 1951, 1952 and 1955.

Eating at the Knight Farm was rather simple as I recall. No gourmet meals. What does stand out, however is eating veggies in season twice a day (lunch and supper) while Hattie was in the process of canning; particularly peas and string beans grown in the garden. They grew Luther Hill corn in the field below the road and when it was in season toward the end of the summer, we had a feast along with regular sweet corn. There was lettuce and garden tomatoes at both meals

which John Knight (Hattie's husband) would eat with his home made apple cider vinegar. An asparagus bed was well established in the garden. The Knights grew their own onions and potatoes. The onions were kept in the loft over the pig barn and the potatoes were kept in the cellar.

I remember Alvin slaughtering a pig and a lamb which ended up in Hattie's freezer. My memory is fuzzy, however if I ate any of it. I do remember chicken which most likely was supplied by Lester Hunteerton as the Knight farm's chickens were kept mostly for egg production. Interestingly enough, breakfast consisted of cornflakes and milk most mornings, except for John's griddle cakes.

(Note: as recalled by Bob in his book SUMMER KNIGHTS REVISITED and mentioned in our April 2017 Newsletter, "John would bring a scoop of feed from the bin in the barn to the house for Hattie to make him griddle cakes. He was the only one who ate them. I had them only once to satisfy my curiosity. Since rodents would occasionally get into the feed bin, I lost all interest in griddle cakes". The recent photo below shows Bob gazing into that very same feed bin that now "resides" at The Walpack Inn.)

## 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 our Rosenkrans Museum Paint Project and to our General Fund.

Charles Pozzi  
Michael Peterson  
Patti Makosky  
Anonymous

Barbara Lea Rawson  
Steve & Elaine Van Camp  
Myra Snook

## 2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE

Did you know there are two ways to pay your membership dues?

1. Visit [www.walpackhistory.org/store](http://www.walpackhistory.org/store), click on the Membership tab to pay your 2018 membership dues online using PayPal.
2. If you wish to pay your dues through the mail, please fill out the Membership Form on page 7 and send it along with your payment to the given address on the form.

Thank you for supporting the Walpack Historical Society. Your contribution helps us to fulfill our mission to actively stimulate 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.

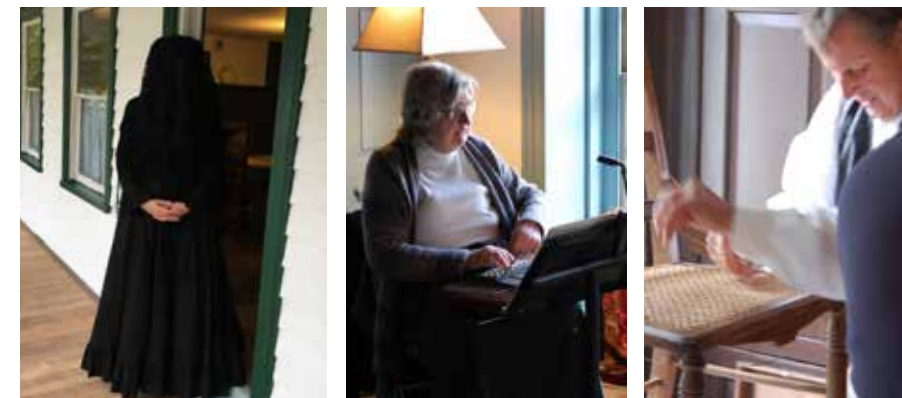
## WALPACK WINE & DINE

April 7th. 5-10 pm - A four course meal with wine pairing. Basket Raffles. Entertainment provided by **Non Stop Denny!** Tickets available from George's Wine Gallery in Branchville - \$100.00 per person.

Walpack Historical Society would like to recognize the generous bequest made by Mr. Robert Chervy

*Thank You!*

## 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
April 15	Spring Dinner at <i>The Walpack Inn</i>
April 29	Spring Hike
May 20	Walpack Remembered
June 24	TBA
July 22	Fire Fighting in Walpack
Aug. 19	Walking Tour of Walpack
Sept. 23	The Dodd House
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](http://Walpackhistory.org) for updates, changes and details.

## NEW MEMBERS

Mark Templeton  
Manfred Haertig  
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Jeff Stoveken

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