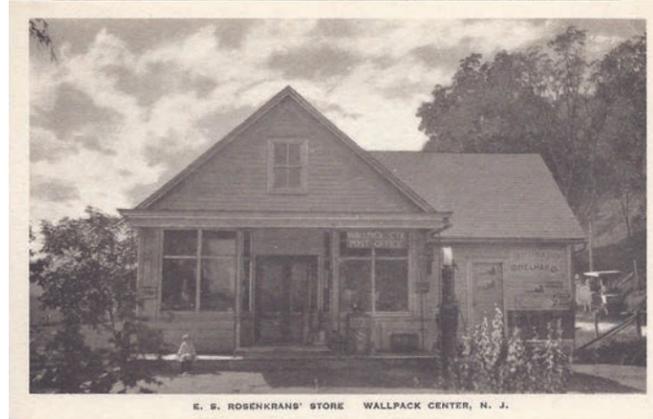


POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

PROVIDED BY ARNE ENGLAND



MEMBER OBITUARY

JEANNETTE M. CASTIMORE

SPARTA - Jeannette M. Castimore, 95, of Sparta, passed away on June 8, 2016, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born in New Brunswick and came to Sparta at the age of 13. Jeannette was a past auxiliary member of the Sparta Fire Department, honorary member of the Lafayette Fire Dept, life member of the Sparta VFW Post 7248, past auxiliary president of District 41 of VFW Post 7248, original founder and charter member of the Sparta VFW Ambulance Corps, and a member of the Walpack Historical Society. - See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/njherald/obituary.aspx?n=jeannette-m-castimore&pid=180301734&f-hid=11043#sthash.K3WBh5ow.dpuf>

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 countryside 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.

www.walpackhistory.org

WALPACK historical society

www.walpackhistory.org

Newsletter of the
Walpack Historical Society

*"Preserving a Fine
Tradition of Caring"*

Published Quarterly

June 2016



THE ROSENKRANS MUSEUM UNDERGOING ROOF REPLACEMENT

BY AUDREY SCHWAB

It is always a very exciting and welcome event when one of our venerable DEWA park structures undergoes a significant repair or restoration. The Walpack Historical Society is delighted to share the news that The Rosenkrans Museum is undergoing a complete roof replacement of the original home, a later rear (south-facing) addition that houses the kitchen and what is currently used as a book storage room and the front porch roof. The side porch tab roof is deemed to be adequate at this time and will not be replaced. Additional structural repairs of select exterior elements of the home will also be made.

The Rosenkrans House (circa 1850) is one of the earliest buildings in Walpack Center and was originally constructed with a wood shingle roof. The current slate roof was installed about 1905 and has been in need of attention for some time. The roof replacement project became a priority for the DEWA Preservation team this past spring.

In preparation for the new roof, it was determined

that the significantly deteriorated rear entry covered porch would be dismantled. The porch appeared to be constructed of mid-twentieth century materials and photographic evidence indicated it was not original to the house or its early addition. The porch will be replaced with a simple access entry staircase of pressure-treated lumber with a hand railing.

The original slate on the rear (south facing) roof of the main structure has been removed revealing vertically sawn rafters in excellent condition. These rafters were locally milled from a combination of wood sources including White Oak, Chestnut and Eastern White Pine. Skip sheathing of 1" x 2" wood strips, nailed perpendicular to the rafters were used as nailers for the original slate and are largely intact as well. Note the photo on pg.7.

Continued on Pg. 7

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GHOST WATERS - TOCKS ISLAND DAM

Movie, 40 Mins - This well written and beautifully filmed movie relates the history of the failed Tocks Island Dam project with interviews and excellent cinematography.

On June 26th at 1pm at the Methodist Church in Walpack Center we will present the movie. If you can't attend, you can watch it for FREE on [Vimeo.com](https://vimeo.com/142291370).



Link: <https://vimeo.com/142291370>

vimeo

FIRE!

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN



All of us who dearly love the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area have many and varying reasons for doing so. For the history lovers among us, it is most troubling when we see any form of damage to the historic homes, barns and outbuildings that make this park so unique.

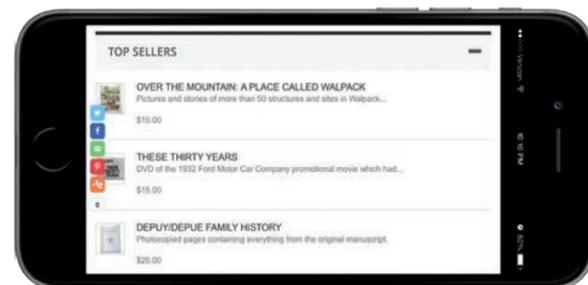
The Walpack Historical Society would like to offer a sincere "THANK YOU" to the alert park visitor who called in an active fire at The Birchenough Barn on April 14th and to the members of The Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department for their quick response.

As a result, fire damage was thankfully localized to several floor boards, joists and siding at the large main opening of the barn on Old Mine Road and a tragic loss of a venerable barn was averted.

Let's all stay alert and help to preserve our history!

BOOKSTORE NEWS - Walpackhistory.org/store RESPONSIVE DESIGN

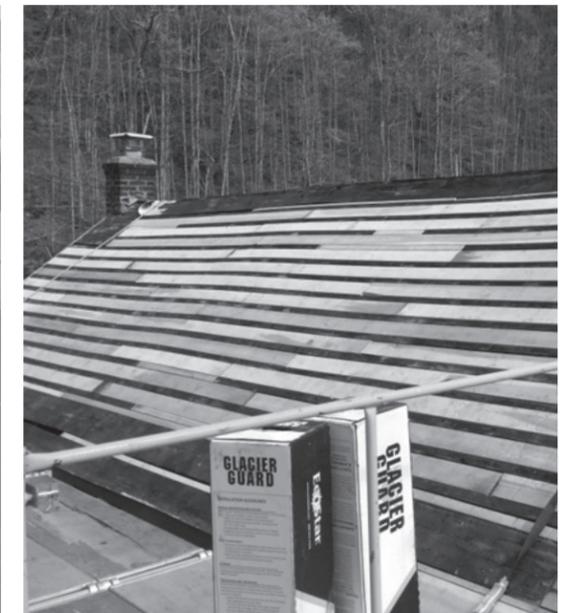
The New Online Bookstore is *Responsive* to your touch, meaning it responds to the type of desktop or mobile web browser you are using and makes it easy for anyone to shop the books of our history on any smart phone or mobile device.



THE ROSENKRANS MUSEUM UNDERGOING ROOF REPLACEMENT

BY AUDREY SCHWAB

Continued from Pg. 1



In order to maintain the original profile of the historic structure, no plywood sub roofing was installed over the skip sheathing but rather custom cut poplar boards were used as infill between the skip sheathing in order to provide a solid roof deck for the nailing of the new roofing material. The original 8"-10" wide ridge and eave boards are still largely intact. As additional protection, the entire roof deck was covered by an ice and water shield in preparation for the application of the new roofing material. The photo above shows the custom milled poplar boards infill between the original skip sheathing.

The product being installed is marketed as EcoStar Majestic Slate in midnight gray and when viewed from the ground appears remarkably similar to the natural slate shingles being replaced. This sustainable faux slate product is composed of 80% recycled rubber and plastic, much lighter than the original stone product

and able to be cut with a craft knife. It has an expected lifetime of fifty to seventy years. The individual 12" x 18" "slates" are being applied to the roof deck using stainless steel nails with a similar life span. Snow guards, which may not have been original to the 1905 roof are being replaced with stainless steel replicas.

Historic fascia and rake boards are being sanded, prepped and repainted their original historic green color which is widely seen throughout the park.

The Rosenkrans roofing and structural repairs will continue for the next several weeks and be further chronicled in future newsletters. In the meantime, stop on by Walpack Center and witness first-hand the exciting progress of DEWA's historical restoration.

PAHAQUARRY COPPER MINES

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY THE WHS NOV. 2000

(Fr. Editor: Leonard Peck) The following article was written by M. Luther Michaels of North Water Gap, Pennsylvania and appeared in the Wantage Recorder on January 26, 1912. Previous to that it had also been published in The Democrat.

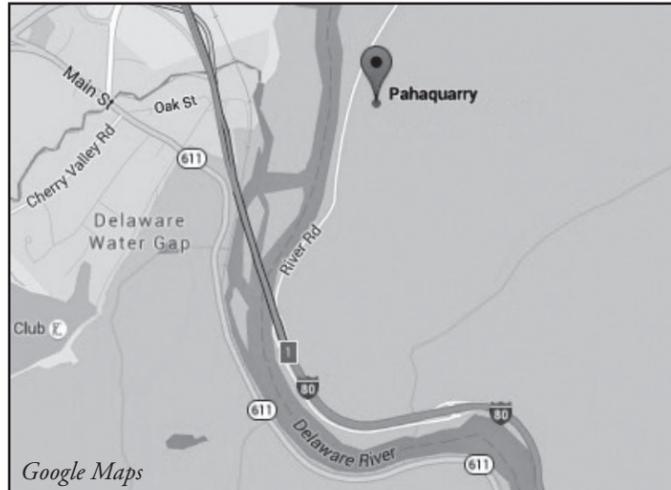
The long-talked-of mining company, formed to work the Pahaquarry (N.J.) copper mines, has now become a fact. Dr. Keith, a noted mining expert, is superintendent of the company, and modern methods of grinding and reducing the ore are being installed. There are now many hundred tons of ore on the dump. The ore is a medium grade, containing principally copper, but there is a quantity of gold and silver in the rock. It is thought that the gold and silver will pay the running expenses of the plant. Everything points to success.

The Pahaquarry copper mines in Warren county, N.J., have been known more than a century. Who has not heard the story of the first Hollanders who founded New Amsterdam, now the city of New York? How bands of adventurers came over with the first Hollanders and explored the mountains, hills and streams for precious ores. Among their discoveries were the Pahaquarry copper mines, which the Hollanders successfully worked as early as 1660. These pioneers in 1664 built a road or highway from Kingston on the Hudson to a point on the Delaware in New Jersey, directly opposite the Michael farmhouse, in Monroe County, Pa.

Some of the old stone arches of their bridges crossing turbulent mountain brooks were made so well that they are standing to this day. This road was graded like a railroad; it went around the hills, not over them; it cost more than a million dollars to build, and was built expressly for these mines. Two hundred and forty-two years ago this was the first road of its extent built in America by Europeans.

Considering the dense forest covering this region at that early day, it must have been a gigantic enterprise to hew a road through the primeval wood lands. If we add to this the removal of the rock, stone, stumps, grading, building of bridges and hundreds of other laborious details, and possibly the hostility of the Indians inhabiting the forests, we can form a slight conception of the magnitude of this undertaking in 1664. That the road was completed and used for a time we have every proof in the existence of the road. That the road never paid for itself is an assured fact. This was not due to the quality of the ore, for certainly the ore had been tested thoroughly before the building of the highway, hence its building. It is more probable that after the Hollanders built the highway it took all the profits to pay for transportation of the ore to Kingston on the Hudson, and thence by vessel to Holland, a matter that even the shrewd Dutch had not figured correctly in their calculations.

There is no record of the period nor in what manner the Hollanders abandoned the mines, whether a change of government to another nationality, or some other cause



forced them out of the country. Why the people who built this expensive improvement, a costly highway, should abandon it, turn their backs on the Delaware's fertile valley, which they had redeemed from the wilderness and planted to cereals and orchards; why they should leave the picturesque Blue Mountain scenery, a land with quantities of game beyond enumeration and streams of crystal water teeming with fish, the reader can furnish his or her solution.

Perhaps some plague had fallen on these brave adventurers; perhaps the twang of the Indian's bow or edge of his tomahawk could tell the story.

On the pinnacle of a hill in Pennsylvania, less than a mile from the Pahaquarry copper mines, can be plainly traced a street. The buildings were placed in straight lines facing the East. The cellars that were under the buildings still remain. An engineer laid out and planned that street, because there is too much symmetry and care shown in building those foundations to attribute it to the American Indian. Besides, the Indian had neither the implements nor inclination. Undoubtedly, a band of people defended themselves here against the attacks of an enemy. The ground as a defensive position for the age was admirably chosen. This would have been a likely place for the remnant of the mining pioneers to have made their last stand in the seventeenth century.

Whether the Hollanders did all the work at the various old Pahaquarry mines is pure conjecture. There is every reason and much evidence that "prehistoric man", the same race that mined the "Lake Superior Regions" at one

time, mined in the "Blue Ridge" at Pahaquarry. There are still in existence their old mines which neither the Hollanders nor modern mining companies have worked. In these mines the work was done entirely by pick and wedge. There is a beauty and finish to one of these mines in particular which shows skill and a different handiwork. Even the inexperienced in rock work have noticed the difference between this style of mining and that of the Hollanders. This mine is an inclined plane, driven into the base of the mountain, calculated to strike the "mother lode" at right angles and cross seam it; but there is an entire absence of the use of "gunpowder". Gunpowder was introduced into Europe by the Moors. It was used at the siege of "Acre" by the French against the English in 1429. Its explosive powers must have soon become famous and spread over Europe. Holland at the period of 1664 had 237 years to experiment and discover the value of gunpowder from the siege of Acre, and naturally when the Hollanders embarked for the new world they carried with them the most improved method of defense, the "gun," to protect their lives; and as "mining experts," gunpowder would have formed a necessary and conspicuous agent in their mining operations at their Pahaquarry mines. If the foregoing conclusions and deductions are correct and admitted, then the mines in Pahaquarry, which bear no trace of the use of gunpowder, were the work of prehistoric man.

In support of the presence of prehistoric man in the Pahaquarry region, it is only necessary to look on the map and one will see that the Lake Mining Regions are only a few hundred miles from the Pahaquarry copper mines, and there were no great natural barriers to prevent this early race of metal hunters from migrating to and prospecting over the Blue Ridge region. It is but fair to assume that these races of prehistoric men would not be confined to the Lake Superior region exclusively, but that it was with them then as with mankind now.

This discovery and monopolization of precious ores stimulates the seeking and opening of new mines in new places by new companies to the extremities of the earth. That the Pahaquarry mines are mines of antiquity is neither a myth nor sensational story. From the village of Millbrook, N.J., to Delaware Water Gap there are many abandoned mines of pick and wedge class. The cost of opening the huge holes in the solid granite walls, if done

today, would require the expenditure of vast sums of capital and the employment of hundreds of laborers for many years.

In the valleys surrounding the Pahaquarry copper mines the farmer's plow-share often turns up fragments of pottery of ancient composition. This pottery has been pronounced by eminent archaeologists to be identical with the ancient pottery of Egypt. The writer has several of these specimens found on the Flat Lands opposite the old mines in Pennsylvania.

This was the pottery that undoubtedly constituted the culinary vessels of the people who worked the Pahaquarry mines many centuries before the Hollanders touched the shores of America.

We must credit the first mining in Pahaquarry to a race of men indigenous to the earliest civilization upon the western hemisphere, and who antedate by long periods of time Columbus's discovery. It would be interesting indeed if we knew more concerning these people of American antiquity, who left no history of their rise or fall except a tall tree relic, a fragment of pottery, "agate arrow," or where they dived and delved in some wild mountain canyon, strenuously seeking for those metals from which they fashioned their bodily armaments, weapons and instruments.

Monroe Democrat, March 29th, 1906.
M. LUTHER MICHAELS

Editor's note (Leonard Peck); The writer's statement that the road was built in 1664 is not correct if the legend of the Old Mine Road is true. According to the legend the Dutch miners covered the entrance to the mine in 1664 when New Netherland was taken over by the British. This would indicate that the road was built at an earlier date, particularly so when the writer of the article also states that Hollanders successfully worked the mines as early as 1660.

As for the location of the area in Pennsylvania on the pinnacle of a hill, less than a mile from the mines where a row of buildings once existed - never could find this area, or anyone who knew of such a spot. Nor was I ever able to locate any of the pottery fragments he claimed to have been plowed up by farmers that were identical to the ancient pottery of Egypt.



OUT OF THE WEEDS

(CONTINUED)

number of outbuildings. An out house and a 10' square smoke house stood on the south side of the home and strangely enough, a "hog house" was in front just beyond the fenced lawn. One is left to wonder if this location of the pig sty may not have chased the family from their porch rockers if the evening winds of summer shifted in from the east. Across the dirt road from the farm house was a garage, a wagon house, chicken coop, a milk house and the large dairy barn anchored by its silo which still stands today. The dairy barn was able to accommodate forty milk cows, had stalls for four horses and a feed storage area. Housing for young stock and a bull pen were located to the east of the barn. The "night pasture" was located behind the barn with a spring house to chill the milk farther down a lane that is no longer visible. Today this area is mostly wetland. A note jotted on this charmingly simple plot map indicates the farm was once known as "Sunnybanks" and perhaps a few other names, but it is the Holding farm name that stubbornly maintains its ownership by means of the faded lettering on the barn's southerly facade.

It is impossible not to cultivate a deep connection to this property as you try to imagine where the farmer's wife hung her wash to dry or tended her kitchen garden. You find yourself wondering about such mundane things as the location of the path trod into the earth by a farmer going about his daily chores. Sometimes you even get answers. Daffodils and crocus sketch out a flower bed in the spring or a tattered rope hangs from a tree limb, perhaps the remains of a child's swing. Strangely enough, while clearing a new area for mowing, a faint but undeniable waft of "piggie" was later found to be the approximate location of the pig pen drawn on the map of someone's memories; a house tender's somewhat dubious gift from the past.

Over the course of several months and many man hours; most spent working some spent wondering, the Smith-Birchenough House has been reclaimed from the underbrush and overgrowth and is being maintained by members of the Historic Property Stewards. Many more

properties have yet to be adopted or even tended to on a sporadic basis. It has been documented that properties that appear well tended invite less intrusion and vandalism even if they are not in the best repair. If any of our readers have an interest in joining the HPS or have memories to share about any of the properties within DEWA, please contact The Walpack Historic Society by phone, email or mail and become a part of the history!

"The Historic Property Stewards are a fun group of volunteers with a passion to preserve the historic buildings within the Delaware Water Gap. Each of them adopts a property and maintains the grounds around it expressing the commitment to the preservation of these National Register resources. Occasionally, the members will gather for group projects involving some of the larger and more remote properties and an opportunity to create lasting friendships. In the process of the work, volunteers become familiar with the backgrounds of each property which helps with the understanding of their importance in state and national history. The volunteer efforts of this group are vital in assisting the National Park Service in holding on to these resources and allowing them a chance at survival."



Before & After

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OUT OF THE WEEDS

THE SMITH-BIRCHENOUGH HOUSE

Walls and the structures they support do have stories to tell and if given a voice, they will speak to us all. This first in a series of articles will concentrate on those homes within the Walpack area that are under the care of The Historic Property Stewards, a volunteer group working within and under the guidance of The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA). A brief description of the group's endeavors follows this article.

The Smith-Birchenough House



As a bit of background information, DEWA identifies the homes within the National Recreation Area by acknowledging both the first known owner of record of the property and by hyphen, the owner who sold the property to the Federal Government during the Tocks Island Dam land procurement process. George Smith was the earliest recorded owner of the property on which the Smith-Birchenough house stands. The home was built by one of his heirs in 1871 and over time included 221 acres, the dairy barn and supporting agricultural structures. The property passed through the hard working hands of many who worked its land until it was finally sold to the United States Government by The Birchenough family in 1979.

Those of us who have trekked the back roads and byways of DEWA are probably familiar with this venerable old farmhouse located on Old Mine Road (dirt) just off Peter's Valley Road between Route 560 and Kuhn Road.

The house is a gabled, two story, five bay frame structure, resting on a stone foundation. The vernacular farmhouse has a center hall plan with a gabled kitchen wing at the rear. Victorian elements in the Italianate style lend an air of sophistication to the structure. These elements include the recessed front entry with double doors enhanced by glazed and arched lights. The facade features pedimented windows with post and bracket detail supporting the porch roof. It is conjectured that the original front porch did not extend the full width of the house as the dressed stone foundation transitions to rubble stone in the ten foot center of the home. The National Park Service rebuilt the porch in 1992.

Though the historic record is a valuable part of any property story, it is often the memories of those who lived there or simply passed by that are most interesting. A rudimentary hand-drawn map illustrating a site plan of the property as it existed in the early to mid 1900s indicates the farm was supported by an impressive

Continued on Pg. 6

2016 CALENDAR

April 3	Hike
April 24	Spring Dinner @ Walpack Inn
May 1	Peter's Valley "Art in the Park"
May 15	Carmer Fort Revisited
June 26	Movie: Ghost Waters - Tocks Island Dam
July 17	TBA
Aug. 21	Camp Shapanack
Sept. 18	Mission Churches
Sept. 24 & 25	Peter's Valley Craft Show
Oct. 8 & 9	Sussex Co. Heritage Days
Oct. 16.	Van Campen Day
Nov. 6	Fall Hike
Dec. 3 & 4	Walpack Christmas
Dec. 10 & 11	Walpack Christmas
Dec. 11	Holiday Dinner

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Designed and Edited
by Dusty Roads Media