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Newsletter of the
Walpack Historical Society

Published Quarterly

Fall 2020

RETRACING THE EAST-WEST JERSEY LINE IN 1819

By Joanne Wirths

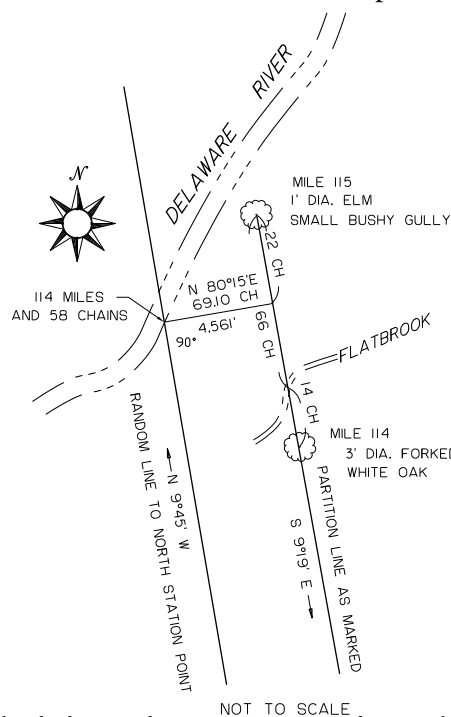
On September 21, 1819, a survey crew embarked on a retracement of the East-West Jersey Line established by John Lawrence in 1743. They started at a hickory tree marked on four sides with four notches in what is now Green Township. The tree was marked by John Lawrence for Mile 99 along the "true line," or partition line between East Jersey and West Jersey. Using a compass for direction and measuring with a 66 foot long "chain," the crew traveled a total of more than twenty-five miles over the next 10 days.

Lawrence had determined the location of the true line after running a random line from the southern terminus of the partition line at Little Egg Harbor northwest over 150 miles to what is now Cochecton, New York. Lawrence assumed that a course of North 9 degrees 45 minutes West would get them close to the northerly "Station Point," the terminus of the partition line, established in 1719. Lawrence found the random line fell west of the station point by 90.50 chains (5,973'). Consulting the log book James Alexander instructed him to carry, and by using trigonometry, Lawrence could calculate the perpendicular offset from the random line to the "true line" at any point along the random line.

Lawrence left Cochecton and returned to the point where the random line had met the eastern shore of the Delaware River at the end of 114 miles and 58 chains. This is in Walpack just north of Camp Shapanack. From there he ran a perpendicular North 80 degree 15 minutes East, his calculated distance of 69 chains, 10 links (4,561') to the "true line." Now he could run the partition line S 9 19' E towards the beginning, marking each mile along the way. But first he ran northwesterly 22 chains to Mile 115, "an elm about 1 foot diam. in a small bushy gully." From Mile 115 he ran the partition line southeast, noting the line crossed the Flatbrook at 66 chains (4,356'). Mile 114 was noted as a "forked white oak about 3 foot diam., 14

chains (924') distant from said Flatt Brook in the low land on the North Side of Pahaquarry Mountain". The line leaves Walpack after Mile 112. Mile after mile, Lawrence ran the partition line, leaving behind evidence for future surveyors to follow.

If the line had been established, why was a resurvey necessary? I became aware of the 1819 survey after reading the publication *1743 John Lawrence East-West Jersey Division Line*, John Wm. Taylor, Jr., P.E. 2005. A transcript of the field notes of the 1819 survey with the heading "David Ryerson, East-West Jersey Line Resurvey of 1819," was included in the supporting document CD. The transcript may have been provided by the late Ralph DeVries who was involved in the 2005 project. DeVries owned early survey field notes from the Ryerson family.



NOT TO SCALE
Sketch showing how Lawrence started to mark the Partition Line upon his return from Cochecton.

A clue was in the heading of the transcript:

Johnson and others agt. Thos Armstrong Esq.

Jno. Armstrong, Edwd Welsted, David Ryerson (Ryerson), Referees.

Perhaps the survey was performed to serve as evidence in a trial?

Included in the documentation for the 2005 John Taylor publication is an analysis written in 1818 (author unclear) describing how John Lawrence had made a mistake in his

random line. When the random line hit the southeast shore of Swartswood Lake (erroneously called Quick Pond), he had to run a series of courses around the northern end of the lake. He continued the bearing of the random line northwest, but was too far to the west by 24.84 chains (1,639'). This resulted in him marking the partition line too far to the west of the "true line" from Mile 107 to Mile 115. From Mile 106 and running southeast; the partition line was marked too far to the east of the "true line." This would surely create future boundary disputes.

I decided to plot the notes of

continued on pg. 2

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RETRACING THE EAST-WEST JERSEY LINE IN 1819

continued from pg. 1

the survey in 1819 starting at Mile 99. The notes contain measurements to roads, streams, and the corners of several landowners along the way. Running northwest from Mile 99, the surveyors find evidence along Lawrence's true line and make note of it, adjusting their course to follow the line. At 478.29 chains from the beginning (5.98 miles), they find a stump and heap of stones said to be Lawrence's 105 mile tree on the south side of the Paulinskill. Measuring from there, at 79 chains (5,214') they find a large black oak tree marked on 4 sides with 4 notches, Lawrence's Mile 106. This is in Swartswood State Park to the east of Duck Pond.

The measurements continue a total of 859 chains (10.74 miles) from Mile 105 to the bank of the Delaware River. This point is on the former John Dodd property in Sandyston. After Mile 106, there is no mention of John Lawrence's mile trees.

After reaching the Delaware, the surveyors run two courses southwesterly along the river bank a total of 28.46 chains (1,878') where they find a large white pine marked with a letter "E." This point is referenced in several deeds as being on the East-West Jersey line and falls near the northern most corner of the former Lennington property on the river.

Now the survey reverses course and runs southeast, parallel to the line run north to the Delaware, nearly 8.5 miles to the area of what is now the Village of Swartswood. Plotting the notes shows there are two lines, about 1,300 ft. apart, as run by the surveyors in 1819.

Along the southeast course, the surveyors find evidence left behind by Lawrence to mark the division line between East and West Jersey. The field notes suggest that they had the records Martin Ryerson Jr., the father of David Ryerson. Martin Ryerson Jr. was a deputy surveyor for both the East and West Jersey

Proprietors. Col. Benjamin Rosenkrans, as well as John Rosenkrans (eldest son of Col. John Rosenkrans) and his son Asa were helping, to point out where old marks were.

For instance, at 67.46 chains (4,452') from the river and offset 1.63 chains (108') to the northeast, was an old pin stump, shown by Col. Benjamin Rosenkrans as being a line tree marked by Martin Ryerson Jr. when he ran the division of Col. John Rosenkrans's estate.

At 149 chains (1.86 miles) from the river and about 890' south of the Flatbrook, John Rosenkrans and his son Asa informed them that the 114 mile tree, "was a large forked white oak the top blown off many years ago but the stump remained til 8 or 10 years agoe". Further southeast 24.3 chains (1,604') they point out a white oak stump, an old line tree in front of the house of John Rosenkrans.

Evidence left in 1774 by the East Jersey deputy surveyors "Millage and Hayse" (Thomas Millidge & Samuel Hayes) is found, a stone heap, corner to two surveys for the Earl of Perth. The field notes state it's "about the same time the Sussex Allotments were surveyed." The "Allotments" were a holding of the East Jersey proprietors. The westerly boundary of the Sussex Allotments follows Lawrence's 1743 partition line a total of about 6-1/3 miles from the Delaware River. The southern most parcel was Lot 54, owned at the time by Thomas Armstrong, Esq.. Armstrong shows the surveyors the N.W. and S.W. corners of his 1,000 acre parcel.

At the New Jersey Historical Society in Newark, in Manuscript Group 258, *John Lawrence (1709-1794), Surveyor Papers*, I found notes written in pencil on small sheets of lined paper concerning the location of the partition line. Some notes entitled "Edward Welstead notes 1819" were the same as the transcript in the documentation *continued on pg. 5*

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 M.E. Church Restoration Project.

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

2020 CALENDAR

April 19	Spring Hike: Pompey Ridge to Chado
April 26	Spring Dinner at <i>The Walpack Inn</i>
May 17	A presentation by Jennifer Palmer
June 6	<i>National Trail Day</i>
June 28	Walpack at the Movies
July 19	Lower Walpack Cemetery by Sharon Spangenberg
Aug. 16	2020 anniversary of 1955 flood by Don Stieh
Sept. 20	Fire Tower hike by Dan Tasse & Mike Orłowski
Oct. 11	Van Campen Day
Nov. 1	Fall Hike - Military Road East
Dec. 5	Walpack Christmas - Church and Museum open
Dec. 6	Holiday Dinner - Walpack Inn
Dec. 12 & 13	Walpack Christmas - Church and Museum open

Visit WalpackHistory.org for calendar updates, changes and details.

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We are looking for Corporate sponsors and/or WHS members who are interested in supporting our newsletter. As costs continue to rise and our membership grows we need to offset some of the costs. Companies can have a business card sized ad, about 3.5" x 2". For WHS members, we would proudly display your name in our newsletter as a sponsor, or you can remain anonymous.

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THANK YOU Brian Banner! He is a LIFE MEMBER who has donated \$100.00 in support of the newsletter in honor of Len Peck and Ruth Ann Whitesell.

2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE

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

1. Visit www.walpackhistory.org, click on the Membership tab to pay your 2020 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.

All memberships must be made current in order to remain on our mailing list. Thank you!

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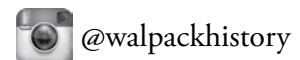


A Docent is a person who acts as a guide, typically on a voluntary basis. We are always looking for new people to help us at our events and meetings throughout the year.

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.



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NEW MEMBERS

Thank you for becoming a member of the Walpack Historical Society. Your dues 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.

THANK YOU!

We offer a most gracious THANK YOU to the following members and friends who have so generously made donations.

CAPTAIN MANUEL HOVER: RESIDENT OF LOWER WALPACK

by Sharon Spangenberg

While preparing for a Walpack Historical Society presentation in 2017 about on the location of (French and Indian War) Fort Walpack, I came across the following information and decided to continue my research.

Manuel Hover and his wife Mary were previous owners of the Rosenkrans' property in Lower Walpack that was sold to the Conservation Fund in July 2017.

(E)manuel Hover (b:1748 – d:1824) was the 4th child of Hendricus and Susanna Hover. He married Mary Schoonhoven (b:1745 – d:1821) who was the daughter of Nicolaes and Pieterella Westfael Schoonhoven. (*Schoonover Mastertree*) Manuel and his wife are buried in Pricetown Cemetery, Newton Falls, Trumbull County, Ohio. (*find-a-grave*)

Mary Schoonhoven Hover's father, Nicolaes Schoonhoven died June 10, 1764 and is buried in the Lower Walpack Cemetery adjoining the property surrounding the Rosenkrans' house. (His gravestone was found underground on July 4, 2020.) In 1737, Nicklas Schoonhoven and his brother-in-law Thomas Brink donated and deeded a parcel of land containing four acres. Said land began at the northwest corner of the burying yard. (*original deed printed in Snell's History of Sussex and Warren Counties pages 328/329*)

Manuel Hover purchased 150 acres of land from Nicholas Schoonhoven and Thomas Brink in 1772 and another 25 acres in 1774. (*West Jersey Deeds AK-506 and AK-510*)

He also owned land in Lehman Township, Pike County, Pennsylvania, across the Delaware River from the Rosenkrans house.

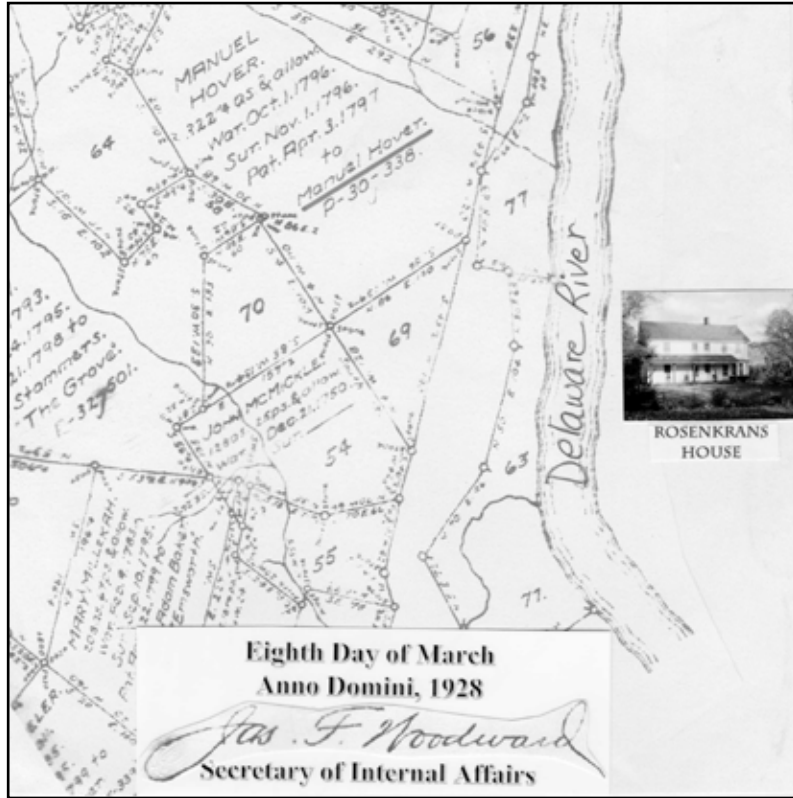
He was well-prepared for military service in the Revolution, having previously gained much experience and a great reputation as an Indian fighter. At the age of 15 or 16 in 1763, he accompanied his older brother, John on an expedition into Pennsylvania during the French and Indian War. When John was shot and killed in an engagement, Manuel escaped, but after pursuit was captured by the Indians and was carried by them through many of their villages as far West as what is now Sandusky, Ohio. Subsequently, he was released by ransom in Niagara, and he made his way home over the land through the

forests. In time, he reached his old home in Jersey on the banks of the Delaware River. "His hardships as reported were almost incredible. At one time he was reduced to raw skunk flesh for food." (*1937 Wantage Recorder Genealogical and Historical section by W. J. Coulter, and Pioneer Families of Northwest New Jersey.*)

Manuel was a Captain in the Revolutionary War – Third Battalion, Sussex and Captain Second Regiment

Militia. (Strykers) He was also a delegate of Sussex County's Committee of Safety with Colonel John Cleves Symmes and John Rosenkrans, (*The First Sussex Centennial by Edsall and Tuttle page 57*) and in 1777 he was one of the persons authorized to arrest deserters. (*Old Mine Road Newspaper clippings by Charles Stickney appearing in the Wantage Recorder, July 1911 – January 1912*)

He owned a house opposite on the Jersey side of the river at a place called by the Indians, Wallpack, around which house was a stockade. (*History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties,*



1928 hand-drawn map signed by Jas. F. Woodward, Secretary of Internal Affairs.

Pa, page 909.)

William F. Henn writes of a vivid account of a raid reputed to have occurred, as rendered by Judge Dingman: (*The Story of the River Road – Life along the Delaware from Bushkill to Milford, Pike County, Pa. page 14.*)

"There is one circumstance which took place in the neighborhood of Bushkill, about 13 miles below Dingmans Choice. At the place, there was a stone house on the Pennsylvania side of the river, owned and partly occupied by Capt. Emanuel Hover, who also owned a house opposite on the Jersey side of the river at a place called by the Indians, Wallpack, around which house was a fort. A part of [the] Indians in the neighborhood of this fort captured three men named McGuinnis, John Teal, and William Cartright [Courtright]. Capt. Hoover, finding that those three men had been captured, made up a company of volunteers, and after pursuing them some distance on their trail in the woods, found McGuinnis killed and scalped. They still pursued them in the Township of Middle Springfield, continued on pg. 7

RETRACING THE EAST-WEST JERSEY LINE IN 1819

continued from pg. 2

CD for the John Taylor book. Other field notes were entitled "Aug. 1841, Extract from David Ryerson's field notes on and near that part of John Lawrence's line in Sussex and Warren Counties in the case of Sexton & Oliver vs. Theophilus Hunt et al, Sussex Circuit, Nov. Term 1841." There appeared to be at least two court cases where the location of Lawrence's line was in question, the above mentioned case and previously mentioned "Johnson and others agt. Thos Armstrong Esq."

I did some research at the Sussex County Hall of Records, and with the help of Sharon Spangenberg and Richard Stevens PhD, I had the descriptions for the land held by the disputing parties, Johnson and others in West Jersey (WJS DD-291), and Thomas Armstrong (1,000 acres in East Jersey, EJS S17-369). Both descriptions claim to bind on the East-West Jersey division line.

Following the chain of title forward revealed that the Johnson tract was conveyed to Nathaniel Saxton (Q2-194). Thomas Armstrong, Esq. gave part of his 1,000 acre tract to his daughter Margaret Hunt, wife of Theophilus Hunt (Book C of Wills, page 103). After some 20 years, the same matter was being contested. Although unable to find records of the Circuit Court, I did find a New Jersey Supreme Court case:

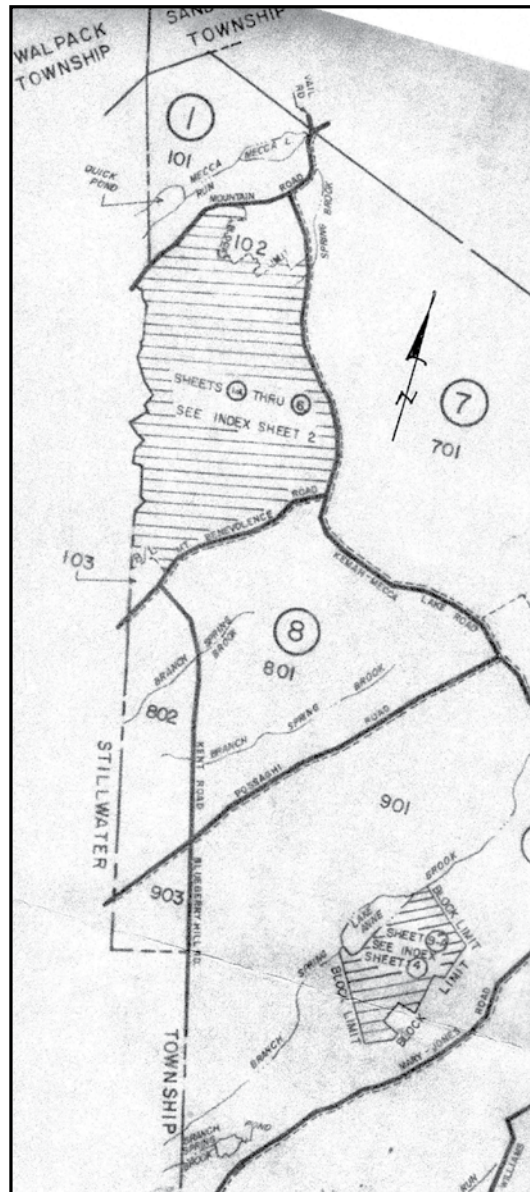
DEM, ex dem SAXTON, et. al. v. HUNT, New Jersey Supreme Court, July Term 1845. (New Jersey Law Reports V. 20 1842/1846)

The report begins:

This is an action of ejectment brought to recover a tract of land, in the county of Sussex. The cause was tried at the Circuit, and a verdict rendered for the plaintiff.

The opinion of the court reads in part:

"The defendant (Hunt) insists that the western line of the tract, as claimed by him, is the true line actually run by Mr. Lawrence. This the lessors of the plaintiff deny. They insist, that the division line is about twenty two chains east of the line claimed by the defendant; and this action is prosecuted to recover possession of that part of the 1000 acre tract lying between these two lines as claimed by the parties. To determine therefore the question of strict legal title, it was



Part of Hampton Township Tax Map Index Sheet showing the shift in the Township line.

important to ascertain where Mr. Lawrence ran the division line between East and West New Jersey, from the Delaware river to Swartwout's pond. Upon this part of the case there was a great mass of evidence, derived from the original field book and journal of Mr. Lawrence; from ancient marked trees and other monuments; from the location of other surveys, under two separate boards of proprietors; from public reputation; and from the fact that the line, supposed to have been run by Mr. Lawrence, is the division line between several town ships of that county. It is unnecessary to detail this evidence in length, I have examined it with care, and in my opinion the weight of the evidence is so decidedly in favor of the line as claimed by the defendant, that there were no other reason assigned, I think the verdict on this account be set aside."

The land in dispute was in present day Hampton and Stillwater Townships. The tax maps for both townships show that the line between them jogs over about 1,284 feet near Blueberry Hill Road. This is nearly the same distance between the two lines run in 1819.

Among the notes I found at the New Jersey Historical Society was a statement by David Ryerson "Lawrence's line passed through Quicks Pond as run inadvertently by John Lawrence. In running the true line accurately and carefully they reach Delaware River about 20.00 above the two trees pine and spruce

which is where JL would have hit had he committed no error."

It appears to me that an attempt was made to correct a mistake, but the court opined that the location should be where it was originally marked by Lawrence. What happened to land titles south of the jog over to Blueberry Hill Road in Hampton is a subject of further research.

A picture is worth more than all of these words so I plan to produce a booklet in 2021 including maps of the 1819 survey and its relation to land holdings of the time through Walpack and Sandyston.

Joanne Wirths is a Professional Land Surveyor and member of the Walpack Historical Society.

A REFLECTION ON THE PAST: HARMONYVILLE



by Sharon Spangenberg

How many of our readers remember seeing the reflection of a windmill in a bowl-shaped pond on the river side of Old Mine Road in Lower Walpack?

In the summer of 1970, this would have been the site of a rock concert called Harmonyville. Just one year after Woodstock, many teens were excited to potentially attend and be a part of this 6-day music festival.

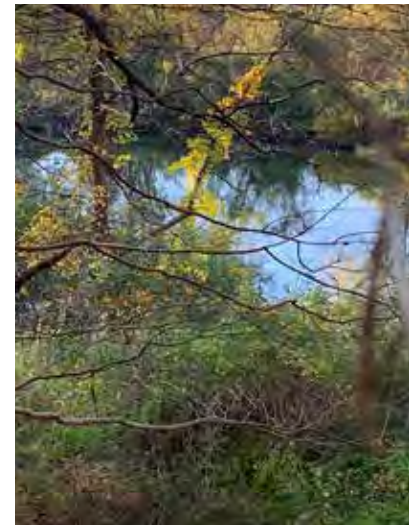
Property owners Dr. John W. Ratcliffe and his brother Robert T. Ratcliffe leased their 400-acre farm to concert promoters, The Electric Factory of Philadelphia. They made plans to turn many acres of fields into campsites, a mounted stage against the hillside, and a field stretching down to the shores of the Delaware River where a swimming beach was planned. According to the advertising brochure, there were to be workshops and symposiums, main concerts, and campfire concerts, as well as craftsmen and artisans. Some of the musical performers scheduled were Jefferson Airplane, Jethro Tull, Chicago, James Taylor, Little Richard, the James Gang, and many more.

Walpack Historical Society President, Don Stieh was one of those teenagers who lived with his parents in their summer home just five miles up-river from where the festival was to take place. He and his friends were psyched for the music festival but knew the devastating effect it could have on the Walpack Valley. The festival was advertised throughout the Eastern Metropolitan area and expected to draw over 100,000 people.

Local and County officials opposed the event and

eventually the New Jersey State Superior Court issued a permanent Injunction declaring the concert a nuisance. The Injunction cited the probability that the festival would jeopardize the public health and welfare of the young, Walpack Township, and Sussex County residents. Walpack was an isolated area with minimal public services, no method of crowd control and less than adequate roads. The Court ruling also required that concert promoters advertise the cancellation of Harmonyville. Concert Promoter, Jerry Spivak said "All that we were going to do was allow whole bunches of people to enjoy this place. It's too beautiful not to enjoy before it's underwater."

As it turns out, Walpack remains above water and continues to be a beautiful place for all to enjoy. Although the Harmonyville Festival never took place and the windmill was removed, the bowl-shaped pond remains as a reminder to those 1970 teenagers and young adults of what could have been 50 years ago.



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CAPTAIN MANUEL HOVER: RESIDENT OF LOWER WALPACK

[Smithfield?] when they came in sight of the Indians at the edge of a swamp, building up their fire for the night. Capt. Hoover had intended surrounding them and make them prisoners, when without an order, one of his men, I think by the name of Benjamin Hannah, shot an Indian engaged in building up the fire and killed him on the spot. When Capt. Hoover rushed up with his company, the Indians fired upon them in the swamp and then fled, wounding and breaking William Cartright's [Courtright's] thigh. John Teal escaped unhurt."

This quote appeared in the *Wantage Recorder*, "Dear Sir: Yesterday three Indians were discovered on the Pennsylvania shore, opposite Walpack. Capt. Hover [commanded the block house at Flatbrookville at the

time] immediately pursued them *continued from pg. 6* with a number of good fellows with what success I have not learned – Your humble servant, Ja. Bonnell." (*The Old Mine Road Newspaper clippings by Charles Stickney. Note, bracketed information was an addition by Charles Stickney.*)

Ted Brush in his publication *New Jersey Forts on the Delaware Frontier*, (written about the forts erected by the Province of New Jersey for protection against the Indians), writes that Captain Emanuel Hover owned lands surrounding Fort Walpack. Although this is a true statement, Manuel Hover was not a Captain in the French and Indian War, he was a Captain during the Revolutionary War.

(Continued in the 2021 Winter Edition.)

VAN CAMPEN INN BEING RESPECTFULLY REPAIRED

by Audrey Schwab



If you happen to travel down the Old Mine Road and wander past Walpack's historic Van Campen Inn, you may register that something about this circa 1750 structure appears just a bit brighter and certainly more welcoming.

Walpack Historical Society craftsmen have been hard

at work scraping paint, dismantling the porch staircase to the front entry, preparing and replacing the purloined porch scrollwork and putting everything carefully back together again. With expert guidance from the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) park architect and the materials purchase through DEWA, the project has generated much positive response from those fortunate enough to find our craftsmen hard at work.

Over the course of the project, other Walpack Historical Society members have assisted with the more mundane tasks of scraping, painting, transfer of scrap building materials to a DEWA dumpster and general work-site cleanup. Some of us have even reflected upon the honor it must be to contribute to the building's integrity. We wondered what our craftsmen thought about as they stopped to mop a brow or take a swig of water and perhaps gaze out over the Shapanack Flats. Did they reflect upon the idea that their personal touch would be forever a part of a centuries old structure so steeped in history? We asked them. They looked at us and simply went back to work. A quiet man's thoughts are his own. Thank you Danny and Hixon; you are forever a part of our Walpack History.

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WALPACK LOSES A DEAR FRIEND: BEVERLY GORDON



The Walpack Historical Society was deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of Beverly Gordon. Beverly and her husband Bruce have been Life Members and strong supporters of our Society for many years. Beverly will be widely and warmly remembered for her deep commitment

to many Sussex County philanthropic endeavors; most notably the leadership role she assumed in the advancement of the endeavors of Project Self Sufficiency, an organization based in Newton dedicated to assisting community members in crisis or in need.

On our more personal level, Beverly and Bruce

reached out to the Walpack Historical Society when we were seeking membership support for the repairs to the Walpack Center United Methodist Church. Their generosity greatly assisted us in being able to advance the cost share repairs to that historic structure made by our Society and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. If you happened to join us in September of 2019 for the vintage film presentation of *These Thirty Years*, you will recall the variety of classic automobiles displayed in front of the Walpack Church that Bruce and Beverly helped to assemble. Their presence and support always inspired us, and Beverly's sincerity and graciousness will always be remembered by those of us whose lives she touched.

Beverly's obituary can be viewed in the September 6, 2020 *New Jersey Sunday Herald*; njherald.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, and also maintains a small museum and book store.