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VAN CAMPEN INN IN NEED *by Audrey Schwab*

There is perhaps no singular structure that better embodies the historic significance, colonial architectural integrity, and cultural influence of The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area than the Van Campen Inn on Old Mine Road. Built in the mid 18th Century of native stone and ancient timbers, this magnificent home on what was once the very edge of the New Jersey frontier, has withstood floods, sheltered early inhabitants from hostile Indian attacks and skirmishes, and rewarded those who farmed the fertile fields of the Shapanack Flats with nature's bounty. A silent witness to the passage of time and recent neglect, the Van Campen Inn is in quite urgent need of multiple interventions.

Following the extensive repairs and restoration efforts of The National Park Service during the 1980s, the structure has become a victim of a harsh environment and maintenance neglect. Window frames are rotting, chimneys are spalling, the roof is leaking and the front porch access and steps are degrading. The Walpack Historical Society has proudly interpreted this venerable structure for decades and is now taking an active lead in seeing to necessary remediation efforts. Partnering with DEWA, we have established a committee of WHS member volunteers to begin to address these issues.

After a cellar to roofline inspection, the WHS committee members met with DEWA's architectural specialist to establish a workable solution to remediation goals that can be accomplished within the scope of our more modest volunteer efforts. We cannot repair a roof; replace window sashes and historic woodwork; or properly address masonry; but it was determined that the repair and some replacement of the front entry staircase was well within our volunteer efforts.

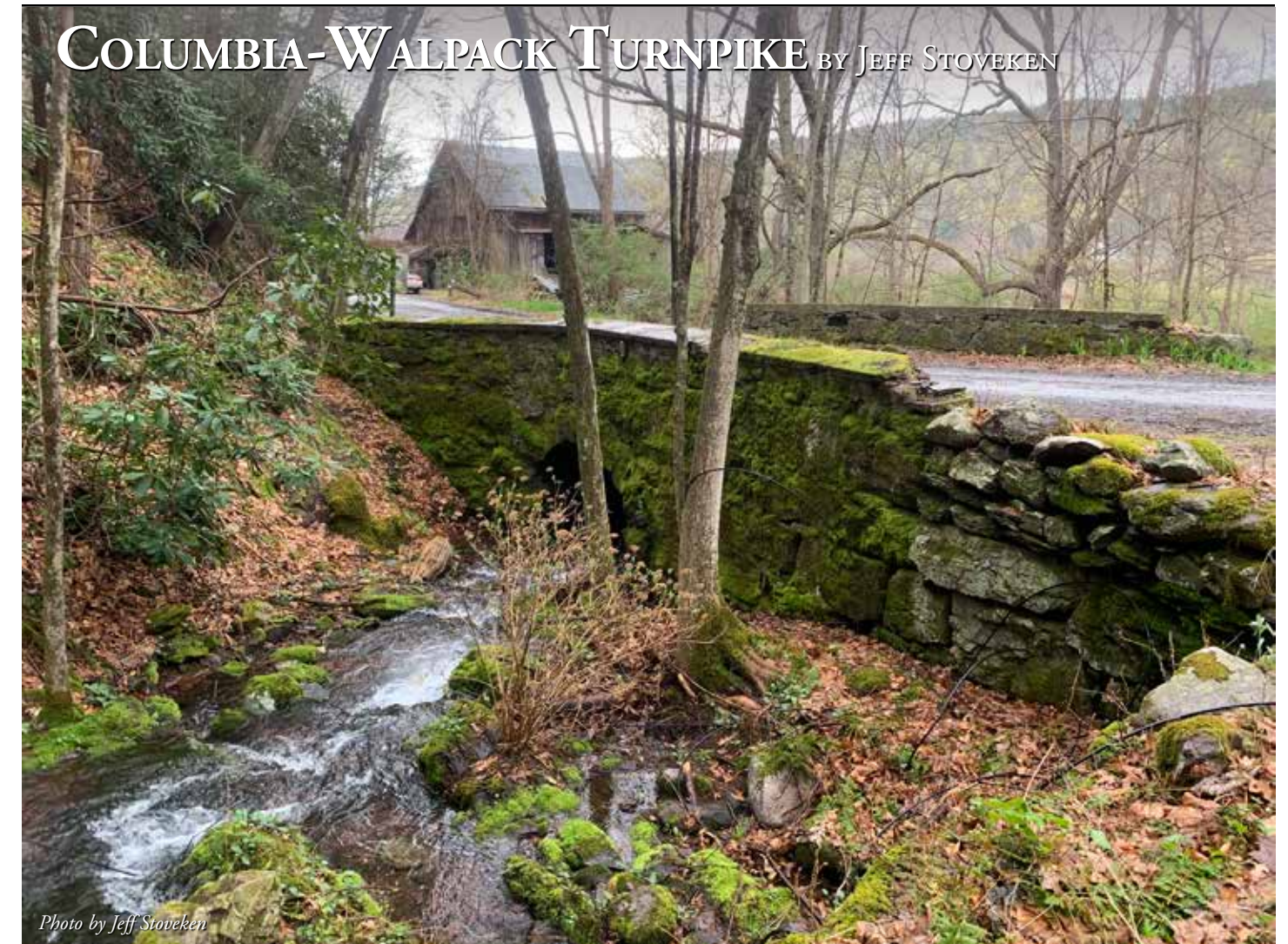
Our hardworking team has already spent countless hours assessing the damage to the staircase treads, risers, balusters and railings. They have established a work plan and compiled a materials list and cost analysis. After further discussion with the Park Service architect, a work project plan is now being prepared for DEWA's overview and approval. Though it may be a somewhat hopeful goal, the WHS is striving to garner the necessary DEWA approvals and make the identified repairs in time for our annual Van Campen Day in October of this year.

As always, the Walpack Historical Society welcomes those in our membership community and beyond who may have the skills or simply the interest to join our efforts to protect the priceless historic, architectural and cultural treasures of the Walpack area that are under serious pressure due to lack of available funding and skilled restoration staffing that currently plagues all of our national parks. We are quite frankly, running out of time to protect and preserve our historic structures.

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.



I first heard of the Columbia-Walpack Turnpike when I visited Millbrook Village and saw the tollgate along the old roadway. I saw where it came out of the woods and wondered how it went to Walpack. Even though there weren't any cars in the early 1800s, turnpike companies were being chartered to create, improve and maintain major routes in the county. The names typically reflected both major towns that were serviced by the particular road. Tolls collected went towards funding and maintenance. Ruts, rocks and water could make traveling by wagon challenging.

Years later, I was finally able to hike this forgotten road, now called Mountain Road. Entering the road heading south near the green bridge at Haney's Mill the road passes by some interesting stonewalls and property borders. The forest seems to be wide-open here and offers really good views of the road ahead and some foundations off to the

sides. The foundations are the only hint that this road served a purpose at one time.

This road runs between the Blue Mountains to the East and the Flatbrook to the West. The mountain is dotted with streams and waterfalls that eventually feed into the Flatbrook. The roadway passed over these little creeks by means of small bridges. These bridges are barely noticeable if you're just walking on the roadway looking straight ahead but if you happen to catch a glimpse at the very edge you'll notice separate blocks of stone jutting out. I stood on the edge of one and peered over and was amazed at the amount of stone that created this little bridge. When I stood and looked at it from the creek I could see the actual work that was put into it. I also realized that I've never seen a bridge of this construction and quickly realized that it's very possible that it was original to this 1819 Turnpike. The abutments were very close together

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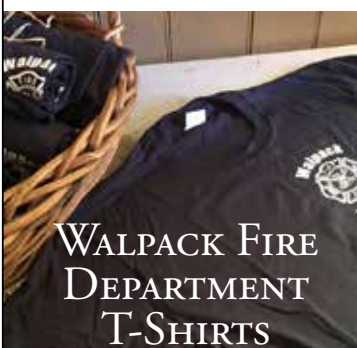
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Event Photos by Tom Dust
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THE VAN CAMPEN INN - FOR SALE! (NOT REALLY)

A real estate sales brochure for the Van Campen Inn from the late 1960's (The Beisler's sold it to Bernice Haydu in 1966.) was recently found and given to the WHS. Download a PDF copy and see history for yourself. <https://walpackhistory.org/places/>



THE SEAMY SIDE OF SUMMER by Audrey Schwab

The Walpack Historical Society eagerly anticipates the many visitors who enjoy the lush scenery and rich history of The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Sadly, our many historic but mostly isolated structures are frequent targets of break-ins, vandalism, and thrill-seeking. There is undeniably a very evocative quality inherent in the once proud homes, barns and out-buildings that tenuously cling to their existence; struggling to survive the elements and the neglect of decades of abandonment. The season of summer is a dangerous time for them all.

Last summer brought a rash of break-ins to nearly every structure in Walpack Center. Doors were kicked in and windows shattered on more than one occasion. Outlier properties were similarly targeted. This season has already had a number of reported incidents and fortunately at least one apprehension by our DEWA Law Enforcement Rangers.

The Walpack Historical Society, DEWA Historic Property Stewards and other volunteers within the Park are working to keep these malicious intrusions to a minimum. Weeds are whacked, and grass is mowed by volunteers at several historic properties including, Lennington, Hill, Dodd, Birchenough, Jane Layton, Snable-Rundle and Knight. The Lower

Walpack Cemetery has recently been mowed and cleared of weeds; lost and forgotten gravestones have been reset, and American flags placed at the gravesites of Veterans. Park employees are mowing at Walpack Center and the grounds surrounding the Van Campen Inn among other DEWA locations. The WHS has posted signage on the historic properties in Walpack Center that provide brief historical snippets of their history and mention of those who once lived in and loved them. We hope to expand this practice and hopefully better convey the significance of the structural treasures that others may view as derelict and abandoned. Education and enlightenment may be the most effective tools we can employ against wanton destruction and perhaps is the easiest for us to employ.

As in years past, we continue to monitor the timer-controlled lamps that have been placed in structures that still have power, and have placed solar powered lighting in the off-the-grid properties to which we have access. We are hopeful that all of these efforts will be some small deterrent to those with malicious intent and serve to promote a greater sense of reverence and respect that we and most of our visitors have for this very special place.

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COLUMBIA-WALPACK TURNPIKE *continued from pg. 1*

which created almost a fireplace look to it. And as you get underneath it you can look up and see the 10-12-inch-thick stone slabs that were laid across to continue the road bed. If these bridges were indeed almost 200 years old, they were still in really great shape other than one of the

slabs cracking and falling down. When the second bridge duplicated the same construction, it was evident that they were from the same era and probably original bridges. I also came to learn that a couple of these bridges are still open to vehicles and they happen to be ones I've traveled



many times on Mountain Road in Walpack. Anyone who has gone to Buttermilk Falls has most likely driven over at least one.

When I got home that night I researched a little bit of the history of that turnpike and ironically, I found an article dated January 20, 1819 reporting that the charter for this new roadway was being approved, and we were walking this exactly 200 years later!

Although we set out to walk this road to see whatever old foundations or mill sites we may stumble on, these bridges were definitely the prize!



Photos by Jeff Stoveken

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.

LOWER WALPACK CEMETERY: MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION BY Sharon Spangenberg

Several members of the Walpack Historical Society have volunteered their time maintaining the Lower Walpack Cemetery. Late last year those members saw the cemetery was in need of care and assisted two Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area property stewards in mowing the overgrown cemetery.

This year, during the month of May, they decided to take over the responsibility of maintaining this ancient cemetery that dates back to the mid 1700's. While assessing the cemetery needs, they saw that besides mowing, downed tree limbs needed to be removed, invasive brush needed to be cut, fallen gravestones needed to be re-erected, and individual American flags needed to be replaced for the nine that were either laying on the ground or badly tattered.

In time for the Fourth of July, the cemetery was mowed, invasive brush was cut, and new American flags were placed at gravesites honoring two veterans from the Revolutionary War, one from the War of 1812, and six from the Civil War.

In addition, a large American flag was raised in the center of the cemetery in tribute to those brave men who fought for our country. A solar light was installed to provide proper light during the hours of darkness.

Many footstones plus several previously unrecorded grave markers were found. They have been photo-documented and at some point in time will be posted to the Find-A-Grave website.

In addition, a Civil War flag grave marker was uncovered.

The uniqueness about this find is that it was located at the base of a female's headstone under a tree. Although an unusual discovery, there was not an easy way to remove it from the ground as it was wedged on something.



Upon examination, it was realized that roots from the tree were intertwined on the reverse side of the marker. After a lot of root clipping, the head of the marker was lifted out. It was not the typical bronze Civil War marker found in most local cemeteries; rather it was made of cast iron and had "Post 111" inscribed in the center of the five-pointed star. On a subsequent work day, the broken cast iron stake was found about eight feet away from the first discovery. Research determined that Post 111 in New Jersey was the Captain George V. Griggs Post in Newton; however, the list of names provided on the internet for that Post did not match anyone buried in the Lower Walpack Cemetery. A

subsequent check for neighboring states using the same post number did not provide a match either. Although still a mystery, research will continue to determine the name of the veteran. In the meantime, the large root was removed by placing the marker in a fire. Besides burning the root, the fire also loosened the rust. All pieces were then placed in a boric acid solution overnight, wire brushed, then sprayed with a rust reformer. After the pieces are welded together it will be secured by the Walpack Historical Society until the identity of the honored veteran is determined and the grave marker can be returned to its proper place.



For those interested in knowing about the common Civil War grave marker seen in local cemeteries,

- Its design came from the original Civil War medal that was awarded to Union veterans.

- It is shaped as a five-pointed star measuring 4 1/2 inches between each point.

- Each point is shaped like a three leaf clover with another five-pointed star in the center.

- Below each point are five symbols representing the branches of the Civil War:

- Crossed sabers – Cavalry

- Crossed muskets – Marines

- Crossed cannons – Artillery

- Anchor – Navy

- Bugle - Infantry

- In the double circled center of the marker are the letters GAR for the Grand Army of the Republic.

- Two dates are inscribed on the bronze markers: 1861 with 1865 below representing the start and the end of the war.

- Post 111 is inscribed on the cast iron marker found in the Lower Walpack Cemetery; however, the dates of the war are not included.



As for the Lower Walpack Cemetery, maintenance will continue, as well as restoration, repair, and documentation of all grave markers.



Gravestones Pictured on Preceding Page

Rev. War: William Hill, Nathaniel Van Auken

War of 1812: Andrew D. Decker

Civil War: Alexander Hornbeck, Simeon Earl, George A. Garis, Henry D. Snover, Daniel S. Smith, and George Labar

THE LARGE TOBACCO SHED by Sharon Spangenberg

While scanning microfilmed copies of the *New Jersey Herald*, available at the County Library, I came across an item that caught my eye.

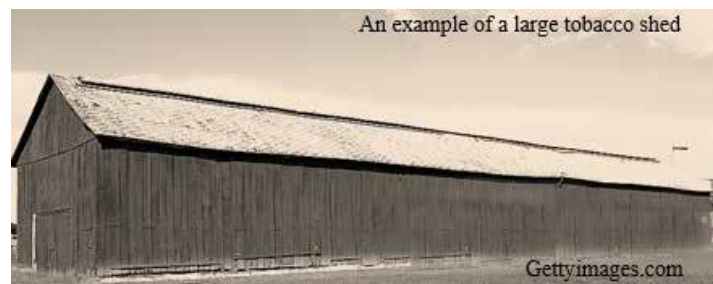
In the December 3rd, 1903 edition under the Bevans section, there was mention of a man identified as A. R. Youngs who purchased and moved the large tobacco shed off the Berk farm along the river to his lot in Branchville to be converted into a house. This sparked my interest so I shared it with Jen, a trustee of the Walpack Historical Society. (The Berk farm is the same property on which the Van Campen Inn is located.)

We wondered whether this shed/house was still standing in Branchville 115 years later, thus, my research began.

A recorded deed at the Sussex County Hall of Records showed that A. R. Youngs' given name was Allen and that on April 28, 1903 he purchased less than a half-acre of land in Branchville from Joseph H. McDanolds. Other recorded deeds revealed that after the death of Mr. Youngs in 1936, his wife Hattie sold the property to Mary Wintermute in 1944. The property was then conveyed to Galen and Mary Sutphin on July 2, 1952.

With this much information, I turned to my long-time friend Sonya Hulbert, who has lived on Broad Street in Branchville since the early 1950's. As suspected, Sonya knew the exact location of the house and said that Mary Sutphin was still occupying it, and that a large barn stood behind the house. We wondered whether this barn was the 'large tobacco shed' that was moved there in 1903. Following a telephone call to Mrs. Sutphen and subsequent contacts with her son-in-law, Joe Santora, a date was arranged for a visit to the 1903 house and barn.

Prior to our meeting, I continued searching. On-line computer research revealed that tobacco sheds, as they were specifically called, ranged from small buildings to large barns hundreds of feet in length. If one took the writer of the December 3, 1903 column literally, moving the large tobacco shed in Walpack would have been an impossible task in 1903. Farmers did not have the equipment to move buildings as is done today, especially traveling 13 miles over the mountain from Walpack to



An example of a large tobacco shed

Gettyimages.com

Branchville. Therefore, Mr. Youngs undoubtedly had the large tobacco shed dismantled and the lumber moved to Branchville.

Scanning other *Heralds* revealed a lengthy story in the September 14, 1893 edition titled

"Tobacco Plant in the Delaware Valley." In it the writer said that three immense tobacco sheds were erected on

the Berk Farm each measuring at least 200 ft. x 30 ft.

Additional newspaper research showed that in July 1903, one of the 'large tobacco sheds' blew down in a hail storm, a second shed was carried away down the Delaware River after the October 1903 flood, and the third shed was purchased by A. R. Youngs.

In the November 26, 1903 edition under the Branchville column Mr. Youngs was "preparing to erect a \$4000 house on his lot in Branchville near the (train) station."

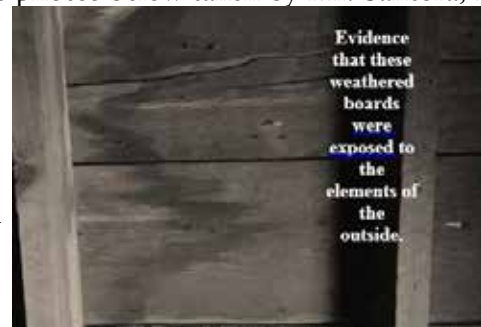
Jennie Sweetman wrote a story for the *Herald* in 1998 titled "Van Campen Inn Once Used as a Tobacco Farm." In her column, she referenced long-time Walpack Historical Society member and trustee Len Peck who had previously done research on the tobacco industry in Walpack. Jennie wrote that 200,000 plants were set out on 25 acres of the Berk farm and that although the crop yields were successful, finding a suitable market was overlooked. From a December 1894 news article Jennie quoted that "the tobacco growers are disgusted with the business and that the probabilities are that little, if any will be planted in the future. Those raising it for the last two or three years have it all on their hands yet and cannot secure a good offer for it."

Having completed my research, Sonya and I met Mr. Santora. He told us about his mother-in-law's house built in 1903 located diagonally across from the railroad station on Broad Street. He said it was once used as a tea house called Rosedale and showed us pictures of the beautiful original interior of the house plus photos taken inside the attic. He also showed us the interior of the three-car garage/barn that he said was previously used as a carriage house.

As a result of my follow up research from my initial discovery, and the photos below taken by Mr. Santora, I am confident that the wood used in Mrs. Sutphin's attic was once the lumber from the 'large tobacco shed' in Walpack. I am very grateful for Joe Santora's support in helping prove that a small piece of Walpack's forgotten history from 115 years ago is located on Broad Street in Branchville. Although Mary Sutphin's house has always been part of Branchville's history, we now know its connection with Walpack and what Allen R. Young did with the 'large tobacco shed' that he moved from Mr. Berk's farm in 1903.



Unused holes in the attic wall show that these boards had been previously nailed



Evidence that these weathered boards were exposed to the elements of the outside.

2019 CALENDAR

April 7	Spring Hike to the Gunn House
April 28	Spring Dinner at <i>The Walpack Inn</i>
May 19	The Smith Descendants of Walpack/ Walpack Church Rededication
June 1	<i>National Trail Day</i>
June 23	Fort Nomanock Presentation - Sharon Spangenberg
July 21	History of Fire Towers, Mike Orłowski
Aug. 18	Artistic Heritage by Marie Liu
Sept. 8	TBA
Oct. 13	Van Campen Day
Nov. 3	Fall Hike, TBA
Dec. 7	Walpack Christmas - Church and Museum open
Dec. 8	Holiday Dinner - Walpack Inn
Dec. 14 & 15	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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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 2019 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 to 2019 in order to remain on our mailing list. Thank you!

BE A PART OF HISTORY - DOCENTS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



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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Todd Michael Smith
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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 M.E. Church Restoration Project and to our General Fund.

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