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IN THIS VALLEY

Concerning the last day in Walpack, New Jersey.

In this valley,
With its gathering of blossoms
Mountain Laurel, Apple, Pear -
We walk in golden grass
To the stately Oak
Which was a part
Of both then and now
And sitting in its generous arms
Wonder
What happened to the farm
Where is the teacher
The mailman
Where has everyone gone?

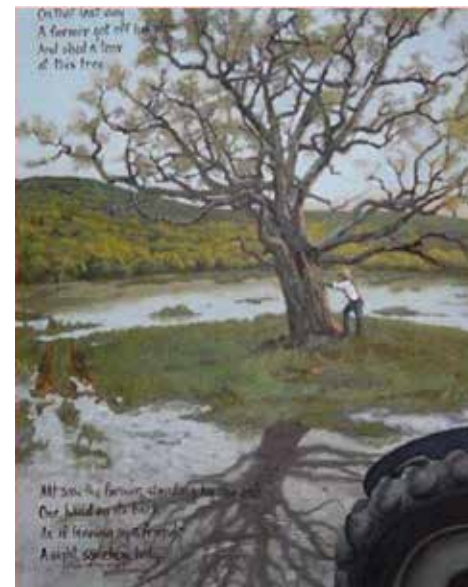
And shed a tear at this tree
The schoolmaster knew it was
perhaps the last bell -
And rang it pensively,
As the mailman shut the boxes
Slowly.

All saw the farmer,
standing by the Oak
One hand on its bark,
As if leaning on a friend -

A sight, somehow, holy.

To which there are various answers -
A scattering of clues:
Abandoned homes, pink
wallpaper peeling
Glass bottle of laundry bluing -
But from behind the veil of closed eyes
All the information we need -
On that last day.
A Farmer got off his plow

*Poetry by Kerri Nicole McCaffrey
Art by Marie Liu*



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.

Walpack Day 2018

by Audrey Schwab

Tucked in among endless days of rain and gloom, Sunday, September 23, dawned dry and pleasant enough; a "Welcome Home" gift to our Walpack Historical Society members and friends.



Bringing Walpack Center back to life with commerce and postal services, Cathy Rush and Mike Orlowski.

A committee began planning our "Stroll Down Main Street and A Peek Inside" back in April of this year when we were still quite uncertain as to what we might be permitted to do and just how to present the event. Most of the buildings in Walpack Center are not accessible to the Walpack Historical Society, do not have electrical service and are generally not entirely visitor friendly. We rolled up our sleeves and set to work. With Park Service approval, we began the cleanup and clean out of the General Store/Post Office for the first of many times that it took to make it presentable. We had previously rid the building of dozens of long stored paint cans, mouse nests and other detritus of decades past only to find the rodents really liked living there and needed to be chased from their mouse condos all over again. When we assessed what space we had available for safe visitor access, we began to plan how to present the building. We had in our Walpack Historical Society files a very detailed written description of the store and post office from Julia Ellett Lewis, the young daughter of the 1912-1922 proprietor/



Cathy Rush, 1987

owners. We took some of those memories into account as we attempted to bring the building to life. We brought vintage items out of storage and stocked our store and post office shelves with them and other generously loaned and donated Walpack family antiques. The turning point occurred when one of our trustees made a connection

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OUR WALPACK FAMILY BRINGS THEIR TREASURES HOME

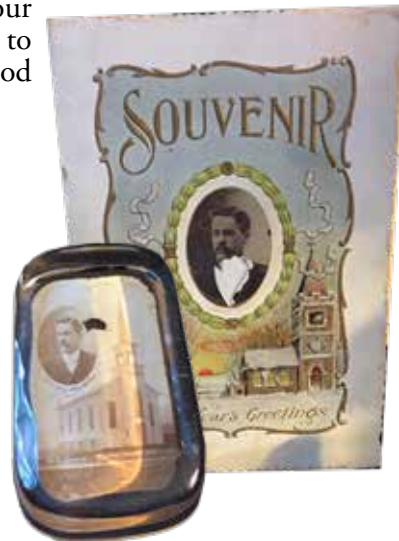
The Walpack Historical Society has accepted many priceless donations to our collections over the past several months. Sonya Hulbert contributed two large antique spice tins, one of which had been in her family for generations. Lee Whitmore, a descendant of Barnea Whitmore, who served as Reverend of the Walpack M. E. Church in the early 1900s, donated a family heirloom paperweight and vintage booklet dating to the Reverend's service in Walpack Center. Member Rich Brazicki contributed to the vintage feel of the General Store with the donation of an antique cash register and a wonderful old advertising sign depicting



"Little Miss Sunbeam" charmingly warning against parking in front of the store. Daughters of Clyde Ellett, a 1912-1922 resident of what we know today as the Rosenkrans House Museum, gifted the Society with a delicate hand-carved toy farm wagon, driver, and horse team, complete with leather harness and a working brake system. The Ellett Family descendants also presented us with a horsehair sleigh blanket used during their winter forays throughout Walpack, and a very large beautifully pieced quilt. Sharon and Hixon Spangenberg added to our

hearth display with a trammel used to adjust the height of a cooking pot in food preparation.

The Walpack Historical Society is very grateful for these and all contributions that help us interpret our Walpack past. We deeply appreciate your generosity and are always pleased to welcome your family treasures back home. If you have an item that you would like to donate for the enjoyment of all of the friends, visitors and members of The Walpack Historical Society, please contact us at (973) 948-4903



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

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

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WALPACK DAY 2018 *continued*



media platforms and through a select few local businesses; most notably The Walpack Inn whose email blast on our behalf reached hundreds of their patron friends. In an effort to keep our crowd size manageable, we restricted advertising to a local newspaper. When Walpack Sunday dawned and the entire team converged to make the final preparations, we had no idea if we were to expect forty or four hundred village guests. By noon we were busy; an hour later we were inundated. As traffic clogged Main Street and backed up on access roads, some of the team began to think about finding a good place to hide. Those members assigned to parking and traffic control ultimately prevailed and efficiently found areas to handle the vehicular overflow. It was a bit scary there for a while, as visitors' safety was always our most critical concern.

Over the course of the afternoon, sleepy Walpack was revitalized by over one thousand guests seeking to better understand the secrets of its past and the Walpack Historical Society's hopes for its future. With the ongoing support of the Park Service and most of all our members and friends, our restoration efforts will continue, our mission to preserve and promote area history will be furthered, and more Walpack Days will be planned to welcome our growing family home. We sincerely thank you all.

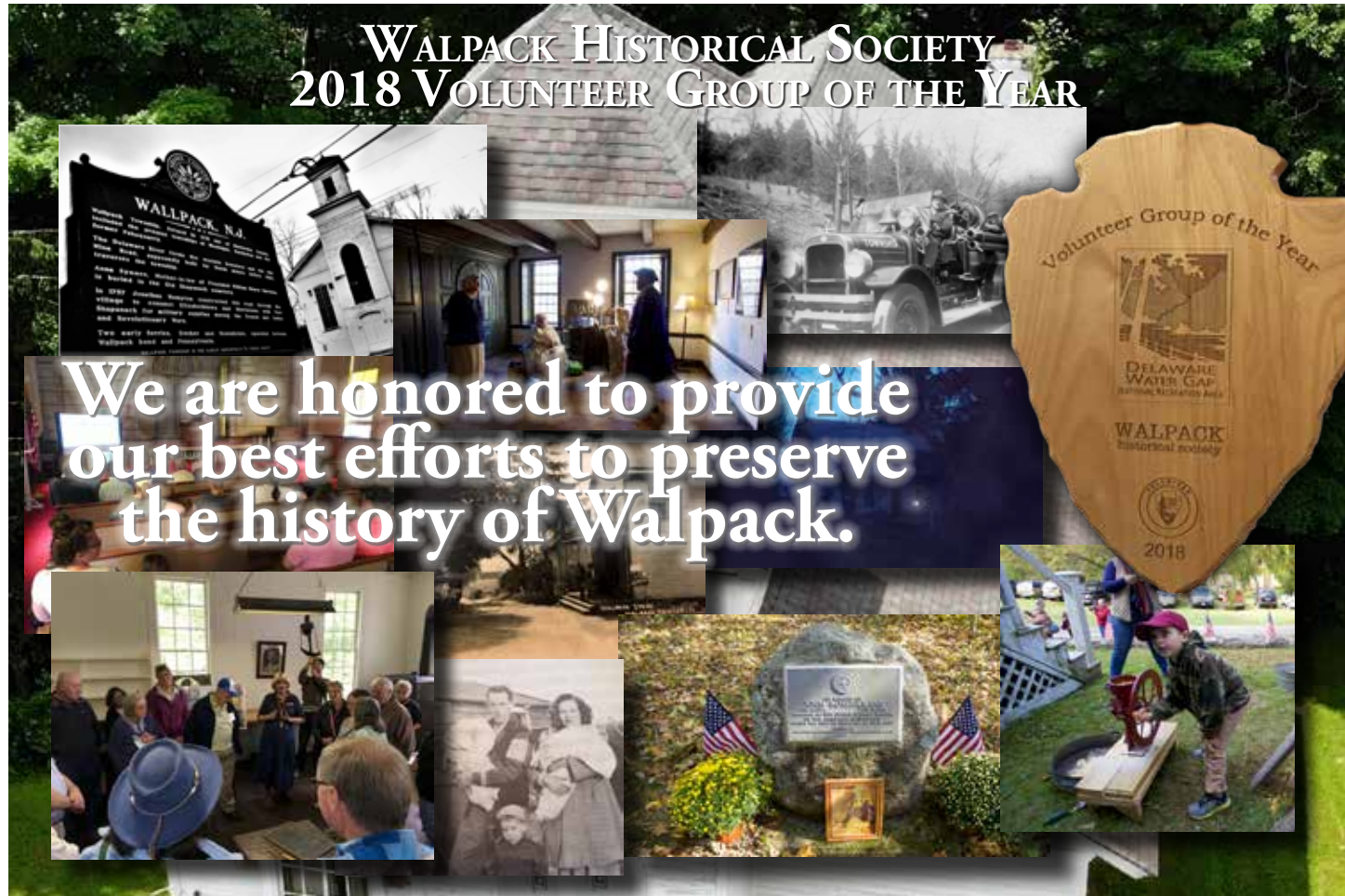


Allyson Schwab-Miller, purchasing the first stamps in 30 years.



WALPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018 VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR

We are honored to provide our best efforts to preserve the history of Walpack.



STALKING THE WILEY WILD TURKEY BY AUDREY SCHWAB



History often sheds light on the wisdom and good humor of some of our most famous Founding Fathers. It is well-known that Benjamin Franklin favored the wild turkey over the bald eagle as the symbol of our young country. Ben took exception to the bald eagle's opportunistic hunting method of frequently stealing prey from the talons of the successful captor. Ben stated, "In truth, the turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original Native of America...he is besides, though a little vain and silly, a bird of courage and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his farm yard with a red coat on."

Ben's reflections upon the tenacity of the wild turkey would be upheld and probably expounded upon by many a suburban homeowner today whose neighborhood has come under siege and even held hostage by the territorial nature of the more civilized version of the species. The wild turkeys we see in their more natural habitat areas such as the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) are savvy, elusive and resourceful to the extent that the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife notes the success

rate for bagging a wild turkey in New Jersey is about 18%. The reintroduction of the wild turkey to DEWA specifically, is a remarkable success story. Early in our colonial history, the turkey had been present in plentiful numbers here and elsewhere in the eastern United States. By the turn of the twentieth century, the species had almost entirely disappeared; the result of over hunting and loss of habitat as a result of the land clearing for timber and agricultural pursuits. The turkey prefers a hardwood and mixed conifer-hardwood forest with scattered breaks of pastures or fields; a common feature of our DEWA park land today. In the spring of 1977, twenty-three wild turkeys were reintroduced along the eastern Delaware and Flatbrook Valleys north of the Delaware Water Gap. In the spring of 1981, the local population increased to the point where wildlife managers allowed a limited spring hunt for male or tom turkeys west of the Kittatinny Range. According to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, the spring 1981 gobbler harvest yielded 71 birds while the spring 2017 harvest yielded 3,011 male turkeys; a testament to the successful management of the population.

The 2018 fall turkey season is one seven-day period from October 27 through November 3 (excluding Sunday, October 28). During the fall season, turkeys of either sex may be taken whereas only male turkeys may be taken in the spring. The hunter must therefore be keenly aware of distinguishing sex characteristics between the male and female birds. The tom turkey, or gobbler is usually larger and has a tuft of

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WALPACK DAY 2018 *continued from pg. 1*



with the last postal employee to work in Walpack Center when the post office had officially closed its doors in 1988. With enormous support from the US Postal Service, it was planned to reopen the post office for the day with that same postal employee resuming her duties selling stamps and cancelling post cards and envelopes with a specially created commemorative "Walpack Remembered" stamp. We then knew we had the critical element with the potential to attract a great deal of local interest.

As we toiled away at the physical preparations of "cleaning, straightening and fixing" within the village, one of our very gifted members set out to do a deed search of the entire Walpack Center village. Along with another talented member, the two began an exhaustive search of local and county records to seek archival sources to augment and substantiate our known historical record. A trip or two to Trenton and hours spent combing Sussex County sources for deed records, microfilm, Historical Society archives and old newspapers yielded a clearer picture of what we thought we knew and brought to light a plethora of previously undiscovered facts, photos and of stories of things we did not.

Fast forward to endless group cogitating sessions as to how we might best put it all together and accurately present our findings in a way that would provide the best experience for our visitors. We decided to let our archival photos do the interpretation for us and thereby interface the historic era with the present day. Much of our interpretation focused upon the village as it appeared around 1915 when most of the existing Walpack Center structures were part of the current streetscape. Buildings, no longer in existence were pictorially or through posted signage returned to their place in the village. We created or had made signage, posters, and explanatory write ups for all of our existing structures and a few of our historic trees. We then had to get creative as to how to post our large photo boards. The Park Service does not allow stakes to be arbitrarily driven into the ground due to the potential disruption of subsurface artifacts. Our solution wasn't at all pretty with distracting orange traffic cones EVERYWHERE. We tried to soften their edges with a truck load of potted mums that refused to be coaxed into their ultimately very impressive, but very tardy bloom.

As many aspects of the day began to fall into place, we knew we were not adequately addressing our most critical missing element...the people. Our Walpack story was woefully incomplete without the presence of those who once lived and worked here. We set to work tracking down the individuals and families who once called Walpack home. We wish we could have done much better, but we are pleased that many of these special guests returned as our VIPs. Their presence and personal reflections provided the critical element we needed to breathe life into our story boards and exhaustive research. Reunions of long ago school chums, neighbors and descendant family members were emotional and energizing. We are so very grateful to all of our returning Walpack alumni.

As September drew near, we began to post our Walpack Day event on our own social

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STALKING THE WILEY WILD TURKEY *continued from pg. 4*

feathers called a beard on his chest, but females, or hens occasionally have a beard as well. The male has spurs on his lower legs and is more brilliantly colored in the head and neck area that also features a red wattle or lobe of skin that hangs from the neck or chin. Gobblers also have a flap of skin or snood that hangs down over the bill and can change size, color and shape depending upon his mood and activities. In the wild, turkeys generally have a life span of about 3-5 years; range in size from 36-44 inches in length and generally weigh between 5-20 pounds. They are readily seen in DEWA traveling in flocks (also called rafters), while springtime often heralds the appearance of the hens with their trailing parade of fluffy new poults.

If you are fortunate enough to observe the wild male turkey during the spring mating season, you may be witness to one of nature's most dramatic displays. Ben Franklin's "vain bird" earnestly beckons to the neighborhood females with a gobble that can be heard up to a mile away. The proud tom furthers his display by fanning out his tail and strutting with wing tips lowered and dragging upon the ground. Hens cannot gobble, but have a repertoire of calls of their own, communicating to their paramours with a series of yelps and cackles. This is where hunting the wild turkey becomes an artful sport as the calls used to attract the birds are many and not easy to replicate to successfully lure the wary gobbler to the hunter's lair. That wariness,

plus the ability to run up to 25 miles per hour and fly close to the ground for up to a quarter of a mile with great agility and at speeds equivalent of 55 miles per hour make for a very worthy opponent.

To take to the woods with a turkey hunter is a valuable experience in reading the signs of their presence. While hiking with the Walpack Historical Society in the area of the Decker Ferry House last fall, an avid turkey hunter within the group showed us the leaf scratchings on field edges where turkeys had recently fed. The distinctive three-toed markings in wet areas were of varying sizes and showed evidence of several birds passing through. For those of us who are not given to hunting the bird, perhaps slowing down and simply looking for evidence of their passing or perhaps finding a feather or two is exciting enough.

As hikes along woodland paths and verges of fields beckon to us this season, and should you be fortunate enough to happen upon a flock of these wiley, agile birds; grab your camera quickly, as they are likely to take flight and artfully wend their way through even thick stands of trees to seek higher ground and a place of refuge from prying eyes. Best also be reminded that Ben Franklin's "bird of courage" may not take kindly to a red coat invader in his big back yard!

A GIFT FROM ONE MAN'S PAST BY AUDREY SCHWAB

Imagine a young city boy coming of age in the 1950s. Pluck that adventuresome 16-year-old from the asphalt fields of Jersey City and transplant him among strangers, on a somewhat remote farm in a quiet agrarian community along the banks of the Delaware River. Welcome to the Knight Farm, young Robert C. Brandt, may the cultivated friendships and unique experiences of three Walpack summers reward you for a lifetime.

Fast forward nearly seventy years to October 2018, when Walpack Historical Society Member, Bob Brandt and his wife Joyce were welcomed to the Van Campen Inn by several officers, trustees and members of the Society. The occasion was over three years and some 1,000 hours in the making, as Bob presented his meticulously crafted scale model of the Knight farmhouse to the Walpack Historical Society. Bob's artistry is a gift to us all and represents the respect and affection he has for the people and place that shaped much of his life.

Bob reflected that his hours spent crafting the tiny roof slates, delicate window muntins, chimneys and even a well house, took him back to his teen years when life experiences make vivid imprints on a youthful mind. Even the sometimes tedious painting of tiny lattice, wooden porch floor boards, bricks and stone, were hours well spent with his Walpack past. Though the days of his youth were pleasant to revisit, Bob maintains that he will always be eagerly looking toward the future. Fortunately for our future visitors to the Van Campen Inn and seasonally to the Rosenkrans Museum, a priceless piece of Bob's well-remembered past will be here to greet us all.



(Bob Brandt's memorable coming of age booklet, Summer Knights Revisited is available for sale in Walpack Historical Society's on-line bookstore. Please visit our website for details and order information)

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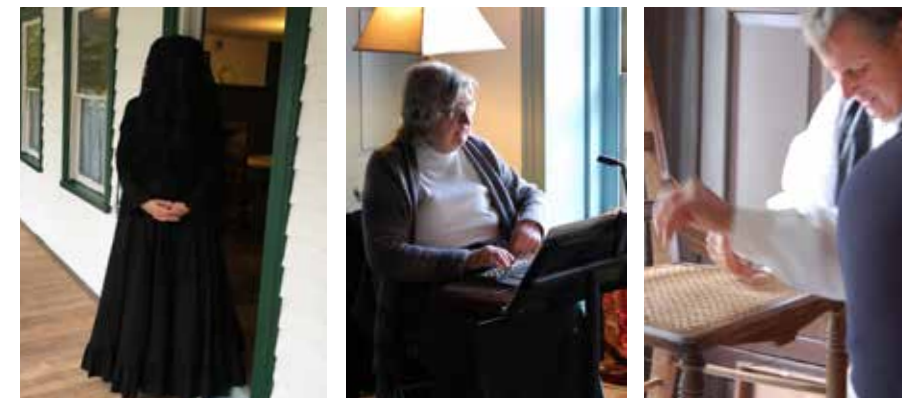
THANK YOU!

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

Lee Whitmore
Dale W. Cottrell
Carl & Gail Leypoldt
Genna Fairclough
David Gilbreth
Jutta Seeler
Eva Heater

Jeffrey & Sandra Svenningsen

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

Donna Cameron
Sandra Christman
The D'Anne Family
Genna Fairclough
David Gilbreth
Gloria Hardiman
Rick & Toby Lear
Drew Lontos
Joanne Farrell
David Pierce
Matthew Schroeder
Elizabeth Spadola
Roy E. Aber
Lisa Fernandez
The Conboy Family

Donations Are Welcome!

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