

WALPACK

historical society

"Preserving a Fine
Tradition of Caring"

www.walpackhistory.org

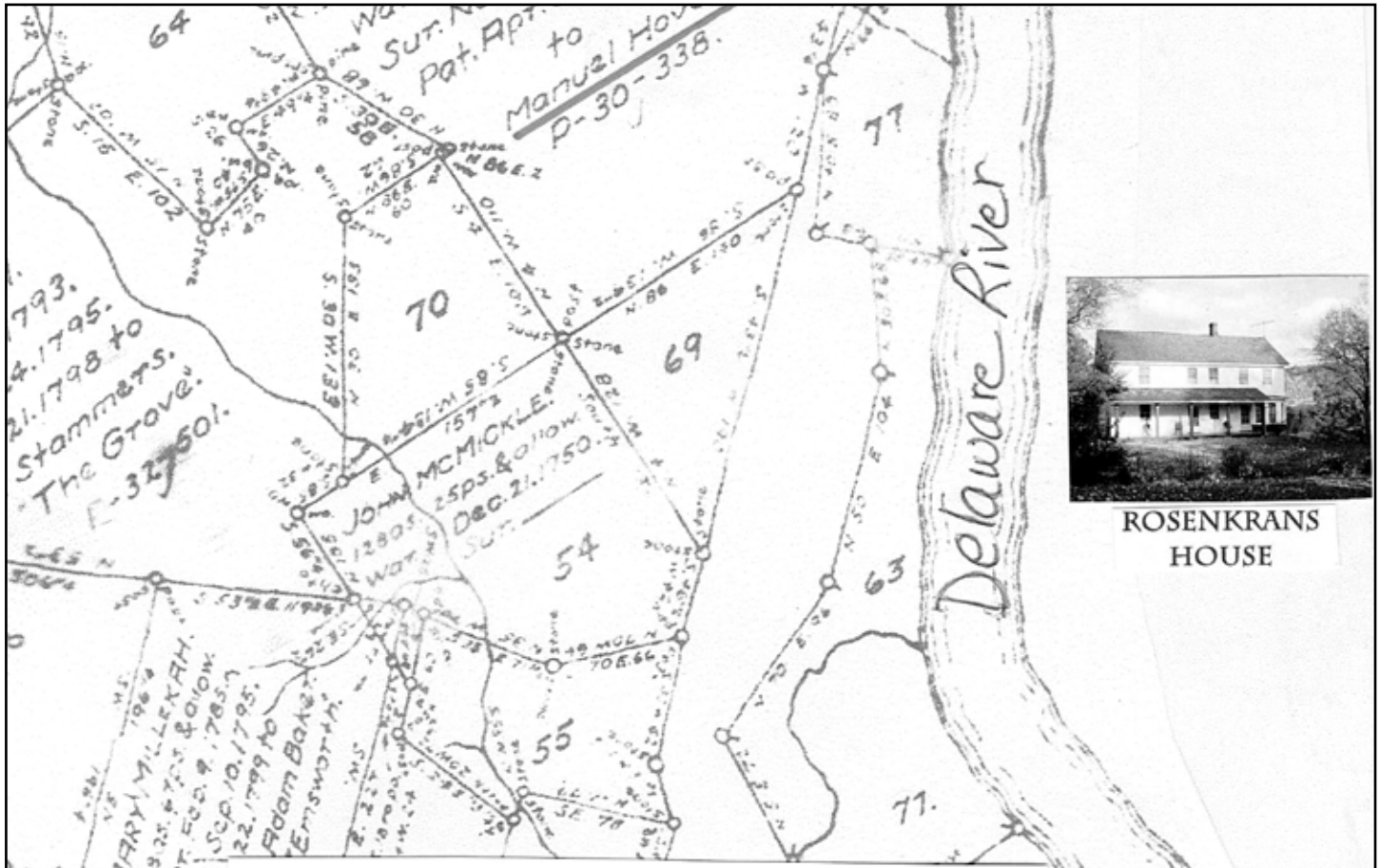
Newsletter of the
Walpack Historical Society

Published Quarterly

Winter 2021

CAPTAIN MANUEL HOVER RESIDENT OF LOWER WALPACK

by Sharon Spangenberg



(Continued from the Fall 2020 Edition)

The following is an excerpt of an 1842 claim by four heirs of Manuel Hover to the Thirtieth Congress, House of Representatives, Committee of Claims, 'Laid upon the table' March 28, 1848.

"We, the heirs of Manuel Hover, recollect of hearing our father say, before the revolutionary war, that the Indians took him prisoner, and he was just one year with them, but ran away from them at the risk of his life... when Colonel Butler found Manuel Hover was a smart young man, acquainted with the Indians, he gave him the office of a captain, at or about the beginning of the revolutionary war... the colonel put him on scouting parties against the Indians. Many of their scalps he and his company took, we understood. We heard him say that General George Washington and himself laid many plans how to escape the enemy, and make their companies meet together in battle; for our father was engaged in many under the general.

Our father, when he was a captain, part of his time lived and served where he had a farm, one hundred miles above Philadelphia, on Delaware river, in Sussex county, Delaware [Walpack?] Township, in the State of New Jersey; and had, at his own farm, all around his house, a fort established, and was counted a minute captain. One time the Indians took some of the men of his company, who lived near the fort, prisoners; and they understood the Indians designed to take the fort, and they told them the fort was well fortified and a quantity of men in it, when at the same time, there were only about four men, with our mother and some of her children, in the fort; and the Indians left the neighborhood. After our father came home and understood the case, he followed them, and rescued the prisoners, with the exception of one without being hurt. This one on running the Indians to our father, was shot by them through the thigh and he was carried in a blanket or something of that description. How much your petitioner's father suffered and

continued on pg. 6

A REFLECTION ON THE PAST: HARMONYVILLE UPDATE

by Sharon Spangenberg

Board of Trustees Officers

President

Don Stieh

Vice President

Chris Cunningham

Treasurer

Dave Hayes

Recording Secretary

Ruth Stieh

Corresponding Secretary

Myra Snook

Trustees

Allyson Schwab

Audrey Schwab

Jen Wycalek

Tom Ciccarelli

Jeff Stoveken

Lori Reich

Membership - Join Us!

Individual \$15

Family \$25

Corporate \$50

Life \$200

Patron \$250

973-948-4903



WALPACK FIRE
DEPARTMENT
T-SHIRTS

SIZES AVAILABLE:

SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE,
EXTRA LARGE

ONLY \$20 EACH

WALPACKHISTORY.ORG

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



As a result of the article that appeared in our Fall newsletter, a message was received from Ricky Boscarino, artist and owner of Luna Parc in Sandyston Township. His message was that he is certain the windmill that was once on the west side of Ratcliffe's pond is on his front lawn. He explained that 20 years ago, he attended a fundraiser auction at the Neversink Canal Museum in Orange County, NY and won a windmill. At the time, he did not know its history until many months later when he spoke with its previous owner, Pat Ratcliffe of Westbrookville, NY. He went on to say that the vane was so badly rusted he needed to make some renovations, but overall, it was in pretty good shape and

since 2001 has been "happily spinning" on the front lawn of Luna Parc. Above is a photograph of the windmill (the larger one on the right-side), now painted green. He is thrilled to be the custodian of the windmill and has invited anyone wishing to see it to stop in at his whimsical museum located at 22 Degroat Road in Sandyston Township. Please visit his website for the days Luna Parc is open during the summer months, www.lunaparc.com or phone 973-948-2160. We also learned from one of our members that Ratcliffe's pond is man-made, having been dug by a private company at the owner's request in the early 1960s.

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.

2021 "TENTATIVE" 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	The 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
Dec. 6	Holiday Dinner - Walpack Inn
Dec. 12 & 13	Walpack Christmas - Church and Museum

Visit WalpackHistory.org and [Facebook.com/WalpackHistory](https://www.facebook.com/WalpackHistory) for calendar updates, changes and details.

SUPPORT THE WHS NEWSLETTER

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.

Info@WalpackHistory.org



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.

2021 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!

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.



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.

Andy Martin
 Angelina Uvarova
 Chris Maget
 Kitty Kruckel Richard
 Shane Dabal
 Stephanie Blunt Lescault
 Sylvia Busold
 Edward Ashton

THANK YOU!

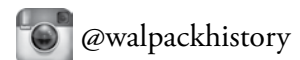
We offer a most gracious THANK YOU to the following members and friends who have so generously made donations.

Albert E. Fiacre, Jr.
 Charles Pozzi
 Gerald M. Sliker, Jr.
 John F. DePue
 Patricia N. Fowler
 Patti Makosky
 Roberta & Janos Spitzer
 Ruth P. Repko
 Stephanie Blunt Lescault
 Steven D. Van Camp
 Wayne & Mary Frey
 William G. Clark
 Angela Mastricola

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

To all those that recently made donations to receive a copy of *A Stroll Down Old Mine Road*. A limited amount of copies still remain for those interested.

Follow Us & Share • WalpackHistory.org



NOW AND THEN...A REVOLUTIONARY THREAT

by Audrey Schwab

When modern day medical events conspire to threaten our society and perhaps define a generation, it is intriguing to dust off the annals of our forefathers and seek to uncover parallels within.

Though the COVID pandemic seemed to creep into our current times with stealth and impunity, a host of diseases and pestilence were no strangers to our Revolutionary forefathers. In fact, in the case of *Variola major*, the small pox virus, it was a devastating case of the devil they knew.

Though small pox raged through other parts of the 18th Century World, the Americas had not experienced the extremely virulent levels of contagion seen elsewhere. Geographical isolation and a less densely populated continent afforded some degree of protection, though many larger cities, such as Philadelphia and Boston did experience alarming outbreaks. That relatively brief respite came to an abrupt end when the Revolutionary War period brought a virulent enemy to our American shores. In 1777, George Washington wrote that “we should have more to dread from it than the Sword of the Enemy.” (mountvernon.org)

George Washington was well-acquainted with the effects of small pox. In 1751, when George was 19 years old, he accompanied his half-brother, Lawrence on a trip to Barbados. The trip was intended to be a cure for Lawrence’s tuberculosis, but ironically, it was George who was stricken ill with the small pox. Though the illness lasted for several weeks, George survived with minimal scarring, a life-time immunity and an acute awareness of the devastating effects the disease could have upon a wide swath of a population.

With the advent of the American Revolution, the possibility of contagion became more alarming as soldiers arrived from foreign shores and recruits mustered from all over North America to join the Continental Army. During February of 1777, while Washington’s troops were encamped in Morristown, he became convinced that inoculation would be the only way to prevent small pox from decimating his army. The process of vaccination, called “variolation,” involved placing a thread of material that had been in contact with live small pox pustular matter into a small incision in the arm of the patient. Later mass vaccinations involved the more simple lancing of the skin with a knife or scalpel that had been sullied with pox material from those suffering with the disease. Though

these forms of vaccination usually caused a milder form of the disease, it still held a significant enough fatality rate that had to be worrisome to Washington indeed. His decision also had to take into account that inoculated soldiers could ironically transmit the disease until they fully recovered. The inoculation rendered the newly treated unfit for duty as the virus ran its course. This usually took about three to four weeks, depending upon the severity of the patient’s reaction to the inoculation. The timing of the vaccination was therefore strategic as it had to occur at a time of rest between the more seasonal campaigns of the spring through fall months. Ultimately, the Morristown initiative was deemed to be successful



and Washington repeated the process while encamped at Valley Forge during the terrible winter of 1778. Dealing with the effects of the vaccination while enduring severe hunger and frigid cold must have greatly added to the troops’ misery. Needless to say, secrecy was of great necessity in order to prevent the British from taking advantage of the incapacitated troops as they recovered.

In spite of natural immunities conferred upon the British regulars by childhood exposure and inoculation protocols during European smallpox epidemics, large populations of Native Americans and slaves who chose to fight for the British in exchange for their freedom, were devastated by the disease. Amid this very real threat of contagion spread by the enemy fighters, not a single regiment of the Continental Army was incapacitated by the small pox disease following the mass inoculations mandated by the Continental Army. George Washington is credited with not only defeating the British, but taming a foe that was an even greater threat to his troops and perhaps American independence as well.

Note: I was first introduced to this subject by an article appearing in *The Magazine of Colonial Williamsburg: TREND & TRADITION* (Autumn 2020 edition) entitled “A Revolutionary Fever,” by Paul Aron. It served as just enough of an enticement to dig deeper. The digging goes on...

Additional sources used: mountvernon.org; cdc.gov “History of Smallpox;” American Battlefield Trust, “Washington Inoculates an Army;” loc.gov “George Washington and the First Mass Military Inoculation;” armyheritage.org, “A Deadly Scourge: Smallpox During the Revolutionary War;” and *Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-82*, by Elizabeth Fenn.

LOWER WALPACK CEMETERY UPDATE

By Sharon Spangenberg



On Friday, January 8, 2021, volunteers of the Lower Walpack Cemetery witnessed a GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) scan performed in the oldest section of the cemetery.

Walter Keever of Applied Service Corp. in Lafayette graciously performed the scan of the cemetery in an attempt to find grave sites hidden underground. Although we do not know the findings yet, he discovered 64 anomalies.

Our volunteer cemetery team wishes to publicly acknowledge and thank Walter for performing this service as well as society member Joanne Wirths, for arranging this project.

We also wish to thank Joanne and Gerald DeGroat, both Professional Land Surveyors, for providing GPS services (Global Positioning System) to accurately locate the position of each discovery.

Through in-depth research, it was discovered that an additional four military veterans are buried in the cemetery. In the Spring, the grave-sites of those listed below will be decorated with a flag and a War of 1812 flag holder.

Besides Andrew D. Decker – Private – Captain Peter Cole’s Co. NJ Militia, previously acknowledged, the following Walpack residents served in the War of 1812.

William Dunn – Captain – 2nd Reg’t – Steward’s NJ Militia
Andrew Hill – Sergeant – Jackson’s Reg’t NJ Militia
Benjamin Hull – Private – Jackson’s Reg’t NJ Militia
Jacob Smith – Corporal – 2nd Reg’t – Steward’s NJ Militia

OBITUARY: DOT STECKOWICH HAS PASSED, AGE 85

Dorothy Louise (Whiteside) Steckowich, 85 passed away Sunday September 27, 2020 in Green Ridge Village, Newville, PA.

She was preceded in death by her husband William Steckowich, and her sister Phyllis Whiteside Schneck.

She had worked as a Secretary, was a Trustee of the Walpack Historical Society, and longtime member of the Stillwater Presbyterian Church. She is survived by her

son William Steckowich, two grandchildren Dereck and Nickolas Steckowich, and two great grandchildren Tyler and Cole Steckowich. Both Dot and her husband, Bill were long time active members of the Walpack Historical Society and both served as trustees for many years. A memorial of Dot’s life will be held in the spring. Details will be shared at a future time. Our deepest sympathy to the family.

CAPTAIN MANUEL HOVER RESIDENT OF LOWER WALPACK

by Sharon Spangenberg

what great things he said he did, we do not remember now; but, after the war was over, he was captain still, until the Indians were settled. We, however, remember hearing our father say that one battle he was in was the hardest of all the battles he seen; that the blood ran about shoe – mouth deep, but where it was, our minds cannot now remember.

Whilst others were petitioning to get pensions and rewards from Congress and the War Department, we and others, inquired of our father why he did not apply too. He answered, he got what he fought for, and that was victory and peace, and he could live without it. Neither our mother, nor we, his heirs, nor he, ever got any reward from Congress of the War Department except he got some continental money.”

Signed by: Hannah Nichols (her mark), Caty Clark, Sarah Holladay, Nancy Adgate

(Their petition for a reward due to their deceased father's service was not granted.)

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.

According to the *Historic American Buildings Survey – Smith/Rosenkrans House* completed in 1970 in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the date of the erection of the Rosenkrans house is between 1807 and 1808. However, property owner, Greg Rosenkrans in a November 6, 2016 *Star Ledger* newspaper story believed that 1807/1808 was incorrect. He said that “we have a fieldstone wall that became the hearth, that I think was an original exterior wall that is probably from the early 1700's.”

What Greg Rosenkrans was referring to is actually a 10 foot long back wall of a very old fieldstone fireplace. In 2020 it was discovered that inside a room on the first floor, under the stairs and hidden behind a small door, is a very large fieldstone fireplace approximately 5 foot in height and 28 foot in depth. A 14 inches square wooden lintel is visible and both pintles are still in place.

The following deed trail shows how the property ended up in the possession of the Rosenkrans':

- October 10, 1725 – Joseph Kirkbride to Thomas Brink and Nicholas Schoonhoven (*notation in West Jersey Deed W-214*)
- February 10, 1751 –WJD W-214 - Thomas Brink and Nicholas Schoonhoven to Thomas Brink
- June 5, 1772 – WJD AK-506 – Estate of Thomas Brink to Manuel Hover (who was a Blacksmith according to the deed) 150 acres
- April 18, 1797 – Deed K-84 – Manuel Hover and wife Mary to Jonas Smith and wife Mary 150 acres (exception ½ acre for common burial ground of Walpack) *
- June 30, 1827 – Deed E3-409 – Jonas Smith and Mary, his wife to Philip J. Smith (part of the property) – where Jonas Smith now lives
- December 13, 1827 – Deed F3-38 - Jonas Smith and

Mary, his wife to William Smith (part of the property)

- April 23, 1833 – Deed O3-209 – William Smith to Philip J. Smith
- Philip J. Smith died intestate leaving properties in Walpack Township:

June 14, 1850 – *NJ Prerogative Court R4-138* – Division of the Estate of Philip J. Smith (homestead farm where he lived at his death) heirs are children Mary Ann Rosenkrans, wife of Benjamin Rosenkrans, Lavina, Jeremiah, Elijah R., Madison, Vandalia, Malina Jane and Sylvia Augusta Smith. The widow of Philip J. Smith died shortly after the death of Philip. All heirs except Mary Ann Rosenkrans were minors at the time. Elijah Rosenkrans was appointed guardian of the children. At this time, there were deed exceptions of 2.50 acres for church lot and graveyard, .15 acres for a schoolhouse lot, and 1.50 acres for a lane 2 rods wide reserved for right-of-way in common to all the adjoining lots to the main road.

- Over the next 19 years, the heirs conveyed almost all of their parcels to Benjamin and Mary Rosenkrans. (*Sussex County Hall of Records books of deeds*)

*Note – By 1849, the Lower Walpack Cemetery expanded to 1.50 acres according to *NJ Prerogative Court R4-138*. However, in 1929 the graveyard appeared as a 1.14 acre exception in deed 310-34. But, the Army Corp of Engineers in its 1975 Cemetery Relocation Plan allowed 1.34 acres for the Lower Walpack Cemetery.

William F. Henn wrote in his book, *The Story of River Road*, that Captain Hover “was one of the early pioneers who maintained a residence on each side of the Delaware during the years of Indian hostilities. These frontiersmen spent daylight hours farming their land on the Pennsylvania flats, and in the evenings sought sanctuary with their families on the Jersey side.”

Based on this research, could a section of the Rosenkrans' house near the Lower Walpack Cemetery have been the palisaded residence during the Revolutionary War?

Some of our readers may believe this house could not have been the palisaded residence because a road to it did not exist at that time. However, we must keep in mind that it was used only as a sanctuary so access to it from Pennsylvania was undoubtedly by boat across the Delaware River.



Since the Summer of 2020, we have been offering a free copy of "A Stroll Down Old Mine Road" to those who make a donation of at least \$50. Recently we printed this book and hope you will take advantage of this offer which will benefit our general fund.

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

Name _____
Company _____
Street _____
City/Town _____
Zip _____
Country _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Select:

Membership Renewal Donation

Donation to:

WHS General Fund
 The M.E. Church Renovation Project
 Newsletter Sponsor

Membership Type:

Individual \$15
 Family \$25
 Corporate \$50
 Life \$200
 Patron \$250

Total Payment enclosed \$ _____

Newsletter preferred delivered: Digital Mailed

Tear off and return with payment.

Mail to: Walpack Historical Society, PO Box 212, Layton, NJ 07851

The Walpack Historical Society, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Donations are tax deductible, as allowed by law.

OBITUARY:

ALZINA M. TREIBLE BUTLER

January 29, 1938 – December 2, 2020

by Wayne B. Treible

It is with deep sadness I acknowledge the passing of my sister, Alzina M. Treible Butler, on December 2, 2020. Born January 29, 1938 to Bush Treible and Margaret Jensen Treible at Newton Memorial hospital in Newton, NJ, returning to her first home in Walpack on the Doll farm, originally known as the Sam Cole Farm, where she spent the early years of her life. At the end of World War II, her family moved to the Treible homestead, formally known as the Nathaniel Van Auken Farm located on the main road leading from Walpack Center going to Flatbrookville with the location further identified by the very sharp curve in the road.

As a student at Walpack's one room school, she completed seventh grade along with classmate Jean Rosenkrans in 1951, with no graduates, the school closed its doors at the end of that school year. They went on to become the first Walpack students to graduate from the new consolidated Sandyston-Walpack School District in 1952 and graduated from Newton High School in 1956.

Following her marriage to Warren Y. Butler of Newton, NJ in 1958, they made their home in Hampton Township, just outside of Branchville, NJ. In 1973 they relocated to Hershey, PA, where they currently reside. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, her daughter Barbara Jean Butler of Palmyra, PA, her brother Wayne B. Treible of Spring Run, PA, several nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends. Her son Thomas T. Butler predeceased her in 2006.

She was a longtime member of the Walpack Historical Society.

WALPACK MAN APPEARED IN AN 1898 ADVERTISEMENT

By Sharon Spangenberg

While researching those buried in the Lower Walpack Cemetery, this 1898 advertisement was discovered. Dr. Moore's Aerial Medication may have been the first successful inhaled medication for inflammation affecting the nose and air passages.

John Garris lived another eight years after this advertisement appeared. John W. Garris and his wife Susannah lived on Lower Mountain Road near Flatbrookville, and are buried in the Lower Walpack Cemetery.

Western Methodist.

Vol. 8. No. 34. Wichita, Kansas, Wednesday, April 27, 1898. Price \$1 a Year

Had Catarrh Forty Years.

Had Catarrh in a very bad form forty years, which greatly affected my eyes, almost entirely destroyed my hearing, was confined to the house much of the time, and coughed almost continually. Used Aerial Medication in '94, which fully restored my hearing; my eyes are well and I am entirely cured of Catarrh; can work and feel better than for forty years.—JOHN GARRIS, Flatbrookville, N. J.



www.walpackhistory.org

FOUNDING TRUSTEE: MYRA SNOOK, PASSES AT 81



Myra Snook passed away on December 4, 2020. She was born in Newton to the late Russell and Ruth D. Snook. She was the granddaughter of the late George and Jennie Snook who owned and operated Maple Crest Farm in Fredon Township as did her late great-grandfather, Elias Snook. Myra was a lifelong resident of Fredon, most of that time spent on part of the family farm. She graduated from Newton High School

in 1957 and attended Rutgers University graduating in 1961. Myra worked on Sussex County Mobile Book Library for 2 years, was the Librarian for Byram Township Schools for 2 years and was a Library Media Specialist for Sparta School District for more than 30 years.

Myra was active in local history with numerous historical and canal societies. She helped start the Paulinskill Valley Trail, the Walpack Historical Society and Friends of High Point State Park. Myra was on the board and past-president of the Sussex County Historical Society, she was the local historian for Fredon Township and helped save the Coursen House and reopen it to the public. Myra, a founding member, continued to serve as a trustee and active researcher for the Walpack Historical Society for many years until her passing. Myra was a member of the Warren County

Morris Canal Committee and researched and designed numerous signs on the Morris Canal. She was active in many canal societies in New Jersey,

New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio and gave numerous slide shows on local history. Myra loved outdoor activities such as operating canal boats and hiking on local trails.

In addition to her parents, Myra was also predeceased by her sister, Rita Snook. She is survived by her cousins and close friends.

Read more: <https://walpackhistory.org>



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.