

**POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST**  
 PROVIDED BY ARNE ENGLUND



**MEMBER OBITUARY**  
**ROBERTA JANE SCHEFLEN DODD**

Roberta Jane Scheflen Dodd (1923-2016) of Bloomsbury, NJ died on May 12, 2016 at 93. Born on March 12, 1923 in Milford, PA, she was the daughter of Clark L. Van Auken and Ada B. Hamilton Van Auken. Her husband, John Dodd predeceased her in 2000. A brother, Warren G. Van Auken, died earlier and her nephew, Kenneth Van Auken who worked in the north tower of the World Trade Center died in the 9-11 Terror attack. - See more at: <http://obits.lehighvalleylive.com/obituaries/etpa/obituary.aspx?n=roberta-jane-scheflen-dodd&pid=180521686#sthash.x3beshNP.dpuf>

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Society actively stimulates an awareness and interest in the Walpack area through lectures, tours, publications and special events, such as Van Campen Day, hikes and exhibits at countrywide events.

It promotes collection, preservation and dissemination of Walpack area history and acts as a repository for artifacts of the Walpack area. We also maintain a small museum and book store.

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Newsletter of the  
 Walpack Historical Society

*"Preserving a Fine  
 Tradition of Caring"*

Published Quarterly

September 2016

**THE SMITH-LENNINGTON FARM BY MARK MILLER**

Traveling down Old Mine Road from Bevans, one will come upon another frozen in time treasure. At the intersection of Old Mine Road and Kuhn Road the historic Smith-Lennington Farm complex still stands mostly intact today. This house was built in 1825 by the Smith Family. The Smith-Lennington farm has weathered time as a nearly complete farm complex. It still contains numerous outbuildings including a two story wagon house, a hay barn, chicken coops, animal corrals, various sheds and outhouses. Only one large hay barn has not weathered the winds of time. It's partially standing hand hewn and wood pegged framework contrasts nicely against the landscape and is home to numerous barn swallows.

The farm was last owned by Charles C Lennington (1902-2002) and his wife Lena H Lennington (1905-1994) who lived from the land they worked. They were some of the kindest folks you could have met thinking nothing of welcoming friends into their home for some coffee and always intriguing conversation. Charles could often be found sitting on his front porch after a hard day's



on the large iron stove or relaxing in her favorite chair. After both Lena and Charles passed away the property was bought by the National Park Service and was added to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in 2002.

Since this farm is still largely complete, you can easily paint a picture of farm life long ago as you walk the grounds. As you pass the standing hay barn, a row of chicken coops are still present and both buildings have the most wonderful aroma of yesterday wafting from them. As you continue wandering around you will come upon stray pieces of antiquated farm equipment where they were left decades ago. Pause a moment and think how a farmer must have felt when they pried the wood crate open and saw that very same piece of machinery for the first time. A walk around the rear of farm house itself will reveal a large active hive of honey bees occupying the kitchen wall of the house. Remnants of electric fencing and a slotted covering are tell-tale signs that the bees were welcomed visitors by the Lennington's. Their honey bees are still thriving and pollinating the countryside

today. The three story Victorian farm house is the jewel of the site. As you approach the intersection from Kuhn Road, the large house sits prominently perched on a small hill directly in front of you. In springtime the areas around the house are still festooned with the numerous daffodils proudly planted by the Lennington's (late) son Richard who was an avid gardener. Pause a moment and imagine

work on the family farm. He sometimes blended right in with the rest of the surroundings and often startled you as you walked up for a visit. The front porch contained a medley of items he found while working in the fields and a lazy cat or two draped over the furnishings. Asking a question about a funny rock or animal bone you saw would result in a story about the item which he often then gave to you. Just inside Lena would be at work cooking

*Continued on Pg. 7*

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## THE ROSENKRANS MUSEUM ROOF REPLACEMENT - PART 2

BY AUDREY SCHWAB



### *There Are Always Surprises!*

Old structures hold fast to their secrets, often revealed only by stripping away decades of repairs and renovations.

Following the replacement of the south side of the main roof of the house, the DEWA Restoration Team turned their attention to the roof of a later addition to the home, also on the south side of the building. Visitors to The Rosenkrans Museum will recall that the kitchen is located in that rear addition along with a storage area not open to the public.

As can be expected, several generations of roofing materials were layered beneath the most recent application of three tab asphalt shingles.

The rather unexpected find was the bottom-most layer that was very likely the original wood shingle roof. The DEWA Team noted the shingles were applied with cut nails which would date that first roof to at least the late 19th Century. The photo above shows the top-most course of what remained of the wood shingles. Unfortunately, those shingles had to be removed in order to assure the integrity of the application of the new EcoStar roof. A sample of these original wood shingles have been archived and will remain with the building.

The stripping of the roof layers in this probable later addition indicate it is timber frame construction with a single 32' hand hewn top

*Continued on Pg. 6*

## VAN CAMPEN DAY - SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY OCTOBER 16, 2016

Step back into the Colonial Era and join us for a day of history. Starting with a parade lead by a Colonial Musketeers Fife & Drum Corp, see what life was like on what was the Frontier. The Bookstore will be open and hot coffee, tea and other libations will be available. Apple Cider donuts and much more!



## THE SMITH-LENNINGTON FARM

BY MARK MILLER *Continued from Pg. 1*



Richard sitting on the front porch with his "Ma" enjoying them perhaps while stirring some of their own honey into iced tea after a long day. The farmhouse was last renovated

Property Stewards, a volunteer group with the National Park Service.

in 1903 when the Queen Anne Victorian elements were added. The detached summer kitchen building that sits to the left was added at that time. Summer kitchens were popular and provided a place to cook during the hot summer months and not make the main house too hot. Although closed to the public, the house is largely intact today sans for the front porch. The front porch was heavily vandalized years ago and removed. The house has elegant features such as original large multi pane windows, two full size staircases, wood panel pocket doors, original trim and wall coverings. None of the wood has been altered and still shows its original unpainted finish. The buildings and grounds are actively cared for by the Historic

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

1. Visit [www.walpackhistory.org](http://www.walpackhistory.org) and click on the Book Store tab, followed by the Membership tab to pay your 2016 membership dues online.

2. If you wish to pay your membership dues the old fashioned way, please fill out the Membership Form in this Newsletter and send it along with your payment to the given address.

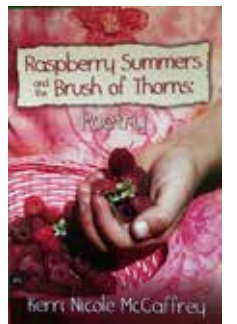
Thank you for supporting the Walpack Historical Society. Your contribution helps us to fulfill our mission to actively stimulate an awareness and interest in the Walpack area through lectures, tours, publications and special events, such as Van Campen Day, hikes and exhibits at county wide events.

## BOOKSTORE NEWS - NEW BOOKS

[Walpackhistory.org/store](http://Walpackhistory.org/store)

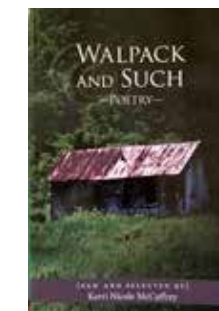
*Raspberry Summers and the Brush of Thorns: Poetry*  
by Kerri Nicole McCaffrey

Pages: 112  
Cost: \$10 plus postage



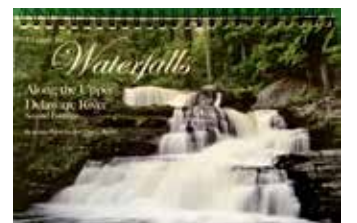
*Walpack and Such: Poetry*  
by Kerri Nicole McCaffrey

Pages: 128  
Cost: \$10 plus postage



*A Guide to Waterfalls Along the Delaware River*  
by Dawn Benkol/Marie Liu

Details 12 waterfalls,  
Second edition,  
Cost: \$20 plus postage



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF WALPACK TOWNSHIP

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY THE WHS JAN. 1994

The name of Walpack as a township first appeared as Walpake on the Hunterdon county map when that county was first formed back in 1731 out of Burlington county and West Jersey. It was changed to Walpack when Morris county was formed in 1739.

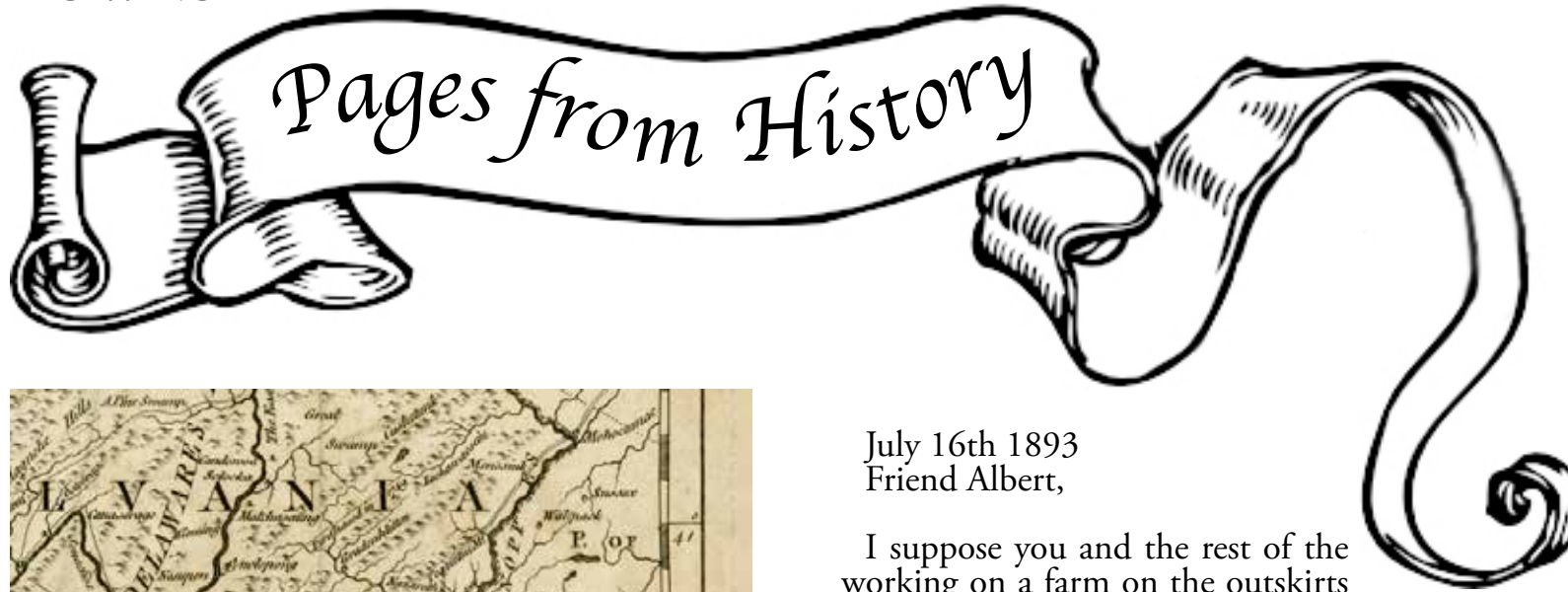
When Sussex county was first formed out of Morris county in 1753, the county was made up of four townships; namely, Hardwick, Greenwich, New Town and Walpack. At that time Walpack consisted of all the area bordering the Delaware river from the New York state line to the Delaware Water Gap and consisted of what are now the townships of Montague, Sandyston, Walpack and Parhaquarry, the latter now being in Warren county.

By royal charter Montague township was formed out of Walpack township on March 26, 1759 and Sandyston township followed on Feb. 26, 1762. This, of course, all happened while New Jersey was a British Colony. Then, on Nov. 20, 1824, Warren county was formed out of Sussex county and Walpack was further reduced in size by what is now Parhaquarry township in Warren county. When Warren county was formed, Sussex county lost all of Greenwich township, more than half of Hardwick township and just about one half of what was left of Walpack township.

The first post office established in what is the present Walpack township was Flatbrookville on Nov. 21, 1828 (sometimes spelled Flat Brookville between 1828 & 1869) with Jacob Smith as the first postmaster. The second post office established was Walpack on Jan. 20, 1829 with Daniel Shoemaker as postmaster. This post office was located on the property presently known as Silver Spray Farms. This post office operated until Jan. 4, 1844 when it was discontinued. The next post office established was Walpack Centre on Jan. 21, 1854 with Jasper Rundle as its first postmaster. The spelling was changed on Nov. 29, 1893 to Walpack Center at which time George V. Schooley was postmaster. This post office is presently closed and Walpack Center is being serviced from Layton.

The post office at Flatbrookville continued to operate until June 30, 1963 when it was discontinued and serviced from Columbia in Warren county. However, there was a short period between Feb. 28, 1959 and July 1, 1959 that the post office was closed and also serviced from Columbia.

Over the years, since Walpack Township was first established, some 20 post offices were established and operated within the area. Only 2 of these post offices are presently active, namely; Layton and Montague. Those that no longer exist are; Baleville, Benville, Bevans, Brick House, Clove, Colesville, Flatbrookville, Fosters Ferry, Hainesville, Pleasant Valley, Sandyston, Tuttle's Corner, Walpack, Walpack Center, Brotzmanville, Calno, Pahaquarry and Millbrook. In a number of cases, even the little villages where some of these post offices were located, have completely disappeared. Flatbrookville and Brotzmanville are two such villages.



1756: Thomas Kitchin's map of the Province of Pennsylvania shows the main road of the day (today's Route 209 in our area) and nearby Walpack in New Jersey.

Source: middlesmithfieldhistory.blogspot.com

## LETTERS FROM THE PAST

by Len Peck

*As a postal history buff, I have collected, over the years, a great many letters---some with a historic content, others written by or to someone of note. However, the letters I enjoy most are written by ordinary people and in many ways give us a better understanding of life as it existed in by-gone days. Following is the contents of two letters written in 1893 by one Tom Smith to his friend Albert Swarts who lived in Deckertown, (now Sussex) New Jersey.*

July 16th 1893  
Friend Albert,

I suppose you and the rest of the people are wondering where I have gone. I am working on a farm on the outskirts of Buffalo. I left Jersey on the 3rd and walked to Port Jervis. I jumped a freight train the same night and on Thursday morning I was in Buff. Friday I jumped a train on the Grand Trunk, crossed the Niagara River and rode to Welland, Ontario, Canada. I stayed there two days but could not get work, so, on Monday morning I beat back to Buffalo and struck a job right away. I had a good notion to go on to Chicago. Perhaps I will yet. But I hate to leave this job as I am getting tip-top pay and don't have to work very hard either. Buffalo is a bigger place than I thought. It is just as lively as New York City. I went in last night and had a fine time. The falls are only 18 miles away and on still days we can hear them roar. It sounds to me like cannons being shot off after each other, thick and fast. I suppose Melvin lays me out all sorts, but I can't help it. When I make up my mind to go, I'm going and the "old boy" himself can't stop me. I'll make Mel a present of all I have got coming so he won't have any reason to kick. We have "only" got 600 loads of hay to get and about 40 or 50 thousand sheaves of grain. But we don't do it by hand. We have a machine for everything. All I do is just sit and drive and the horses do the rest. I want to ask a favor of you; please get my letters and send them on and I will pay you for what stamps you use.

Sincerely yours Tom Smith 1831 Genesee St. Buffalo, N.Y. care of F. G. Zimmerman

PS - I will make you a present of my rifle if you will take the trouble to get it. Tell Mell to hand it over to you.

--  
*This was followed with a second letter from Buffalo, New York.*

August 15th, 1893  
Friend Albert,

I struck a job the second day after I left the other place. I am working in the city, in a livery stable at 30 dollars a month, washing buggies and cleaning harness. I work all night and sleep through the day. I wash about 40 buggies and clean 60 sets of harness every night. I start about 9 at night and get through about 6 in the morning. I get my board too so you see I am making money. We eat and sleep right here in the stables all the time. It is a snap alongside of farming. All I have to pay out is for my washing, about 50 cents a month at the Chinese laundry. I don't know whether I will be able to hang here through the winter or not but I am going to try to. I forgot to tell you there is a box of cartridges for the rifle in my trunk. Get them and use them. I have got three photographs to Mell that I would like to have. Send me two of them and keep one yourself. Will write again soon.

Yours sincerely Tom Smith 79 Baynes St. Buffalo, N.Y. Care of Bart Lobee

# THE ROSENKRANS MUSEUM ROOF REPLACEMENT - PART 2

BY AUDREY SCHWAB



plate with mortised and tenoned rafters that were vertically sawn. Again, supporting the premise that if this is an addition it was appended very early.

Additional preparation work preceded the application of the new roof. Significant repairs needed to be made to the south-east corner of this lower roof and included replacement of sections of sheathing, rake and fascia boards. Work proceeded through some very hot days and the crew remarked that it was neither comfortable nor easy to apply the new faux slate tiles, as very specific spacing requirements had to be adhered to. One very interesting feature of all of the tiles placed along the rake edge of the building is that a 45 degree miter cut has been clipped from the lower out-facing edge. This has been done to replicate what seems to be a "signature flair" of the original slate roofer. Several buildings in the area were similarly detailed; most notably the Walpack Center General Store and Post Office which still exhibits the original roofer's artistry. The photo above, left; shows the DEWA Team's faithful reproduction of the detail on the right roof rake edge.

Not surprisingly, not all discoveries made during a major restoration are exciting or illuminating, but rather just problematic. When the removal of the main roof structure allowed for close scrutiny of the interior sections of the chimneys, it was discovered that the east chimney was severely compromised. The original bricks were very soft and had simply spalled or broken apart leaving gaping holes and questionable integrity.

The DEWA Team brought in a restoration mason, who enacted the emergency repairs necessary to extend the life of the chimney. It was noted that neither the east or west chimney showed any evidence of original metal flashing, but rather had a mortar wash where they meet the roof and that wash was covered with tar. The restoration will feature new copper flashing with soldered joints.

As the work on the south side of the structure was completed, the scaffolding was moved to the north side of the building; the front porch was stabilized with structural supports and the original roofing slates were removed. The on-going restoration work of the DEWA Team will be further documented in future issues of this newsletter.

# THE LIGHTS ARE ON

BY AUDREY SCHWAB



Park visitors passing by Walpack Center during evening hours will now be greeted by halos of light in many of the once darkened structures.

The National Park Service has given The Walpack Historical Society permission to place small lamps on timers within any of the buildings on Main Street that are on the power grid. Thus far we have placed a lamp in the rear of the sanctuary of The Methodist Church and in the Robbins Home across from the General Store. Power to the Rosenkrans Museum has been temporarily shut off during the roofing project, but a small lamp in the first floor parlor as well as the existing light in the second floor gable window will

more effectively light that structure. Our primary objective was to place a lamp in the General Store/Post Office, but it is unfortunately not on the JCP&L power grid with no expectation that electricity will be restored. In lieu of a traditional light, the WHS has been given permission to install a solar lamp there. The "MacGyvers" among us are trying to find a means of doing just that.

We are also hoping to light one of the creamery houses still on the power grid.

Though it may be a bit of a Hollywood ruse, there is indeed a presence once again in the quiet street scape of Walpack Center. Stop on by...THE LIGHTS ARE ON!

## 2016 CALENDAR

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

### NEW MEMBERS

Sandy Diglio  
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Walpack Historical Society Newsletter  
Designed and Edited  
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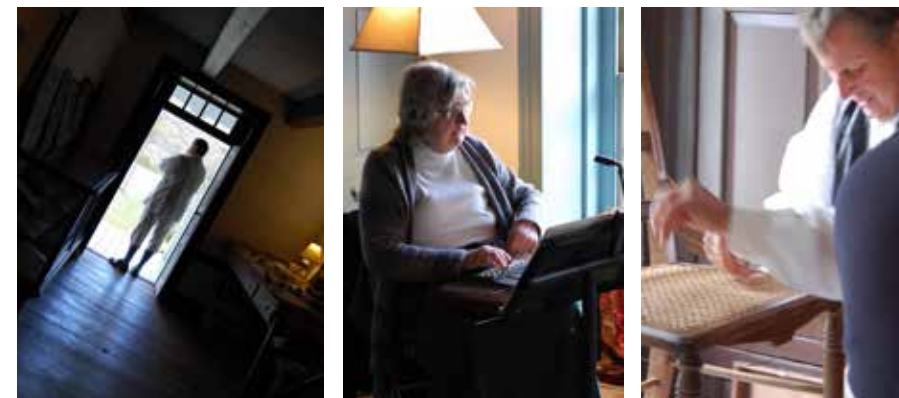
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A Docent is a person who acts as a guide, typically on a voluntary basis. We are always looking for new people to help us at our events and meetings throughout the year. Please call, 973-948-4903, and ask to speak with Jen Wycalek to learn more about how you can help play a part in history.