

Today's event focuses on West Jersey, the portion of our State granted to Lord Berkeley and resold to a group of Quakers, including William Penn who determined distribution of shares, land purchases and its constitution, the Concessions and Agreements. West Jersey was the area south of a diagonal line from Little Egg Harbor, Ocean County to the northwest corner of Walpack Township in Sussex County.

In 1675, John Fenwick, a former English civil war captain-turned-Quaker, was granted a 1/10<sup>th</sup> share of West Jersey. Prior to the completion of the West Jersey Proprietorship, Fenwick convinced a number of Quaker households to



sell their properties in England and begin new lives, far distant from Britain's oppression, in a town he named Salem, where he promised peace, religious independence and prosperity. South Jersey was new to English settlement, but was already home to Swedes and Finns who had been living in the area for more than a generation. Fenwick renewed treaties with the Lenni Lenape near the towering Salem Oak tree, already a landmark that would become a symbol of his town and be protected as part of the Quaker Meeting Burial Ground.

Two years ago, before it fell, acorns from this iconic white oak were collected by Joseph Bennett to be shared with other parts of New Jersey. The planting of its seedling at Lower Walpack Cemetery will be a continuation of watching over the graves of other West Jersey settlers who lived their lives here and contributed to what would become America's State of New Jersey.

Erik L. Burro

## PROGRAM

**Don Stieh, President**  
Walpack Historical Society

**Jen Wycalek, Committeewoman**  
Township of Walpack

**Dan Tassey**  
Event Organizer

**Bill Truran**  
Sussex County Historian

**The Honorable Steven V. Oroho**  
NJ State Senator

**Vincent Mann, Chief**  
Lenni Lenape Turtle Clan

**John Fenwick**  
Founder of Salem 1675  
West Jersey Proprietorship  
Erik Burro, Historian

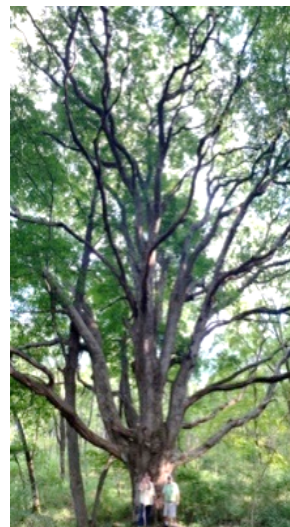
**Madison Johnson, Volunteer**  
Lower Walpack Cemetery

### Comments and Questions

**Sharon Spangenberg**  
Cemetery Guided Tour



*For those interested, a tour of the Van Campen Inn and hike to the Great Council Tree, will follow today's program.*



## Salem Oak Scion's New Home

The Lower Walpack Cemetery is the final resting place of many frontiersmen who settled here in what was once an untamed wilderness. Imagine the hardships they suffered and what they accomplished with their hard work. To remember them in their resting place is to show respect for our ancestors and what they accomplished for future generations.

Although it is not known when the first burial occurred, what can be proven is that on February 1, 1737, Thomas Brink and his brother-in-law, Nicholas Schoonhoven granted about four acres of land to the inhabitants of Walpack. This property began at the northwest corner of the burying yard, which suggests that this cemetery was already in existence when the land was granted.



In anticipation of the Tocks Island Dam, in 1964, the Federal Government began acquiring nearly all the land in this township. Currently, there are 13 residing in Walpack; some are here today.

After discussion with Walpack's town council, it was agreed that the Salem Oak seedling would be planted within the bounds of this ancient cemetery. As this white oak grows, it will have ample space in the cemetery's open field to spread its branches and eventually stand guard over the final resting place of nearly 350 former inhabitants of Walpack.

Sharon Spangenberg

