



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Salem County Historical Society

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Alloway Son Who Earned His Star

By Beverly Carr Bradway

On October 16, 1892 Wallace Jefferson Ray was born on the family farm, up a lane on Alloways Creek to Captain and Mrs. Thomas Jefferson Ray.¹ Eight days old and still not named, his birth was then registered by the medical attendant, Lemuel Wallace, for whom he may have eventually been named.²

It seems like Wallace Ray spent his entire life hoping to make a name for himself. He reinvented himself several times and excelled in salesmanship.

Born into the Ray clan of Alloway Village, and despite a heart condition, he served his country in the military before WWI registration was required, was a professional actor, a silent film star, and retired as Head of National Sales for Texaco.³

Attending school in Alloway and traveling to the city of Philadelphia and New York were not challenges for this young man who left Alloway at the age of 16 to launch his own career. His father, the Captain, moved the family from the Alloway farm to the city and back again.⁴ Overhearing the deals being made on the docks of the ports surely taught him what he needed to know to be both a successful salesman and actor.

To date, there have been just a few sentences written about Wallace Ray. In 1937 he is mentioned by Joseph Sickler in his History of Salem County. "For the footlights of the stage this county has produced Wallace Ray of Alloway who played successfully for several years in both the theatre and silent moving pictures." In the 1988 publication Alloway Remembers is a line that in July 1920, "Wallace Ray, now a movie actor visited his mother in Alloway over the weekend." (continued on page 52)



Silent film star, Wallace Ray, autographed this photo
"To the best mother in the world. Wallace Ray, Jan. 12, 1920."

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The *Quarterly Newsletter* is published by the Salem County Historical Society Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter

This publication may include historical materials that contain language or stereotypes reflecting the culture or language of a particular period or place. These items are presented as part of the historical record.

Research Library & Museum Hours
Tuesday through Saturday
12 Noon - 4 PM

Library Admission Fee \$5.00 (Members Free)

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Salem County Historical Society is to seek, document, preserve, interpret and perpetuate Salem County's heritage, and to enhance the awareness and appreciation of that heritage, through its research, collections, functions, exhibits, educational programs and publications, for the benefit of future generations and for the betterment of the community.

2011 Annual Giving

Thank you for your continuing support of the Society. As a member of our exceptional organization, you play a vital role in protecting and nurturing Salem County's heritage.

You support the Salem County Historical Society through your membership, you may volunteer time with us, and you may participate in our fundraising activities, so why are we now appealing to you to donate to our Annual Giving drive? It's simple; the economy is in the midst of tough times, and the Society is feeling the pinch more than most other organizations. We need your help.

I had an experience last week I would like to share with you as an example of why I care about our organization and why I am asking for your help. I was seated at our library table as a member of our staff spoke with a couple from Delaware. The gentleman was a past owner of the Jackanias Wood house on South Main Street in Woodstown. He and his wife had brought in a box of documents for donation to the Society. As he talked about the history of his old house he became animated with the story of the treasure he had with him, explaining that William H. Reed, the first Superintendent of Schools, had lived there and how, in addition to office space, the rooms housed the first formal school and first music school in Woodstown. He brought to us the student records from the 1870's listing not only traditional student population but also schools located in private homes (our early home scholars). His excitement was contagious! We now had not only a greater knowledge of the times to share with members and patrons, but a source for genealogists visiting our library, an expansion of the file for the Jackanias Wood house, and a fascinating story for the young students who come to the Society each year. Once our staff finished with the acquisition paperwork, I had the pleasure of showing the couple a brief bit of our museum. They left with the promise of returning. The mission of the Society was met in a special way that day.

Each day presents a new opportunity to promote our mission and we must be ready.

The Society relies on membership dues, donations, fundraising events, and grants to keep our doors open. We support staff members, host over 1,000 school children each year, provide educational programs and events to all ages, produce a quarterly newsletter, present changing exhibits to tell our community stories, and protect the treasures given to us over our 127 year history.

I know that you, too, care about the Society. Your donation of \$50 will help us to promote our Open House in Fenwick's Colony tour and our special projects. Your donation of \$100 will support our library's offerings to you through the year. Your donation of \$250 will keep our education programs open to young and old. Your donation of \$500 will work to protect our buildings and collections.

You have the ability to take part in securing the Society's future, and I challenge you to be generous this year. If you have already donated, we thank you for your generous support, if not we urge you to make a donation keeping in mind everything your donation will support for this and future generations.

I thank you. Barbara Smith Duffy, President

P.S. Just this past week Mike Cooke and I accepted a gift from the will of Marguerite J. Stretch Hyatt. Mrs. Hyatt's gift was not designated for special use in her will but, as is the policy of the Society, the bequest was deposited to our endowment fund. In her way, Mrs. Hyatt is helping to secure the future of the Society. In the next few months you will learn more from our Endowment Committee about how your designated bequests are segregated and held in trust by the Society. Please keep us in mind for your future financial planning.

Membership Report

Individuals

Mr. George Cox, Brielle, NJ
Ms. Bernadette Effendian, Vineland, NJ
Ms. Linda Hancock, Carneys Point, NJ
Mr. John S. Howard, Buena Vista, CO
Mr. Thomas Jones, Elmer, NJ
Ms. Shelley McFadden, Pebble Beach, CA
Mr. Thomas Routson, Pilesgrove, NJ
Ms. Emma Scholes, Woodstown, NJ
Mr. Matthew S. Scruggs, Springfield, PA
Ms. Virginia Stannard, Ocean Pines, MD
Mr. Wayne Stepler, Magnolia, NJ
Ms. Carol Woolman, Bar Harbor, ME

Family

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, Dover, DE

In Memoriam

Joann Bill
William C. Hancock, Jr.
Helen A. Teberg
Edith H. Leap
Glendon W. Lodge, Jr.
Earl Maiden, Sr.
Gerald Montaigne, Jr.
Donna Strickland

Corporate and Business Members

“Partnerships with History”

FENWICK BENEFACTORS

Clement Pappas & Co., Inc.
Salem County Mutual Fire Insurance Co.
The Denn House

PEDERSEN PROVIDERS

DuPont Chambers Works
Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Salem County
Harvest Community Bank
Henry D. Young Insurance Agency
Lippincott Insurance Agency
Pole Tavern Equipment Sales Corp.

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Earle H. Sloan Insurance Agency, Inc.
Franklin Bank
John D. Jordan, Esq.
Kates Realty, LLC
Mannington Mills
Morgan’s Electrical Services
Oak Tree Chapter-NSDAR
Redaptive Holdings
Warner & Co., CPA’s

The Society is grateful for the support of our corporate and business members. For more information about our “Partnership with History” program Call 856-935-5004 or visit www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Calendar of Events

Special Exhibit through 2012 *The Farmer Feeds Them All: Reflections of Salem County Farm Life*
Salem County Historical Society
Tuesday through Saturday, 12 noon to 4PM
(Open and free to the public)

Friday, December 2, 2011 — 6-10 PM
Historic Woodstown by Candlelight Tour
Advance Tickets - Adults - \$12.00 Students - \$6.00
www.woodstownbycandlelight.org

Saturday, December 3, 2011 — 1:00 - 6:00 PM
24th Annual Yuletide Tour of homes in Historic Salem, NJ
For additional information call 856-339-0400 or email royalport@verizon.net

Sunday, December 11, 2011 — 1:30 PM
Winter Quarterly Meeting
Friends Village, Woodstown, NJ
Nineteenth Century New Jersey Photographers
Presented by Gary Saretzky

Sunday, March 11, 2012 — 1:30 PM
Spring Quarterly Meeting
Friends Village, Woodstown, NJ

Saturday, May 5, 2012
Salem County House Tour
For more information contact the Society or visit our website at www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Position Notice

ADMINISTRATOR/CURATOR
The Salem County Historical Society
Salem, New Jersey

ADMINISTRATOR/CURATOR-The Salem County Historical Society, a private, non-profit, volunteer-based organization, founded in 1884 on the site of the oldest English speaking settlement on the Delaware River, seeks a full time Administrator/Curator. This individual will provide leadership and assume overall responsibility for the Society’s day-to-day operations, including management of museum, library, physical plant, public relations, budget, fund-raising, membership, publications, community outreach, staff and volunteers, events, programs, and projects. The Administrator/Curator will report to the board of trustees and serve at its will.

Resources include several historic buildings containing a museum, research and genealogical library, a sizeable membership and an endowment of approximately \$1.5MM. Immediate opening. Bachelor’s or Advanced degree and experience with museum or historical organization is preferred. Salary/benefit package will be dependent upon the qualifications of the selected candidate. Submit cover letter, resume, salary history and at least four references to: Search Committee, Salem County Historical Society, 83 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079. EOE.

8th Rock Lecture
Thank you to those who attended and donated!



Center, Professor Emma J. Lapsansky-Werner of Haverford College is welcomed as the presenter for the 8th John S. Rock Memorial Lecture, October 16, 2011, by the Rev. Dr. H. Holland Fields, Jr, pastor of Mount Pisgah AME Church, Salem, New Jersey and Administrator/Curator, Sarah Hagarty.

In Memoriam– William C. Hancock, Jr.



William Chamblless Hancock Jr., died on Sept 27, 2011, aged 86. Bill was an innovative and successful Salem County farmer. On his 500 acre Mannington farm he grew tomatoes, asparagus, peppers and grain. He was among the first to use mechanical harvesting for tomatoes. Several young farmers learned their trade by working for him and he provided wise counsel. The story goes that Bill promised one of them some “equipment” when he was ready to start his own farming operation. When the time came, the young farmer was presented a pencil and notepad with the admonition that “if it doesn’t work on paper, it just won’t work.” Bill was a strong supporter of the Salem County Historical Society and he will be missed.
— Provided by David and Suzanne Culver

New Jersey Civil War Sesquicentennial Exhibit

Macculloch Hall Historical Museum in collaboration with the New Jersey Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, presents a major exhibit:

“Gone for a Soldier: Jerseymen in the Civil War”,
to run from November 6, 2011 to July 1, 2012.

The two organizations are using their expertise and connections to private and institutional collections to bring together an unprecedented amount of memorabilia chronicling the experience of New Jersey and her soldiers in the Civil War. The museum will offer lectures, book signings, and public programs to complement and enhance this major exhibit throughout the year. An exhibition catalogue will be available. Visit the museum website for upcoming events at <http://www.maccullochhall.org/>

For information, call the Museum weekdays at (973) 538-2404
Macculloch Hall Historical Museum
45 Macculloch Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960.

Winter Quarterly Meeting

Nineteenth-Century New Jersey Photographers:
Salem County

Presented by Gary Sartzky

Of the approximately 3,000 different photographers who were active in New Jersey before 1900, some were active in Salem County, doing both portraiture and scenic stereographic views. In a slide lecture, Gary D. Saretzky will profile these pioneers, including Hannah Flanagin and Julia Elton of Woodstown, and discuss them within the larger context of New Jersey photography in the 19th century.

Sunday, December 11 — 1:30 PM

Fenwick Auditorium
Friends Village at Woodstown

2011 Annual Dinner a Great Success!

This year’s Annual Dinner was a great success. One of the Society’s largest fundraisers, the dinner helps support general operating expenses. The evening featured a delicious buffet provided by Acton’s Pig Roastin’ and Catering. A Chinese and Silent Auction offered a wide variety of gift certificates and prizes. The big prize of the evening, a raffle basket offering Salem County entertainment, went home with Dr. and Mrs. Brooks. President Barbara Smith Duffy expressed the Society’s gratitude towards its volunteers. In line with the evening’s theme, the evening’s speaker, Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas Fisher gave a powerful speech about his Salem County roots and his involvement with the state’s agricultural community. Thank you to the Society’s Board, Staff and Dinner Committee for making this such a wonderful event.

Auction and Raffle Donors	Thank You To Our 2011 Annual Dinner Patrons & Donors	
Ladew Topiary Gardens L.S. Smick Lumber Butler Gardens Mr. William Gallo, Jr. Salem Sunbeam Bob Ewen Marcia Kates Roorck’s Farm Supply Inc. Lady Fitness Parker Jewelers Delaware Bay & River Authority Shimp Hardware Helen’s Café and Gardens Phyllis Schueler Beverly Carr Bradway Debbie Smith The Rooster Crows Alicia Bjornson Salem Main Street Town & Country Golf Links Alex Alampi Royal Port Antiques Dennis Briening Craig & Gaynel Schneeman Appel Farm Creekside Inn Salem City Café DiPaulo’s Italian Restaurante Pilesgrove -Woodstown Historical Society Woodstown Massage Boutique	<u>Patrons</u>	Ms. Elizabeth Crane
	Mr. Ricardo Ben-Safed	Mr. Gerald W. Eddis
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brooks	Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Buzby	Mr. George A. Githens
	Mr. & Mrs. Asa Cadwallader	Mr. David Hall
Mr. & Mrs. John S. Carpenter	Mr. & Mrs. David Culver	Mr. & Mrs. William Hancock
	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Duffy	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Fogg	Mr. & Mrs. William J. Gallo Jr.	Ms. Joan M. Hassler
	Ms. Joann Humphrey	Ms. Katherine Heverin
Mr. & Mrs. James Kates	Ms. Peggy A. Kavanaugh	Mrs. Virginia Holdcraft
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	Ms. Barbara Nathan	Ms. Rebecca Lewis
Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Owen	Mrs. Lucille B. Pote	Mr. Ronald Magill
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Mrs. Emily Walker	Ms. Mary C. Arnold	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Miller
	Mrs. Reba Baglio	Ms. Ellen A. Morrissey
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brooks	Ms. Louise Brown	Mrs. Anna Muhlbaier
	Mrs. Clara Buck	Dr. Lawrence B. Owen
CMSGT William B. Camp	Mr. Keith S. Campbell	Ms. Marion H. Patrick
		Mr. David P. Souder
		Ms. Nancy E. Spangler
		Mr. Walter Stewart
		Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Tisa
		Mr. Lee R. Ware
		Mrs. Elizabeth H. Yerkes
Thank You To Our 2011 Annual Dinner Sponsors		
PSEG Nuclear Gerald B. Shreiber Foundation c/o J&J Snack Foods Corp. Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders Franklin Bank Memorial Hospital of Salem County Salem Community College Bob Brooks Auctions South Jersey Farmer’s Exchange Inc.		On the 23 Day January 1812 there was a Shock By the By Shakeen of the Erth which Stopt Severl Clocks and Cosed Every thing that was hanging for to Swing backward and forod and Cosed many pepel to Be dese headed. “Oliver Smith His Book 1787” MS 443 [On the 23 day January 1812 there was a shock by the shaking of the earth which stopped several clocks and caused everything that was hanging to swing backward and forward and caused many people to be dizzy headed.]

Library Acquisitions
Ben-Safed, Ricardo , Philadelphia, PA. 1910 Report of West Jersey and Seashore Railroad Company. (2011.056)
Bunting, Dorothy , Pennsville, NJ. 2011 Salem High School graduation program. (2011.059)
Edwards, Lee , Mickleton, NJ. 1888 Autograph Book of Alice Bassett, Pittsgrove. 1913 Farm Journal of Salem County with map, 1913. Books for educational programs. (2011.063)
Ewen, Robert M. , Salem, NJ. Three photographs of the Alloway log cabin moved to Salem County Historical Society. (2011.058)
France, Brittany , Sewell, NJ. Photographs relating to donor's great aunt, a teacher, Matilda "Tillie" Hiles, other members of the Hiles family, of Raymond Newkirk, Isabel Foster and parades in Salem and Woodstown. (2011.065)
Krause, Edmund “Ted”, Jr. , Plymouth Meeting, PA. Items relating to Kathryn Schneider and Edmund Krause. Salem High School Class of 1939 snapshots of baccalaureate, graduation and class trip. Salem HS Class 1941: 20th Reunion program, photos (8x10 color) of 65th & 67th reunions. (2011.052)
Penn, Michael and Claudia , Salem, NJ. Book, <i>African Hunting Among the Thongas</i> by George Agnew Chamberlain. (2011.062)
Salem High School Alumni Association via Barbara Peterson . 2011 Salem High School yearbook. (2011.057)
Wanner, Irene , Salem, NJ. Two sketches by Ron LeHew. (2011.060) <i>(to be continued)</i>



Nick Culver and Selene Viallard on our

Alloway Halloween Parade

A great time was had by all who attended the chilly, but festive, Halloween parade on Sunday, October 30th.

Our float has made it’s way around the county this year as we participated in the 4th of July parade and Septemberfest as well as the Halloween parade.

Museum Acquisitions

Ewen, Robert, Salem, NJ. Two silver spoons– crafted by Thomas Bowen.

Krause, Edmund “Ted”, Jr. , Plymouth Meeting, PA. Items relating to Kathryn Schneider and Edmund Krause. 1990 Market Street Day Medal for Citizen of the Year, 1939 Salem High School pin, 1973 Quinton Centennial plate/ashtray. (2011.052)

Willis, Carol, New Castle, DE. Christmas ornament collection, circa 1950. *(to be continued)*

Society News

- Check out our **Facebook** page for updates on Society events. <http://www.facebook.com/salemcountyhistoricalsociety>
- If you would like to receive our e-news blast please contact the Society with your email address. This monthly update is full of interesting information related to SCHS.
- Volunteers & Interns Opportunities**
Library assistants — cataloguing projects
Museum assistants - special event tours and clerical work



We are grateful for the support of our volunteers and are proud to host two interns this winter ! Our current interns are working with our museum collections. The Society has diverse volunteer and internship opportunities to fit any interest. Please contact us for more information.

4th Annual Walking Ghost Tour of Salem City

This year’s tour was a great success! The chilly weather set the mood for this spooky evening. Displayed were our hearse, cooling board, Victorian hair art and information about funerary traditions.

The hearse and cooling board were owned by Enoch Mulford, a cabinet maker and undertaker from Greenwich, NJ working around 1820. A metal tank was placed on top of the cooling board and the body was packed in ice to preserve it until burial.

Edgar Allan Poe made a guest appearance and the United Way of Salem County gave away copies of Poe’s *The Raven*.



LETTER FROM CAMP
From the 4th New Jersey Regiment
CAMP SEMINARY, Va., Feb. 16, 1862

FRIEND GWYNNE:—Since I last wrote you I have been home on a flying visit. I left our camp on Friday morning, the 7th inst., about daylight, and walked to Alexandria; where I took the boat for Washington, which place I reached about 9 o’clock, and strolled about there until 11 o’clock, when I stepped on the cars for Wilmington.

As the *iron horse* was carrying me swiftly to the spot I longed to see, I strained my eyes often looking forward for the destined place, which, to my joy, I reached about 4 o’clock, P. M. It was indeed a time of rejoicing to me as I met my relations and friends and shook glad hands with them, as it had been six months since I had seen them last. About 10 o’clock the same evening, I took the cars again for Philadelphia, and after reaching there I went to Mr. Casper’s hotel, foot of Market street, and put up for the night.

The next morning I took the *Major Reybold* for old Jersey, the land of my birth, and the place dearest to me on earth; and soon I was among friends and loved ones, almost forgetting that I had been gone so long. None but those who have experienced the fact can imagine the pleasure it gives one who has been bound under such laws as we have, to feel himself *free* again. I felt as though I had entered a new air—that I had entered a new life; and the short time I remained I was happy.

But Thursday, 13th, I had to leave those pleasures and kind friends and relatives, and above all, those I loved most dear on earth, and came back again to my duty. It was indeed a sad parting. I arrived in Camp on Thursday, 14th, and was soon among my “tent-mates,” who I was glad to meet and who I had so often thought of while I was home.

Our Orderly Sergeant, John M. Mills, who has been home recruiting, returned the same day.—We were very glad to meet him again, as he has the esteem of us all. We expected to see several recruits with him, but none came. I believe all the recruits went into the 3d regiment.

The boys all seemed in high glee, as they had just heard of the great and glorious victory of Roanoke Island. Lieut. Col. Hatch gave them the privilege of forming into a square and give three cheers for the brave boys who had gained such a glorious victory.

We are remaining still inactive here, but not because we are unwilling to advance, but only because it is impossible. The weather is much better now than it has been, and we hope in a few days the roads will be so that we can move forward.

I was astonished, while home, to find so many who disapproved of the Administration, and opposed the war. They seemed to think we were a band of murderers, and we would have to answer at the Great

Day for every drop of Southern blood we shed. No wonder we make such little progress, when there are so many at home encouraging the rebels and the traitors, who would destroy our happy country.

Those I allude to have an idea that our design is to free the slaves; but it is not so. This is not an Abolition war, though many would have it such. We confess the Abolitionists helped to bring the war upon us, and now would abolish slavery; but, our good President and our present Secretary of War, and the gallant Gen. McClellan, design only to reinstate the glorious Stars and Stripes where they have been to foully torn down.

It is the belief now among us all that the war will soon be over, and we who are so fortunate as to escape the struggle, permitted to return to our homes, greet the loved ones we left there, and enjoy our lives in thinking that we have preserved our country from a traitor’s hand.

YOUNG AMERICA.

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, February 28, 1862

SALEM COUNTY’S FIRST
REBELLION VICTIM

We have to record the first Salem County victim of the rebellion. **John Plummer**, a member of Company F., Captain Reynolds, 5th N. J. Volunteers, died in the Army hospital at Washington, a few days ago, from disease contracted while in the service of his country; and, as we write, his remains are being conveyed to the home of his widowed mother, in Upper Alloways Creek.

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, December 27, 1861

[Private John P. Plummer, born March 5, 1834, enlisted from Allowaystown, New Jersey on August 22, 1861, at age 25 and died of diarrhea at Camp Baker, Maryland on December 23, 1861. He is interred at the Alloway Methodist Church Cemetery, Alloway, New Jersey.

From: William H. Skinner, “Notes on Civil War Soldiers from Salem County Who Died During the War”]

(continued from cover) If acting is a bug or an affliction, it may be that young Ray caught it, in Salem, after the Fall of 1905 when collateral relative William S. Ray and George F. Miller opened the Bijou Dream, the first motion picture theater south of Woodbury, at 141 West Broadway across from the Town Clock, the first of three theaters owned by William S. Ray in Salem.⁵

By the Spring of 1910 the Federal Census shows that his parents had moved to Main Street in Alloway and that he was living separately from them and bound for somewhere, at least in his mind. The youngest of 15 boarders at a home operated by the daughter of Irish immigrants on



Ray of Alloway, leading man

Broad Street in Philadelphia, young Ray was a preparatory school student.

By the time Wallace Ray reached age 23 the family farm had been sold and his father had died.⁶ During this year he became an Infantryman but was discharged on April 20, 1916 for a physical infirmity.⁷ His business career began with a stint as Manager for the P. J. Ritter Conserve Company in Philadelphia, overseeing tomato purchasing and delivery. Having proven to himself that he could survive in business, at some point, the Alloway native decided to break into the silent film industry. As most actors soon learn, earning a living can be a challenge, but Ray had already conquered that hurdle. He knew success.

Between 1920 and 1923 Wallace Ray became a silent film star and worked in the industry steadily.⁸ The Standard and Jerseyman, in July 1920 ran an entry in the Alloway section that Wallace J. Ray of New York City had visited his mother over the weekend. The paper also published a story titled “Salem County Boy Movie Star, Wallace Ray, of Alloway, One of The Screen’s Leading Juvenile Men.”⁹

The Chevron archive relates that Ray joined Texaco following his business and acting career in 1929. Subsequently the 1930 Federal census shows him boarding in Manhattan, at age 37, single, a salesman of petroleum oil. Two years later, in the Fall of 1932, his mother died in Alloway. Her obituary confirms that he was still living in New York City.¹⁰ He also applied for his Social Security Card from New York sometime before 1951. By the year 1945, when Ray was appointed Assistant Manager of National Sales Division for Texaco he had married Thelma Blez who had a son, Jay V.



W. J. RAY
Manager, National Sales

Stanger, who would later become a plastic surgeon in California.

In 1950 Ray advanced to Manager of National Sales Division for Texaco and in 1958 he retired with 29 years of service to the petroleum giant. Two years later, as per his death certificate, his family made the move to Santa Clara County, California. Wallace Ray died on January 4, 1969 at the age of 76,



Left, Ray as a Texaco Executive



Captain Thomas J. Ray
The Actor’s Father

Filmography of Wallace J. Ray

1920

- *Over The Hill To The Poor House*, the biggest commercial hit, filmed at Fort Lee, New Jersey, budgeted at \$100,000 and earning \$3,000,000 in the United States, released by Fox Corporation in September. (Role of ‘Adult Charles’)
- *Chains of Evidence*, a Mystery, Hallmark Pictures Corporation, in March. Cast of nine men and three women. (Role of ‘Dick’)
- *The Bromley Case*, William Steiner Productions, in June. Cast of nine men and three women. (Role of ‘John Bromley, Jr.’)
- *Bitter Fruit*, a Drama, in October. Cast of four men and two women. (Roles not stated)

1921

- *Pardon My French*, a comedy, Goldwyn Pictures Corporation in November. Cast of five men and three women. (Role of ‘MacGilllicuddy’)
- *Under Western Skies*, a Western, (starring Wallace Ray and Grace Lloyd, the only cast members)

1922

- *Shackles of Gold*, a drama, Fox Film Corporation, in April. (Role of ‘Harry, the son’) Cast of 5 men and 3 women.

1923 Both starring actor Harlan Knight

- *The Critical Age*, Based on the novel, Ottawa Film Productions, in June. Filming Locations: Hell's Gate Falls, Mississagi River, Ontario, Canada. Cast of five men and three women. (Role of ‘Bob Kerr’)
- *Darkness and Daylight*, Bancroft Pictures, unknown month of release. Cast of 2 women and 3 men, filmed in the USA. (Role of ‘Alias Bob Thorne’)

at El Camino Hospital, Mountain View, California. He was cremated with inurnment in Alta Mesa Memorial Park, Palo Alto, California.¹¹ Thelma joined him there in 1974 and Dr. Stanger, his step-son, died in 2007.¹²

The siblings of Wallace Ray were Frank Ray, Herbert Ray and Alice Coutch, who served as postmistress at Alloway and the Daughters of American Revolution Regent. Like Alice, Wallace Ray was also proud of his Revolutionary War ancestor, Samuel Ray of Alloway, and was a member of the Sons of The American Revolution of New York.¹³

Acknowledgements: Photographs were shared by Robert Crompton, grandson of Alice Ray Coutch, and used with his permission.¹⁴ Thank you to Dorothy Quirk, granddaughter of Alice Ray Coutch for also being supportive of the exploration of the Wallace Ray story for this article and Peder J. Hash of Chevron Corporate Archives.



Vivian Martin & Wallace Ray. Martin achieved popularity as a “rival” to Mary Pickford. Ray & Martin were paired in the 1921 film “Pardon My French.”



¹The property was just east of Alloway village, all that is between Bone Run and Deep Run south of Alloways Creek and across the Quinton-Alloway Road to Elkington and Reeve properties on what is now Waterworks Road. Thomas J. Ray, then age 40, bought the property, 93 acres, with a bid of \$2,790 from Samuel Ray assignee of Johnson Ray by deed dated November 18, 1890, (Book 7- p. 602-604). Two and three-quarter acres of this was sold to Alloway-Quinton Railroad Co. on March 7, 1892, (Book 75 p. 218). Thomas J. Ray sold to Joseph Fogg for \$2,800 on February 15, 1912, (Book 18 p. 462-464). Samuel Ray had acquired the land (all of the estate) from John Ray deed of assignment on July 17, 1889. Deeds on file with the Salem County Clerk, Salem, New Jersey.

²Birth Certificate, R83, New Jersey Department of Archives and Records Management copied by William E. Saunderlin.

³Texaco has merged with Chevron.

⁴Salem Standard & Jerseyman, 1/13/1909 "Samuel Campbell, living on the Ray farm, had a sale last week and will move to a small farm near Pole Tavern. It is said that Captain and Mrs. Ray will move back to their farm again." The 1895 New Jersey State Census and the 1900 Federal Census show the family in Alloway.

⁵Today's Sunbeam, Issue August 4, 1977 found in Salem County Historical Society Scrapbook 38, p. 51.

⁶Salem County Historical Society Marriage and Death Book 5, p. 102, Salem Sunbeam obituary “RAY-At Philadelphia, on February 27th, 1916, Captain Thomas J. Ray, aged 65 years. Relatives and friends, also Washington Lodge, I.O.O.F. are invited to attend the funeral services Wednesday evening at eight o’clock at his late residence, 105 63d street, Philadelphia. Also services in the Baptist Church, Alloway, N.J., Thursday morning at eleven o’clock, Interment at Alloway.”

⁷WWI Draft Card completed June 5, 1917 states his address as 1237 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia and his physical description as tall, grey eyes, black hair, age 24, employed as Manager for tomato buying and delivery for the conservation of food, with P.J. Ritter Conserve Co, 2219 Frankford Ave.

⁸The Internet Movie Database lists the movie credits. www.imdb.com

⁹Salem Standard and Jerseyman issues of July 7 and July 14, 1920. The article references two movies that Ray had acted in, *The Sport of Kings* and *No. 17* which have no record of release. He was, the time, with the Fox Company and was working on an unnamed movie.

¹⁰Funeral Card shared by Jane Ray Maltman. Barbara Johnson Van Meter Ray, called “Kate,” born in Daretown, died on September 2, 1932 at age 82 and was buried in Alloway Baptist Cemetery. Her funeral was held September 6th at the home of Alice Coutch, her daughter, in Alloway. Barbara was the daughter of James Van Meter & Elizabeth Johnson as per a handwritten chart by Alice Coutch. However in marriage records her name was recorded as Barbara Johnson.

¹¹Death certificate shared by Jane Ray Maltman.

¹²Obituaries provided by City of Mountain View CA Library Services.

¹³Judge Samuel Ray organized the first troops in Upper Alloways Creek on May 5, 1777.

¹⁴For further study are two photographs identified in the Billy Rose Theatre Division of the New York Public Library in Files A and B. No clip-pings of Wallace Ray were found in that collection.

ALEXANDER’S ANNALS

50 YEARS AGO

Pennsville Progress, December 1961

- Rock ‘n’ Roll Still Alive ‘n’ Kicking.
- J. Charles Righter’s hardware store razed at the corner of Market & Grant, Salem.
- Diane Casper, Salem—State Winner of the National 4-H Home Economics Competition.
- Five Christmas Masses Listed At Saint Mary’s.
- Turkeys—28¢ lb.—Acme.

75 YEARS AGO

The Monitor-Register, December 1936

- Woodstown Dial Phone Service Starts February 4th.
- Go to the Mummer’s Parade By Boat—50¢—Round Trip—Wilson Line.
- Woodstown Opera House—*Dimples*—Shirley Temple.
- Development of Kresswold Lane is progressing.
- Woodstown Civic Orchestra, first concert, Wilbert B. Hitchner, Conductor.

100 YEARS AGO

Salem Sunbeam, December 1911

- “Get Ready for the Holidays”—Mildred Sylvester [Beauty Salon] — Opposite Woodstown High School.
- Fine new steamer, *Queen Anne*, now in this city.
- S. Preston Carpenter sent a barrel of oranges from Florida to Bethany Mission Sunday School—Christmas present.
- Bill introduced in Congress for a Federal Building in Salem.
- Salem Amusement Park leased for Ice Skating Rink.

Thank You

Our programs and services cannot happen without the generous support from our volunteers.

Carol Bautista
Ricardo Ben-Safed
J. Harlan Buzby
Gretchen Buzby
Kathy Cannon
Mary Lou Chollis
David Culver
Tabitha Dilks
Barbara Duffy
Brian Duffy
Victoria Duffy
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Dana Gayner
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Tom Miller
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Gift Memberships



What a great gift idea for family or friends with ties to Salem County!

A gift membership to the Salem County Historical Society includes many special features available only through the end of the year.

Gift memberships come in a special gift package that can be sent to you, or directly to the recipient.

Simply fill in the membership form on page 59 and attach a note with your contact information and the contact information for the individual or family receiving the gift.

For the same cost as the regular memberships, your gift membership package will also include:

- Charming personalized gift package**
- A copy of *I Love to Live Alone: The Poems of Esther “Hetty” Saunders***
- A set of 6 Grant House note cards**
- 3 postcards of the Salem Oak**
- A \$5 coupon towards program fees**

Around the Museum...

The Society’s museum inventory is making great progress thanks to the hard work of our dedicated Fall & Winter 2011-2012 Interns:

Tiffany Gipson and Danielle Polonczyk

**Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County
The Gloucester County Master Gardeners**

Mary Cummings
Melinda Doyle
Ted Demko
Maureen Fitzgerald
Charlotte Harrison
Diane Mickel
Vic Thomas
Margaret & Tom VanLier

CONDENSED HISTORY
OF THE
SASH FACTORY
BUSINESS IN SALEM

Transcribed from:
Salem Standard & Jerseyman,
Salem, N. J., December 5, 1916

Our Letter Box

In 1845 a man by the name of George Hastings conceived the idea of starting a sash factory in Salem, and making it a distinct branch of carpentry, for in those days sashes, doors and shutters were made by the carpenters themselves, and were generally done in the winter, making this branch of work one of profit to the carpenter as well as pleasure in having work in the shop when too disagreeable to work out of doors.

The place Mr. Hastings used for his factory was situated in the rear of the Nelson House, on Belden Street, and I think the house now occupied by Mr. Henry Marion is the same building converted into a dwelling.

Mr. Hastings started the business in a very small way, and as it grew on his hands, and not having the means to enlarge it as he wished, he sold out to Mr. Josiah Paullin, with the understanding that he (Hastings) should have charge of the sash department at good wages and steady work.

Mr. Paullin then put in all of the best machinery of those days that was considered to be needful to manufacture sash, doors, &c, by steam, and this was the first steam sash and door factory in Salem, and was situated on Griffith Street, just below where the present factory now stands, and nearly opposite the machine shop and foundry of H. Hall & Co.

Mr. Paullin continued the business until the year 1849, when Mr. A. N. Bell bought the factory and continued the business at the same place until 1854, when the factory was destroyed by fire. From that time until almost 1857 the sash factory interest lay dormant.

In that year Mr. J. S. McCune started a small place in Penrose (now Third) Street, running the machinery by horse power; after running it about a year he sold out to Ellwood Jefferis, Richard Jefferis and John W. Vernon. They continued the business about a year, when Elwood retired and Richard Jefferis and Vernon were the firm.

Their business increased on their hands so fast and feeling the need of more power, they left the old shop and moved down to the old mill at the foot of Broadway and started business on a larger scale.

Soon Jefferis and Vernon dissolved partnership, and the business was conducted by Vernon alone for about one year, when Mr. Richard Davis (now of the firm of Youker & Davis, poultry dealers,) bought one half interest and the firm was Vernon & Davis.



Workers at the Salem Sash Factory, 152 Griffith St., Salem, NJ. Undated. (*From the Collection*)

{About this time another factory was started at the foot of Fifth or Penns Street, at Pettit’s mill (now owned and occupied by Patterson & Jones as a canning factory). This firm was composed of William and Elwood Braddock and Owen S. Proud. Afterward one of the Braddocks retired and Mr. S. Chase was taken into the firm, thus having what is called the life of trade, viz., opposition.}

Mr. Davis soon withdrew from the business and Mr. Vernon continued alone until he closed up the concern and removed his machinery to Chambersburg, Pa., just after the rebel raid into Pennsylvania.

The firm of Braddock, Chase & Co., soon dissolved and quit business, thus leaving Salem again without a sash factory until April, 1866, when Edward Dickinson, J. S. McCune and Owen S. Proud started the present interest under the firm name of Dickinson & Co., continuing until September of the same year, when Dickinson and McCune sold out to Mr. Charles W. Casper, the firm now being Casper & Proud.

The second year Mr. Joseph Casper bought an interest in the business, adding the Co. to the firm. The third year, or in “69, the business was sold to the two lumber firms, under the name of Dunn, Wistar & Co., they continuing the business until the failure of E. W. Dunn & Son, when it was sold at public sale and bought by its present owners, A. N. Bell and Richard Woodnutt, and is now carried on and doing a thriving business by Bell & Woodnutt.

One Who Knows.

New Shutter Fastener.

John Whalen, the North Bend barber has secured a patent on a window shutter fastener that is very simple and at the same time is a very convenient article. The inventor expects to get the fasteners on the market in a short time.

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ April 11, 1906

ALDINE—A Post Office has been established at Watson’s Corner, through the influences of Congressman Hires, and Mr. Samuel V. Jones appointed the first Postmaster.
National Standard, Salem, NJ, February 3, 1886

ELLEN B. SMITH, M. D.
1866 — 1920

Seven physicians from Salem County organized their component medical society and held its first meeting on November 30, 1818. On May 4, 1880, almost 100 years from the Society’s first meeting, Salem County physicians elected a woman member, Ellen B. Smith, MD.

The second child of Mary Bradway (1836-1925) and Quinton P. Harris (1830-1919), Ellen Harris was born in Lower Alloways Creek Township on January 26, 1866, four years after the birth of her sister Lucy. Ellen attended local public schools and graduated Salem High School in 1884. She was a member of the 1892 class of the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania, and received her New York and New Jersey licenses that same year.

After graduation, Ellen moved to Brooklyn, New York, and opened a successful practice. She married Winfield Scott Smith on May 19, 1891. [Dr. Winfield Smith was born on August 5, 1862, at Hancock’s Bridge; he graduated from Long Island College of Medicine in 1878. He moved to Brooklyn and was on staff at Long Island Hospital.] After their marriage, the Drs. Smith continued to practice in New York City.

A few years later, the Drs. Smith moved to Salem and practiced at their home/office on East Broadway. Ellen’s practice “became very extensive, especially among women and children.” Ellen took a keen interest in community affairs serving as president of the Woman’s Club of Salem in 1904, as the chairman of the Department of Public Health in the New Jersey State Federation, and the National Federation of Women’s Clubs, and as a member of the Oak Tree Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

When she was elected to membership in 1916, Dr. Smith was 1 of 14 members of this County Society, with the state organization having 1,684 members.

Known as Dr. Ellen, she was one of Salem County’s most prominent and best known citizens. Dr. Ellen “had a large circle of close friends and adoring patients. There was perhaps no physician in the county who was closer to those to whom she ministered than was Dr. Ellen. She took more than a professional interest in her cases; she took deep and loving care of each one.” Newspaper accounts of her professional career noted: “In her busy life she not only found time to attend to those patients who were amply able to pay for her services but she also was never too tired nor too busy to give her ministrations to the poor....she gave such unremitting and unselfish attention to those who needed her care.”

Dr. Ellen also was concerned about women in the medical field. “She pleaded that Club women should realize themselves and endeavor to impress upon their daughters and young friends the very promising careers opened to women in the medical profession.” In an article, she wrote: “As to the monetary rewards they are good, but they are the least of the returns that await those who elect to follow in the footsteps of The Great Physician.”

On May 13, 1920, Dr. Ellen Smith died at the age of 54 from a fractured skull following an accident on East Broadway in Salem. Crossing the street on the night of her death, passersby noted heavy rain and possibly her umbrella obscuring the view of an approaching automobile. She was thrown violently into the roadway, and apparently was dead at the scene of the accident. The driver of the automobile took Dr. Smith to Salem County Memorial Hospital, but she already had died.

A resolution passed by the Salem County Medical Society noted her contributions:

This splendid service in the cause of relieving suffering humanity was best exhibited in her untiring, self-sacrificing devotion to their conscientious duty well performed. Her genial manner made her a more than welcome visitor to the sick and depressed; to the many of whom the dispensing of cheer and encouragement, rather than drugs, made the path easier for their convalescence and return to health.

In addition to the outpouring from the Salem County Medical Society, the local community expressed its shock at Ellen’s tragic death; “Despite the exacting duties of a successful professional life, Dr. Ellen with a broadminded vision realized the needs of civic and intellectual stimuli for the betterment of the people she so wholeheartedly endeavored to serve....” Dr. Winfield Smith died at home on July 14, 1923, of a stroke, three years after the death of his wife. Ellen.

Reprint Permission: Medical Society of New Jersey
“The History of Women Physicians”
The Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey
March 1990.

Celery for the Nerves

A writer who is familiar with the use of celery says that he has known several men and women, who, from various cause, had become so affected by nervousness that when they stretched out their hands they shook like aspen leaves on windy days, and by a moderate daily use of the blanched footstalks of celery as a salad they became as strong and steady in limb as other people. He has known people cured of palpitation of the heart by the use of celery. Everybody engaged in labor weakening to the nerves should use celery daily in its season, and onions in its stead when not in season.

From the Collection “Medicine”

Infallible Recipe for Colds.—In this season of coughs and colds, the following recipe from the Northern Farmer will be of some benefit to the afflicted:—***Recipe***—One table spoonful of molasses; two teaspoonsful castor oil; one do. paregoric; one do. spirits of camphor. Mix and take often.

National Standard, Salem, NJ, February 16, 1853.

Collections Spotlight:

During our museum inventory, staff and interns are rediscovering the Society’s treasures. In the last newsletter we received a multitude of responses from our members aiding us in researching the function of a museum object we had questions about. We are very grateful and would like your help again! If you have any ideas about this quarter’s artifact please e-mail info@sailemcountyhistoricalsociety.com.



What we know: This belt belonged to Captain George Bowen of the 12th New Jersey Volunteers during the Civil War. It is made of khaki. Inserted inside the khaki is a series of metal circular clasps and wires. At the end of this series the wires form together in a metal loop which is unattached to any other part of the belt. The tag reads “Capt George Bowen 12th NJ Volunteers.”

It had previously been suggested to us by a member of the New Jersey Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee that this was an exercise belt.

What we would like your help with: We do not know what the function of the metal clasps and wires are. What is the function of this belt?

Spotlight Recap



What we knew: Porcelain piece, blue willow pattern. The piece is flat and has a number of patterned holes with a larger central hole. The pieces are marked with catalog numbers CH240 and 377.

What we did not know: What type of piece is this? What are the purposes of the holes? What is it’s age?

Society members, William Saunderlin and Peggy Sutor provided an answer! The piece served as a drainer, meant to be placed on top of a Well and Tree platter (see image). A piece of meat was placed on top. When cut for dinner, the juices drained into the platter. The drainer is earthenware, also known as pearlware and was made between 1820 and 1830.



OLD LANDMARK MOVED

The removal of the old cooper shop from the corner of Market and Grant streets, to Joseph K. Chew’s lot, adjoining Foster’s marble yard, displaces an old landmark. This building has been used as a cooper shop for nearly one hundred years or quite. Mr. Enoch Mulford, its occupant, having followed the cooper trade there for sixty-three years, and his father occupied it before him. It is to be replaced by a building for Righter’s stove and tin store, the foundation of which has already been laid. *National Standard*, Salem, NJ, January 22, 1890

Street Lamps,—Our Borough Council procured 18 substantial street lamps, and last week several of them were put up. The nicely sawed octagon posts, and neat lamps lighted with kerosene, make pretty street furniture, and their presence will be welcomed by any one who has occasion to go at night through our Borough. *Woodstown Register*, Woodstown, NJ, December 12, 1882

Venus at Mid-day

The planet Venus may now be seen in clear weather at mid-day, about three hours behind the sun, and a few degrees north of the sun’s path. The intensity of its light will continue to increase till the 26th of January, which is the time of its greatest brilliancy. The most convenient method of finding it when the sun is above the horizon is to observe it first about sunset and mark its position by bringing it in a line with some elevated object. This will aid in finding it one or two hours earlier the next day when its situation should be again carefully noted as before. In this manner it may be carried back from day to day, and seen without difficulty when the sun is on the meridian.

National Standard, Salem, NJ, December 30, 1845

KID’S CORNER

Glitter Snowflake Window Decals

These sparkly decorations look festive on home and car windows

Materials

Paper, Pencil, Cookie Sheet, Waxed Paper, Glitter Fabric Paint

Directions

- 1) Draw a snowflake on your paper in pencil.
- 2) Cut the drawing out, leaving a 2 inch border around the image.
- 3) Place the cut out on the cookie sheet and tape it down.
- 4) Cover with a piece of waxed paper and tape that to the cookie sheet.
- 5) Trace the drawing with the fabric paint.
- 6) Loosen the wax paper to place an empty area of wax paper over the drawing. Repeat steps 5 and 6 until you have created many snowflakes.

- 7) Let the paint dry overnight. The next day, peel it off the waxed paper and start decorating!

Be creative! Trace different snowflake shapes and use different colored fabric paint.



Family Saturdays at the Society

With support from United Way of Salem County, we kicked off our latest series of family programs— Family Saturdays at the Society. *Family Saturdays at the Historical Society* consists of monthly family activities. Each month the Society offers an interactive Saturday morning program designed to bring families together through learning about the county’s history.

In October, storyteller and folk artist Jim Albertson shared southern New Jersey folklore while families decorated pumpkins.

In November, The Third Fibre Artists Guild demonstrated what life was like before departments stores and clothing was handmade.



Upcoming Programs

February 2012: Celebrate Black History Month with an exploration of how many gained their freedom. Learn about the disguises many used as well as the trail of the drinking gourd.

April 2012: Spend the morning learning about the Society’s vintage toy collection. What was it like to make your own toys? Families will create Jacob’s Ladders.

May 2012: Spend the morning learning about dolls. Families will create their own Bi-Lo dolls.

Salem Messenger, Salem, New Jersey, September 27, 1820

John Craven	Benjamin Ford	John Mingo
Joseph Nichols	Joseph Bilderback	Thomas Bennet
Samuel Sharp	Isaac Lewis	Samuel Chans
Jacob Horner	Andrew Alston	John Sparks, jr.
Daniel Smith	Thomas Johnson	Henry Williams
David Craven	Samuel Brooks	William Timberman
John Hall	Abraham Thompson	Franklin B. Frost
Samuel Richard	William Conklyns	Edward Hancock
Matthew Pierce	Thomas Segraves	John Dunham
Daniel Dolbow	Theophilus Lott	William Dickinson
William Redden	Eayre Moore	Joseph Murphey
David Dickinson	Samuel Mead	Jabez Busby
William Young	Enos Garrison	Joseph Watters
Aaron Sparks	Samuel Dayton	
Charles O'Harrow	Samuel N. Thompson	
Samuel Jaquett	Richard Tittermary	
George Fox, sen.	James Moore	
Josiah Sparks	Benjamin Smith	
Samuel Jordon	Ebenezar Himar	
Aaron Gibeson	Peter Haines	

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J. Harlan Buzby, *V. Pres. Library*
Vacant, *Recording Secretary*
Trudy K. O'Hare, *Treasurer*
Maggie Vaughan, *VP Membership*
Craig Schneeman, *VP Bldg. & Grounds*
Brian M. Duffy, *Trustee*
William J. Gallo, Jr., *Trustee*
Diane Wohlrab, *Trustee*
Ronald E. Magill, *Trustee*
Ellen Morrissey, *Trustee*
Donald L. Pierce, *Trustee*
Dr. Robert A. Brooks, *Trustee Emeritus*

Administrator/Curator: Vacant
Librarian: *Beverly Carr Bradway*
Museum Staff: *Kimberly Downs*
Administrative Assistant: *Vacant*
Bookkeeper: *Wanda Hofbauer*
Groundskeeper: *William Jackson*
Newsletter: *J. Harlan Buzby, Ellen Morrissey*

Name _____ ☐ **New Member** ☐ **Renewal**
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City, State, Zip _____
Telephone _____ **Email** _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Household	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$500

<input type="checkbox"/> Oak Tree Associate	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Pedersen Providers	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Goodwin Providers	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Fenwick Benefactors	\$1000+

Please make checks payable to the Salem County Historical Society. The Society now accepts credit card payments for new memberships, renewals, and upgrades through our secure website: www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com


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863 Route 45 Pilesgrove
389 Harding Hwy Elmer

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Freeman's Banner, Salem, N. J., February 17, 1836

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