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Salem's Cross Burnings: Racism and Terror in 1967

How Protest and Dialogue Averted Violence 51 Years Ago

By James Rupert

A half-century ago, white supremacists in Salem County ignited a racial confrontation with 20 cross burnings that triggered protest marches by hundreds of black residents. The crisis threatened racial violence and jolted New Jersey's legislators to quickly pass a law making cross-burning a crime.

The crisis forced Salem's white leadership to acknowledge openly a racial divide that it had tended to ignore or underestimate. In April 1967, after white extremists had burned more than a dozen crosses and scattered hate literature, Salem's white elite had failed to mobilize a broad response. It did so only after being confronted by black residents in church-hall meetings and street protests.

History cannot measure in inches or minutes how close Salem came to crossing the hairline between the threat of violence and actual bloodshed. But the margin of safety wore very thin. Cross burnings were (and are, in the eyes of U.S. Supreme Court case law) terrorist threats—and they provoked more threats, from both whites and blacks. Before the 1967 crisis eased, white supremacists distributed hate literature at night in homeowners' mailboxes. Black activists warned white officials and business leaders that blacks would buy guns and form self-defense groups if the white extremists were not stopped. An anonymous phone caller to Salem police threatened arson against stores in the city. Street lights were shot out. And on a Salem street one night, the danger was dramatized by a slowly rolling car with a rifle barrel pointed out the window at a black Salem war hero who heard the rifle's trigger click.

Once engaged through protest and dialogue, the white establishment responded. It condemned the cross burners, funded a reward for help in their arrests, and eventually apprehended and convicted two men, using the new state law. Officials rebuffed a Ku Klux Klan attempt to hold a rally in Salem. Nine months after it began, the wave of cross burnings ended.

White Salem's response to the cross burnings, while belated, may have helped the town avert the violence that shattered other New Jersey cities during the "long, hot summers" of 1967 and 1968. Just as Salem was bringing a peaceful end to its confrontation, Newark erupted in race riots that left at least 23 people dead. Salem's close neighbor, Bridgeton, suffered several nights of riots amid a spate of cross burnings. Nine months later, cities across America plunged into bloodshed over the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Each time, Salem avoided upheaval.

Salem's Crisis: A Deeply American Story

This article offers an incomplete, first draft of this history from the accounts of Salem's weekly newspapers, the *Sunbeam* and the *Standard and Jerseyman*. A fuller story—notably with depth and detail from

within Salem's black community—remains essential to understanding what was a pivotal moment for Salem, set within America's cultural revolution on race. That deeper, human story can be preserved by quickly gathering oral histories from people, now aging, who witnessed the crisis.

The meaning of this story is not that Salem's struggle over race was somehow "worse" than others. It is the reverse: Salem's experience is deeply and typically American. White people of northern states often have mis-characterized racism and segregation as a "southern problem," understating its role in their own communities. Sociologist James Loewen, documenting the national pattern of laws and violence that forcibly created all-white towns and counties nationwide called this reality "so unknown as to deserve the term *hidden*."

Salem's 1967 crisis was part of a backlash across white America to the black rights movement—notably the Civil Rights Act of 1964. That law sought to heal America's impaired democracy by ending race segregation—both the legalized system of the Jim Crow South and the *de facto*, culturally enforced version that applied heavily across the north.

Salem's segregation, the cultural kind, was documented starkly in 1964, as President Lyndon Johnson pressed Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act. NBC television asked the U.S. Census Bureau to find the perfectly average American small town, with "exactly the same kinds of people, income, employment, social structure and voting habits" as the nation overall. This led NBC reporters and Gallup Poll interviewers to Salem.

NBC aired its documentary, narrated by anchorman David Brinkley, in June 1964. An NBC-Gallup poll of 600 residents found "race friction and segregation ... by far" the most divisive public issue. The film showed Salem's impoverished, mainly black slums, although "the town"—Brinkley didn't say exactly who—"objected to our photographing them." Whites of all classes—but no blacks—mingled at the Salem Country Club and in teen dances at the American Legion hall. A white worker declared that he would never enter a barber shop that also served "burrheads." A black factory employee told how a local beer garden had served him, only then to humiliate him by smashing his emptied glass as though it was contaminated because a black man had drunk from it. A handsome matron in pearls, "one of the town's most respected citizens," NBC noted, expressed satisfaction with those "very fine colored citizens in Salem who have kept their people in line, and earned the respect of the white people." She added, "I think if every town had them as well regulated as we do there wouldn't be that problem" of racial friction.

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

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.

Research Library & Museum Hours

Tuesday through Saturday
Noon - 4PM

Admission Fee \$5.00

Free for Members

www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

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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.

Please Recycle your Newsletter



Message From the Administrator



Dear members of the Society,

It is my sincere pleasure to greet all of you for the first time as the new Administrator at the Salem County Historical Society. For those of you that do not know me my name is Richard Guido and I have been working at the Society since 2012. During the past six years I have held numerous positions at the Society and, in February, I assumed the position of Administrator after Andrew Coldren's departure. Stepping into this role has been a worthwhile learning experience for me during these past few months and also extremely enjoyable. I greatly thank our President, Barbara Duffy, and the Board of Trustees for allowing me this wonderful opportunity.

My first few months in this new position have definitely been busy. It has been a very hot summer here in Salem County, and a very busy and active time here at the Society. In June we were pleased to host the PW Carleton School, Elsinboro Township School and Salem County YMCA children's group for educational programming. These programs were a great success as always and I look forward to doing more events like this in the near future. I'd like to extend a special thanks to the staff and Education committee volunteers who participate in these efforts; without your assistance these programs would not be possible. Also this summer the Society hosted our June quarterly meeting here in our courtyard. We were entertained by the performance of William Ott of Alloway who played renditions on a hammered dulcimer. Guests at the event had the opportunity to view a number of items that have long been in storage in our Stone Barn and were also invited to indulge in an ice cream social before the performance.

Looking ahead to the fall season we have a number of events coming up in the next few months. On September 16th we will be holding our Annual Luncheon once again this year at the Inn at the Salem Country Club. Last year saw the return of this event to the new venue in Elsinboro and it was a great success. The speaker for this year's luncheon will be David Price, President of the Fort Delaware Society who will be speaking about the history of Fort Mott just across the river. Please join us in supporting the Society at this event; we hope to see many of you there!

In October we will once again be having the John S. Rock Memorial Lecture at Friends Village in Woodstown. The event will take place on Sunday October 21st at 3:00PM. The Rock Lecture celebrates the life of one of Salem County's most accomplished natives and a true pioneer. In addition to the lecture, a deserving student at Salem Community College is awarded the John S. Rock Memorial Scholarship every year. This scholarship is a truly appropriate way to honor the legacy of John Rock. October is also the time for the Walking Ghost Tour in Salem. The event will take place on Friday, October 26th at 7:00PM this year and all proceeds from the Walking Ghost Tour will benefit the John S. Rock Memorial Scholarship. The event is always a fun night out just before Halloween and attendance continues to grow every year.

For those who have not visited recently, our facility has also seen many changes. During the spring and early summer, we finished setting up a number of new exhibits on our 2nd floor including both a new Sampler exhibit and a Clock Room. As we move further into fall, the museum committee will be working to open a new exhibit on the Lenni Lenape in South Jersey in conjunction with Native American Heritage month. The committee has been working diligently on this project and display cases and exhibit materials have already been ordered.

As always, none of these projects and programs would be possible without the support and hard work of our volunteers, Trustees, staff and members such as yourself. I thank you and appreciate all of your efforts.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Guido, Jr.
Administrator and Librarian

Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Annual Luncheon 1:15PM at the Inn at the Salem Country Club, Salem, NJ

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Second Annual Salem County Founder's Day at the Pine Tavern Distillery, Monroeville, NJ Time 1:00-5:00PM

Sunday, October 21, 2018

15th John Stewart Rock Memorial Lecture at Friends' Village in Woodstown, NJ Time: 3:00PM Speaker: James Rupert Topic: "Burnt Crosses: Salem and America in 1967"

Friday, October 26, 2018

Walking Ghost Tour in Salem Time: 7:00PM Preceded by Tunes from the Crypt at St. John's Episcopal Church Time: 6:00PM

Friday, November 2, 2018

Historical Society of Penns Grove, Carneys Point and Oldmans presents, "A Musical Journey" Time: 7:00PM location Salem Community College, for tickets call 856-299-1556

Saturday, December 1, 2018

The 31st Annual, Yuletide Tour of Historic Salem City Time: 1:00-6:00PM

Sunday, December 9, 2018

December Quarterly Meeting, location at Friends Village in Woodstown, NJ Speaker: Pete Michel Topic: First Hand Accounts of the Hancock House Massacre Time: 1:30PM

What's New at Your Society

- ◆ The Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Historical Society hosted speaker Douglas McVarish, a New Jersey Historic Preservation Specialist for the State, at the Salem County History Roundtable on June 5th. Mr. McVarish spoke on the process of getting a home or site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and how to have a building listed on the State Register.
- ◆ The microfilm machines in the Society's research library have been in constant need of repair in recent months. Because of the age of the machines used parts for repair are often hard to come by. In light of this the Society plans to purchase two new microfilm readers for our research library before the end of the summer. Two new machines called the ScanPro2200 have been selected as the most ideal candidates for replacement based on the amount of patron usage in our library. The cost for two new microfilm readers will be approximately \$9,500. Any donations towards this endeavor by our membership and the general public would be greatly appreciated. You may send donations in through our website or mail directly to the Society.
- ◆ The Society recently hired Steve Graham of Graham Communications to help us with marketing for the Society. Mr. Graham's company is based out of Wenonah, New Jersey and he specializes in web design, video production, event planning and social media marketing. It is our hope that Mr. Graham will help promote the Society to the general public and bring in a larger audience to see everything we have to offer!
- ◆ An Article of Note — Bruce Bendler, a professor at the University of Delaware and regular contributor to our quarterly newsletter has recently published an article in *New Jersey Studies* on William N. Jeffers of Salem. Jeffers was a Salem County politician in the late 1820s during the Jacksonian era.

Annual Luncheon

This year's Annual Luncheon will be held at 1:15PM on Sunday, September 16th. After a wonderful turnout last year it was decided that the event will once again be held at the Inn at the Salem Country Club in Salem, NJ. Our speaker this year will be David Price who will give an informative presentation on the history of Fort Delaware. Our raffle item this year is a two night stay for two at the Mason Cottage Bed & Breakfast Inn, in historic Cape May, NJ. This package will also include two dinners and a beautiful gift basket. We hope you can attend!



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!
15TH JOHN STEWART
ROCK
MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**JAMES RUPERT**

**"Burnt Crosses: Salem and America
in 1967"**
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018
3:00 PM

Friends Village
1 Friends Drive
Woodstown, NJ 08098

Was Jumbo Bridge Threatened?

"Armed guards stationed at the railroad bridge over Oldmans Creek fired several shots Thursday at a man who attempted to pass under the structure in a motor boat after being ordered to halt. He was finally captured, his boat tied up, and he was then brought to Penns Grove and placed in the lockup. He gave his name as Andrew Jenson of Norfolk, Va. Squire Duffy placed the man under \$500 bail to await the action of the United States authorities, who have been notified and no doubt will thoroughly investigate the occurrence."

"No one is allowed to pass under the bridge in a boat of any kind without permission of the armed guards and they are on the job to shoot if necessary."

The Penns Grove Record,
Penns Grove, NJ, April 20, 1917

LINCOLN CLUB

A meeting will be held in the Court House in Salem, on Wednesday (this) evening, for the purpose of taking preparatory measures for the formation of a Lincoln Club....Let all who are in favor of speedily crushing the Rebellion, maintaining the integrity of the Union, and restoring the authority of the Government over its rightful territory, and securing obedience to the Constitution and laws, attend.

National Standard,
Salem, NJ, September 14, 1864

Notice To Clean Up

"Resolved by the Board of Health that notice is hereby given that each citizen be requested to have their premises cleaned up by May 1st, for the benefit of the occupants in particular and the preservation of the general health of the inhabitants in general...."

"The Board of Health...desires that an educational campaign be carried on so that all will feel their personal responsibility as good citizens to progress in their personal duties as good citizens to work for their personal pride and protection as well as the good health of the community."

The Penns Grove Record,
Penns Grove, NJ, April 27, 1917

*Salem City Comes Alive
with Legends from the Past.*

Walking Ghost Tour

Friday, October 26, 2018 • 7:00 PM
Tour Begins at Royal Port Antiques
13 Market Street, Salem
Refreshments will be available after the tour.

The tour will follow the
Tunes From the Crypt Concert at
St. John's Episcopal Church

Tickets may be purchased at
Royal Port Antiques

Events Presented by:
Salem County Historical Society
Royal Port Antiques
Fulton Bank of NJ
Music Around the County

Donation: \$5.00

For Additional Information Call 856-339-0400
Proceeds to Benefit The John Rock Scholarship

ALEXANDER'S ANNALS

50 YEARS AGO

The Monitor-Register, Woodstown, NJ, September 1968

- New x-ray machines with the most recent advances acquired by Drs. Pashuck and Owen at hospital.
- Migrant School at Mary Shoemaker School ends for 117 pupils after seven weeks.
- Ground breaking for an addition to the Daretown Baptist Church.
- Steve Coles wins New Jersey State 4H tractor operators contest at Flemington Fair.
- New Salem County Court House set to open October 15th.
- Sunday movies will go on the ballot in Woodstown.
- Canton horse death due to encephalitis.
- Tastykake — cakes and pies — 7¢ — Food Fair.

75 YEARS AGO

Penns Grove Record, Penns Grove, NJ, September, 1943

- 100 State Guard soldiers to assist at Heinz cannery in saving the tomato crop due to shortage of manpower.
- Louise Dolbow and Helen Bates vie for Majorette Title.
- Women at St. Paul's making duffle bags for selectees called up by the United States Army and Navy.
- Only one automobile tag will be required to use in 1944.
- George Bernat, 178 "J" Street is one of nine prize winners in the Village Improvement Contest.
- Fathers will be called to fill the next draft list.
- Penns Grove Jews to mark holidays in the North Broad Street synagogue under the direction of Charles Charlap.
- Broad and Grove Theatres — *Mr. Lucky* — Cary Grant and Lorraine Day.

100 YEARS AGO

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, September 1918

- Salem's new restaurant — "The Victory" — 188 East Broadway.
- People observe gasless Sunday, but many disregard the call to make a little sacrifice.
- Salem's first recruit for the United States Nurse Reserve — Miss Aurora Davis Steelman — the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Steelman of Linden Street, Salem.
- "The 8th Annual Thrift Farmers' Picnic (colored) was held at East Lake, Woodstown on Labor Day with about 900 people present."
- Save all fruit pits — Army needs them to make charcoal for gas masks.
- Influenza closes schools — Red Cross opens temporary hospital in First Baptist Church — all public places closed.
- The price of a haircut has gone to 35¢ in Salem.
- Salem Chautauqua to begin September 4th and continue for a week — Season ticket \$2.

"There have been over **2,000 cases of influenza** in Salem and vicinity, with 29 deaths from influenza and pneumonia in Salem since October 1, according to the reports of the Health Officer, Harry Hitchner. The hospital organization was in perfect running order by Friday. Mrs. W. H. Hazelton has had charge at night. Procuring and preparation of food has been under direction of Mrs. John F. Prendergast. Mrs. Howard C. Whitehead has shown commendable executive ability. The trained nurse who was sent from New York is Miss Irene Moore, and she was accompanied by Mrs. Charles R. Lloyd as assistant."

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, October 18, 1918

RARE TREE DISCOVERED ON FARM IN PITTSGROVE

Laurel Oak or *Quercus Imbricaria*
Declared Second Known to be in New Jersey



"An important find was made on the farm of James Benson in Pittsgrove Township last week, according to Andre Jeffers, Forester at the Parvin State Park. It was a laurel oak or *Quercus Imbricaria* tree, the second known to exist in the State of New Jersey.

"Benson discovered a peculiar leaf on a tree on his place and took it to the Park to have it passed upon. He was informed that it was not a true laurel oak but a hybrid similar to the rare variety, so Benson continued a search and later located a true laurel oak. The tree is about 30 feet in height and a foot in diameter. The leaves are smooth dark green, shaped like the leaves of the common laurel shrub.

"The first specimen ever found in New Jersey was reported only a short time ago by Charles P. Wilbur, State Forester. It is a tree 70 feet high and 11 feet in circumference on the Bass River State Forest.

"The tree according to the Forest News Digest and foresters of Harvard University is not a native of New Jersey. Grafts from the tree in Pittsgrove Township will be made on oaks in the State Park in order to grow specimens there."

Salem Standard and Jerseyman,
Salem, NJ, October 15, 1936

"**The President of the United States** by Proclamation has set the Fifth day of June, 1917, between the hours of 7 A. M. and 9 P. M., as the time when all males between the ages of 21 and 31 years are required to go to the registration places in the precinct wherein they have their permanent homes and be registered."

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, June 1, 1917

"**Patrolman William Hyde** is Pennsville Township's first officer to die in line of duty."

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, September 13, 1962

NEW CEMETERY COMPANY

Woodstown—An association to be known as the Woodlawn Cemetery Association [Lawnside Cemetery] has been formed...through the efforts of A. D. Snellbaker, who has purchased twelve acres of the Wallace farm, at the intersection of the Salem and Sharptown roads.

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, October 8, 1915

Genealogically speaking... (continued from March 2018)

Salem County Newspaper Extracts from the *True American*, Trenton, New Jersey—1800 - 1822
Compiled by William Edward Saunderlin

1805

- March 4: Died lately near Salem, NJ, Mrs. Sarah **Tindall**, consort of John Tindall, Salem County, NJ.
 May 6: Married at Salem, NJ, lately by Jacob **Hufty**, Esq., Edward **Burroughs** to Miss **Parret**, widow of Col. Parret.
 October 14: Plantation property for sale near Woodstown, **Sharp** House.
 October 21: Salem Orphan's Court; William **King**, deceased.

1806

- April 21: Married on April 10, 1806, at Friends Meeting in Rancocas, Hebekiah **Eastlake**, of Pilesgrove, Salem County, NJ to Margaret **Hilyard**, daughter of Jacob Hilyard of Northampton, Burlington County, NJ.
 June 23: Married at Salem, NJ by Henry **Ffirth**, Esq., Christopher **Ralt** to Mrs. Elizabeth Shreve.
 August 4: Died on July 28th near Salem, NJ, Rebecca **Abbott** relic of William Abbott, age 64.
 November 3: Married at Salem, NJ by Henry **Ffirth**, Esq., Samuel **Seagrove** to Miss Barbary **Hopner**.

1807

- March 16: Died on March 2nd at Salem, NJ, Edward **Burroughs**, Esq., Salem County Clerk and General Assembly.
 Died at Pittsgrove, Salem County on January 28th, Benj. **Burroughs**, age 81.
 May 4: Married on April 16th at Woodstown by Zacheus **Ray**, Esq., John **Wallace** to Abigail **Allen**, daughter of Michael Allen.
 May 18: List of Window Tax, Servant Tax, and Carriage Tax.
 September 7: Married at Salem, NJ on August 25th, by Rev. William **Worth**, Dr. Thomas **Yarrow** to Miss Sarah **Seagrave**, of Salem.

1808

- February 1: Various Salem County, New Jersey properties for sale.
 March 21: Married at Salem, NJ lately by Jacob **Hufty**, Esq., John **McAlley** to Miss Eunice **Sherron**, both of Salem.

1809

- June 12: Married at Pittsgrove on 30 May 1809, by Rev. **Reeve**, Capt. Samuel **Newkirk**, son of Cornelius Newkirk to Miss Rachel Newkirk, daughter of Mathew Newkirk, Sr.
 July 31: Died at Allowaystown, Salem Co. on 26 May 1809, Capt. William **Ray**, age 38, eldest son of Samuel Ray, Esq. He was the captain of his company's Light Infantry.
 November 13: Married on 2 Nov. 1809, by Zacheus **Ray**, Esq., Caleb **Reeve** to Miss Susanna **Avis**.
 Married on 6 Nov. 1809, by Zacheus **Ray**, Esq., **George Hollingshead** to Miss **Hannah Davis**, Woodstown, NJ.

- 1810**, December 3: Married on 18 Nov. 1810, by Rev. Joseph **Totten**, Rev. Joseph **Bennett**, a traveling minister of the Salem Circuit District to Miss Hannah **Page**, daughter of John Page, of Upper Penns Neck Township, Salem County, New Jersey.

1811

- January 21: Died at Pittsgrove, Salem County, NJ on 9 Jan 1811, Samuel Dubois, age 70.
 April 29: Married on 16 Apr. 1811, at Mannington Twp., Salem Co. by Zacheus **Ray**, Esq., Silas D. **Tucker** to Sarah **Brown**, both of Woodstown.
 May 27: Married at Salem, Richard **Groff** to Sarah **Crow**.
 Died in Salem County, Thomas **Skidmore**.
 Died: Samuel **Hall**, eldest son of Joseph Hall.
 Died: Anthony **Keasby**, Esq.
 Died: Samuel **Kidd**, son of Joseph Kidd.
 September 23: For Sale, House and 1 acre of Henry **Earnest** (deceased) located in Guinea Town, in Mannington Twp., Salem County, NJ.
1812, March 9: Died at Pittsgrove Twp., Salem Co. on 28 Feb. 1812, Mrs. Elizabeth **DuBois** consort of General Jerediah DuBois, age 52, buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Daretown.

1813

- May 31: Married at Salem, NJ by Joseph **Sheppard**, Stephen **Reeves** to Miss Sarah **Paulin**.
 Married: Jesse **Delany** to Mrs. Eliza **Mecum**.
 Married: Thomas W. **Cattell** to Kesia **Gilmore**.
 Married: Enos **Paulin** to Margaret **Harris**.

1814

- February 21: Died on 6 Feb. 1814, near Sharptown, Salem Co., Mrs. **Dickinson**, wife of John Dickinson, Esq., a member of the General Assembly of Salem County, New Jersey.
 March 7: Married, Rev. Joseph **Sheppard**, of Salem, NJ, to Miss Hannah F. **Budd**, Daughter of Joseph Budd, Esq.
 June 20: Died at Woodstown, Salem County on 4 June 1814, David **Sheppard**, M. D., age 25. His remains are in the Baptist Cemetery.
 Died, Dr. Sheppard's brother, Ebenezer Elmer **Sheppard**, age 10. Died on 2 June 1814.
 August 23: Died at Pittsgrove Twp., Salem Co. on 12 Aug. 1814, Ruth **Foster**, consort of Dr. Jeremiah Foster, and daughter of Samuel **Thompson**, buried at the Presbyterian Cemetery in Deerfield, Cumberland County.
 December 26: Married at Pittsgrove Twp., Salem County on 1 Dec. 1814, Jonathan **Richman** to Miss Amy (?) **VanMeter**.

(to be continued)

(continued from cover)

December 1966: Cross-Burnings Begin

On the night of December 4, 1966, motorists driving off the Delaware Memorial Bridge at Deepwater saw a five-foot-high cross burst into flame at the road's shoulder. Firefighters found "several gunshells ... wired to the cross" and a large placard that "proclaimed 'We are against the integration of whites and blacks.' It was signed by 'The White Knights,'" the *Sunbeam* reported. A second cross soon flared near the Mt. Olivet Church, a black congregation in Upper Penns Neck. Others followed, more or less weekly, across the county.

Police reported a uniformity to the crosses, built of 2x4 lumber or scrap and wrapped in burlap or rags soaked in kerosene for easy ignition. The extremists propped or wired crosses, often against utility poles, near black churches or neighborhoods, or in highly visible locations. When they ignited a cross atop the Salem High School football bleachers, white Salem shrugged off even this racist incursion against the school and community, noted the *Standard & Jerseyman*. "That unlawful and un-American activity known as cross burning recurred early Tuesday evening, causing scarcely a ripple on the Salem scene," the paper reported. "Its principal effect was to interrupt Banjo Night at Liberty Fire Company."

Salem has a basic record of the cross burnings largely because the newspapers' publisher, Thomas H. Bowen, saw danger in them. Bowen, rooted in Quaker thought, warned repeatedly in editorials that white and black communities, in Salem and nationally, were failing to communicate. Worse, the white majority was blind toward the dangerous economic and cultural collapse of the urban ghettos where racist segregation was denying blacks real citizenship and the chance to build a future.

Bowen's inclusive view was rare in white Salem. "Most in the white community were reluctant to speak up" against the cross burnings, according to the Rev. James Rupert, who witnessed the crisis as pastor of Broadway Methodist Church. [Note: Rupert was the author's father.] "The businessmen on Broadway, all of them white, were afraid of losing their white customers if they seemed too sympathetic to blacks," Rupert said in a 2003 interview. "They had no understanding of the emotional impact for black people of burning crosses—that in the black experience, these were a direct threat of Ku Klux Klan violence, of lynchings."

News articles cited individual officials criticizing the cross burnings, and police officers blaming some unknown "hate group." But white Salem issued no broad declaration of alarm and no commitment to protect black neighbors from white terrorism or violence.

Newspaper accounts offer only a vague sketch of the white supremacists who organized the cross burnings and associated threats. Eyewitnesses described no more than a handful of men involved in any single incident. ("Two automobile loads of men," for example, burned a cross December 13, 1966 at Penns Grove). Leaflets scattered at cross burnings, signed "The White Knights," adopted the name of a murderous Ku Klux Klan (KKK) organization in Mississippi that had executed three civil rights workers there in 1964. In February 1967, with no arrests having been made in Salem, white supremacists advanced a step above ground, tacking recruiting posters to Salem city utility poles. These posters used a different name—and an address—declaring: "For God, Race and Nation. Join the White Crusaders, P.O. Box 96, Bridgeton, N.J." Bridgeton was a target for white supremacists seeking to revive New Jersey's KKK in response to the Civil Rights Act. In May 1966, state authorities had used a court injunction to block a Klan rally in Bridgeton.

March-April 1967: Confrontation and Response

Blacks' frustration grew over the lack of arrests. Irene Hill Smith, the

New Jersey president of the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and a native of Salem's neighbor, Gloucester County, complained in March that black residents had given leads to police, to no avail. Police chiefs said they could arrest cross burners only if they caught them in the act.

On March 28, the anger reached a boil. The NAACP had invited officials county-wide to a community meeting on the crisis at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Salem city. Only Woodstown Mayor Walter Maack appeared. Salem's NAACP president, Clara Mathews, dramatized the white establishment's truancy by standing before the crowd and intoning "the roster of Salem County municipalities, asking whether they had any representatives present," the *Standard and Jerseyman* reported. "A somber silence greeted her recital."

Hopes of dialogue evaporated. The ranking NAACP leader present, Philip Savage, accused the absent officials of indifference—and worse. "Their silence is evidence, in my judgment, of their conspiracy in this," declared Savage, the NAACP director for New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. He "urged the members to form vigilante groups to protect themselves." By the meeting's end, "a vocally angry crowd ... cheered the idea of marching" to defy the white supremacists and "protest official indifference to the cross burnings in this county," the newspaper reported.

Now Salem Mayor Norris Williams quickly issued a statement. "I am somewhat shocked with the attitude taken by Mr. Savage. I feel that demonstrations are not the answer," Williams wrote, and vigilante action would mean "innocent people could be harmed." Williams offered a meeting between city officials and the NAACP instead of the protest march, but the black leadership was now determined to act.

A flurry of meetings followed, including several between the NAACP leadership and a group of prominent white citizens. The latter included John Waddington, a leader in Salem's Quaker meeting and the county's elected state senator; Granville Thomas, the Salem city school superintendent; newspaper publisher Bowen; and pastors Rupert and the Rev. Russell Stewart of the First Presbyterian Church. "The NAACP wanted the impact of a very big march, on the scale of perhaps 1,000 people," Rupert recalled. To get it, "they proposed busing supporters from other towns, even from Philadelphia." But "having a large contingent of people from outside," without a personal stake in Salem and its future, "raised a much greater risk of violence,"

Large Cross Burned At Mount Olivet Church

1967

A large wooden cross was burned approximately 500 yards from the Mount Olivet Church, Lanning Ave. Upper Penns Neck Township on Sunday evening while religious services were being conducted. The cross burning marked the second such occurrence within a span of seven days but it is uncertain whether the flaming cross was intended as a direct slur against congregation attending the services.

The pastor of the Mount Olivet Church is the Rev. Mary Spencer, senior minister in the Twin Community area, and a woman highly respected as a community leader throughout her 30 years of service to the area. "I don't really believe there is any racism involved in the incident," Rev. Spencer said. "People have really been kind to me since the incident. Many of the community business leaders have stopped over to see me and offer their apology and surprise that such a thing could have happened. I was very nervous right after it happened though. Upper Penns Neck Township Police are conducting a thorough investigation into the incident under the direction of Chief Thomas Durr and are being aided by the New Jersey State Police. A week ago Sunday a flaming cross was found near the approach to the Delaware Memorial Bridge. A wave of aroused public sentiment has swept the area since the flaming cross was reported extinguished and confiscated as

Reverend Spencer said that she was in the Church with her congregation when someone entered and notified her that a wooden cross was burning outside. "Of course it created a lot of excitement in the Church," the affable community leader said. "I saw



Rev. Mary Spencer
... The Pastor

it burning as soon as I walked out the door of the church.

"I know these kind of crosses don't stand for peace," the Rev. said, "they stand for confusion and trouble. I've lived in Penns Grove for 30 years and this has been a very peaceful community

fiercer that two carloads of men were spotted hurrying from the burning scene.

At last week's burning on the Freeway Road, a similar cross was set afire but white cards had been strewn around the scene, inscribed "The White Knights." Shotgun shells were also wrapped around the wooden frame.

Upper Penns Neck Township Police Chief Thomas Durr is personally heading the investigative proceedings. "Any rumor that we hear, we're going to follow up. We will follow through on every possible lead," the veteran police officer said, "in an effort to solve this thing."

MOST OUTSTANDING
Reverend Spencer is respected as one of the "most outstanding citizens in the community," one member of the local ministerial association said while denouncing the cross burning. The woman minister began her church 30 years ago with a congregation of eight persons. There are now more than 200 members.

In a rare show of humor, considering the seriousness of the situation which confronted her, Reverend Spencer said jokingly, "Well, my church has sure received a million dollars worth of publicity. People even called from Philadelphia expressing their sorrow for the incident. Even people who don't know have called up. The people have been very nice."

(Continued on Page 31)

Article discussing the cross burning at Mt. Olivet Church in Upper Penns Neck Township, *Salem Standard & Jerseyman*, Salem, NJ, March 30, 1967.

he said. A compromise was struck. If the NAACP would avoid busing in protesters, the informal group of white community leaders would mobilize the white-community campaign against the extremists that so far had lacked. This group drafted a petition “condemning the burning of crosses” and “the attitude of racial hostility and intolerance symbolized by these acts.” The letter urged all citizens to help police, publicized a reward fund for information leading to arrests, and urged “new legislation which would strengthen the hand of law enforcement officers” in prosecuting cross burners.

Within a week, the petition had 55 signatures—a veritable Who’s Who of white Salem. They included Williams and two other mayors in the county; city council members and other officials; representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club and city schools; and ministers, doctors and lawyers. Still, even as the petition circulated, the county’s 15th cross burst into flames April 2 at Deepwater.

The political compromise was sealed April 4 at Mt. Hope Methodist Church. Mayor Williams first led city officials in a closed meeting with the NAACP leaders. Then both sides emerged to join a public forum of 200 people. Mayor Williams again pleaded for the march to be aborted. “We are in sympathy with you,” he told the crowd, promising that “police are stepping up their efforts.”

Savage, this time facing a dialogue partner, replied with “a restrained but very persuasive approach,” the *Standard and Jerseyman* reported. He made clear that blacks now saw the city’s credibility as too weak to cancel the street protest: “Until we proposed to march, nobody was interested” in the black community’s concern. “We asked after each cross burning whether something couldn’t be done about it. We contacted the police. Only after the 13th cross burning did we open our mouths in a public appeal. We couldn’t wait until our churches were in flames or our children killed or our wives raped.” Savage and Smith invited the municipal officials to join the demonstration. Finally, they asked everyone willing to march to stand. “Possibly 160 or more persons stood up,” the newspaper recounted. “Notable exceptions were all of the city officials present.”

On Saturday, April 8, the NAACP leaders led an estimated 175 to 200 people from the Mt. Hope Church along the sidewalks of Broadway to a rally in front of the old County Courthouse. A few white citizens, including Rupert and other clergy, joined the demonstration. The march was peaceful, although the *Sunbeam* noted that Sgt. George Johnson, a black Salem policeman “hustled away ...an exuberant [black] youth” and arrested him after finding that the young man was carrying “an Italian-made starter pistol.” The crowd was smaller than black leaders

had sought, but its message was reinforced with sympathetic newspaper coverage and a new publication of the community petition—this time with about 400 signers. Within days, institutions of white power ratified the anti-racist mobilization through resolutions by the county Board of Freeholders and the Chamber of Commerce.

On April 22, the NAACP marched peacefully again, in Penns Grove. Two days later, state Sen. Waddington introduced a bill to make it a criminal misdemeanor, punishable by three years’ imprisonment, to desecrate a



Richard J. Hughes, 45th Governor of New Jersey, in office 1962-1970

religious symbol “with intent to intimidate any person or group of persons because of his or their race, color, creed or religion.” The

legislature and Governor Richard Hughes made it law within a month.

A week after Salem’s protest march, it became clear that the cross burners’ impunity had been pierced. A cross flared outside the Haven Methodist Church, one of Salem County’s oldest black congregations, in Quinton. An eyewitness reported seeing the truck of a white county resident pass nearby, its driver throwing “White Knights” leaflets into the street. The truck’s owner, Ezekial Smith, was fined

\$100 for littering. It was the first legal action against any part of the white supremacists’ four-month-old campaign.

But the extremists were drawing support from outside. In mid-April, a New Jersey Ku Klux Klan leader, Frank Rotella, applied in the name of a group he called the “White Crusaders of the North” to hold a Klan “motorcade” through Salem city, followed by a rally and cross-burning outside town. The *Standard and Jerseyman* interviewed Rotella, whom it identified as a “resident of Bridgeton.” (Other 1960s news accounts described Rotella as based in North Jersey.) Rotella denied any connection to Salem’s cross burnings. Salem city officials derailed Rotella’s plan by referring him to state officials for permission to use Broadway, which is legally a state highway. The state had obtained a court order in 1966 to bar Rotella from holding a similar rally in Bridgeton, and police had arrested him when he and a few supporters burned a cross anyway.

July-August 1967: The brink of violence

In July and August, Salem teetered at the brink of violence. Salem city police alerted “standby” forces and set up checkpoints July 22 when riots erupted in Bridgeton. Days later, a cross burned before the home of a black glass factory worker at Moore’s Corner, just south of the Salem city line. Salem again alerted police reserves when a caller with “a gruff voice” telephoned the city’s police dispatcher and warned that stores would be torched unless someone was arrested for the cross burning. On the last weekend of July, with Newark smoldering and Bridgeton sweeping up shattered glass, the Atlantic City Electric Company notified officials that street lights in Salem city had been “shot out.”

We cannot know how many potential fuses to a race riot might have been primed that weekend. But the most dangerous moment of Salem’s crisis may have been faced by William Accoo, a 52-year-old veteran of the Tuskegee Airmen who, with his unit, would receive the Congressional Gold Medal for heroism in World War II. Accoo recently had served on Salem’s city council and was the kind of widely respected community leader upon whom hopes for better race relations rested. Accoo saw a car approach him on a Salem street and told police that its occupants “yelled to attract his attention.” A rifle pointed at him from a window. Accoo “said he heard the weapon click twice before the car gathered speed and drove away.” An actual attack on Accoo could have ignited chaos.

Salem’s crisis pivoted toward its end July 31 when flames leapt from cross erected at the village of Hancock’s Bridge.

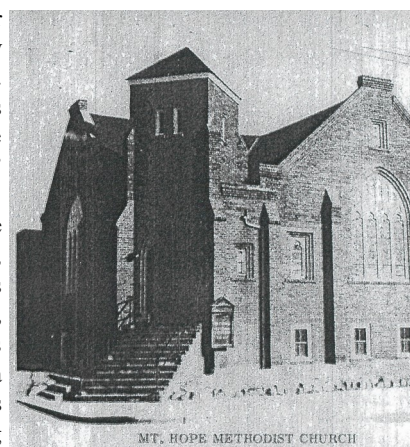


Image of Mt. Hope Methodist Church circa 1966, *Pennsville Progress*, March 10, 1966.

(continue on next page)

Eyewitnesses described a truck seen driving away. Hours later, police spotted the truck at a nearby restaurant and found it was being driven by Ezekial Smith, the man convicted of littering “White Knights” leaflets three months earlier. Police arrested Smith, 36, and his companion, Robert Curtis Westcott, 26. An all-white jury would convict the men of violating the new state law against burning crosses, and they would receive suspended prison terms, three years’ probation and a \$500 fine. Westcott also was convicted and fined for making harassing telephone calls to Johnny Dague, a white construction contractor. Dague had joined the NAACP and was its Salem County secretary. He was motivated, he said, by his religious convictions—and by the 1961 book *Black Like Me*, about white writer John Howard Griffin’s experience in darkening his skin to travel as a black man in the South. Dague, the only white person mentioned in news coverage as an NAACP activist, was a target in 1967 of anonymous hate literature that accused him of treason to the white race.

As Westcott and Smith were sentenced a year later, their lawyers would plead that they had no money to pay their fines. Westcott was under psychiatric care and “almost unemployable,” and Smith had moved to Delaware because of his notoriety from the conviction, the lawyers said. The judge ordered them to pay in installments through their probation officers.

Eyewitness accounts of the cross burnings, statements by Frank Rotella and documents later released from FBI surveillance of Klan leaders make clear that the Salem County segregationists who tried to intimidate the county’s blacks and win the establishment’s acquiescence numbered many more than just Smith and Westcott. But after July 1967, the cross burnings stopped and no further arrests were made. Salem’s struggles over racial integration and a better democracy would move to other issues.

The U.S. Supreme Court cited the Ku Klux Klan’s use of cross burnings to terrorize and subordinate blacks in ruling that states may outlaw the practice. Justice Sandra Day O’Connor wrote the majority opinion in *Virginia v. Black* (2003): “Burning a cross in the United States is inextricably intertwined with the history of the Ku Klux Klan, which, following its formation in 1866, imposed a reign of terror throughout the South. ... The Klan has often used cross burnings as a tool of intimidation and a threat of impending violence.”



James Rupert is an editor at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, DC; the views expressed in this article are his own. Rupert served as an international correspondent for the Washington Post and other news organizations. In 1966-68, he was an elementary school student in Salem, where his father was pastor of Broadway Methodist Church.
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End Notes:

Parks, Brad, “[Crossroads Part 1: Before 1967, a Gathering Storm](#),” *Star-Ledger* (Newark), July 8, 2007. Part of a series on the 40th anniversary of the Newark riots; accessed online 30 December 2016.

Salem Sunbeam, “Alert Salem in Bridgeton Racial Unrest,” July 25, 1967, p.1. Broad scholarship illustrates the error, akin to an American cultural myth, that racism and segregation are essentially southern, rather than national, problems. Examples:

John R. Logan and Brian Stults, “The Persistence of Segregation in the Metropolis: New Findings from the 2010 Census,” (Project 2010). Online at <http://www.s4.brown.edu/Project2010>; accessed 1 January 2017. Sokol, Jason, *All Eyes Are Upon Us: Race and Politics from Boston to Brooklyn*, (New York: Basic Books, 2014).

Loewen, James W. *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism*, (New York: The New Press, 2005), p.5, emphasis in the original. *David Brinkley’s Journal*, “Election Year in Averagetown.” NBC Television, June 18, 1964. Online at www.nbcuniversalarchives.com.

Ibid.

Salem Sunbeam, “White Knights Cross Flares Near Bridge,” 6 Dec. 1966, p.1.

Salem Sunbeam, “Fiery Cross Burns Again,” 13 Dec. 1966, p.1.

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, “Penns Grove Site of 14th Cross Firing,” March 30, 1967, p.1.

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, “Another Cross Burning,” March 2, 1967, p.1. An example of Bowen’s editorials: In 1967 he warned that America was failing dangerously to offer blacks any real opportunity to close the economic gap with the white majority. *Salem Standard and Jerseyman*, “Running Harder—Still Trailing,” March 16, 1967, p.B1. Author’s interview, December 2009. Lynchings were common within living memory for older Salem residents in 1967. Since 1900, 1,800 blacks had been lynched in the United States according to the oldest U.S. archive on lynching, at [Tuskegee University](http://TuskegeeUniversity) (“Lynching, Whites & Negroes, 1882-1968,” at www.Tuskegee.edu; accessed Jan. 5, 2017). Other counts of lynchings run higher.

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, “Another Cross Burning,” March 2, 1967, p.1. Police in Bridgeton arrested six men as they burned a cross and planned a larger rally in defiance of the injunction. *Philadelphia Inquirer*, “Leader of N.J. Klan, 5 Others Arrested for Burning Cross,” May 15, 1966, p66; *Asbury Park Press*, “Klan Probe Move Begun in Assembly,” May 24, 1966, p.4. *Salem Standard and Jerseyman*, “Police Defend Stand in NAACP Attack,” March 23, 1967, p.1.

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, “NAACP Calls Salem March to Protest Cross Burnings,” March 30, 1967, p.1.

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, “Seek Solution Through Law, Asks Mayor Williams,” March 30, p.1.

Author’s interview, December 2009.

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, “We Condemn Cross Burning,” p.1. The petition invited citizens to donate to the reward fund in care of either the Sunbeam Publishing Company or Radio Station WJIC.

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, “Citizens in Protest of Cross Firings; Debate Parade,” April 6, 1967, p.1.

Ibid.

Salem Sunbeam, “Protest Cross Burnings in Orderly March” and “Mayor Norris Commends Orderly March Procedure,” April 11, 1967, p.1. Also, *Salem Standard and Jerseyman*, “NAACP March Protests Cross Burnings,” and “We Condemn Cross Burnings,” April 13, 1967, p.B3. On the arrest by Johnson: *Salem Sunbeam*, “NAACP March Protests Cross Burnings,” April 11, 1967, p.6.

Salem Sunbeam, “Freeholders Add Voice of Protest,” April 11, 1967, p.1. Also, *Salem Standard and Jerseyman*, “Crosses, Legislation, Parking, Promotion on C of C Agenda,” April 13, 1967, p.1; and “We Condemn Cross Burnings.” *Salem Standard and Jerseyman*, “Law Would Make Cross Burning a Misdemeanor,” April 27, 1967, p.1.

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, “Charge Upgraded in Knights Litter Case,” May 25, 1967, p.1; and “\$100 Littering Fine Appealed,” June 15, 1967, p.1. *Salem Standard and Jerseyman*, “Crusaders Apply for Motorcade,” April 20, 1967, p.1. Also, “White Crusaders Plan Rally Outside Salem,” April 27, 1967. On the 1966 Bridgeton incidents, see footnote 15.

Salem Sunbeam, “Cross Burning Followed by Fire Threat,” August 1, 1967, p.1. *Ibid.*

Salem Sunbeam, “Grand Jury Moves Swiftly In Cross-Burning Indictment,” August 8, 1967, p.1; and “Cross Burners Fined, Prison Terms Stayed,” July 25, 1968, p.1.

Salem Sunbeam, “Cross Burners Fined, Prison Terms Stayed,” July 25, 1968, p.1; and “Nameless Racists Print Evil Against Dague Falsely, Says Wife,” June 13, 1967, p.4.

Salem Sunbeam, “Cross Burners Fined, Prison Terms Stayed,” July 25, 1968, p.1

—The **Mount Zion Baptist** (colored) Sunday School will picnic at Fort Delaware tomorrow the 14th. The tug *Anna* will transport the school.

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, July 13, 1886

Pennsville Matters

—A bell which is to weigh 800 pounds is to be presented to the new Methodist Episcopal Church by an “unknown”, on condition that the name of the giver is to remain “unknown”.

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, August 24, 1886

Remember When...*Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, September 22, 1943*

**Salem Y. M. C. A. baseball team
which played on the
Johnson Street Field around 1915.**

Front row, left to right: Jesse Sheppard, Harvey MacDonald, Gene Taylor; second row: Benjamin Hyson, Charles Sheppard, Emory Coyle, Frank "Killer" Callahan, Charles MacDonald, Charles "Razor" Blair; third row, William "Cap" Galloway, Simon Vanneman, Gus Lamblack, Ray Charlesworth, Charles "Slick" Denn, Joseph Kelly, Howard Blair.

"...All along the east side of Johnson Street was the fence that enclosed the race track. You could see the top of the grandstand sticking up above the fence.

"Allen, Craven, Morrison and Fenwick Avenues had not been thought of and you didn't come to any houses until you got to Grant Street, the property where Otis Wheeler and family now live.

"The baseball diamond was on the west side of Johnson Street with home plate somewhere near the present corner of Craven Avenue. Out in right field toward Grant Street, there was a corn field where the kids always managed to find the "lost" balls and take them home...."

The Electric Score Board

"Baseball fans are reminded that the Standard and Jerseyman will use for the first time in Salem an electric score board to give the plays in the World's Series games.

"The board, designed and constructed throughout by William H. Chew, Jr., of this city, was erected on Saturday and given a "try-out" and worked perfectly. On the board it will be possible to show the games, play by play, by means of small electric bulbs.

"Because of the great crowd that will be on the street on Saturday afternoon it will be impossible to have a large number in front of the Standard and Jerseyman office so we will simply post the summary of the game after it is completed.

"If you want to see a clever device work be on hand this afternoon at two o'clock when the first game at Pittsburg begins."

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, October 7, 1925

TROLLEYS HERE

"The first trolley car made its way from the Penn's Neck Bridge to the loop at the end of East Broadway last Tuesday and since that day the cars have been running regularly on scheduled time connecting at the bridge with the cars going to Penn's Grove. Many are patronizing the cars and are now waiting patiently for the temporary bridge which will allow uninterrupted service between Salem and Penn's Grove."

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, May 4, 1917

A Red Cross Chapter Formed

"The Salem County Chapter of the American Red Cross was organized at a large meeting of representative citizens from all sections of the county in the Court House last Monday night [June 25, 1917]."

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, June 29 1917

"The President of the United States by

Proclamation as set the Fifth day of June, 1917, between the hours of 7 A. M. and 9 P. M., as the time when all males between the ages of 21 and 31 years are required to go to the registration places in the precinct wherein they have their permanent homes and be registered."

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, June 1, 1917

Liberty Fife and Drum Corps

"The Liberty Hook and Ladder Company is organizing a fife and drum corps to be known as the Liberty Fife and Drum Corps. None but firemen may be members. The boys have given one benefit performance and expect to soon give another to help defray their expenses. They are being instructed by former Councilman John M. Whelan."

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, December 7, 1917

CLUB HOUSE OPENED

"The members of the **First Italian Independent Club** celebrated the opening of their new club house, on Pitman Street, Penns Grove, and the signing of their charter, on Sunday afternoon with speeches made by native Americans, music by a string band and by singing patriotic songs in Italian and English.... President, Andrew S. Colantuona and Alfred Anconetani made speeches urging the Italians to become American citizens."

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, June 1, 1917

Save the fruit pits for gas masks.

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, October 18, 1918

Library Acquisitions:

- Barry, Bruce**, Pilesgrove, NJ. "The Early Railroads of Salem County," by John W. Burlage, Jr. (2018.021)
- Bowe, Janet**, Auburn, NJ. Papers and materials relating to Peter B. Hoff. (2018.027)
- Buzby, Harlan**, Pennsville, NJ. Salem High School ten-year reunion booklet for the class of 1954 and graduation booklet. (2018.024)
- Cooker, Robert and Janice**, Pennsville, NJ. Program booklet for the 1967 Salem County Pageant. (2018.036)
- Doss, David F.**, Allen Park, MI. Postcard mailed to Philadelphia from Salem, Emma Cadbury, 1530 Cherry Street, Philadelphia dated 1883. (2018.022)
- Gallagher, Elisabeth**, Pennsville, NJ. Booklets and materials relating to Salem High school and other local organizations from the 1950s. (2018.025)
- Githens, Thomas**, Pennsville, NJ. Pennsville directory, c. 1960, and maps of Salem County, Delaware River and Bay, 1956-1976. (2018.037)
- Historical Society of Penns Grove, Carneys Point and Oldmans**, Pennsgrove, NJ. Postcards and newspaper clippings relating to Salem County sites. (2018.029)
- Historical Society of Penns Grove, Carneys Point and Oldmans**, Pennsgrove, NJ. Salem County Directories, pamphlets and a football film strip of Salem High School vs. Clayton, 1959. (2018.026)
- Historical Society of Penns Grove, Carneys Point and Oldmans**, Pennsgrove, NJ. Rand McNally road atlas, 1890. Front cover reads, "Stiles & Freas, Salem, NJ." (2018.038)
- Morgan, Charles F., Jr.**, Absecon, NJ. Three account ledgers and one book of court records from Centerton, Salem County, NJ. (2018.032)
- Owen, Lawrence B.**, Pilesgrove, NJ. Booklet entitled, "The Wood Family of Woodstown & Jechonias Wood," by Robert W. Yarrington, Jr. (2018.028)
- Owen, Lawrence B.**, Pilesgrove, NJ. Three booklets relating to Paul Fredricks - big band musician, the Woodstown Monthly meeting of Friends and the Buzby family. (2018.033)
- Owen, Lawrence B.**, Pilesgrove, NJ. Lists of recipe contributors, individual sponsors and commercial sponsors from the Salem County Cookbook – Tercentenary Edition, 1964. (2018.035)
- Powell, Jim**, Pompano Beach, FL. Photographs of members of the Crow and Sickler families circa 19th and early 20th centuries. (2018.020)
- Romansky, Thomas**, Pennsville, NJ. DVD of Diva and piano recital at Haven Church, Quinton by Julie-Ann Green, soprano and Joseph Krupa, pianist (2018.018)
- Rossi, Filomena** (in memory of Louis C. Van Doren), Vineland, NJ. Programs and class trip photos for Salem High School for the years 1921 and 1946. (2018.034)
- Schuyler, Robert L.**, Philadelphia, PA. Mannington Township deed between Henry Paullin, Jr. and Henry Paullin Sr. dated 1708. (2017.061)

Membership Report

<u>New Members</u>	<u>Deceased Members</u>
Barry Smith Palmyra, PA	Ruth H. Flemming Pennsville, NJ
Kristine Clark Pennington, NJ	Eleanor Wentzell Bleistine Woodstown, NJ
Michael Houdart Ocean View, NJ	Virginia Boardman Woodstown, NJ
Mary Wible Philadelphia, PA	Earl Wayne Butler Salem, NJ
Patricia Romagna Monmouth Junction, NJ	Marilyn C. Plasket Salem, NJ
Sally M. Cooper Haddon Heights, NJ	Ernest Tark, Jr. Woodstown, NJ
Alan D. Smick Claymont, DE	Golda Kline Salem, NJ
Virginia Merkel (In memory of Carl Nittinger) Media, PA	Jean E. Whitaker Woodstown, NJ
	Hank Rudderow Pennsville, NJ

Crowds See Ferries Make Final Trip

About 500 people crowded around the Pennsville ferry slip as the last boat pulled out last night at 11:50. It was the *Jersey Shore* that made the final trip to New Castle when the Delaware-New Jersey Ferry Company ended its operations, yielding to the new Delaware Memorial Bridge. The vessel was crowded.

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, August 16, 1951

Notice is hereby Given,

THAT the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the county of Salem, have appointed the 27th day of October next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. at the Court House in the town and county of Salem, to hear what can be alleged for or against our liberation from confinement as insolvent debtors.

James Bell, John Galler, Ebenezer Pitman, John Garrison, Reuben Davis, James B. Nicholson, Sylvester Waters, Daniel Keen, John Craven, Abraham Thompson, James Metre, Ezekiel Freeman, Joseph Durell

Sept. 22, 1821

Salem Messenger, Salem, NJ, October 3, 1821

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 the bottom of page 43 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 *Place Names of Salem County*
- A set of 6 Grant House note cards
- 3 postcards of the Salem Oak
- A \$5 coupon towards program fees



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Call (856) 935-5004 or visit

www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Motor in ChurchThe First Baptist Church, Salem, has
had an electric motor installed to
pump the pipe organ.*Salem Sunbeam*, Salem, NJ,

October 6, 1911

Six Cents Reward.

RANAWAY from the subscriber
on the 10th inst. a black boy named
Charles Miles aged about ten
years—any person taking up said
boy and returning him to his master
shall receive the above reward, but
no charges paid, all person are
forbidden from harboring said boy at
their peril.

THO. F. LAMBSON
L. P. N. Sept 15th 1829

Salem Messenger, Salem, NJ,
October 7, 1829

THE OLD LIBRARY

The old library building on
South Street, which has been for so
many years the representative of the
literary taste of Salem, was sold at
auction on Saturday afternoon for the
sum of twenty-five dollars and fifty
cents.—It is to be removed in thirty
days by the terms of the sale. The
library company has removed their
books to a convenient room in the
second story of Brown's building,
where arrangements have been made
to have it accessible at all business
hours of the day upon application
either to James Brown or M. P. Gray,
Esq.

National Standard, Salem, NJ,
September 14, 1864

*Yes, I would like to become a member of the**Salem County Historical Society!*

Name _____ New Member Renewal or Gift

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Please make checks payable to the Salem County Historical Society.

The Society now accepts credit card payments for
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www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

RETURN TO: SCHS, 83 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079

PHOTO ID PLEASE!



Unidentified photographs in the collection remain a perennial perplexity!

Assistance is needed in identifying the participants of this photograph of the Hancock's Bridge Ladies Society. Standing first from the left is Mary Clancy Hogan, Edith Dickson Nixon, Rebecca Remster and Evelyn Drummond. Ninth from the left is a Mrs. Darlington. In the row sitting down the donor has identified the woman first from the left as a Mrs. Ridgway. The ninth person over is Jenny Clement Dickson.

The Salem County Historical Society receives general operating support grants and project grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, through the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

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