

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Salem County Historical Society

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Convicts Sentenced to Road Camp

by Mike Dixon

Salem County was largely a quiet, idyllic area in rural South Jersey, in the late 19th century. As the last twenty years of that serene era slipped by and the dawn of a new bustling century neared, the pace was slow and steady. Few newcomers were added to the county's stable population over the span of twenty years, with the United States Census Bureau counting around 25,000 people in 1900.

However, a spate of strong forces that would fundamentally change this part of the county were converging. Along the Delaware River, the area known as Penn's Grove had grown gradually as city dwellers discovered the delightful spot for escaping the oppressive heat of summer at fashionable riverside hotels. As a result of development, the New Jersey Legislature incorporated the borough in 1894 (Snyder, 2004).

On the matter of the tranquil, relaxed nature of the county, one of the nation's new professional groups, the American Association of Corrections (1919), took note, remarking that the agricultural district on the River, about thirty-two miles south of Camden, had no "serious problems of a social nature."

However, with World War I ripping distant Europe apart, an industrial boom was beginning to disrupt this quiet, waterfront corner of New Jersey. DuPont's Smokeless Powder Plant at Carney's Point, which had mostly employed small numbers of local workmen until fighting erupted in Europe in 1914, was suddenly rushed, churning out orders for explosives, the *Penn's Grove Record* reported. Because of unprecedented demand Carney's Point hummed continually, night and day, as workers at the growing manufacturing complex churned out product, freighters waiting at the dock to carry the vital supplies back to the war-wracked Europe (*Penn's Grove Record*, 1915).

The "demand for carpenters, masons, operators, and workmen



Shell road between Woodstown and Salem, New Jersey

Salem County roads maintained by the Road Camp.

From the Collection.

far exceeded the supply," wrote Charles Harrison, in *A History of Salem County, New Jersey*. The local labor market was "drained to the last drop," so from all parts of the United States and distant countries came skilled workmen and laborers in droves, knowing jobs awaited them here.

The little borough of Penn's Grove, whose population in 1910 was less than 2,000 eventually jumped to 10,000 Harrison reported. The surge spilled into Carney's Point and Pennsville, the region becoming a hub of growth overnight as population skyrocketed and housing and barracks hastily went up. It was estimated that the plant needed 15,000 men in 1915. To accommodate the swelling labor force, practically every house had boarders, while the hospital building and Cove School were being used as bunk houses. At the plant, construction of new buildings and railways were continually going on day and night, and lines of electric lights were erected by which to work at night. (*Penn's Grove Record*, 1914). (continued on page 22)

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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

Address Correspondence to:
Salem County Historical Society
83 Market Street
Salem, New Jersey 08079
Tel. (856) 935-5004

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 President

Recently, a valued volunteer with the Society asked me about our board. 'What do they do?' was his question. I took some time to talk with him about our very active and engaged team, a group of people whom I am proud to call friends, brought together by our common love of SCHS. I thought this message would be a perfect place to introduce you to our new board members and re-introduce you to those who have served for a while.

Armando Martinez, Executive V. President. Armando has rejoined the board after a few years away. As VP he works closely with me in leading the Society and is also responsible for our programming during the year. He kicked off his tenure by securing Erv Parker as our speaker for the first Quarterly Meeting of 2017. And if this meeting is a gauge, we have a lot to look forward to! Armando is also planning an exciting bus trip so stay tuned for more about that in the coming weeks.

Diane Wohlrab, V. Pres. Museum. This year Diane moved from the board position of Trustee to leading the Museum division. Along with Wayne Gotwals, Chair of the Museum Committee, Diane is working to facilitate the final storage moves and reopen exhibit areas. They are looking for volunteers so please, if you have a few free hours, reach out – we have many areas to make use of your talents.

Ellen Morrissey, V. Pres. Library. Our busiest division of the Society. Ellen and her committee are a true hands-on group. There are very few visits to the Society when I don't see a member of the Library committee sitting at the table doing research on a project or helping visitors. Look for big changes over the next few months as the Library undergoes a much-needed update.

Craig Schneeman, V. Pres. Buildings and Grounds. We never leave Craig alone! There is so much going on at the Society that requires Craig's expertise, from arranging work crews to building storage, and he always takes on our requests with good humor.

Bonny Beth Elwell, V. Pres. Membership and Development. You will see the Society represented at various events throughout the state more often thanks to Bonny Beth. Early this year Bonny developed a partnership with Pine Tavern Distillery. Unusual I know, but when a rye whiskey is called Fenwick's New Salem it all makes sense.

Gaynel Schneeman, Treasurer. Over the years, the Society has been blessed to be the recipient of many generous bequests and donations. Gay prudently oversees our endowment funds and our finances, ensuring the Society is fiscally responsible. If you are thinking of making a donation to the Society please rest assured we are in very capable hands.

Margaret Danner, Recording Secretary. This is a very important position on the Board. Peg has the distinct talent of sitting at our Board meetings, listening to the conversations, then recording each meeting's essential points succinctly. At times, we very definitely get off topic!

Barbara Dawson, Trustee. New to the Board for 2017, Barbara brings a well-established knowledge and love of all things related to the county's history. She has been working on a Library project with Ellen and I am sure as time goes by she will find a committee niche she will make her own. Barbara is also co-president of the Alloway Historical Society.

Trudy O'Hare, Trustee. Trudy is Chair of the Education Committee. Under Trudy's leadership, the Society is working with the Salem City School District to host four professional development programs for history teachers. The goal of the project is to assist teachers in presenting local context to historical concepts and events. A perfect fit to our mission.

William J. Gallo, Jr., Trustee. Bill is Chair of the Annual Luncheon Committee. While the luncheon occurs in September, the planning begins in January and includes dining, entertainment, a silent auction and a raffle. This year the committee has selected the Inn at Salem Country Club as our venue. Not only is it a beautiful location, it will seem as if we are 'going home' for the event.

Sue Harker, Trustee. Sue is Chair of the Garden Committee. The planning of winter results in hard work during the remaining seasons. Sue's focus is on native plants for the Society's courtyard and we are looking forward to a new herb garden bordering our log cabin.

Erv Parker, Trustee. Erv is our newest member to the Board and I am excited to have him join us. As I was listening to Erv's presentation on the life of Edward Richardson at our March Quarterly Meeting, I was struck by his knowledge and his ability to make the topic come alive. He was, over and over again, itching to tell us more. His enthusiasm and true love of history can only be an asset to the Society. Erv also serves on the Board of the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Historical Society.

Sheldon Strober, Trustee. When our nominating committee looks for a potential Board member they keep in mind building a well-rounded board of directors. Sheldon brings a much-valued talent to the Society. As a renowned artist, he has been instrumental in display and conservation of our works of art. Each spring the Society participates in the "Arts in Bloom" tour, Sheldon invites contemporary artists to participate and beautifully coordinates our exhibit for the event.

Each board member, no matter what title he or she may hold, is a working member of the Board and that is what makes the Society the success we all enjoy. My thanks to all. And when you see a board member, please express your thanks too!

Best wishes for a safe and happy summer,

Barbara Duffy

Calendar of Events

- ♦ **Sunday, June 11, 2017**
June Quarterly Meeting Time: 1:30PM
Title: "Biology & Ecology: Impacts to life in Salem County Throughout Time"
Speaker: Autumn Angelus
- ♦ **Saturday, June 3, 2017**
Farm Day sponsored by the Pennsville Township Historical Society in Pennsville
- ♦ **Saturday, July 15th, 2017**
History Matters Program, Topic: The First World War and Why it Matters Today Time: 10:00AM-12:00PM
- ♦ **Sunday, September 17, 2017**
Annual Luncheon 1:00PM at the Inn at the Salem Country Club in Elsinboro
- ♦ **Sunday, October 15, 2017**
14th John Stewart Rock Memorial Lecture at Mt. Pisgah AME Church, 15 Yorke Street, Salem, NJ Time: 3:00PM
- ♦ **Friday, October 27, 2017**
Walking Ghost Tour in Salem Time: 7:00PM
- ♦ **Saturday, November 11, 2017**
History Matters Presentation held at the Society
Speaker: Andrew Coldren Topic: To be announced.
- ♦ **Saturday, December 2, 2017**
Yuletide Tour in Salem City Time: 1:00PM-6:00PM

What's News at Your Society

Educational Tours

The Historical Society is in the midst of its spring school group tours. We have been contacted by the following schools for educational programs throughout May and June:

P. W. Carleton School
Elsinboro Township Elementary School
Pennsville Elementary Schools
Salem Middle School

Glass Exhibit

The Society hosted a special exhibit of art glass made by local artist Debbie DiMarco for "Arts in Bloom" from May 13th to May 27th. We thank Debbie for displaying her amazing art glass creations and look forward to her participation in this event again next year.

Society Representation at Events

New Jersey State History Fair
Monmouth Battlefield State Park
Saturday, May 13th, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Farm Day at Church Landing Farm
Pennsville Township Historical Society
Saturday, June 3rd, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Salem County Fair
Salem County Fairgrounds
Tuesday - Friday, August 8th - 9th, 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Society's Annual Luncheon
Sunday, September 17, 2017, 1:00 PM
Inn at Salem Country Club
Elsinboro Township

The luncheon will feature auction and raffle prizes to raise funds for the operations of the Society.
We hope to see everyone there!

SAVE THE DATE

2017 Annual Luncheon

**Sunday,
September 17, 2017
at 1:00PM**

This year's Annual Luncheon will be held at the Inn at Salem Country Club in Elsinboro Township.

New Pickling Factory

George M. Diamond and Thomas R. Vining have commenced active operations at their new pickling factory, on Hancock Street. Although the dry weather is cutting short the supply of pickles, they are curing a large quantity. They have secured the services of an experienced operator to mix, bottle and pack the best variety of table pickles.

Salem Sunbeam,
Salem, NJ, July 28, 1882

[This is the building used in 1885 by Mount Zion Baptist Church, Salem, NJ.]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

14TH JOHN STEWART ROCK MEMORIAL LECTURE

**"Slave-catchers,
the Fugitive Slave Laws, and
New Jersey's
Chief Justice Hornblower"**



JOHN ZEN JACKSON, ESQ.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017
3:00 P.M.

Mt. Pisgah A. M. E. Church
15 Yorke Street
Salem, New Jersey

June Quarterly Meeting

Title: *Biology & Ecology: Impacts To Life in Salem County Throughout Time*

Speaker: Autumn Angelus

Autumn Angelus is a Mosquito Control Biologist for Salem County. Her topic will discuss how the natural world shaped the county as it exists today from before the arrival of the Swedes to present day and will include a discussion on current ecological gems in Salem County and why they are important.

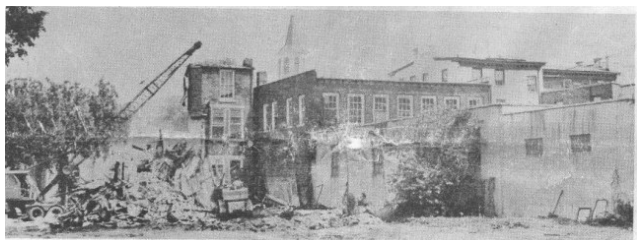
**The Society would like to thank the following
additional donors to our 2016 Annual Appeal:**

Peg Danner
Bonny Beth Elwell
Sue Harker
Armando and Blanca Martinez
Mrs. Philippus Miller, Jr.

TUMBLING DOWN



"Tumbling down is a Market Street, Salem, building in the urban renewal project. Home of the late Dr. William T. Hilliard, its second story porch with a lacy wrought iron decorative effect reminiscent of the French Quarter in New Orleans, removed, feels the razing effect of a heavy iron ball. The Town Clock, atop the First Baptist Church on West Broadway can now be viewed from Market Street.



"The same scene from the rear of the home shows the tower of the old Courthouse."

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, June 18, 1969

[Today this is the location of the Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial. Park.]

The Woodstown borough council passed an ordinance at a recent meeting prohibiting bicyclists from riding on the sidewalk under a penalty of \$5, and provides also that a bell and a lamp shall be used on their wheel at night. The ordinance goes into effect June 1st.
The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, May 26, 1896

Photo Mystery Update



2nd row: The boy on the far right is Jesse E. Lee Davis, the father of the identifier James Davis. Next to Jessie is John Wesley Banger. The school is Pittsfield School, half a block up from William Penn Avenue, Pennsville. The photo is dated circa 1922.

Woodstown Monitor-Register

Seeking \$1,500 in Donations
to complete this
Newspaper Microfilming Project



**Three years spanning 1957—1972
remain to be microfilmed.**

An estimated cost of \$1,500 is needed for completion of this preservation project.

Three more years between 1957—1972 remain to be microfilmed to complete the thirteen years of this preservation endeavor.

Four more years 1953—1956 of the *Woodstown Monitor-Register* were sent out to be microfilmed on April 19th.

We graciously thank the donors to date for their generosity of \$2,500! The first six completed reels of microfilm for the rescued years 1947—1952 were delivered to the Society in April.

Welcome contributions to conclude this project may be mailed to:

Salem County Historical Society
Newspaper Project
83 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079

The Salem County Historical Society was recently given this one of a kind collection of lost but found, deteriorating bound newspapers that have never been microfilmed or copied.

This rare historical collection consists of thirteen decaying bound books of the Woodstown, New Jersey newspaper titled *The Monitor-Register*, dating 1947 through 1959.

In order to rescue this local, valuable historical information for future researchers, the Society has undertaken this critical microfilming project.

Coffee taken early in the morning on an empty stomach sets as a preventive against infections and many acute epidemic diseases.

The Monitor, Woodstown, NJ, October 22, 1886

Salem's New Railroad Depot

National Standard, February 22, 1882, Salem, NJ

"Among Salem's late improvements, none is more highly appreciated by our citizens than the new Railroad Depot, on East Griffith Street, and the conveniences which it insures. Passengers now depart and are landed in this city, instead of half a mile away, as formerly. The new depot was opened for travel on Monday morning, and a large number of our citizens gathered to witness the departure of the first train.

"Quite a number were at the depot on Saturday evening to see the late train come over from the old depot, after landing the passengers there. The new depot was brilliantly illuminated and presented a beautiful appearance. By a mistake the track intended for the use of the passenger trains had been laid too near the covered platform, the top of which projects considerable, and the cars could not pass. The train was run on the freight track, on the other side of the platform, from which place it departed on Monday morning. After the train left on Monday the track men moved the track, so that the trains now run in and out without difficulty.

"The new depot is of frame, about 50x30 feet, and built somewhat on the Gothic style of architecture. A platform

extends all around the building. The waiting rooms for ladies and gentlemen are large and supplied with every convenience. The ticket office is located in the rear centre commanding a full view of the track. The telegraph office is in the ticket office. The building is painted in bright and attractive colors, as is also the covered passenger platform, which extends from the rear of the depot along the track a distance of about two hundred feet.

"To the right, and extending parallel with this platform, is the freight house, which is 115x20 feet, containing ample room for the storing and handling of freight. The express and freight offices are also located in this building. To the left of the passenger platform and track is a platform for unloading and receiving milk.

"The grounds surrounding the depot are nicely graded and graveled, and altogether the new depot and surroundings present a very neat and commendable appearance. The approach of the track to the depot would have been much better had the company purchased sufficient land to run the road straight to the creek. However, we have the new depot and all the conveniences as it is, and we ought to be satisfied."



Museum Acquisitions:

Buzby, Harlan, Pennsville, NJ. Bixby glass bottle (2016.004)

DiMarco, Deborah, Alloway, NJ. Beaded tapestry depicting the Salem Oak and three ribbons given as awards for the artwork. (2016.044)

Fordham, John M., Salem, NJ. Children corpse cooler. (2017.007)

Fowler, Kurt, Tallahassee, FL. (in memory of Margaret Fogg). Old School bell from Mannington Township school. (2016.049)

Magill, Ronald, Salem, NJ. Travel trunk owned by George Rumsey. (2016.025)

Scanlon, Jeanette, Collingswood, NJ. Mason canning jar. (2017.013)

Library Acquisitions:

Allen, Margaret and Wade, Quinton, NJ. Ten postcards depicting photographs of places in Salem County. Photographs were done by William Bradway. (2017.014)

DeVault, David, Paulsboro, NJ. Scrapbook of Cornelia Prior. (2016.047)

Harris, Linn V., Salem, NJ. Family genealogy files relating to people in Salem County. (2017.021)

Jansky, Charles J. and Myers, Elizabeth C., Woodstown and Upper Pittsgrove, NJ. Flash drive containing research done on the Barns of Salem County. (2017.004)

Lippincott, Gill, Woodstown, NJ. Photograph of appeal sale for World War I bonds in Salem, 1917-1918 and two other images of World War I Soldiers. Manuscript entitled, "Some yard and gardens in Old Salem, NJ." (2017.015)

Owen, Lawrence B., Pilesgrove, NJ. Photograph by Robert L. Pratt of the Hancock's Bridge Meeting House, circa late 1960s. (2016.045)

Robinson, Dorothy, Salem, NJ. Photographs of Salem circa 1954 including images of destruction from Hurricane Hazel and the razing of the Richard M. Acton School. (2017.020)

Shockley, Shirley, Penns Grove, NJ. Postcard of Richman's Ice Cream and Pennsville High School yearbooks from the 1970s. (2017.019)

Skradzinski, Joyce L., Alloway, NJ. Items relating to the Salem County Chapter of the American Red Cross. (2017.003)

Wagner, Joyce, Shiloh, NJ (in memory of the B.A. Hitchner Family). Newspaper clippings relating to Salem County history. (2017.016)

(to be continued)

ALEXANDER'S ANNALS

50 YEARS AGO

Pennsville Progress, Pennsville, NJ

June 1967

- 94 structures to be demolished by Salem Housing Authority's Urban Renewal.
- Valley Park School plans submitted to the State Board of Education for approval.
- Governor signs new law against cross burnings.
- 18 Salem Countians received degrees from Rutgers.
- Franklin Loan opens new Salem home—West Broadway and Chestnut Street.
- Rev. Paul Wildgrube new pastor at St. Ambrose Lutheran Church—Pennsville.
- Dave Hall breaks own 880 mark—1:58:9.
- Watermelons—97¢ each— A&P.

75 YEARS AGO

The Monitor-Register, Woodstown, NJ

June 1942

- Wanted Immediately at Seabrook Farms—1,000 Women.
- Sugar rationing for canning—maximum 9 pounds per person—allotment based on amount of fruit put up last year.
- Woodstown performed well in the surprise state-wide blackout Monday evening.
- 20,000 people expected at DuPont employees picnic at Riverview.
- Camp Roosevelt opens with 82 boys from the Inter-racial Troops.
- Pluma Batten appeals to Salem County women to train for the Volunteer Nurses' Aide Corps of the Red Cross.
- Roller Skate every nite with Lou Weiss to music from the Hammond Electric Organ—Riverview Beach.
- The \$5 automobile use stamps are now on sale at the Woodstown Post Office.

100 YEARS AGO

Elmer Times, Elmer, NJ

June 1917

- The Salem County Chapter of the American Red Cross was organized [June 25, 1917] with representative citizens from all sections.
- Governor proclaims, Tuesday, June 5, 1917, Registration Day, a legal holiday.
- Thousands attend demonstration of patriotism and love of country in Salem, May 19th, the day of passage of the war draft bill.
- Elmer W. C. T. U. to hold meeting at the home of Mrs. Howard Conover.
- New Odd Fellows Lodge organized in Penns Grove reviving the disbanded lodge that was organized on December 14, 1848.
- Thomas Butterfield, Philadelphia, first drowning accident at Riverview Beach Park, this season.
- Raymond Tarpine, Daretown, has enlisted in the ambulance Corp.
- Former slave Priscilla Harris, 107 years old, died yesterday at the Salem County Home where she had been an inmate the past fourteen years.

BASE BALL CLUB

"A number of young men in this city have joined together and formed a base ball club, under the name of the "Mosacsa Base Ball Club." They meet three or four afternoons in the week, on the old exhibition ground on South Street, to engage in the very exhilarating exercise. Although the club has been but a short time in existence, many of the players have already acquired considerable skill.



"Base Ball as an exercise accomplishes a two-fold benefit. Its various evolutions call into gentle exercise all the muscles of the body.—Its performance in the open air fills the lungs with pure fresh air, to give its invigorating life and influence to the whole system. These clubs are deservedly popular everywhere, and are participated in alike by old and young.

"It is not in the least derogatory to the man of gray hairs, to the minister, to the lawyer, or to any other profession. Why should it be? Who more than they, need the fresh invigorating air of heaven? Is the air of the fields, the gentle bracing exercise, less fitted to inspire devotional thoughts and feelings, and prepare the mind for wards of comfort and consolation, than the foul, fetid air of the study? Let the pale, weakly, always sick dyspeptic answer.

"At Bridgeton, lawyers and ministers, we are informed, are members of the Ball Clubs, and we have yet to learn that it is any lessening of the dignity or usefulness of either class. Go on gentleman successfully with your club until it embraces all professional, clerical, gentlemanly, leisure men, students or scholars in the place, within its health giving, invigorating folds. By the way, why not have two times of meeting, one in the morning and the other in the pleasant part of the afternoon, so as to give all a chance to participate.

"As it is now, the time for play monopolizes a time in the afternoon when the clerks in the store are necessarily compelled to be at their business. The afternoon is to them the busiest part of the day usually. We would suggest that the club lease ground and put up a small building for the accommodation of ladies and other visitors, who favor them with their presence."

National Standard, Salem, NJ, May 31, 1865

Oakwood Beach

"Messrs. Hiles & Hilliard, the new owners of the River Shore, have greatly improved this pleasant resort, long known as the Salem County Cape May, and have given it the name of Oakwood Beach.

"The grounds have been graded, some eight hundred feet of board walk laid on the beach, new bathhouses and a two-story pavilion, with verandas overlooking the river, erected, and a general transformation of the place has taken place.

"Stables have also been erected for the care of horses, and the grounds have been fenced, so that the teams are no longer permitted to drive up in the main part of the grove as formerly. There is ample room now, and Oakwood Beach should become a popular resort for excursions and pleasure parties.

"The grounds are well lighted at night, refreshments and bathing robes are kept on hand and every convenience supplied for the comfort and pleasure of those who may visit the place. The opening takes place to-night. No liquor is sold or permitted on the grounds."

National Standard, Salem, NJ, July 1, 1891

Salem Bank is Moved Hundreds of People Watch Delicate Task on Thursday Afternoon



"The banking house of the Salem National Bank and Trust Company is now moved from the site on Broadway that it has occupied since October, 1889, to the lot on New Market Street where it will be located. Hundreds of people witnessed the delicate task of moving the building last Thursday afternoon and were surprised with the ease with which it was accomplished.

"The Bank closed for business at 3 P. M. and a half hour later the building was on its way to New Market Street. The officials and clerks remained in the Bank to finish the day's business and say that the only thing disturbed was the large chandelier in the center which vibrated just a trifle.

"Within two hours the work had been accomplished. The building had been placed on iron rollers and these moved over regular railroad rails. A heavy cable was made fast to the center of the bank and by means of a windlass, two horses pulled the building along. It is said that the contractor figured on a safety load of 600 tons."

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, May 26 1926

Salem County Automobile Club Organized Wednesday

"The Salem County Automobile Club met in the Garfield Club rooms Wednesday night and perfected a permanent organization. It was a large and enthusiastic meeting. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and a charter will be applied for.

"The officers elected for the ensuing year were:

President, Hon. Joseph B. Crispin.

Vice President, Dr. N. S. Hires

Secretary, William M. Waddington.

Treasurer, Paul Erhardt.

"Executive Committee: J. Edgar Custer, William H. Mitchell, L. A. Denny, Harry K. Strauss, of Salem; Shirley Dunham Alloway; W. G. Hunt, Pedricktown; John K. Duffy, Penn's Grove; Norman Callahan, Pennsville; Russell Hires, Quinton.

"It is stated unofficially that the club is already planning a run along the sea coast this summer, but definite plans have not as yet been made."

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, June 3, 1910

Lawn Tennis Tea

"A Tennis Tea was given on the grounds of the Tennis club, in the rear of the Salem National Bank, on Wednesday evening. The grounds were handsomely decorated and illuminated with Japanese lanterns, and table and chairs in profusion were scattered around. The guests, who numbered about 150 persons, were received by Mrs. Charles Bannard, Mrs. Charles Mecum and Miss Lizzie Yorke.

"The time was passed away pleasantly in tennis, dancing and other amusements and refreshments in abundance were served. It was the most delightful social event of the season."

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, July 29, 1890

"—The **Woodstown post office** is now open until 8:30 o'clock in the evening, and Wednesday and Saturday evenings until 9 o'clock.

"Commencing July 1st the salary of Postmaster Hewitt will be increased \$100 per year, making the total amount \$1,100 per year."

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, July 1, 1890

Three New Maxwells in The City

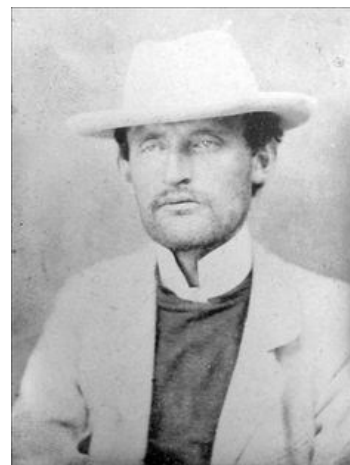


"The New Jersey Motor Company, located at the corner of Grant and North Seventh Streets, has sold Maxwell touring cars to former Councilman Edward Steelman, Joseph Butcher and Elmer Pedrick."

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, April 8, 1914

[This streamlined 5-passenger touring car had four cylinders in a twenty-five horsepower motor. Each car was perfectly finished and upholstered and was equipped with three oil lamps and two gas head lights; speedometer; tire holders; horn; tool kit; pump; jack and special wrenches. The owners of this company were composed of E. H. Davis, George D. Jaquette, and Walter Hann.]

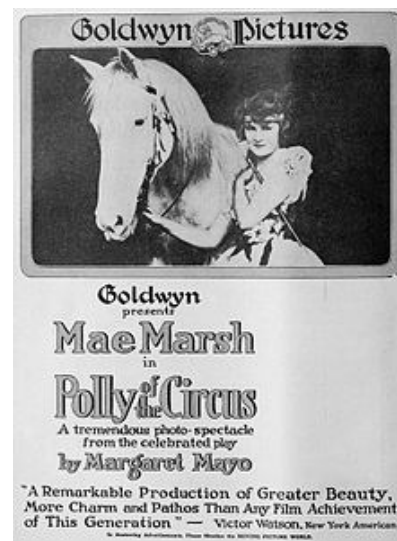
Everett Shinn, Art Director



Everett P. Shinn (1876-1953)

"The art director of the show, "Polly of the Circus," shown at the Fenwick last Thursday night, was Everett Shinn, a Woodstown boy, who is now a resident of New York."

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, May 25, 1921



[This 1917 silent, drama film of 80 minutes is notable as the first film produced by Samuel Goldwyn after founding his studio Goldwyn Pictures. This film marks the first appearance of 'Stats', the lion mascot of Goldwyn Pictures and (after the company's 1924 merger) Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Starring Mae Marsh and Vernon Steele, the filming locations included the New Jersey communities of Englewood, Fort Lee, Hohokus, and Kirksville. It was released on September 9, 1917.

A whole village was constructed for the movie and a replica of the house at 68 North Main Street, Woodstown, New Jersey was incorporated.]

(continued from cover) By the late winter of 1915, the building rush at the “Carney Point Powder Works” continued around-the-clock, more land constantly being needed for industrial development. William Crispin, tenant on the DuPont farm adjacent to Penns Grove formerly owned by Thomas Flanigan and later by Robert Kidd, had been notified to cease growing crops on his 150 acres. Likewise, Thomas Whitesell, tenant on the DuPont farm formerly owned by Edwin A. Vanneman and later by Dr. David Wiley had also been notified to cease growing crops on his 300 acres as it was needed for buildings to make and dry powder.

Once this work was done, the DuPont Smokeless Powder works occupied more than a square mile of land, about 700 acres, making it “by far the largest powder making plant in the world,” asserted the *Penn’s Grove Record* (1915). But people hadn’t seen anything yet, as Salem County’s equivalent of the gold rush hit. The United States entered the “Great War” in April 1917. By summertime, the “Carney’s Point Works had more than twenty-five thousand men and women toiling away around the clock, turning out powder for allied armies, according to Harrison in *Salem County: A Story of People* (1988). More people seeking jobs poured into the area.

Beyond the volatile nature of young, transient men with pocket-cash looking to have a good time after toiling away for a week in the dangerous occupations, this also brought in “a rough and reckless element,” as well as rough and tumble taverns and bars. “Viciousness in all forms was rampant,” according to the 1919 Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Workers.

Whatever the case, plenty of mischievous types frequented Penn’s Grove and nearby communities, making much work for officials. “The two cells in the [Penn’s Grove] Borough lockup were generally occupied, and men were often transferred to the Salem Jail, to make room for more unruly prisoners.”

The criminal justice system in the Borough and the County, grappling with the wave of lawlessness, was quickly being overrun with wayward types from all over the nation and world. The Penns Grove mayor appointed “thirteen assistant marshals at the request of the Company.” Soon a formal police department was established by DuPont and Major Richard Sylvester, formerly of Wilmington, organized the force. In the ranks were 30 uniformed men, and 14 of these police officers were mounted, according to the *Salem Sunbeam*. In addition, there were plainclothes detectives. The new police headquarters also had a lockup, and Pennsville’s Justice of the Peace Duffy often held court there. (*Salem Sunbeam*, Oct 13, 1915)

About the time newspapers were reporting on industrial expansion, county editors noted that a new Sheriff, A. Lincoln Fox, was sworn into office, along with his deputy Charles F. Pancoast (*Penn’s Grove Record*, 1915). The new sheriff had to deal with a crime wave that was terrorizing residents and was nowhere near cresting. He, along with troubled and perplexed prosecutors, judges, and magistrates, grappled with the problem

of having a system designed for simpler times.

This enormous influx created the perfect storm, as the area around Carney’s Point teemed with newcomers. Sheriff Fox, warned the Board of Freeholders that this was a crime wave of epic proportions. Stories of criminal mayhem, gangsters, and all sorts of marauding bands filled the weekly newspapers in Pennsville, Penns Grove and Salem as lawmen, judges and prosecutors confronted an overwhelming wave of theft, violence, drunkenness, and general mayhem.

Squire John K. Duffy of Penn’s Grove knew this first hand. Having worked with “the unruly day and night since the powder boom” began, he decided to take a well-deserved winter vacation in Florida in 1917, the *Salem Sunbeam* reported.

Something had to be done to ease overcrowding in the county jail and tiny municipal lockups, if the outbreak of mayhem was going to be contained. Newspapers reported that 1914 was one of the most “criminalistic years on record.” In one quarter session, the judges hearing 93 cases, a third more than the previous year. The Salem Jail had 258 commitments in 1914, 617 for 1915, and 742 in 1917.

Taking into consideration the magnitude of the problem, resilient Salem County was ready to cope, in a practical sort of way. Freeholders, realizing in the spring of 1914, that the overcrowded conditions at the jail were out of control contemplated enlarging the prison at a cost of \$30,000.

As the elected leaders assessed the cost Sheriff Fox had another idea. A new New Jersey law passed in March 1915 offered a solution as it permitted county road camps. Thus, the top lawman presented a plan for a portable jail, a “workhouse” with bunks for sixteen men and a dining room and kitchen. At night the superintendent and guard slept in the dining area on cots that were lowered from the ceiling. Thomas F. Waddington, the former chief of police in Salem, had developed this special facility.

This seemed to be a cost-effective solution to the problem of inmate overcrowding. The experiment started on July 11, 1915, with eight prisoners, Supt. Waddington and a guard. Originally the portable prison was at the almshouse, but it was eventually moved to Daretown, where it was placed on wheels, twelve horses being required to move the building. It moved from job to job about the county as projects were completed and new ones tackled. The maximum number of prisoners up to 1919 was twenty-five. After a few years, it was decided to locate the camp permanently at the Friesburg-Yorktown Road and Commissioner’s Pike.

This experiment in corrections reform came along just as the county was grappling with another costly problem, converting dirt roads and timber bridges to modern highways for automobiles. Thus, judges started sentencing prisoners to the road camp to do manual work on the roads, rather than serving jail time. According to the Society of Social Workers, the portable road camp was the first of its kind established in the

State of New Jersey, and it was also accredited with being the first in the United States.

The unparalleled crime wave waned once the war was over but through good times and hard times the camp continued for about a quarter-of-a-century. During the Great Depression many vagrants deliberately had themselves committed in order to make the camp their winter home. This occurred particularly during the low ebb of the economic crisis, when the population of the camp would rise in winter and fall in summer.

In the late 1930s, the Freeholders were considering abandoning the camp, however the final closure didn't take place until July 1943. With the number of prisoners committed to road work decreasing steadily, the Board of Freeholders finally decided to close this practical experiment in penal reform. Although the matter had been under consideration for years, and at least one time the elected leaders deadlocked in a vote to close it, the dwindling number of inmates made it impractical to continue the operation. There were two prisoners there when the camp closed (*Sunbeam*, 1943).

The *Salem Sunbeam* wondered how a rise in jail population would be met in the future.

The county's prison policy remains where it had always been: "take care of the current year; let the future take care of itself," the editor remarked (*Salem Sunbeam*, 1943).

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United Census Bureau, Decennial Census, population schedule, 1900.

Mike Dixon is a historian and writer whose research and teaching focuses on community studies and social history.

For nearly four decades, he has worked to encourage public interest and participation in the preservation of the past while creating understanding between earlier eras and the present. Addressing his area of scholarship, he has appeared on the *Today Show*, the *National Geographic Channel* and in prestigious magazines. Mike enjoys seeking out stories that create a distinctive sense of place. Along the way he finds rich, deep, and varied stories about the past in fascinating small towns.

He holds graduate degrees in history and the behavioral sciences from St. Joseph's University and Washington College and is an adjunct professor at Wilmington University. He is a visiting scholar for the Delaware Humanities Forum and a member of the speakers' bureau for the Maryland Humanities Council.



DuPonts Now Making Ice Known as "Etherized Ice" and Sells For \$100 Per Ton

The duPont Company that is constantly putting something new upon the market has come forward now with "etherized ice". This is being manufactured at a plant near the Dye Works at Deepwater.

The ice is made from ethyl products and is put up in blocks of different sized that sell for five cents a pound or \$100 per ton. The ice has a frigidity of being five times stronger than water ice and when it melts a dry snow is made that evaporates leaving absolutely no moisture.

The duPont Company has been manufacturing the ice for several months and the demand has become so great that the plant is being increased so all orders may be met promptly.

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, May 30, 1928

A Cure For Sunburn

An old fisherman gave this advice recently to one of the great number of youths who are suffering from seashore sunburn and inflammation: "Get two ounces of the best olive oil, mixed with an ounce of lime water, and a few drops of rose water, just to scent the mixture. Then rub it on your burned face, and it will quickly subdue the inflammation."

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, July 29, 1890

Genealogically Speaking:

SIGNERS OF PETITIONS RELATING TO CENTREVILLE TOWNSHIP
1820-1822

The following list of names were transcribed by Bruce Bendler from "Petitions and Other Papers Relating to the Establishment of Municipalities (SLE00001) 48", located at the New Jersey Department of Archives and Records Management, Trenton, New Jersey. This list complements Bendler's feature article, "Centreville: The Rise and Fall of a Township" in the Society's March 2017 newsletter. Documented names that precede New Jersey's first available Federal Population Census, of 1830, are important.

November 1820—Petition of the inhabitants of the lower part of Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, to the Legislative Council and General Assembly concerning the creation of a new township to be called Centreville

James Green	James Jones	Bateman Lloyd	Michael Potter	James Loper	Jacob Wick
William H. Falkner	John Garrison	Daniel Ackly	Jacob Cremer	Thomas Hill	Wm. Langley
Daniel Richman	Marmaduke B.	Wade Gamble	Isaac Richman	Amos Woodruff	Hendrick Hitchman
Bateman Parker	Erwin	Richard Jones	James Kandle	David Garrison	Uriah Ackley
Henry Kandle, Jr.	James C. Clark, Jr.	Wm. Earl	John Langley	John Clark, Jr.	Jonathan Coney ?
Matthias Richman	John May	Timothy Conover	Andrew Creamer	James Harris	Jonathan Burden
James Worth	Jacob Mary	Lot Garrison	Enos Hawn	John Allen	Wm. Armstrong
Hugh D. Smith	Joel Ogden	Preston Stratton	David Richman 3 rd	John Gft?	Robert
Christopher Shaver		John Hawthorn	Matthias Miller	Isaac Opdycke	Montgomery
William Miller	<u>Next Page:</u>	Martain Edwards	David H. Brown	Jacob Burroughs	Jacob Garrison
Isaac Sedes	Jeremiah Stull	Jospeh Gordon	Daniel Janson	Daniel Hires	David Wick
Benjamin Miller	Abraham Stull	Isaac Smith	John Garson, Jr.	Christopher Shaver	Jacob Hitchner, Jr.
Jacob Jones	Jonathan Riley	Isaac Clark	Jesse Garson	Simon Rammel	John Rial
Henry Charles	John Kandle	Benjamin Clark	George Fox	Nathan Tarbel	Wm. Rial
William Davis	John Edwards	Samuel Young	Abraham Geggan ?	Cornelius Johnson	
Lenous Bateman	William Murry ?	John W.s Richman	Samuel Honn	(name obliterated)	
William Sheppard	James Hughes	Joel Marsar 1?	John Loper	John Clark	

Petition of the Inhabitants of Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, to the Council and General Assembly against the establishment of Centreville Township, October 11, 1821

Isaac Johnson	Charles Brown	Richard Vanmeter	George Benson	Richard Hughes	Isaac Johnson, Jr.
John Elwell	John Burroughs	Isaac Elwell	Samuel Dayton	William?	John Ackner ?
John Loper	William Adams	Joel Abbott	Saml. (illegible)	David Dubois	John ?
Henry Honn, Sr.	Joel Vanmeter	Toast ? Elwell	Israel Layton	W. E. Dubois	Daniel Hires
John Fusman ?	John Martin	Cornelius Johnson	Isaac Johnson, Jr.	Philip Fries	Enos Sithans
Joseph Goldin	Cornelius Bustir	William Clayton	Warton ? Elwell	John Johnson	
Samuel Hughes	David Vanmeter	David Hutchinson	Benjamin Murphy	John McAllister	
Daniel R. Ackley	? Vanmeter	Isaac Adcock	John Martin	John Butten]	
Benjamin Howard	Samuel Vanmeter	John Gambel	David Whiticar	Samuel Newkirk	

(To be continued)

Three Pounds Reward

"Run away from his Bail on Sunday the Fifteenth Day of February last, a certain **Anthony Born**, alias **Bourns**, a Taylor by Trade, about five feet six or seven Inches high, fair Complexion, brown Hair, which he commonly ties with a Ribband; his Cloaths are uncertain, but are believed to be chiefly blue, has been a Soldier in the Royal Scots, and has a Discharge with him, is a thick well-set Fellow. Whoever secures the said Anthony Born, and brings him to his Bail in Salem, in West New-Jersey, shall have the above Reward, and reasonable Charges paid by us,
Samuel Dick,
Jacob Hollinshead,
Samuel Thompson. Salem, March 2, 1767"

*The Pennsylvania Chronicle, Philadelphia,
March 9 to March 16, 1767, p. 4:2*

LIST OF LETTERS

*Remaining in the Post Office at
Pittsgrove, N. J. January 1, 1825.*

Joseph Acrit, James C. Husted,
David Dubois, Daniel N. Dubois,
James Hughes, Wm. Maxwell, Lewis
Whiteker. M. BURT, P. M.

*Salem Messenger, Salem, NJ,
January 12, 1825*

One Cent Reward

RAN AWAY from the subscriber on the 7th inst. a Coloured Boy bound by the Trustees of the poor, of the name of **Jefferson Sluby**, in the eighteenth year of his age; had on and took away two suits of clothes. Any person that will take up said runaway shall receive the above reward, but no charges paid. July 17, 1833.

JOSEPH BASSETT

Salem Messenger, Salem, NJ, July 19, 1833

Ten Dollars Reward

RAN AWAY, from the Subscriber, living in Lower Penn's Neck, Salem County, New-Jersey, on Sunday, the 23rd Instant, a Negroe Man, named **JOHN COOK**, twenty Years old, and six feet high. He is marked with the Smallpox, and one Finger of his right Hand, owing to a Wound by a Sickle, is crooked, so that he cannot straighten it. Had on, when he went away, a new linsey Coat and Trowsers, a new homespun Shirt, a new Hat, and a Pair of Jefferson Shoes, somewhat worn. Whoever takes up said Runaway, and secures him in any Gaol in the State of New-Jersey, or brings him Home, shall receive the above Reward, and all reasonable Charges.

William Johnson

April 26th, 1815

*Pennsylvania Gazette,
Philadelphia, PA, May 3, 1815*

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Woodstown and Vicinity

Mr. J. Hunt's new brick building is rapidly advancing toward completion, but it yet requires a large amount of work before the finishing stroke can be made. The building is three stories high, the last of which will be used as a hall for public purposes, and has a 15 foot ceiling. *National Standard*, Salem, NJ, June 15, 1870

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

PHOTO ID PLEASE!



Unidentified photographs in the collection remain a perennial perplexity!

The teacher and pupils of this Grant Street School photograph in Salem, NJ await to be identified.

Morning Star Baptist Church Baptism

"It is estimated that four hundred persons gathered along the banks of the creek [Salem River] in Clawson's meadow on Sunday afternoon to witness the baptism of seven converts to the Morning Star Baptist Church, colored, whose house of worship is at the corner just above the high bridge. The ceremony was interesting."

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, September 28, 1910

To Have New Iron Fence



"A neat iron fence is being erected in front of the colored school on East Broadway."

Salem Standard and Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, October 19, 1910

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