

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Salem County Historical Society

Founded July 31, 1884

Volume 55, Issue No. 3

Fall 2010

(ISSN 1525-0983)

Old Time Baseball Returns to Salem County

Since not long after the mid-19th century when the first amateur baseball clubs began organizing, the sport has been referred to as America's National Pastime. However, the origins of the game are not uniquely American at all. From the nation's earliest days, children in the colonies played ball and bat games similar to those folk games played throughout Great Britain and Europe. What we have come to know as baseball is actually a cousin of the same sort of English folk games that resulted in cricket and rounders. Some evidence even suggests that ball and bat games have been played across the globe since ancient times.

According to early 20th century myth, the game of baseball was

(Continued on page 38)



Rock Lecture

7TH JOHN S. ROCK MEMORIAL LECTURE

October 17, 2010 3P.M.

FEATURING

Corann Okorodudu,
Professor of Psychology
and Africana Studies at
Rowan University

PRESENTS...

**"African Immigration
to the United States:
Challenges to the
Evolution of Human
Rights and Social
Justice"**

*(See page 37 for more information
on the lecture)*

Summer Camp 2010

The Salem County Historical Society hosted its annual summer camp the week of July 19-23. This year, eight campers spent the week with Society staff and volunteers experiencing the county's history. Each year the camp is a highlight of the Society's community outreach programs. "In part, the mission of the Society is to perpetuate Salem County's heritage for the benefit of future generations" stated Society President Barbara Smith Duffy, "what better way to bring the experience of past generations to the young people than through a week of historically based stories and hands-on activities."

This year's camp complemented the Society's newest exhibition, *Palettes of the Past: Salem County Art and Artists*. Following this theme, campers learned how art is all around them in both the natural and created environment.

(Continued on page 40)



Inside this issue:

Acquisitions.....	43
Airmail Service.....	42
Alexander's Annals.....	44
Annual Dinner	44
Board and Staff.....	34
Calendar of Events.....	37
Corporate Sponsors.....	35
Diamond State Base Ball.....	33, 38
Education.....	33, 40, 41
Genealogically Speaking.....	39
Membership Report.....	35
Message from the President...	34,35
Museum News.....	43
Salem County Innovators.....	47
Volunteer.....	46

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

Research Library & Museum Hours

Tuesday through Saturday
12 NOON - 4 PM
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

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.

On the Cover:

Left: Diamond State BBC and the Dauntless BBC of Havre de Grace at Steppingstone Museum, Havre de Grace, MD.

Center: Professor Coran Okorodudu who will be the Speaker for the 7th John Rock Lecture.

Right: Campers with Jeff and Nancy Parker during Summer Camp 2010.

From the President

We have just rounded out our spring and summer activities with the youngest history buffs of Salem County and I believe they had fun! Haley Hunt (granddaughter of members J. Gill and Sylvia Lippincott) had an insightful comment as she dressed in her period gown and readied to have her portrait photographed, "How did people dress like this every day!" How did they indeed? The Society's mission in part is to perpetuate Salem County's heritage for the benefit of future generations, what better way to bring the experience of past generations to the current generation than through historically based stories and hands-on activities. Many thanks to Diane Wolhrab and the Education Committee for making this year's summer camp experience memorable to our young visitors (all of whom wished camp was longer!)

David Culver and I had an interesting visitor on July 16th. Some of you may remember Barbara Huff who was born and raised in Salem. Barbara now goes by *Grandma Ginny™ America's History Lady™*. She and her husband Tom, are traveling, researching, writing, and recording to bring American history stories to the public. Grandma Ginny spent several delightful hours with us talking about the Society and our exhibit, *Palettes of the Past: Salem County Art and Artists* – all recorded for placement on the americashistorylady.com website. Barbara featured New Jersey as the web site's "State of the Week" in August. We are grateful for the chance to place our information on another's site with hopes of enticing more people to stop by and see all that we have to offer.

Board of Trustees

Barbara Smith Duffy, *President*
Michael J. Cooke, *Executive V. President*
David A. Culver, *V. Pres. Museum*
J. Harlan Buzby, *V. Pres. Library*
Ivy Quinton, *Recording Secretary*
Zoe Pappas, *Corresponding Secretary*
Margaret Massey, *Treasurer*
Brian M. Duffy, *Trustee*
William J. Gallo, Jr., *Trustee*
Walter T. Leslie, *Trustee*
Ronald E. Magill, *Trustee*
Ellen Morrissey, *Trustee*
Donald L. Pierce, *Trustee*
Dr. Robert A. Brooks, *Trustee Emeritus*

Staff

Administrator/Curator: Sarah Hagarty
Operations Manager: Kristin Vannoy
Librarian: Janice Brown
Museum Staff: Kimberly Downs
Bookkeeper: Wanda Hofbauer
Newsletter: J. Harlan Buzby, Ellen Morrissey, Kristin Vannoy

way to build upon our current exhibit and give you another great reason to visit. We are planning a special feature titled *Palettes of the Past: Salem County Artists at Work*. As the name implies, the exhibit area will be host to a variety of artists from around Salem County setting up their easels and talking with visitors about their work. Stop by on a Saturday afternoon (please check our website calendar for dates) to see what Salem County's contemporary artists are doing.

And our Adopt an Object Program has had a great kickoff due to the generous donation by Dr. and Mrs. Bob Brooks, to the conservation of the John M. Dunn painting of Principal Anderson. On behalf of the Board, we are thankful to our members for the continuing support of programs old and new.

I hope you are planning to join us for the Annual Dinner coming

(Continued on page 35)

(Presidents Message continued from page 34)

up on September 17th. I look forward to sharing the evening with you and hearing of your ideas for the growth of the Society. Remember, the opportunity is yours for the taking!

-Barbara Smith Duffy

How to Select a Cantaloupe

Housewives frankly confess that cantaloupes are one of the most difficult fruits to buy. However, the following are some suggested points to observe:



For home use cantaloupes of about 5 inches in diameter are in most demand. Shape is not important but the oval types are preferred. Pink fleshed varieties are most popular, yet the green tinted or golden flesh types are equally good when ripe.

Quality in cantaloupes is usually associated with abundant and prominent netting which is the cork-like veining on the outer surface. One of the best means to determine ripeness when buying local cantaloupes is to examine the end at which the cantaloupe was attached to the vine.

If the scar on this stem end is clean, perhaps sunken and smooth or calloused, then the fruit was ripe when picked. On fruit green and immature when picked, the stem scar is torn, green, or often bears a portion of the stem.

Now take the cantaloupe in your hand. If ripe, the blossom end will be softened a little and yield at the point to slight pressure of the hand but otherwise be fairly firm.

Color and scent are factors, too. A change of the ground color of the rind from dark green to a more or less yellowish tinge is a sign of ripeness. Ripeness is also indicated by the rich, melon aroma as it becomes stronger and more perceptible.

Avoid soft, very yellow cantaloupes which are usually over-ripe of insipid flavor and watery. Steer clear of bruised or spotted cantaloupes because the flesh is usually very soft and spongy.

In conclusion, the factors that really determine quality are sweetness, fine texture and full flavor of the flesh; one can expect to find them only in fully ripened cantaloupes.

Penns Grove Record, Pennsgrove, New Jersey, August 1, 1935.

Membership Report

A warm welcome to the Society's new members!

Individuals

- Mr. Dennis Callahan, Phoenix, AZ
- Mr. Jerry Franklin, Fergus Falls, MN
- Mr. David Taylor, Flemington, NJ
- Mr. Jay B. Wright, Fayetteville, NY
- Ms. Ida Turner, Salem, NJ
- Ms. Judith Wright, Wilmington, DE

Family

- Mr. and Mrs. Steve Carroll, Pennsville, NJ
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Haaf, Jr. Woodstown, NJ
- Ms. Lois M. Meyer, Camillus, NY

Corporate and Business Members

“Partnerships with History”

FENWICK BENEFACTORS

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

PEDERSEN PROVIDERS

- DuPont Chambers Works
- Harvest Community Bank
- Henry D. Young Insurance Agency

OAK TREE ASSOCIATES

- Earle H. Sloan Insurance Agency, Inc.
- Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of -Salem County
- Franklin Bank
- John D. Jordan, Esq.
- Kates Realty, LLC
- Mannington Mills
- Oak Tree Chapter-NSDAR
- Redaptive Holdings
- The “J” Boys
- Warner & Co., CPA’s

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



Thank you to all who donated to the Society's Auction Fundraiser, it was quite a successful event! If you are interested in donating items please contact the Society.



1938 Salem High School Band Makes First Appearance

Five months after its organization, the Salem High School band made its first public appearance in a concert at the armory last Thursday night. An audience of about 400 persons enjoyed the program and were enthused with the progress shown by the band under the direction of Isadore Gecenok, high school instructor in instrumental music. An eight-weeks summer course will be held for band and orchestra members for which enrollment is now open. The photo shows members of the band and orchestra in a combined group.

In the photo are – **Front row**, Sam Schuman, Harold McCurdy, William Belleman, David Fogg, Samuel Cossaboon, Harry Butcher, Thomas Ovens, Elton Essler, Herbert Taylor. **Second row**, William Foster, Samuel Archer, Hazel Hicks, Marion Baker, Dorothy Nelson, Robert DeHart, Shirley Garrison, Helen Harris, Leonard Klein, Dorothy Weeks, Margarite Danly, Ruth Blitzstein, Joseph Rubinstein, Waren Biddle. **Third row**, Edmund Krause, John Hicks, Betty Bivins, Jean Whitaker, Helen Horner, Angelina Poet, Frieda Fahrner, Arnold Saltzburg, Alice Ayares, Lester Saunderlin, Richard Boynton, Ellen Moore. **Fourth row**, Evelyn Ritterson, Roy Locke, Wilfred English, William Crosson, William Coombs, Edward

Brooks, David Summons, Erwin Ochs, George Pappas. **Fifth row**, Isadore Gecenok, director; James Newell, William Brooks, Dora Sickler, Richard Hires, Maynard Hitchner, John Ward, Edward Lawrence, Frank Green Louise Horley. **Sixth row**, Russell Lamblack, Robert Shimp, Norman Patrick, Robert Davis, Jay Marts, Charles Engle. **Seventh row**, Herbert Griscom, Wayne Davis, Irving Perry, Ruth Denn, Jack Kugler, Ralph Powers, Erwin Butler. **Eighth row**, Rudolph Porch, Nickie Bonarrigo, Virginia Newkirk, Maryellen Shimp, Martin Noonan, Frank Shimp. **Ninth row**, John Klein, Leo Fredricks, Spencer Nichols, Paul Mathis, David Drummond, Samuel Owens, Thomas Griscom, Jack McCoubrie. **Tenth row**, Victor Robinson, William Parkell, Haywood Walker and Samuel Pedrick.

Salem Sunbeam, June 8, 1938, p. 4:3.

Fenwick Papers 1938, Salem High School, Salem, New Jersey

[The same photograph appeared in both publications. Please notify the Society if an original photograph exists.]—JHB

Calendar of Events

Friday, September 17, 2010, 5:30P.M.

Annual Dinner

Centerton Country Club, Centerton, NJ

October 10, 2010 1:00P.M.

Diamond State Baseball Game

Riverview Park, Pennsville, NJ

October 17, 2010, 3:00P.M.

7th John S. Rock Memorial Lecture

Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Salem, NJ

October 29, 2010, 6:00P.M.

“Tunes from the Crypt” by Joanne Owen

St. John’s Episcopal Church, Salem, NJ

December 4, 2010, Noon-4:00P.M.

Yuletide Tour

Salem City, NJ

December 12, 2010, 1:30P.M.

Quarterly Meeting, “Behind the Exhibit, Beyond the Catalog, Beneath the Label” presented by David Culver
Friends Village - Lecture Room,
Woodstown, NJ

**Holiday Closings—November 25th,
December 25th, January 1st**

Look What’s New

- If you have had an opportunity to visit the Society lately you may have notice things have moved around a bit. In preparation of upcoming projects, we’ve moved things around in the library and office. Much cleaning and organizing is helping the Society to operate more efficiently.
- A special thank you to Mr. Jessie Richards for donating and moving **new office furniture** for the Society!
- **A new entrance as of August 28**, the entrance to the Society will move to our courtyard. Please enter through the Market Street side gate or rear gate next to our Stone Barn.
- Be sure to checkout our **newly redone website** www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com
- This September the Society will kick-off its **internship program**—please visit our website for more details.

7TH JOHN S. ROCK MEMORIAL LECTURE



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 2010, 3:00P.M.
MT. PISGAH A M.E. CHURCH, 15 Yorke Street, Salem, NJ

Lecture is open to the public and FREE of charge

Professor Corann Okorodudu

PRESENTS

**“African Immigration to the United States: Challenges to
the Evolution of Human Rights and Social Justice”**

MORE ABOUT THE SPEAKER

CORANN OKORODUDU is a Professor of Psychology and Africana Studies at Rowan University, where she has also served as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and coordinated programs on Africana Studies, Women Studies, and multicultural curriculum transformation. Her work involves multi-level activities informed by a crosscultural, ecological perspective, emanating from her socialization into young adulthood in Liberia, West Africa and her doctoral studies and crosscultural research in human development at Harvard University. For more than 20 years, she has focused her professional commitment in higher education, at the United Nations, and in governance of the American Psychological Association on promoting institutional policies and practices reflective of human rights, social justice, and democratic community.

(Continued from cover)

created by Civil War Union general Abner Doubleday of Cooperstown, New York in 1838. The unfortunate truth is that Doubleday, far from inventing baseball, probably never even played the game, nor was he living in Cooperstown in 1838. However, a



Diamond State BBC versus the Fair Play BBC of Talbot County (MD) at Ft. Delaware, Delaware City, DE

commission headed by one of organized baseball's founding fathers, Albert Spalding, was intent on demonstrating that baseball was created by Americans and not descended from games of a foreign origin.

Base ball (as it was spelled prior to the late 19th century) and town ball were similar early American folk games. By the 1840's, these games were not only played by children but in a more organized way by gentleman's clubs, particularly in the Mid-Atlantic, New York and New England. Men of the day utilized the games for physical fitness, as an outlet from the rigors of daily life, and as a means of esprit de corps.

In 1845, the Knickerbocker Club of New York codified the rules of what would eventually become the modern game of baseball. The New York game evolved into the predominant form of the game through the 1850's and 1860's via the publication of rules in magazines and newspapers. Soon amateur clubs were forming along the east coast north to New England and as far south as Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Throughout the Civil War amateur baseball was still mainly a regional sport. During the war years, the sport spread across the nation with soldiers and prisoners. Baseball's popularity was further enhanced and awareness of the sport grew through the day's print media.

The end of the war signaled an explosion in the formation of amateur baseball clubs nationally. By the end of the decade, almost every city and town from New England to Chicago to New Orleans had at least one baseball club to call its own. Locally, dozens of ball clubs formed in the Delaware Valley area, including the Mosacsa Base Ball Club (BBC) of

Salem. Organized in May 1865, the team played its first game at a field on Walnut Street, opposite the Methodist Church. The team featured some famous Salem names including Eakin, Sickler, Acton, and Ware. The region also featured a number of highly competitive African American teams including The Salem and Bridgeton Colored Teams.

It did not take long before ball field operators realized that money could be made by charging admission to spectators. By the late 1860's, players began to demand their fair share of the money made off of their labor. Though amateur clubs continued to exist and flourish well into the 20th century, the professional game became the one that captured the majority of the nation's attention.

At 1:00P.M. on Sunday, October 10, 2010, old time baseball returns to Salem County when the Diamond State BBC from across the river in Delaware City

(DE) play a vintage base ball match against the Dauntless BBC of Havre de Grace (MD) at Riverview Beach Park in Pennsville. Players will use reproduction uniforms, equipment and rules to recreate the game as it was played in Salem and elsewhere around the country during the 1860's. This event is free and open to the public. Organizers hope that the game will serve as a springboard for the formation of a vintage base ball club based on the old Mosacsa BBC of Salem.



Diamond State BBC team photo at Ft. DuPont, Delaware City, DE

Anyone interested in details on the October 10, 2010 event or getting involved in the new Salem ball club may contact John Medkeff via email at diamondstatebc@comcast.net or via phone at (302) 981-5972. Learn more about vintage base ball by visiting the Vintage Base Ball Association's website at www.vbba.org. Additional information on the Diamond State BBC can be found on their website at www.diamondstatebaseball.org.

Thanks to John Medkeff of Diamond State Base Ball Club for his help with this article.

Genealogically Speaking...**MORE LISTS****THE 64 RESIDENTS OF
SALEM COUNTY IN 1677****Old Tax List Shows Residents To
Be Swedes, Finns, Dutch, French and English**

This tax list of the names of the residents of the "Eastern Shoare" of the Delaware River in 1677 is the earliest known recorded census of what is now Salem County, N. J. At that time the jurisdiction of the Court of New Castle extended across the river and included the territory below Oldman's Creek in West New Jersey; although the Duke of York had renewed his grant of the Province of New Jersey to Berkeley and Carteret, Governor Andros, under his sanction, claimed the government of West New Jersey, which accounts for the trans-river jurisdiction of the Courts of New Castle and of Upland.

In the following list of names are those of every male inhabitant in what is now Salem County between the ages of 16 and 60 years, excepting the Justices who were exempt from all taxes other than those for support of the Church.

The original includes also the names of 243 taxables on the western shore of the Delaware.

(Quote) "At a meeting of the Justices held in ye Towne of New Castle for ye making up ye account of the Public Charge of this County, the 9 of November 1677; Present, - Mr. John Moll, Mr. Peter Alrichs, Mr. William Tom, Mr. Walter Wharton, Mr. Fopp Outhout, Mr. Jean Paul Jacquet, Mr. Gerret Otto, Justices."... The Court orders the High Sheriff, Capt. Edmond Cantwell, to collect and receive the sum of 12 gilders and 10 stivers, "from every Tydable person in the annexed List set downe."...

A List of the Names of The Tydable Persons Living in this Court's Jurisdiction. Eastern Shoare.

Jan Hendrix (1)	Lace Hendriks (1)	Anthony Padge (1)
David & Peter Hendriks (2)	Math: Bertelsen (1)	Will: Goodchild (1)
Isacq Savoy (1)	Erick Jurians & Servant (2)	Will: Wilkissen (1)
Mathias Nealon & man (2)	John Tingen (1)	Will: Moesterman (1)
Mats Matsen (1)	Jan Cornelyss (1)	John Fuller (1)
Peter Roelofs & Son (2)	Mach: Baron & 2 sons (3)	Markus Ellegart (1)
Lucas Peters & 2 sons (3)	Tho: Arnold (1)	Rich: Guy & 3 servants (3)
Jan Erix (1)	Gerrit V:Immen (1)	Thom: Wattson (1)
Poul Minex (1)	John: V:Immen (1)	Tho: Dodwell & servant (2)
Jan Hermsen Krull (1)	Jelles Giljamsen (1)	John Smith (1)
Mr. Outhout's 2 Servants (2)	Hans Schier (1)	Abram Eenloos (1)
Will: Gilyamsen (1)	John Pledger (1)	John Nicolls (1)
Claes Jansen (1)	Hipolet Lafever & servant (2)	
Mach: Lacroa Senior (1)	John Smith (1)	
Mach: Lacroa Junior (1)	Sam: Nicolls (1)	
Jan Lacroy (1)	Sam: Hedge & neger (2)	
Aert Jansen (1)	Rodger Huggins (1)	
Stephen Jurians (1)	Edward Chamnies & servant (2)	

Salem Standard and Jerseyman,
Salem, N. J., June 30, 1938; *The New Jersey
Genealogical Magazine*, Vol. 13,
No. 1, Whole No. 51, January 1938.

A LIST OF LETTERS

*Remaining in the Post-Office at Salem, N. J.
January 1st, 1818*

A.—Aaron or Amos Ayars, Jeremiah Anderson, James Armstrong.	K.—Samuel Kille (2).	T.—Thomas Thompson, Grace Tyler.
B.—John H. Bunting.	L.—Jeremiah Lounsbury, Mary Lounderback, Hannah Leeds.	W.—Mary Wheaton, Sarah Williams, Edmund Wetherby, Ruth Warne, Daniel Woodruff, David Ware.
C.—Elizabeth Conover, Edward Clayton, Lydia Coy, Cornelius Cassaboon.	N.—Joseph Newkirk, Eliza H. Nicholson	SAMUEL SHERRON, P.M.
D.—Zebadiah Davis, William Davis.	P.—Woodnutt Petit, Robert Pedrick, William Plumer, Henry Puffer.	
E.—Henry Earnest, David English.	R.—Charles Rumsey, Mrs. M. Robinson.	<i>West-Jersey Gazette</i> , Salem, N. J.,
F.—Isaac Fulton, Ruth Fisher.	S.—Charity Springer, Richard Sparks (2), John Smith, Tide Mill, Samuel Stackhouse, Daniel Stephenson,	January 21, 1818.
G.—John Goslin, Thomas Guest, Henry Guest, Esq.	Daniel Smith, Lucy Smith Secretary of Alloways Town Lodge.	—JHB
H.—Amos Hall, Joel Hillayard, Samuel Hackett, Samuel Hall, Job Huff.		



Summer Camp 2010

(Continued from cover)

Through an exploration of the region's native people, nineteenth-century portraiture, and life during the eighteenth-century, campers learned about the role of art, plays in their lives.

The week featured two field trips, the historic Jarman House in Alloway and Salem Community College's Samuel H. Jones Glass Education Center. At the Jarman House, owners Nancy and Jeff Parker showed campers what life was like in the Eighteenth-century. The day's activities included lunch cooked on an open hearth and a tour of the Parker's herb garden. Campers also spent a day at the Samuel H. Jones Glass Education Center where director Dennis Briening walked them through the basics of glass working. Each camper experienced the craft hands-on, experimenting with various techniques which enabled them to create a blown glass ornament. The week concluded with a graduation





Discovering herbs at the historic Jarman House.



Friendship Circle dance with the Naticoke Leni-Lenape.

ceremony held at Salem’s restored Old Court-house. In front of an audience of proud family members and friends, each camper received a medallion and diploma. This year’s camp was a great success and the Society looks forward to next year. Mark your calendars and contact the Society at (856) 935-5004 to join the summer camp mailing list for 2011. Don’t miss your opportunity to be a part of this unique summer program.



Volunteers look on during craft time.

The Society thanks all of the participating staff and volunteers, especially members of its volunteer Education Committee who truly made this year’s camp a great success.



Glassblowing at the SCC’s Samuel H. Jones Glass Education Center

President Barbara Smith Duffy expressed the Society’s gratitude, “I am very proud of the program and the Education Committee were able to provide this year’s campers



Making Dreamcatchers

and thank them for all of their hard work.”

The Society’s Summer Camp is held each July and is open to campers entering 3rd through 5th grade. Please contact us at (856) 935-5004 or visit our

website www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com for more information.

This year’s camp was made possible in part by support from the Delaware River and Bay Authority’s



Campers are all smiles during graduation.

Community Contribution Program, Mr. Walter Leslie, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gill Lippincott, L.S. Smick Lumber, the Naticoke and Lenape Confederation, Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Diane Wolhrab, Mrs. Mary Lou Chollis, Mr. Bud Magill, Mrs. Gretchen Buzby, Mrs. Dana Gayner, Mr. Conner Townsend, Mr. Frank Hart, Mrs. Trudy O’Hare, Mr. Frank Stubbin, Miss Victoria Duffy, the Rotary Club of Salem, St. John’s Episcopal Church, the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission, and the Samuel H. Jones Glass Education Center.

1938 NATIONAL AIR MAIL WEEK

(Continued from *Quarterly Newsletter*, Summer 2010)

1918 BRIDGETON AERIAL MAIL PLANE CRASH

Another feature of the National Air Mail Week celebration, that same afternoon of May 19, 1938, was a nation-wide radio broadcast at 1:45 P.M., from station WSNJ in Bridgeton, New Jersey over a nationwide



Lieut. Stephen Bonsal, Jr.

Columbia Broadcasting Company hook-up in which pilot Lieutenant Stephen Bonsal, Jr. was the highlighted speaker.

Bonsal's biplane was wrecked in an attempted landing at Bridgeton on May 16, 1918, in the early afternoon, during the second day of air mail service in the United States. He was transporting the second cargo of air mail in history, from Washington, D. C. to New York City.

Bonsal's defective compass was the primary difficulty that accounted for the airman to get off his route from Washington, D. C. Steering only by compass and running low on gasoline at a speed of 85 mph, he realized he should have reached the Philadelphia area. Flying at a high altitude, he decided to make a descent and land, in order to learn his whereabouts. In attempting his first landing he had to avoid a herd of horses and that was when engine trouble developed.

At approximately 1:45 P.M. while once again attempting to land the aircraft at the race track field, the biplane struck a post, breaking one wing and causing the plane to crash head first into the ground, smashing the propeller.

George R. Elwell, one of Bridgeton's rural post office carriers, came along in his automobile and took the uninjured aviator and his mail bags to the post office. The mail sacks were dispatched on the 3:05 P.M. train. That evening the biplane was loaded on "Woodnutt's" truck and taken, along with a very "appreciative" Bonsal, to Bustleton Field in northern Philadelphia.

Lieut. Stephen Bonsal flew 4,975 miles in his three months of service, making 38 trips, with 75 hours in the air, and suffering four forced landings.

Interestingly, the day after the 1918 accident, the *Vineland Daily Republican* reported on the first ever "aerial letter" to be delivered in Vineland.

"A. B. Crossman is the first Vinelander to receive aerial mail. The letter was on the wrecked plane which landed at

Bridgeton yesterday. The mail bore a New York postmark, and was delivered as special delivery mail by carrier, Walter Boody".

The advent of air mail service in the United States had begun on May 15, 1918, when the world's first regularly scheduled airmail route was inaugurated under United States government auspices between New York City and Washington, D.C., with a stop at Bustleton Field in northern Philadelphia. The distance of the route was 218 miles, and one round trip per day was made, six days a week. Army Air Service pilots flew the route until August 10, 1918, when the Post Office Department then took over the entire operation with its own planes and pilots.

The 1938 radio broadcast commemoration in Bridgeton, N. J. was held on the fairgrounds where the 1918 crash had occurred. Other dignitaries interviewed, with Bonsal, were Congressman Elmer H. Wene and H. P. Bauer and William Laning, who were both eyewitnesses to the crash.



The damaged machine of Bonsal's modified Curtiss JN-4D 'Jenny' biplane that went down due to engine trouble at the old race track on Fayette Street, Bridgeton, N. J., May 16, 1918, the second day of the debut of air mail service in the United States. Bonsal "was badly shaken and nervous but was not injured except for a cut on his hand". The pilot was quoted as saying "he had used this machine but once before, having had a trial trip of about twenty minutes the night before".

Photographer, Harvey Porch
Bridgeton Evening News, May 18, 1918

All were guests that evening at a joint meeting of the Bridgeton Rotarians and Kiwanians at the Cumberland Hotel along with Postmaster MacPherson and staff and the officers of the Bridgeton Stamp Club. Lt. Bonsal returned to New York later that evening.

SOURCES

Leary, William M. *Aerial Pioneers: The U. S. Air Mail Service, 1918-1927*, Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1985.
Bridgeton Evening News, Bridgeton, New Jersey; May 16, 17, 18, 1918; May 18, 19, 20, 21, 1938.
Elmer Times, Elmer, New Jersey; May 17, 1918.
Salem Sunbeam, Salem, New Jersey; May 18, 1938.
Vineland Daily Republican, Vineland, New Jersey; May 17, 1918.
www.flickr.com.

—JHB

(Concluded)

Acquisitions

Museum

- Robert Filson**, Folson, PA ♦ Victorian Style Dollhouse
- Charlotte S. Weiler**, Hammonton, NJ ♦ Anchor Hocking Glassware
- Ruthanne Wright**, Salem, NJ ♦ Painting by George Grier Bassett

Library

- Bernard Frank Beesley, Palatka, FL** ♦ Beelsey Family Bible Records and Photographs
- Dot Bunting**, Pennsville, NJ ♦ Salem High School Class Photograph, 1928, Mt. Vernon, VA
- Alice McNemar Hart**, Alloway, NJ ♦ Allen Family Bible Records ♦ 1864 Autograph/Yearbook, Gideon Allen
- Linda Heaton**, Salem, NJ ♦ Medical bills from Dr. William Lawrence Sprout
- Joseph Kelty**, Ocean City, NJ ♦ Genealogy, Descendants of John Baldwin & Rachel Rowland of Upper Pittsgrove Township
- Dale Murshcell**, Springfield, WV ♦ Book, "The Legacy of Glass in Salem County," by Dale Murschell
- Donald Pierce**, Salem, NJ ♦ Bible records for Wilson-Cuff family 1824-1860 (descendants of William and Elizabeth Cuff Wilson)
- Ruthanne Wright**, Salem, NJ ♦ Texas Restaurant Menu, Salem, N.J.

Museum Inventory Project

The Society is proud to care for a museum collection representing the history of Salem County from the late 1600's to the present. The estimated 5,000 artifacts include household tools and personal effects, military arms and supplies, textiles, decorative arts, ceramics, glass, vehicles, and agricultural equipment—all related to the County's rich heritage.

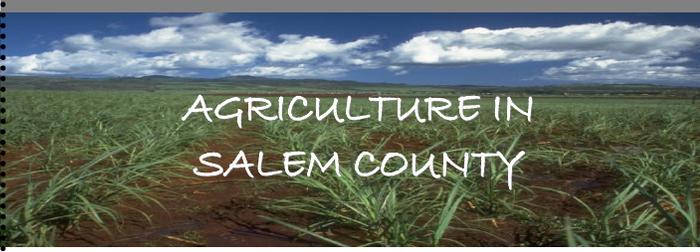
This month the Society begins a year-long project which will catalog, document, and improve the storage conditions of its museum collections. The result, a comprehensive inventory, will allow the Society to better understand, care for, and utilize its diverse collections.

This project is also an opportunity to kick-off the Society's new internship program. We are currently seeking collections management interns to assist with the inventory. This is an exciting opportunity for regional students to gain experience working with museum collections. For more information, please visit www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com or contact Administrator/Curator Sarah Hagarty at Admincurator@salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com.

This project has been made possible in part through a Project Grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State. Please visit <http://www.state.nj.us/state/divisions/historical/> for more information.



New Exhibition in 2011



Experienced Farmers Needed! Have you farmed or been involved in farm life in South Jersey over the years? We want to listen to your stories. To prepare for an upcoming exhibit on Agriculture in Salem County, we are seeking farmers and farm wives who have lived through the changes in farm life over the years and want to talk about what they have seen. If willing to share your farming and farm life experiences, please contact Sarah Hagarty at 856-935- 5004 or admincurator@salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Quarterly Meeting

**Behind the Exhibit,
Beyond the Catalog,
Beneath the Label**

**Did Rebecca Gordon hijack a sampler?
Were corner chairs really built to accommodate gentlemen wearing swords on their belts?**

To get the scoop behind recent SCHS exhibitions, plan to come to the December Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2010. David Culver, Museum Vice President, will share some of the interesting discoveries and unsolved mysteries discovered by the Museum Committee as they created the recent Sampler, Chair, and Painting Exhibits.

**DECEMBER 12, 2010, 1:30P.M.
FRIENDS VILLAGE, WOODSTOWN, NJ**

Annual Dinner

The Salem County Historical Society will hold its Annual Dinner Friday evening, September 17th, at the Centerton Country Club, Almond Road, in Pittsgrove Township. At this year's dinner we will host another lively evening with an encore presentation of our locally-themed "History's Mysteries" audience participation quiz game. In addition, our silent auction and raffle will feature unique items with a Salem County flavor. Our raffle item scheduled this year is a framed reproduction of Edward C. Trenchard's "S.W. View of Salem." The original 1799 watercolor is part of the Society's permanent collection and was recently conserved. "This year's raffle item is exceptional," said Barbara Duffy, President. "The quality of the print and framing makes this a real piece of artwork. I hope you and your friends will join us for this year's dinner. Bill Gallo and his committee have planned an exceptional event."

The dinner will also be a chance for those who have not already done so to meet our new Administrator/Curator, Sarah Hagarty who joined us this Spring.

Social hour will begin at 5:30 P.M. followed by dinner and our program at 6:30 P.M. The dinner is a key fundraiser that enables the Society to continue its mission to document and preserve Salem County's rich history for future generations.

Dinner sponsorship opportunities are available. Also, members are invited to donate items appropriate for our silent auction. For more information on tickets, sponsorships or donating silent auction items, please contact Society Operations Manager Kristin Vannoy at (856) 935-5004 or via e-mail opsmanager@salemcountyhistoricalociety.com. The dinner is open to the public, please contact the Society to purchase tickets.

ALEXANDER'S ANNALS

50 YEARS AGO

Pennsville Progress, September 1960

- 19 new teachers listed for LP Neck Schools.
- Record Tomato Season Yield—18 Tons per Acre.
- Bragg Sets Olympic Record!—Vault Wins Gold Medal.
- Chest X-rays to be Given Free.
- Ivins' Spiced Wafers—2 lb. Box—59¢—Only at Acme.

75 YEARS AGO

Penns Grove Record, September 1935

- Wilmington firm seeks permit for tunnel under Delaware River.
- Boat to Philadelphia—35¢ Round Trip—Wilson Line.
- 6th Annual Fairdeode—Woodstown—16,000 attend.
- Ten Day Tent Meeting—Hyland Ave. & Salem Rd.—Pennsville.
- Elizabeth Koehler—Miss Penns Grove—to American Beauty Pageant.

100 YEARS AGO

Salem Sunbeam, September 1910

- Alloway's First Twins—Boys to Mrs. and Mrs. George Osborn.
- Mrs. John Walker picked a rose this week 14" in circumference.
- Small cannon ball found on the farm of Samuel S. Borden, UP Neck.
- The cement floor in the basement of M. E. Church nearly completed.
- Nickled Rayo Lamp & 1 Gal. Oil—\$1.25—Righter's—Market & Grant.

ANNUAL DINNER RAFFLE ITEM



**Edward C. Trenchard's
S.W. View of Salem
Framed Print**

Trenchard's 1799 watercolor, is the earliest painting in the Society's collection. It depicts a scene in the gardens of Thomas Sinnickson, located where New Market Street is today. Trenchard included himself, Mrs. Sarah Hancock Sinnickson, Mary Sinnickson, Mrs. John Smith, Rebecca Trenchard, a Mrs. Kinsey, and Phyllis, a slave, in the painting. While the original painting was being conserved, some interesting discoveries were made. Below the painting, in an area that had been covered, was found the artists name, the date, title, and an eight line poem, which will also be seen on the print version.

**Tickets can be purchased at the Society for \$1 each.
The drawing will take place at the Society's Annual Dinner
on September 17, 2010.**

Curatorial/Collections Management Internships Available

The Salem County Historical Society internship program is designed to provide students with an introduction to standard museum practice and provide hands-on experience in museum work. By the end of the term, the intern will be fully familiar with the collections management and curatorial functions within a museum/library setting. Interns will gain diverse experience in activities typical of small museums and historic sites.

Responsibilities: The Society is currently seeking interns to assist with a comprehensive inventory of its museum collections. Individual responsibilities are determined by the educational background and work experience of each intern, as well as the needs of the museum. While this position is unpaid, school credit can be arranged.

Aside from the inventory project, the museum intern will assist with the day-to-day operation of the Society's museum. The intern will have hands-on experience with objects in the permanent collection in terms of the inventory process, assessment of condition, storage and maintenance, accessioning and deaccessioning, cataloguing, researching, and entering information into the Society's PastPerfect database.

Knowledge: Historical background and experience with museums, libraries, and working with the public a plus, but not required. Applicants should have an interest in history or related disciplines. Strong organizational skills and attention to details a must. Research and editing experience is a plus. Computer literacy: Knowledge of PastPerfect Museum Software and Microsoft Office helpful.

Details: Hours are flexible (Tuesday through Friday), but interns are expected to commit at least 6 hours a week to the Society.

To Apply: Please visit the SCHS website www.salemcountymuseum.org for more information about the Historical Society and direct any questions to Sarah Hagarty, Administrator/Curator at admincurator@salemcountymuseum.org. To be considered for an internship position, please email a cover letter and resume with references to the Administrator/Curator by October 1st.

FISH FARMING IN SALEM COUNTY

Do you know that three farmers in Salem County have taken up the growing of fish for a living? That these fish are so tame that they will eat out of your hand? That these fish sell for three times the price of choice beef, and that one of these men has so developed the business that he hastens their development by feeding just as anyone would feed poultry on such grains as corn and oats?

Not far from the mouth of the Salem River, on a high bank overlooking the Salem Country Club and Elsinboro Beach, is this remarkable farm, from which the owner derives a profit from the soil in summer and a harvest from the water in the winter.

From a two acre pond he has sold in one winter many, many tons of fish. The early history of this pond we do not know, but the owner, Mr. Daniels, told us the other night that where the feeding ground is located, the former owner housed his chickens. More than twenty feet from the shore stood his hen house, from which he rarely ever got an egg, while now in the water where the ancient building stood are thousands of fish, ranging in size from a tiny spawn to a mighty fish close to thirty inches long that may weight 30-35 pounds.

Two years ago this pond was stocked with several tons of fish spawn weighing from a few ounces each to more than a half pound. The many millions of fish that now inhabit this pond require feeding to keep them growing and in proper physical condition.

Every morning a 7 o'clock and every evening at 5 o'clock, these fish flock to one end of the pond for their meals. The feed is thrown upon the water, which consists of corn meal, ground oats and occasionally bread. No alarm or bell is needed to call the fish to their feed, throwing the bread upon the water brings instant results. In an instant hundreds even thousands, of fish can be seen sticking their mouths out of the water for the food scattered about. The fish rushing for the food presents a real stampede, in which the fish are frequently lifted bodily from the water and are seen flapping about on the back of their comrades.

These fish are sold in Philadelphia and find a ready market among the Jewish population, who pay a big price to get them. This week will see a big catch for the holidays which start on Sunday night, when probably four or five tons will be marketed.

The Monitor-Register, Woodstown, New Jersey, September 18, 1924.



Volunteer Appreciation Tea

The Salem County Historical Society hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Tea in its courtyard on Saturday July 31, 2010. The afternoon was a wonderful opportunity for Society staff to highlight the important work of our volunteers and express our thanks for their commitment and support. Volunteers are a vital and important part of the Society. It is truly through their help and dedication that we are able to support our mission through so many wonderful programs and exhibitions.

The Society thanks all of its volunteers, especially members of its Board of Trustees and various Committees who help make the Society a success. As Administrator/Curator Sarah Hagarty expressed, "We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and active group of volunteers who support all of the Society's activities. They are truly a pleasure to work with."

The Society especially thanks Linda Munoz, owner of The Rooster Crows Country Gift Shop and Tea Room in Salem. Refreshments including the Tea Room's famous scones were among the highlights of the afternoon. The Rooster Crows Country Gift Shop and Tea Room is located at 73 Markets Street, Salem, NJ. Please call (856) 935-6113 for more information.



The Society would like to formally thank all of its volunteers for the wonderful work they do!



Volunteer Job Openings

We are always seeking new, enthusiastic volunteers and have a project for every interest. Please take this opportunity to work alongside Society staff preserving and presenting the County's history!

Below is a sample of the many opportunities available to volunteers:

Inventory Project – catalog, re-house, and update collection information in the Past Perfect database.

Oral History Project Interviewers --interview some very interesting people. No ongoing commitment required, only a few enjoyable hours of conversation.

Library Researchers— Assist Librarian with research requests which could include searching online, through microfilm, scrapbooks, and card catalogues.

Education/Summer Camp - Assist with school field trips, lead presentations, and assist and help plan summer camp activities. Most active during the spring and summer months.

Weekend/Special Events Docent—Assist with tours of the Society's museum, greet patron's, and answer their questions.

Data Entry -input information into the Past Perfect database and assist with other clerical duties.

Publicity - Assist with the Society's on-going publicity needs which include distributing information, updating the website, and developing marketing materials.

For more information please contact:

Sarah Hagarty

admincurator@salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

856-935-5004

Improvement—A beautiful iron fence has just been placed in front of the Episcopal Church in this town. It is from Wood's celebrated manufactory in Philadelphia, and is one of the most ornamental patterns. We understand that the rail cost over \$600. It is substantially set in heavy granite coping, from the stone yard of Mr. R. C. Ballinger, by whom the fence was erected. We have noticed no improvement for a long time which has added so much to the comeliness of that part of town.

National Standard, Salem, NJ, December 14, 1853.

SALEM COUNTY INNOVATORS "LUNCH BOX FASTENER"

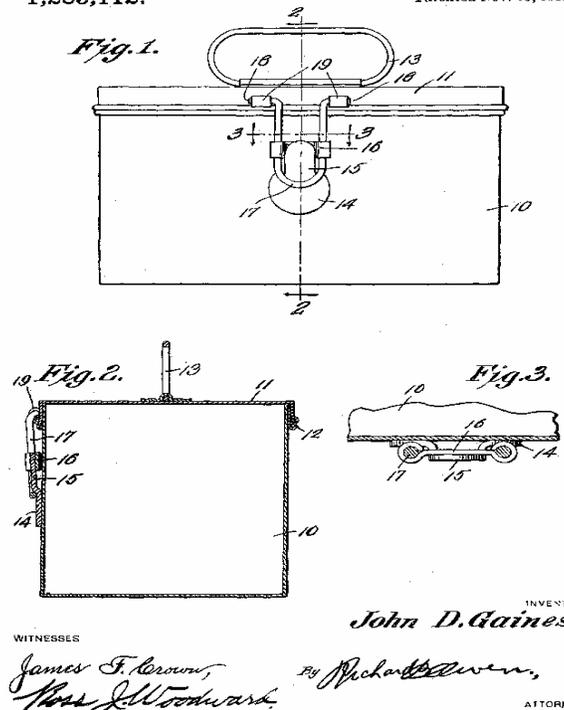
JOHN D. GAINES of Carney's Point, New Jersey received a patent on November 19, 1918, for inventing a new and useful improvement in Lunch Box Fasteners.

In the specifications of his patent application letter, a year earlier, he cited three principal objects to be gained by his device. First, "to provide a fastener of the hasp and wedge type so constructed that the wedging bridge may be slidably mounted upon the hasp and brought into engagement with a tongue secured upon the lunch box to securely but releasably hold the cover in a closed position".

Secondly, "to so construct this fastener that when in an operative position, there will be no danger of it accidentally slipping out of place and releasing the cover". And, thirdly, to make the fastener of "a comparatively few number of parts, easy to operate and not liable to quickly get out of order".

Gaines, thirty-three years of age and a native of Maryland, was employed by the E. I. DuPont Company and worked in the Dyeworks as a blacksmith. He and his wife, Helen, rented a home in Carney's Point with their two children John F. and Jennie M. Gaines.

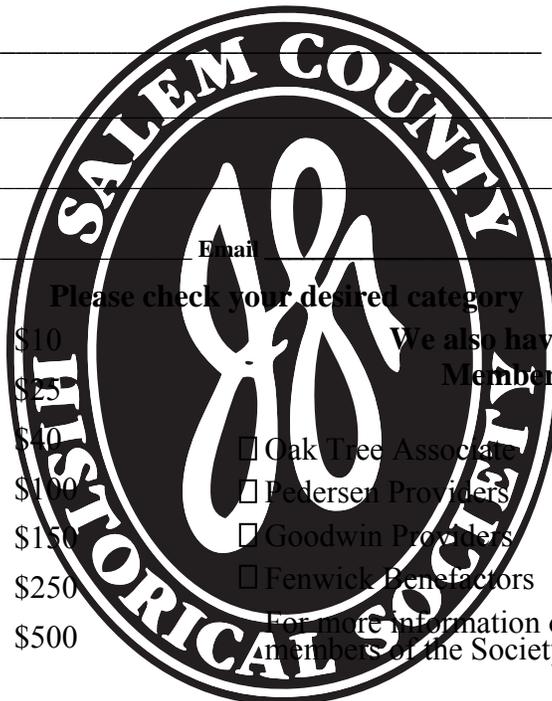
1,285,112. Patented Nov. 19, 1918.
J. D. GAINES.
LUNCH BOX FASTENER.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 23, 1917.



INVENTOR
John D. Gaines,
WITNESSES
James F. Brown,
Wm. J. Woodward,
BY *Richard Brown,*
ATTORNEY

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

Name _____ New Member Renewal
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone _____ Email _____



- Student \$10
- Individual \$25
- Family/Household \$40
- Partner \$100
- Sustaining \$150
- Contributing \$250
- Lifetime \$500

We also have Business & Corporate Membership Opportunities!

- Oak Tree Associates \$100
- Pedersen Providers \$250
- Goodwin Providers \$500
- Fenwick Benefactors \$1000+

For more information on how your business can become a member of the Society, please call 856-935-5004

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

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

Linda Munoz
Owner/ Manager

THE
Rooster
Crows
HISTORIC SALEM CITY, NEW JERSEY
COUNTRY GIFT SHOP & TEA ROOM

Good morning Salem

856-935-611373 • Market St. Salem, NJ 08079



Please think of the environment when disposing of this document.



FRANKLIN BANK
Benefit From Our Experience

Safe, Strong, and Sound

Personal Account Services • Business Account Services • Personal Lending Services

Your Community Partner in
Salem, Gloucester and Cape May Counties



(856) 769-4400
Franklin Online, 24/7 www.franklinbnk.com



ROYAL PORT ANTIQUES



Suzanne & Michael Cooke
13 Market Street Salem, NJ 08079
856-339-0400

Hours: Wed-Sat 10-5 Sun. 11-5

For additional information or directions visit our website at www.royalport.com or on facebook, keywords the Royal Port Antiques

Offering 12,000 sq. ft. of Early American Country Antiques and Architectural Elements in Room Settings. Situated in a restored Warehouse in Historic Salem, New Jersey. Fresh inventory daily! Families welcome. Always buying.

Freeman's Banner, Salem, New Jersey, January 7, 1835
Died—On the 30th ult., at his residence in Elsinborough, Samuel Teal, a Soldier in the Revolution.



**Celebrating 10 Years
of
Making The Difference!**



Harvest Offices
473 E Broadway Salem
285 N Broadway Pennsville
863 Route 45 Pilesgrove
389 Harding Hwy Elmer
LPO-7 Easterwood St. Millville
www.harvestcommunitybank.com

Member FDIC

Freeman's Banner
September 27, 1836, p. 2:5

A tall 'un—Not to be beaten.—
Mr. Michael Null of Pilesgrove Township in this county, took from his field, a day or two since, a stalk of Corn, which measured 14 feet 11 inches in height. Hurrah for Jersey! "Tall corn and long squashes."

Freeman's Banner
September 29, 1835

"Mr. David Petit of Mannington presented us last week with an Apple which weighed one pound four ounces and measured fifteen inches in circumference."

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. Additional funding has been made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, through the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Delaware River and Bay Authority.

NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION



NEW JERSEY COUNCIL
FOR THE HUMANITIES



DISCOVER THE
POSSIBILITIES
Salem County

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pennsville, NJ
Permit 118

Salem County Historical Society
83 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079

