Upper Twp. Covid-19 Virus Year 2020 Artifacts Project

The Historical Society cannot help but wonder - how will this Covid-19 experience for the past several months in Upper Township be recorded for future generations?

Today is tomorrow’s history. You can help write or photograph it for our community and be part of the HPSUT’s new story-gathering project called “The Covid-19 Virus Year” 2020 in Upper Township. The local Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township has initiated the project to collect types of digital artifacts related to the current pandemic pause for all of us.

Here is the link to submit your photo or written story files > https://bit.ly/UTCovid-19VirusArtifacts

Examples of Covid-19 artifacts:
- Photos you and your family wearing face protection.
- Written stories / journal entries that capture your experiences during the time

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The Residents in the Township of Upper, and most of the county experienced an unprecedented period of stay at home regulations from early March thru May 2020 as part of the effort to reduce the rate of infection for Covid-19. When families ventured out to do food shopping, etc. they were greeted with an array of signs like these. From left, Caldwell Park and all Upper Twp. recreation facilities were closed down; many small businesses such as the Frog Hollow Bakery were left wondering when it would be permitted to open for business; the Acme in Seaville instated numerous Covid-19 related best-practices to help ensure health safety for their customers and employees.
Covid-19 Virus Year Artifacts

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- Essential business stories about service / employee and customer experiences.
- Stories of how you were affected by remote working and/or remote learning?

Thanks for participating. ##

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**HPSUT Joins National Clio Website**

The HPSUT has engaged with the Clio project, based at Marshall University in West Virginia and now has the three historic sites in Upper Twp. available with the online platform. Tuckahoe Station [https://theclio.com/entry/100868](https://theclio.com/entry/100868) Gandy Farmstead [https://theclio.com/entry/100872](https://theclio.com/entry/100872) Friendship School [https://theclio.com/entry/102308](https://theclio.com/entry/102308)

The Clio web-based platform was a featured webinar with the AASHL in March 2020 and was attended by HPSUT Board member Ralph Cooper. Cooper followed-up by contacting the webinar presenter and founder / developer of Clio, Dr. David Trowbridge, Associate Professor of History at Marshall University in Huntington, WV.

After reading up on the capabilities of the virtual system, and informing the HPSUT Board, Cooper enrolled the Historical Society with the program and established placeholder pages with photos for the Gandy Farmstead, Tuckahoe Train Station and the Friendship School.

HPSUT Historian Robert Holden was contacted and he continued the process by adding context narrative and the background stories for each of our historic site.

In addition, links are now embedded in the HPSUT’s Clio pages with special 360-degree video presentations by Bill Banks. Cooper noted that in the future, the HPSUT hopes to develop virtual tours for our sites, narrative audio files and an additional Clio page with a Virtual Site Tour of Upper Township.

There are now over 700 historical locations from throughout the United States on Clio.

According to the Clio FAQ’s, it is not only a website and mobile application, but also a collaborative research, interpretation, and map-building project.

Entries are created by museum professionals, local historians, and educators and their students.

This partnership of local history experts and professional historians is building a comprehensive, dynamic, and interactive map of American history. ##

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**Pandemic Halts Historical Society Programs**

**Tidal Wave: The Great Appalachian Storm of 1950 and Its Impact on New Jersey’s Bayshore Towns**

drew tomlin with contributor Rachel Dolhanczyk

The author Drew Tomlin was to speak at our May meeting but due to Covid-19 could not.

We hope someday he and Rachel are able to tell us the story in person that is described on the cover: "November 25th, 1950 is a day that the new Jersey Bayshore residents have never forgotten.

On that fateful day, storm conditions resulted in a devastating tidal wave that destroyed communities and took lives...it is the best known secret of the Bayshore area.” The book can be bought at Amazon.com. ##

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**Prohibition in Cape May County: Wetter than the Atlantic**

Raymond Rebmann

His book cover explains, “With its proximity to Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore, Cape May County was a perfect location for lawbreakers during prohibition. Rumrunners operating along the Atlantic Seaboard and Delaware Bay teamed up with backwoods bootleggers to make Cape May County a bustling center of the era’s illegal liquor business.”

Ray presents an interesting timeline of court cases, newspaper articles, and pictures, about how prohibition affected Cape May County.

We missed his presentation in April due to the Covid-19 virus but you can obtain his fascinating book through Amazon.com. We hope someday to hear his story in person. ##

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**Annual HPSUT Pot-Luck Covered Dish dinner held in March 2020 was a fun-filled evening for Historical Society members and guests. The event was held at the Tuckahoe United Methodist Church. Pictured, left, Janice Holden and right, Stoddard Bixby and Harriet Reardon Bailey. Members shared examples of family heirlooms and stories. ##**
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CCC Camp at Tuckahoe-Petersburg crossroads on former Bethlehem Steel proving grounds

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was six months.

Each state had at least one camp (There were a total of 1,437 camps) and New Jersey had a total of nine camps, but was committed to conserving numerous other state parks and forests.

(From the CCC Website)

Note: The CCC camp in Upper Township was not an officially established New Jersey CCC Camp, but was more than likely an extension of the established CCC camp in Woodbine.

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation, which had already established a factory in Atlantic County in Belcoville, decided to expand into Cape May County.

A few months after the U.S. became involved in World War I in April, 1917, the company bought additional land from Rolla and Mary Garretson heirs to the Theophilus Corson estate in Upper Township. The testing ground for naval ordnance extended from the Tuckahoe River south across the Tuckahoe-}

Focus on HISTORY

The Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township

Revival In Tuckahoe

By Michael Houdart, HPSUT Member

The 1920’s ushered in a period of unbound prosperity, changing moral values, and ended with the greatest stock market crash in our history. It plunged our country into a Great Depression.

Our little town of Tuckahoe, New Jersey experienced all the vicissitudes of those times and weathered the storm.

In 1920 the Prohibition Amendment (18th) went into effect and made the nation “Dry.” New Jersey, however, was one of only three states that did not ratify the amendment. New Jersey Governor Edward L. Edwards promised to make New Jersey “as wet as the Atlantic Ocean.” When he left the Governor’s chair and ran for the U.S. Senate, which he won in 1922, his slogan was “Wine, Woman, Song and repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment.”

Illegal stills sprung up all over Cape May County and especially in the northern part of the county around Tuckahoe. The Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township has in its possession a small moonshine still that was discovered on the Godfrey property on the Tuckahoe River. Another still was discovered on the property of Jerry and Carroll Bailey in Steelmantown. Parts of the still are scattered in the woods along with an old iron water pipe leading to a small stream. It is located deep in the woods and only Jerry can find it! The Eighteenth Amendment could not stop all the booze from flowing and the old “Tuckahoe White Lightning” could be found throughout the area.

At the same time our country was also experiencing a “Religious Rival” as churches and communities across the nation were clamoring to reclaim our moral values. Methodist churches were firmly behind Prohibition, and that included our very own Tuckahoe United Methodist Church. Members of the congregation were united against the effects of this evil in their community.

There was a big hotel in Tuckahoe with a very inviting wide front porch with lots of rocking chairs. The Kerchoff family owned and ran it and they were very nice people, but most of the town’s folks shunned them because they sold whiskey. There were exactly two men in town who drank and they, too, were ignored. One winter’s night when the Tuckahoe Methodist Church was having a “Revival” meeting, one of them was converted and never drank another drop for the rest of his life. That church is still there today, reaching out and helping all those in need. ##

Marmora Road and then north to Willets Thoroughfare. The company fenced off the land, posted armed guards, built ammunition storage sheds, and secured permission from the county board of Freeholders to use a railroad spur to Petersburg.

The Cape May County Times reported that by May, 1917, seven carloads of ammunition lay on the Tuckahoe siding waiting for shipment to Petersburg. Several residents complained about the noise of the incessant gunfire from the proving grounds, but county administrators ignored the complaints.

Recognizing that Bethlehem Steel meant a revival of prosperity, Freeholders Joseph MacKissic of Lower Township and Uriah Gandy of Upper Township introduced a resolution to the board to “commend the said Bethlehem Steel Company and its manager for the orderly manner in which its business had been conducted in the County of Cape May.”

(Dorwart continues...) Fast forward to 1933 and the Great Depression.

Meanwhile, local officials turned to the New Deal programs to help Cape May County battle the Depression. Edwin C. Mann, a Strathmere resident, asked his friend Harold Ickes, Roosevelt’s Secretary of the Interior, to grant federal monies to the barrier islands to stop beach erosion. The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce petitioned Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins to locate one of the reforestation and reclamation camps in the county provided for under the Reforestation Relief Act of 1933 that created the CCC.

Sixty Cape May County residents, nearly half of them African Americans from Wildwood and Middle Township, enrolled in the Forestry Service and went to Camp Dix in Burlington County for training. In May, 1933.

Five months later, the government established a CCC Camp in Woodbine (and an extension site in Belleplain) and another extension camp (see author’s note) at Tuckahoe-Petersburg crossroads on the former Bethlehem Steel proving grounds. (described at the be-Continued on Page 5
President’s Column

Spring Message In Uncertain Times

Carol Williams, President,
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Twp.

Hello Everyone…I am writing this column as I sit at my kitchen table looking out at my pink azaleas in full bloom… a beautiful sight in uncertain times… I am sipping a cup of lemon tea… a comforting taste in uncomfortable times… I am thinking about all of you… a lovely feeling in a historic time… we are living through a moment in time that will be written about in the annuals of history and we can record our own history as we live through it… some of my closest friends have had to go through extraordinary upheaval in their lives… who could have imagined in January, what February through May would have looked like… as a historical society, we should have a record of these times… a history, so to say…

How do we do this?

We are asking you to think about submitting photos you have taken, a video, a short journal entry about how you have been affected… so we can leave a journal for the next generation showing how we fought this pandemic and how we came through it… please save these items/artifacts for us. Our society has had to cancel events that had been planned but we look forward to future events and these will be published as soon as we can offer them. As you know, our facilities are under township guidance and we abide by their rules. As soon as we feel we are able to resume activities, we will.

Meanwhile, please stay safe and stay healthy! ##

CCC Camp at Tuckahoe-Petersburg Crossroads

Continued from Page 4

The development of the CCC camps caused quite a controversy. Upper Township residents feared that the government planned to encamp hundreds of African Americans from New York City and northern New Jersey at the Tuckahoe barracks. Upper Township Women sent a letter of protest against the CCC camp to U.S. Congressman Isaac Bacharach.

Nevertheless, two hundred African American workers lived in the CCC camp and developed the Tuckahoe Hunting and Fishing Grounds in the thirties (Today The Tuckahoe (MacNamara) Game Preserve in Petersburg)

Workers at the Woodbine CCC camp stayed in the old Bayard machine shop and used the facilities of the Jewish Community Center and gymnasium.

These CCC laborers traveled five miles west to the Belleplain State Forest, a huge tract of land acquired as a recreation site by the state at the behest of Roland B. Mason, a powerful Democrat party leader and Belleplain basket factory owner.

The CCC workers in the state forest developed roads and campsites and created scenic Lake Nummy out of an old cranberry bog.

Cape May County endorsed the controversial National Recovery Act (NRA) created by the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, and later declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. (From Cape May County, New Jersey by Jeffrey Dorwart, 1996)

End Note:

During World War II the CCC camp extension at the Bethlehem Steel proving grounds in Petersburg was established as a POW camp for German prisoners of war. These prisoners were required to work on local farms and work in the camp itself. At this time, we do not know how many prisoners were housed there or when it was closed for that use. Research into this subject is ongoing.

The photos (a few seen here), are part of a recent acquisition (an original 1930’s poster) made by Barb Horan and paid for by the HPSUT Board.

It shows a variety of photos from the CCC extension camp (Camp MC-3, NJ Company 1269-C, CCC) at the old Bethlehem Steel Proving ground in Petersburg (noted as Tuckahoe, NJ)

The men who were stationed there (the bulk of whom were African-American men) are noted in a roster at the top of the poster. The HPSUT considers this an important acquisition and it will be properly conserved and framed. Many thanks to Barb Horan who saw this for sale on eBay, bought it and will be reimbursed by the HPSUT!

- Article composed by HPSUT Historian, Robert F. Holden. ##

Upper Twp. & Its Ten Villages

Upper Twp. and Its Ten Villages book is available for purchase at numerous locations. Kate Austin, with the Heist Insurance Agency in Marmora, shows their office display of our Society books. It is also noted that Kate grew up and lives in Marmora and has followed in her family’s footsteps, as she has served in the Marmora Volunteer Fire Department since 2008 as a firefighter. The HPSUT book, released in Feb. 2020, is now also available online > www.uppertwphistory.org
Hi Everyone,

As those of you who registered for the March bus trip already know, it was cancelled due to the Covid 19 epidemic. I have been able to reschedule it for September 19th & 20th 2020. The trip is still pretty much the same, with the exception of our visit to Olana since I was not able to reschedule that. Here’s the amended itinerary. We’ll start at the Revolutionary War Headquarters of Generals Henry Knox and Horatio Gates on the west side of the Hudson River. We’ll have a guided tour of the site and then have lunch in the picnic area (or indoors if it’s raining. Memories of last year.)

Our second stop will be a visit to the New Windsor Cantonment, a Continental Army encampment, where we’ll have a tour of the army’s quarters with a special guide. We’ll then hop on the bus for a 15 minute ride to Washington’s Headquarters, where we’ll see a special program on Martha Washington. Not many know of her significant role in supporting the army during the war. We’ll then enjoy a tour of the headquarters and adjacent museum with a guide.

From there, it’s a short drive to our hotel. After checking in, we’ll leave for dinner at the Red Line Diner, with a cash bar of course. After dinner, it’s rest up for Sunday. If anyone feels they’ll still have energy to burn, the hotel does have an indoor pool and fitness room.

Sunday, we’ll start our day with a 45 minute drive to the Clermont Mansion Historic Site, home of the New York Livingston family. After a short video on the history of the Livingstons, we’ll enjoy a tour of the mansion. Clermont was one of the “America’s Treasurers” that Bob Villa restored years ago as part of his “This Old House” series.

After lunch at Clermont, we’ll leave for our next stop, the National Trust for Historic Preservation site, Lyndhurst Mansion. For those who are disappointed at missing Olana, I think this will more than make up for it. It’s a beautiful mansion overlooking the Hudson in Tarrytown and houses an impressive art collection as well as being an outstanding architectural masterpiece.

We’ll leave Tarrytown for home, with a quick stop on the parkway at Cheesequake for a light dinner. We should be home around 7:30 – 8:00. We think this will be a nice trip to some sites that you may not have visited before.

Proceeds from this year’s trip will benefit the Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township. Cost is $250 per person if you’re sharing a room, $315 if you’re rooming alone.

If you have any questions or would like registration information, you can email us at parytell@gmail.com or call us at 609-886-8577. The mailing address is 397 Corson Lane, Cape May NJ 08204.

Registration forms will be emailed or mailed as soon as we can confirm meal choices with the restaurants.

We hope you can join us for this new trip.

Pary & Bruce

Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township
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Twitter: http://Twitter.com/History_Upper
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Phone: (609) 390.5656 (Please leave a message)
The Historical Preservation Society of Upper Twp. (HPSUT), P. O. Box 658, Marmora, NJ 08223-0658
Located in northern Cape May County, New Jersey
Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020:

Tour of General Knox’s Headquarters

On several occasions during the Revolutionary War, Major General Henry Knox, Commander of the American artillery, established his military headquarters at John Ellison’s 1754 Georgian-style house in Vails Gate. From October 1782 until the spring of 1783, as 7,000 soldiers and 500 “camp followers” were establishing winter quarters at the New Windsor Cantonment, and General Washington was lodged at Jonathan Hasbrouck’s house in Newburgh, New York, Major General Horatio Gates occupied the elegant home from which he commanded the cantonment. Here the army awaited the end of the Revolutionary War that became effective when Washington issued the cease fire orders on April 19, 1783.

Tour of the New Windsor Cantonment

New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site is where the Continental Army under General George Washington spent the last winter and spring of the Revolutionary War. In October 1782, General Washington moved his northern army to New Windsor to establish winter quarters. Some 7,500 soldiers and 500 women and children civilian refugees encamped here. By late December 1782, they had erected nearly 600 log huts into a “cantonment,” a military enclave. It was at the New Windsor Cantonment that the cease fire orders were issued by Washington ending the eight-year War of Independence on April 19, 1783.

Tour of Washington’s Headquarters

In the critical months that General George Washington spent at Newburgh, he made some of his most important contributions to shaping the American republic. It was here that Washington rejected the idea of an American monarchy; ended the Newburgh Conspiracy, preventing potential military control of the government; created the Badge of Military Merit, forerunner of the Purple Heart; and circulated an influential letter to State Governors outlining the key principals he felt necessary for the new republic.

Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020:

Tour of Clermont Mansion

Clermont State Historic Site was the Hudson River seat of New York’s politically and socially prominent Livingston Family. Seven successive generations of the family left their imprint on the site’s architecture, room interiors and landscape.

In October 1777, British Major General John Vaughan, who led a raiding party up the Hudson River, came to Clermont and burned Livingston’s home because of his prominent role in the American Revolution. Margaret Beekman Livingston rebuilt the family home between 1779 and 1782. Her son Robert R. Livingston became the estate’s most prominent resident, serving as a member of the committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and negotiator of the Louisiana Purchase. He was also a partner with Robert Fulton, creating the first commercially successful steamboat, the North River of Clermont, commonly called the Clermont, which stopped at the house on its inaugural trip.

Tour of Lyndhurst Mansion

Overlooking the Hudson River in Tarrytown, New York, is Lyndhurst, one of America’s finest Gothic Revival mansions. Designed in 1838 by Alexander Jackson Davis, its architectural brilliance is complemented by the park-like landscape of the estate and a comprehensive collection of original decorative arts. Its noteworthy occupants included: former New York City Mayor William Paulding, merchant George Merritt, and railroad tycoon Jay Gould. Today, Lyndhurst’s vast collection of art, antiques, and furniture have remained largely intact due to the mansion’s use primarily as a country residence. The grounds at Lyndhurst survive as an outstanding example of 19th-century landscape design. ##
Residents in the Township of Upper, Cape May County and our state of New Jersey followed the Covid-19 stay-at-home regulations from early March into the month of June 2020 to reduce the rate of infection. The Upper Twp. Historical Society has established a collection process for digital artifacts that reflect these trying times for our community residents and businesses. Here is the link to submit your photo or written story files: https://bit.ly/UTCovid19VirusArtifacts. Samplings of submitted items are shown above on this page and elsewhere in the newsletter. Also watch for postings on social media and the HPSUT website. #

Because those without symptoms can still carry the disease.
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township

Rooted in the Past - Enjoyed in the Present - Preserved for the Future

HPSUT Membership

Name: ______________________________________________________
Phone: _______________ E-Mail: _______________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ___________ ZIP: _____________

Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township (HPSUT)

Membership Category

____ Individual @ $15.00/ea.                                      ____ Student@ $5.00/ea
____ Couple (Both under 65) $25.00                                ____ Sr. Couple (Both 65 or older $20.00
____ Business or Organization $75.00                              ____ Society Donations Always Welcome

Payments Accepted online via PayPal

www.UpperTwpHistory.org/membership.htm

or

Make your check payable to HPSUT
Remit with this completed form to Society Treasurer:
Carroll Bailey, PO Box 507, Tuckahoe, NJ 08250

Email: UpperTwpHistory@yahoo.com | Phone: (609) 390.5656 (Please leave a message)
"Handy Person" Volunteer Needed
For Upper Twp. Historical Society

Can you drill holes, paint a straight line and measure twice before making the cut? If so, you are needed as a volunteer with the Upper twp. Historical Society here in northern Cape May County.

From time to time, the Historical Society needs small wood working projects completed on our collection items as part of our ongoing restoration and preservation. If you are handy with tools and would like to help preserve history here in Upper Township, please volunteer and join our Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township.

Needed skills include general and interior finishing carpentry, painting, light maintenance. Volunteer duties would follow HPSUT methods and expectations with outcomes consistent with the Society heritage practices.

Email your information to uppertwphistory@yahoo.com or call our messaging service at (609) 390.5656 and a volunteer will contact you. ##

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