



Old Sussex Almanack

The Newsletter of Sussex County Historical Society

Published Quarterly

Spring/Summer 2015

Letter from the President

Like any organization, the Sussex County Historical Society's Board of Trustees experiences fluctuations in membership from time to time. Some members step aside for a number of reasons, while others step up to take their place. New faces and new blood on a board can have a very positive impact on that body, bringing with it a renewed surge of energy and determination that can help institute new projects and programs.

I am very happy to welcome five new members to our Board of Trustees of the Society. Lisa Holder (Newton), Tammy Satter (Beach Lake, Pennsylvania), and Ernest "Skip" Hemschot (Newton) joined the Board in April of this year. Jay Docherty (Lafayette) and Kiyoshi Hamada (Hamburg) joined the Board last year. Each one of these individuals brings to the Board unique talents, whether it is being a teacher of grade school students, a museum curator, an attorney, computer programmer or from a corporate background – they each have already positively added to the Board's efforts to bring about an expansion of our programs, administration of the organization, and outreach to the community.

I am also very happy to inform you that your Board of Trustees has begun to plan for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Hill Memorial Museum Building. The year 2017 marks the first hundred years that this Museum has served our county.

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Owen's Indian Cave

©Ronald J. Dupont, Jr.

Just over one hundred years ago, in the summer of 1913, a German-American archaeologist by the name of Max Schrabisch came to Sussex County. He had been hired by the State of New Jersey (or more likely, had talked the State of New Jersey into hiring him) to survey Native American sites in our County. The book he produced for the New Jersey Geological Survey, "Indian Habitations in Sussex County, New Jersey" (1915) has proven to be an invaluable resource to the archaeological community.

One category of site Schrabisch investigated was Native American rockshelters--rocky overhangs and caves that provided shelter and were generally used by the Lenape as hunting and fishing camps. And the most important rockshelter he found in Sussex County (by his own reckoning, at least) was located right here in Vernon, on the Wallkill River: the Owen's Indian Cave.

"The cave," noted Schrabisch in his report, "is beyond question the most interesting of the twenty-five aboriginal rock dwellings investigated by the State during the summer of 1913, for it was here that bone implements were obtained. Inasmuch as objects made of bone occurred nowhere else in the County of Sussex, Owen's Cave, for such is its name, ranks in a class by itself."

The cave is located in a rocky limestone cliff along the Wallkill (I won't be more specific so as to protect this prehistoric archaeological site). A great slab of limestone fell from the cliff, leaning against it and forming a kind of A-frame cave, 14 feet deep, 10 feet high, and 5 feet wide. Typically, the Native Americans would have laid poles against the side of the cliff near the shelter, and covered them with skins, to make a kind of lean-to. In this way, Schrabisch reckoned, the Owen's Indian Cave could have accommodated a dozen people.

Schrabisch also noted that "a dark and narrow passage runs from its rear downward, expanding, it is claimed into a subterranean chamber." There are a number of other known caves in this area, and thus it is not surprising that the Owen's Cave had a lower chamber.

When Schrabisch first encountered the cave, its opening was completely blocked. As he wrote, "the cavern was almost completely obstructed by boulders, choking it to the very entrance. This condition, so the story goes, was due to a couple of men, who 'stoned' the cave many years ago in an effort to prevent their sons from haunting the subterranean chamber, it being alleged that it was filled with noxious gases, causing the light to go out and therefore endangering life."

Schrabisch, in his investigations, rolled the boulders and rocks away from the entrance to the Owen's Cave, and so it remains a century later. But the rear passage and subterranean chamber he mentions are

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HOURS
Friday: 9 am-2 pm;
or call for appointment

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PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society is to promote public knowledge and interest in the history of Sussex County, New Jersey, and surrounding areas, by compiling, publishing and disseminating information; collecting, preserving and studying historical, genealogical and archaeological records, documents, papers and artifacts; maintaining a museum for public exhibits; promoting the preservation and protection of buildings, cemeteries and other sites of historic interest; and cooperating with other organizations of similar interest.

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS!**

**These following individuals are newly enrolled
members for the 2014-15 year**

Member	City	State	Type
Darrin Chambers	Newton	NJ	Individual
Depalma-Rapuano	Newton	NJ	Family
Russell E. Everitt	Toronto	Can	Individual
Annette Griggs	Raymore	MO	Individual
Judy Henderson	Highland Lakes	NJ	Individual
Von Darryl Kays	Snoquamie	WA	Individual
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Cherian Lautermilch	Little Elm	TX	Individual
Charles McConnell	Laurel	MD	Individual
Mary Hassett Miles	Baltimore	MD	Family
Lori Cassidy Olcese	Long Valley	NJ	Individual
Michael Rhinesmith	Wanaque	NJ	Individual
Dolores Sabia	Carlstadt	NJ	Individual
Richard W. Thomson	North Arlington	NJ	Individual
Doris Wooden	Lakeland	FL	Individual

**SAVE this Date
for a Future SCHS Event**

September 19, 2015
— Sussex County History Day —

Board of Trustee Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held every month on the fourth Monday. Upcoming meeting dates are:

Monday, Sept 28, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Monday, Oct 26, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Monday, Nov 23, 2015 at 7:00 pm

All SCHS Members are Welcome to Attend Trustee Meetings

not to be seen. It appears that sometime after Schrabisch was there, local farmers went back and sealed up the lower passage using either dynamite or sweat. It's nowhere to be seen now. By the same token, there is now a high rear opening in the back of the cave, something Schrabisch does not mention.

Schrabisch thoroughly excavated the Owen's Indian Cave--a mixed blessing, for while he found and reported an enormous amount of artifacts, his excavation techniques and record keeping were crude, even by the standards of the day. The whereabouts of most of the artifacts he found is unknown. However, his report on the site does tell us a lot. He reports: "A trench was dug lengthwise along the left hand inner wall, starting at the entrance. . . at the outlet, a leaf shaped scraper and numerous flint chips were unearth lying a few inches below the surface near the outside. At the same depth and deeper numberless cord-marked potsherds came to view with great quantities of animal bones, those of the deer tribe predominating, and it became evident that this was the site of an ancient fireplace. " The Lenape used paddles wrapped in cord to decorate their clay pots, hence the term "cord-marked."

Elsewhere in the same pit, Schrabisch uncovered netsinkers, arrowheads, and a sandstone gorget (a hair ornament). Further down the wall, "about three feet from the entrance, a bonepit was struck containing hundreds of bones, as well as unio (freshwater mussel) and turtle shells, and mingling with them there were broken pieces of pottery . . . and two large deer antlers. " The bottom of the pit, nearly three feet down, contained the prizes: "three bone arrow-points, two bone awls, a bone spear-head, a pointed bone implement, all of them highly polished, thee deer horns, and last but not least, an oyster shell. " Schrabisch marveled at this last artifact: "to find an oyster shell at such a distance from the ocean, carried to this cave across seventy miles of a pathless wilderness, is to say the least unique." Actually not that unique: decades later, in the 1930s, a government-sponsored archaeological dig further south along the Wallkill turned up a shark's tooth. In a trench excavated on the other side of the cave, Schrabisch found even more: potsherds and bones, a flint knife, and a polished stone celt (a type of scraper). "In addition," he noted, "there was recovered another most curious relic, evidently of European manufacture, namely, the stump of a rusty iron blade set in deer horn handle. It is a foregone conclusion," Schrabisch noted (using the politically incorrect terminology of the day), "that the redskins bartered this article from the early white settlers, since we know that a lively trade would invariably develop between the two

racess where they entered into contact with one another."

Schrabisch also found plenty of evidence that Native Americans camped outside the shelter as well. Schrabisch concludes his report with some general observations: "Great significance attaches to the bones and potsherds, of which there was such a profusion, more than a thousand of each. Their occurrence at this cave in such quantities betokens frequent feasts and, as regards the bones in particular, there can be no doubt that this region must once have abounded in game. " Pottery was for the Native Americans much as Tupperware is to us--multi-purpose food storage, and a hunting party would have brought pots of foodstuffs along with them. To Schrabisch, the abundance of pottery and the relative scarcity of other domestic refuse suggested it was not a regular habitation, but a campsite.

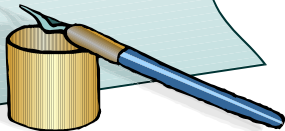
All this, he concluded, "seems to hint at frequent sojourns, each of short duration, rather than at a prolonged occupancy. . . it is obvious therefore that this cave was the temporary trysting place of hunter and angler, a favorite resort of theirs, and famous withal, as there was not another place comparable to it for a radius of many miles. " Modern archaeologists might not agree with either Schrabisch's interpretation of the artifacts or the site as a whole. But I think it's safe to say they would agree with Schrabisch that the Owen's Cave served as a campsite, providing shelter and protection for travelling hunting parties of Lenape Indians, mostly likely travelling by canoe along the Wallkill River.

After a day of hunting and fishing, they would bring their catch--venison, fish, turtles, mussels--along with whatever provisions they had brought with them in clay pots, and settled in for a nice cookout in the relative comfort of this dry, warm cave, overlooking the banks of the Wallkill. It's not hard to imagine a band of foragers, swapping tales of the day's hunt, and of hunts long ago, while they cooked and enjoyed their day's catch. It probably was, as Schrabisch suggested, a famous spot, the knowledge and use of it passed down from one generation of hunter to the next, over not just hundreds, but thousands, of years. Until one day--about the time that iron blade in the deer horn handle showed up--when the long sovereignty of the Lenape over this land came to an unhappy end, and the Owen's Indian Cave saw no more visiting hunting parties, no more feasts, no more campfires, but only silence and abandonment. At least, until one early archaeologist showed up centuries later and helped us learn something about it.

KINNAMAN J. VAN ATTA VS MARY STRUBLE ET AL
(FILE P24-813) COMPLAINT FILED 4/15/1887

Genealogical Information
from
Chancery Court Cases

By
Richard M. Stevens



Philip Struble was the village blacksmith at Myrtle Grove. He owned a 2 A. tract with his dwelling house, blacksmith shop, and wheelwright shop, which he had bought in 1855 (Q4-445). On 3/23/1876 he mortgaged the property to Kinnaman J. VanAtta for \$200. On 4/2/1881 he borrowed another \$100, giving Kinnaman a second mortgage. Philip died on 9/15/1886, leaving a widow and five adult children. Interest had not been paid on the first mortgage since 1883, and none was ever paid on the second mortgage. Kinnaman J. VanAtta brought this suit to foreclose both mortgages. There was no opposition. On 9/5/1887 the Sheriff sold the property to Kinnaman J. VanAtta for \$651.

After paying \$377.65 due on the mortgages and \$134.07 in costs, the Sheriff had \$139.28 of surplus money. He held this money until close to his death in 1892, when he and his widow paid it, with \$42.05 in interest, to Lewis VanBlarcom, who was the plaintiff's attorney. VanBlarcom held the money for ten years, and in 1902 deposited it with the Chancery Court, paying no interest, and claiming 10% for a "collection fee." Philip's widow died in

1904, and the next year his daughter, Mary Case, petitioned the Court to distribute the surplus money. There was no controversy; still, a Master had to take testimony. Philip's son Nathan had died, and his widow was awarded \$9.75 for her dower interest. The Final Decree was filed on 10/24/1905.

Genealogy:

1. PHILIP STRUBLE: married to Mary(2); children: John P.(3), Nathan D.(4), Sarah.(5), Elizabeth(6), Alanson(7); deceased 9/15/1886.
2. MARY STRUBLE: wife of Philip(1); living at Myrtle Grove in 1887; nearly 84 years old at her decease in November 1904.
3. JOHN P. STRUBLE: son of Philip(1); about 55 years old in 1905; married to Minnie; living in Kalamazoo, Mich. in 1887; living in Galesburg, Mich. in 1905.
4. NATHAN D. STRUBLE: son of Philip(1); married to Emma L.(8); father of Ira C.(9); living in Sussex Co. in 1887; deceased 6/1/1893.
5. SARAH CASE: daughter of Philip(1); upwards of 60 years old in 1905; wife of Elmer Case; living in Sussex Co. in 1887; living at Halsey, Hampton Twp. in 1905.
6. ELIZABETH PLOTTS: daughter of Philip(1); upwards of 60 years old in 1905; wife of Marshal Plotts; living in Sussex Co. in 1887; living in Lafayette Twp. in 1905.
7. ALANSON STRUBLE: son of Philip(1); 51 years old in 1905; married to Alice; living in Sussex Co. in 1887; living at Baleville, Hampton Twp. in 1905.
8. EMMA L. STRUBLE: 33 years old in 1893; wife of Nathan D.(4); mother of Ira C.(9); living in Sussex Co. in 1887; living at Baleville, Hampton Twp. in 1905.
9. IRA C. STRUBLE: aka Ray Struble; son of Nathan D. Struble(4) & Emma L.(8); 14 years old in 1905; living at Baleville, Hampton Twp. in 1905.

[President's Message - Cont. from front page]

The Board of Trustees is planning to hold a number of events, programs, and different displays throughout the year to commemorate this singular milestone in the history of the Society. Future issues of the newsletter will provide you with more details of what we are planning. We will also be looking to you, the members of the Society, to help implement these programs and events. So when we ask for your help – please say yes, and join us as we develop the programs for this once in a lifetime milestone.

Wayne J. McCabe, President
Sussex County Historical Society

FOCUS ON GENEALOGY

By SCHS Member - Valerie Stern, CG

SCALING BRICK WALLS

It's happened. You have found out a little – or a lot – about your ancestors beyond your grandparents, but you have reached that dreaded “brick wall.” Take heart; even brick can crumble. Here are some things to do immediately:

Let go of preconceptions.

Expect the unexpected; equally, don't hang on too tightly to the expected. By now we are probably all prepared to discover (gasp!) illegitimacy within our ancestors' ranks. Are we equally prepared to face the fact that we really *didn't* have an ancestor who signed the Declaration of Independence / was an Indian princess / married the cousin of the fourth Vice President? Does the fact that Granny's grandfather told her this make it true? Treasure your family traditions, but don't let them interfere with the direction of your research!

Be very flexible about how your name was spelled.

Even after all this time, I am still sometimes surprised by the imaginative ways names were spelled. Consider and study how people of your ethnic derivation pronounce certain letters. Keep in mind that the town clerk or census enumerator may have been Scots-Irish, while the informant was German or Polish. Illiteracy was rampant, and those who could write often just took their best stab at how a name was spelled. At one time it was a sign of scholarship to be able to spell a name several different ways. Dutch Reformed clerics seemed particularly adept at this skill!

Two branches of the same family, living a few miles apart, might spell their names two or more different ways. Keep an open mind! This is especially important for the **initial** letter of the name. When conducting a search, try P for B, F for V, I or J for Y, Z for S, and so on.

Review all your notes periodically.

The more you learn, the more significance your notes will have for you. Things that seemed unrelated when you made note of them (you DID make a note, didn't you... and put the *source*?) may jump out at you now. Two good ways to organize the information you pick up are (1) keeping a timeline of your ancestor's life and (2) using *Evernote* or other searchable note-keeping software.

Move beyond your initial focus.

If you feel you have exhausted all possible sources for information on your ancestor and his immediate family members, go to your ancestor's “FAN” club... his Friends, Associates, and Neighbors. (Thank you, Elizabeth Shown Mills, one of the most respected and credentialed genealogists in the field).

In the next Old Sussex Almanack issue, I will go over the different types of records and how to pick out your ancestor's FAN club.

IN MEMORIAM

Howard E. Case

SUSSEX - Howard E. Case, 83 passed away Sunday, May 11, 2014, at The Valley Hospital in Ridgewood. Mr. Case was a well-known local historian and genealogist, and was a descendant of Henry Case, who came to America in 1633. He had traced his ancestry to the Saxon Kings of England and the early Kings of Ireland and Scotland. Born June 7, 1930, at the former Alexander Linn Hospital (Saint Clare's Hospital) in Sussex, the son of Edgar D. and Rosalie (Jensen) Case, Mr. Case had attended Sussex schools, graduating from Jacksonville Junior College in Florida and Columbia University. He served in the United States Navy from 1949 to 1953.

Mr. Case was a former court clerk in Sussex Borough and retired as the court clerk in Wantage Township in December 1994. He was a librarian, genealogist and life member of the Sussex County Historical Society, a past president of Col. John Rosenkrans Chapter, S.A.R. in Sussex County.

Mr. Case published several booklets on Sussex County history and the Case Family, including the Samaritan Lodge directories (1964 and 1969), S.A.R., Col. Rosenkrans Chapter directory (1969), Sussex Borough history (1964), Case genealogy (1969), History of Samaritan Lodge (1969), History of Sussex Fire Department (1974), and Sussex County, New Jersey Marriages (1992). In 1971, he republished Snell's Sussex County history, Midland Guide (1972), Tom Quick (1975), Sparta History (1975), and had a radio program about Sussex County history for several years on WNNJ.

JoEllen (Dolan) Livick

HAMPTON - JoEllen Dolan Livick, 59, of Hampton Township, died Friday, Dec. 26, 2014, at Newton Medical Center. Born in Newton, JoEllen was a longtime Sussex County resident. She was a 1973 graduate of Newton High School, a proud alumna of Franconia College in New Hampshire, a graduate of American University, and was currently completing her master's degree at NYU in music technology. A member of the Sussex County Historical Society, JoEllen was also an accomplished pianist.

Jo-Ellen was an ardent supporter of the SCHS and worked diligently as a member of the Board of Trustees to make this society more accessible to the people of Sussex County and to others around the country. She was the impetus behind the society's website and the use of the internet in general. It was her wish that memorial donations were to be made to the Sussex County Historical Society after her death. For which, we, as a society, laud her continuing efforts to support the Sussex County Historical Society.

SCHS ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

TITLES OF BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS	Price	S&H
1860 Map Book of Sussex County (reprinted 2004)	15.00	7.50
A History of Andover Ironworks – Come penny, go pound by Kevin Wright	20.00	3.50
A Penny a View - Album of Post Card Views (McCabe/Gordon)		
Andover , New Jersey (W. T. McCabe & M. McCabe)	15.95	3.50
Lafayette , New Jersey (McCabe/Gordon)	16.50	3.50
Newton , New Jersey (McCabe/Gordon)	16.50	3.50
Sparta , New Jersey (McCabe/Gordon)	16.50	3.50
Stillwater , New Jersey (McCabe/Gordon)	16.50	3.50
Franklin , New Jersey (McCabe/Gordon)	16.50	3.50
Ogdensburg , New Jersey (McCabe/Gordon)	16.50	3.50
Hamburg , New Jersey (W.T. McCabe & M. McCabe)	16.50	3.50
Hamlets and Villages of Sussex County, NJ – Monroe (W.T. McCabe & M. McCabe)	15.50	3.50
Hamlets and Villages of Sussex County, NJ – Swartswood (W. McCabe & M. McCabe)	15.50	3.50
Railroads of Sussex Co. NJ – Vol 1 (McCabe/Gordon)	16.50	3.50
Railroads of Sussex Co. NJ – Vol 2 (McCabe/Gordon)	16.50	3.50
Building the Lackawanna Cutoff in Sussex and Warren Counties, NJ	16.50	3.50
A Pictorial Sampler of Historic Fredon by Kaiser	16.00	3.50
Byram Township – County of Sussex, NJ by C.O. Johnson & E. Hart	9.50	2.50
Fragments: A Journal of the Sussex County Historical Society	3.00	1.50
High Point of the Blue Mountains (Dupont, Wright)	12.95	7.50
Images of America: Newton (McCabe/Gordon)	19.00	3.50
Newton, NJ: An Historial Sketch by Judge Henry Huston/Bice	16.50	3.50
Newton Celebrates the 150th Anniversary – The Town of Newton by W.T. McCabe		
Sussex County New Jersey Deed Abstracts (Downing) Each	8.00	2.50
The reprinted volumes available: Please NOTE: The price of \$8.00 is PER VOLUME. The volumes available are; Volumes: A B C D E F G H I K L M (there is no "J")		
All 12 Reprints / Sussex County New Jersey Deed Abstracts (Downing)	96.00	18.00
Volumes: A B C D E F G H I K L M (there is no "J")		
Sussex County . . . A Gazetteer by Wayne T. McCabe	42.50	3.50
Sussex County Place Names by Myra Snook	1.00	0.50
Germans in New Jersey (Peter Lubrecht)	19.99	3.50
NJ Butterfly Boys in the Civil War (Peter Lubrecht)	19.99	3.50
The Ancient Trail by Amelia Stickney Decker (Hardcover: reprinted 2003)	15.00	4.50
The Old Mine Road by Amelia Stickney Decker (Softcover) 1931	7.50	2.50
Then and Now – Schools in Sussex County 1900-1940 / Ralph Decker	9.50	2.50
Vernon – 200 by Ron J. Dupont, Jr. (Softcover)	20.00	3.50

Order Form is enclosed:

All materials are shipped First Class by U.S. Mail and/or Priority Mail./ Bulk orders will be mailed out Parcel Post and/or Priority Mail.

To order, complete the order form for the “Sussex County Historical Society.” Include the title of the book (or books) with your name, mailing address and phone number (in the event we need to reach you regarding your order). Have an email address? Please include it also along with any special instructions. Thank you!

SUBMISSIONS WELCOMED

Do you or your organization
have a story or historical tidbit to share?

Do you have an idea for an article you
would like to write for the Old Sussex
Almanack?

If so, please contact the Old Sussex
Almanack Editor at 973-383-6010

Or

Email: Attn.: Peter N. Chletsos, Editor
sussexcountyhs@gmail.com

SCHS COMMITTEES

SCHS members are encouraged to get active in the Society. There is such a variety of opportunities that one is sure to capture your interest.

Come on out and volunteer on one or more of our committees - Nominating; Finance; Programs and Special Events; Building and Grounds: (includes the Old Newton Cemetery); Museum; Library & Genealogy; Membership and Development (includes communications, newsletter, publicity, technology and website).

If you are interested or want more information, email us at sussexcountyhs@gmail.com,

Call 973-383-6010 and leave a message or drop by and visit.

Sussex County Historical Society

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