

Friendship School - Circa 1830

S.H.O.U.T.

SAFEKEEPING THE HERITAGE OF UPPER TOWNSHIP

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF UPPER TOWNSHIP



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

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Tuckahoe Legion Post 239 Marks 100th Anniversary

The Aaron Wittkamp Colwell Post 239, the American Legion, of Tuckahoe, NJ held a ceremony on Oct. 31, 2020, marking the 100th anniversary of Post 239, chartered by the national organization on 29 October 1920. The event was held in front of the Tuckahoe Masonic Lodge – site of the Upper Township, Cape May County Veterans Memorial at NJ Route

50 and Mount Pleasant Road.

In 1919 or before, a group of local Veterans formed a group that became the current American Legion Post of Tuckahoe. The first recorded minutes of the new group was February 21, 1920. The Post had already been the John Aaron Post. On 29 April 1920, the Post was renamed the Aaron Wittkamp Colwell American Legion Post. All three men died while in the service of their country during World War I in France.

The National American Legion was chartered and incorporated by the US Congress in 1919. The American Legion is the largest wartime veteran’s service organization committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in

our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national

Continued on Page 3



Georgette Cossaboone Buckley presented a plethora of family artifacts to the HPSUT earlier this year.



Military-bearing and historical respect was front and center at the 100th Anniversary of the Tuckahoe Post 239.

Twp. Once Had Mixed Party Government

Robert Holden, Historian

Historical Preservation Society of Upper Twp.

It’s well beyond the memories of many voters in the township, but there once was a time when there was a township committee of mixed parties. Back in the

1970’s there were only THREE committee-men on the Township Committee and there was, in fact, a Democrat, a Republican and an Independent serving the citizens of the township.

Hard to believe, but it’s true!

Who were these political “pioneers”?

The Independent member was Allen Corson (no relation to the current Committeeman, Curtis), the Republican was Leonard Migliaccio, and the Democrat was Charles, “Chick” Cossaboone.

Cossaboone, who had been elected in most Township elections since 1962, served 4 three-year terms through 1977. (except for the 1965-1968 term.)

Charles, “Chick” as he was known throughout the township, was elected in 1974, winning against Republican, Robert D. Luke (also of Beesley’s Point) by 102

Continued on Page 2



Volunteers at the annual Clean Communities project for the HPSUT at the Friendship School in the Palermo Village of Upper Twp., Fall 2020.

It’s Time to Renew Your Annual HPSUT Membership - Application on Page 9

Cossaboone Family Shares 1960-1970's Artifacts

Continued from Page 1

votes, and became Mayor amongst the three members. (That vote was 2 to 1.)

It was Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill who once said, "All politics is local."

Newspapers of the time, reporting about the local Upper Township election, felt that "national politics had nothing to do with the localized campaigns." Many still believe this is as it should be.

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So just who was Chick Cossaboone, this Democrat who won so many township elections?

Chick was a lifelong Democrat who had served in the Army Engineers during World War II, and returned from the war with many challenging experiences.

After getting married and starting a family, he eventually decided to run for township committee by the 1960's and was re-elected numerous times.

He served on the School Board. He was a longtime volunteer fireman in the Mar-mora Volunteer Fire Department., and while on township committee was instrumental in the building of the much-needed Upper Township Middle School which was paid for in cash by the township in 1973, with no debt incurred!

He was also able to persuade Congressman Bill Hughes and the Governor of New Jersey (along with other local officials) to come and tour the local beaches including Strathmere, to discuss beach erosion and other coastline environmental concerns.

Chick was a hometown guy and everyone who knew him appreciated his dedication to the well-being of Upper Township and its citizens.

Chick's daughter, Georgette Cossaboone Buckley was recently interviewed for this story and donated a box of her father's memorabilia to the Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township.

We are now in possession of many photographs, newspaper articles, politi-

cal items, letters, honorary plaques, and most importantly, the mayor's desk sign and gavel. (Hopefully, one day, this will all be on display in an Upper Township Museum.)

Back in those days, the mayor and township committee met in the old Tuckahoe High School building (built in 1908) on Mt. Pleasant Ave. in Tuckahoe.

This building once housed the township high school until it was switched first to a junior high school after the new Ocean City High School opened its doors to Upper Township students in 1924.

After it was no longer used as a school, the building eventually became the Township Hall; the center of all township business, and received additions of a court room (also used for township committee meetings) and updated township office spaces in 1964.

Every township department including the mayor's office was housed in this building. (One photo shows Mayor Cossaboone at his desk in the 1970's).

As noted above, Township Committee, composed then of only three members, was a mixed party group, and functioned quite well. Georgette Cossaboone Buckley stated, "The committee didn't always agree, but they got things done."

Upper Township citizens should recognize that, "back in the day", just 46 years ago, the township committee had a Republican, an Independent, and a Democrat; working together and it functioned quite well for this growing Upper Township community! ##



Allen Corson (left) Leonard Migliaccio (center) shakes hands with Chick Cossaboone (right).



100 year American Legion Tradition in Upper Township

Continued from Page 1

security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Locally, the Constitution and By-Laws of our Post were developed and sent to the National American Legion Headquarters for approval. That approval was granted, and Post 239 was chartered on 29 October 1920.

Over the ensuing 100 years, Tuckahoe Post 239 has endeavored to follow the original mission of the American Legion. In addition to honoring not only the veterans who the Post was named after, there are others who “gave their all” and are inscribed on this monument. Plus, there are others who have served and now have passed on. We will honor them all.

The Post in recent years, has been involved in several community projects, from providing support to the Coast Guard families in the Cape May area during the federal shutdown, to gathering bicycles and taking them to the two NJ State homeless veteran facilities, to providing monetary support to victims of hurricanes, establishing a scholarships for decedents of honorably discharged military, gathering worn out flags for proper retirement (including the issuance of small cards with a star from those flags), the Blue Star Banner program with the joint cooperation the Upper Township govern-

ing body.

During the ceremony, the Post honored each of the three individuals for whom the Post is named:

John D. Aaron, U.S. Army Private First Class, Company E, 114th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division – Died 12 Oct. 1918 in France and is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France.

Frank Wittkamp, U.S. Army 1st Lt (Chaplain), 113th Engineer Battalion, 38th Infantry Division – Died 25 Dec. 1918 in France and is buried in Arlington National

Cemetery, Arlington, VA. at Section WHS, Site 4492.

Theodore R. Colwell, U.S. Army Private First Class, Company F, 114th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division – Died of wounds received on 23 Sept. 1918 in France and is buried in the Calvary Baptist Church Cemetery, Ocean View, NJ.

Officials representing the municipality, the county, the New Jersey state legislature, the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate presented proclamations honoring the Post for its century of service to the community, the state and the nation. ##

An Oral History by Somers Corson

Historical societies preserve and document local history through oral interviews and stories from local historians. In Cape May County and Upper Township, one of our best known storyteller historians was Somers Corson III.

From his bedside in his beloved Rising Sun Inn on Shore Road in Ocean View at age 86, Somers requested that his stories and memories be recorded one last time.

Barbara Horan and Lynn Dress were delighted to fulfill his request.

Recently those recorded memories have been transcribed and edited in order to become a printed genealogical book and reference for local historical societies and museums.

This was accomplished as a result of a grant from the NJ Historical Commission and the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders through the Cape May County Dept of Tourism, Public Information, and Culture & Heritage. ##

Historian's Column

Tuckahoe General Store Ledger Donated

Robert Holden, Historian

Historical Preservation Society of Upper Twp.

Greetings fellow HPSUT members! I have some great news for you all.

Recently a woman who lives in Tuckahoe, (by the name of Debbie Daley) contacted the HPSUT about a man in Dorchester (Roy Oliver) who was in possession of 5 large, heavily bound ledgers. These ledgers were for a general store in Tuckahoe; no name given at the time. When I called Ms. Daley, I imagined these ledgers might be for the Hagelgans' store. At this point I knew of no other general store in Tuckahoe other than the A&P.

To my surprise, they belonged to Mr. **George Warren** who apparently owned a General Store which (as indicated in a newspaper story researched by Barb Horan) was located across from the old Tuckahoe Hotel. (The second iteration of that hotel burned down in the 30's fire.)

Frankly, this surprised me because we have no photograph that indicates where this store could have been!

Anyway, it must have been called, **Warren's General Store**. (?)

Does anyone, who grew up in Tuckahoe, remember it? Anyone have a photograph of it? I do not know when it opened or how long it lasted in Tuckahoe. (The ledgers only cover the dates 1899 through 1917 (although there are certainly volumes and years missing in between.

It turns out, written in the front of one of the ledger books is the name George Warren and Charles Oliphant, the owner of Oliphant Mills along the Tuckahoe River (See my book, page 90 for a great photo of this mill) Was Mr. Warren a partner in the mill? Why did the one ledger have this name written in ink inside the front cover? We will keep digging a get answers, hopefully for our next issue!

So, what are these ledgers?

Back in the day, when a person owned a grocery/general store (the days before rural stores even had cash registers), customers came in and as they "shopped" (requested certain items) the store owner or clerk would list them in what was called **the Day Book**. These ledgers are Mr. Warren's Day Books!

Every local customer's account is written in these books; carried over from a former

page each time they came in to pay their bill (In full or in part) and purchase more items.

It's important first to note that an average man in 1910, made about 22 cents an hour; \$200-\$400 a year.

When you examine the ledgers and see what the costs were of groceries, notions, (and even socks and shoes!) The prices don't seem so outrageously low.

Here's a typical page from the 1904-6 Day Book ledger:

Customer: Frank Steelman

Balance brought forward 7/21/04 (from previous purchase) \$14.50

1 lb. coffee - .16
 5 lbs. sugar - .30
 1 doz. Eggs - .11
 7 lb ham - \$1.02
 1 lb. butter - .30
 1 box matches - .05
 1 can tomatoes - .10
 1 can beans - .10
 1 pk. (peck)- 4pecks to a bushel) Potatoes - .15
 2 gal. oil (cooking oil) - .10
 4 oz. cheese - .20
 2 lbs. soap - .10 – (flakes for clothes washing?)
 1 can corn - .10 (It appears throughout each ledger, that each can of a vegetable or fruit was just .10! Easier?)
 4 Peppers - .08
 1 loaf bread - .05
 1 can starch - .05
 1 box of cake - .10 (hand/bath soap?)
 ¼ pt. tomatoes - .18
 1 gal. oil - .13
 2 lbs. cake - .14
 1 pack of tobacco - .10 (Cigarettes were not yet popular in America, so most men smoked a pipe or cigars.)
 1 can milk - .05

(Admittedly there are some items on the list so poorly written, I cannot decipher them.) This gives you an idea of prices at this time.

Note: A loaf of bread (certainly unsliced at this time!) was .05 in 1899 all the way through 1917!

There are dozens of customers listed in this ledger. Some other names you may recognize (just a few from this book) are:

Somers Gerrion, Richard Townsend, Emeline Steelman, Dan McKeague, Josiah

Sack, George Robinson, Jasper Meyrs, Charles Mason, Jonathon Hess Willie and Eleanor Harris, John Engersoll, and Mr. Evans.

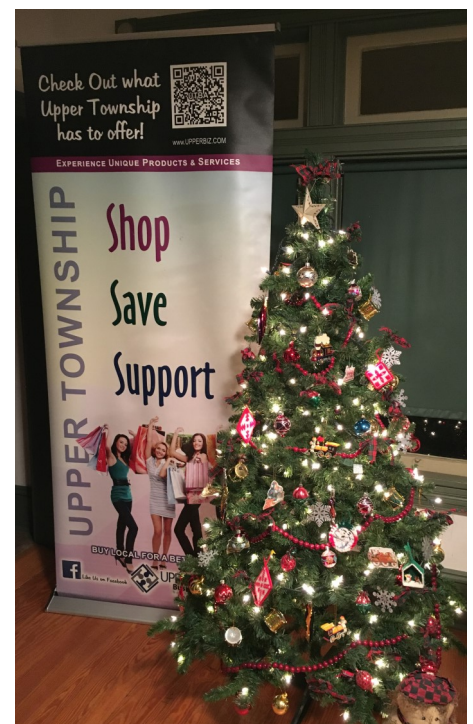
For more names in the ledgers, please contact me. I'd be happy to look up an ancestor for you! I wrote every one down on a legal sheet for each ledger.



Robert Holden

So, this is quite a treasure for the Historical Society AND the community of Tuckahoe and its environs!

Hopefully, one day, these can be available in a MUSEUM for every citizen of the township! ##



Due to Covid-19, the Tuckahoe Train Station was not open this year for Santa Express Trains. However, we are all looking forward to next year. (File photo)

**Unless Otherwise Noted,
 SHOUT Newsletter Photos
 By Ralph Cooper,
 HPSUT Bd. Member / Publicity Chair**

George Warren, owner of a Tuckahoe grocery store/garage, and newly found store ledgers

Research Source: *ancestry.com & newspapers.com*

1880 Age 17 Lives with mother, Mary Warren, a widow and 5 siblings; Dock St, Millville, Cumberland Co, NJ. Works in Glass house

1882 Age 19 Marriage: Geo H. Warren to Helena Hess in Millville, Cumberland, NJ

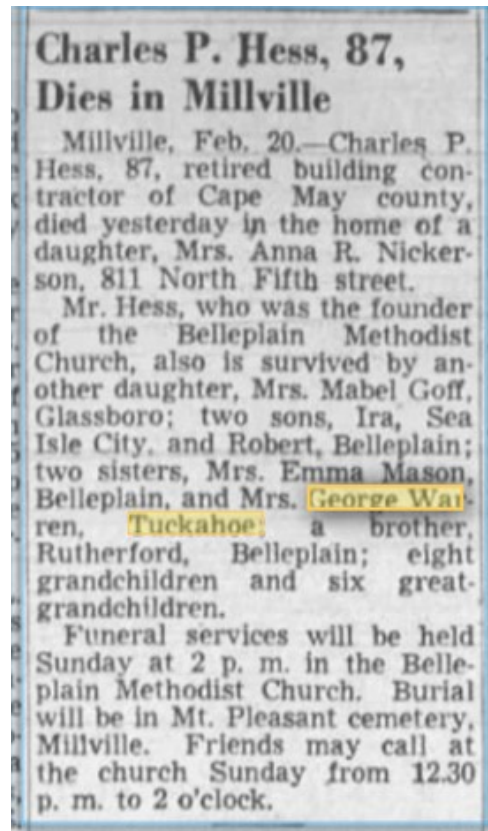
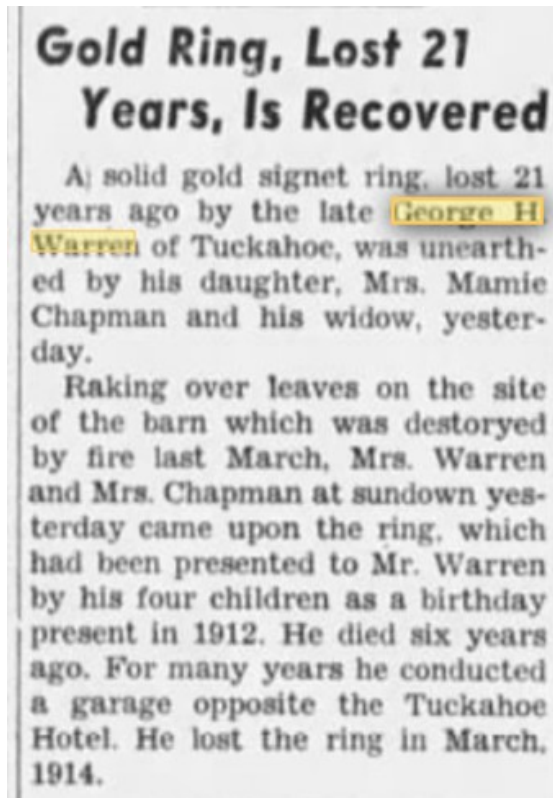
1900 Geo H. Warren, 37 [Born Apr 1863] Lives Dennis, Cape May, NJ. Occupation: Day Laborer
Wife: Elena Warren, 36; Children: Howard 16, Cora 13, Charles 10, Mamie 7

1910 George H. Warren, 47, Lives Dennisville Rd, Tuckahoe Village, Upper, Cape May, NJ. Occupation: Retail Merchant in Groceries. Rents. Wife: Helena Hess, 46; Children: Cora 23, Charles P. 20, Manie A. 17

1920 George H. Warren, 56, Lives Tuckahoe Rd, Upper, Cape May, NJ. Occupation: Operator of Garage. Owner. Wife: Helena 55; Children: Cora 32, Mamie A 26.

1935 Gold ring Lost 21 Years

1948 20 Feb Charles P. Hess



THE 1918 SPANISH FLU

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Research / Article By Michael Houdart

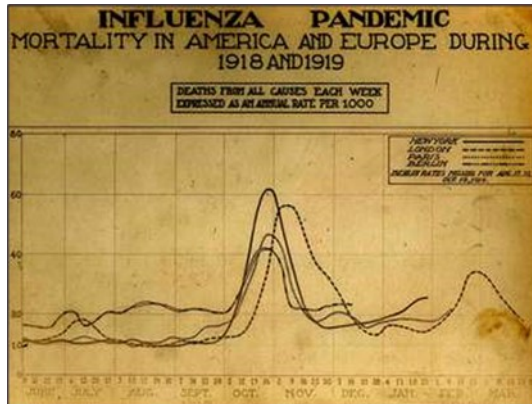
Upper twp. Historical Society

102 years ago, the Spanish Flu arrived in the United States at Fort Riley in Kansas in September 1918.

From there it quickly spread across the country making its appearance in New Jersey around October 3, 1918. The President then was Woodrow Wilson who had much bigger concerns at the time. He had a war to win. The governor of New Jersey was Walter Edge who sprang into action and ordered all bars, restaurants, churches, retail stores, etc., to close immediately. Schools were not ordered to close right away but a short time later, they were.

As the flu spread, hospitals began to fill, and doctors and nurses were in great demand. Due to the war they were already in short supply. At the time more than 30,000 physicians had been inducted into military service.

The 1918 influenza pandemic was the most severe pandemic in recent history. It is estimated that



about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States. There was a high mortality in healthy people, including those younger than 5 years old, 20-40-year old, and 65 years and older. The 20-40-year age group was a unique feature of this pandemic.

In Cape May County local medical personnel were worked to the bone and of course, some contracted the disease. In the middle area of the county, Dr. Eugene Way of Dennisville, and Dr. Joseph Joffe of Woodbine, and Dr. Julius Way were handling a large number of cases. They could not keep up with the demand. Many retired medical people came out of retirement to help.

On a national, state, and local level people were concerned with the events of World War 1 (our entry April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918). The war was winding down and victory was near at hand. The people of New Jersey wanted their men and woman home.

In Cape May County, the Freeholders were abiding by State regulations that were issued on October 5, 1918 containing specific regulations to be enforced by local boards of health. The communities of Cape May County showed a spirit of cooperation and complied with these regulations.

The 1918 Department of Health Annual Report reported stated that, "Definitive knowledge concerning the methods by which the infection is transmitted could not be obtained, and public health officials were therefore at a loss to know how best to proceed".

Cape May County Times

Friday, October 11, 1918

Spanish influenza which according to physicians is nothing more or less than old-fashioned grip in a more violent form, has struck several Cape May County towns. Woodbine reported 40 cases, Ocean City 75, and Cape May several hundred cases. Other towns such as Sea Isle City, Dennisville, Tuckahoe, Ocean View only reported a few cases. The few cases in the county, in view of the ravages of the disease elsewhere, is chiefly due, according to medical authorities, to *the salubrious (healthy) and beneficial effects of the seashore atmosphere.*

Cape May County Times

October 18, 1918

One death was reported in Tuckahoe of Miss Nellie Mason, age 23.

Continued on Pages 7-8

Cape May County Times
 October 25, 1918

State-wide closing order, issued by the New Jersey Board of Health was terminated, and henceforth public assemblies may be held.



Cape May County Times
 November 1, 1918

Local schools will reopen next week, the influenza epidemic entirely subsided.

SOME HAPPENINGS IN UPPER TOWNSHIP DURING THIS TIME.

Cape May County Gazette
 November 8, 1918

The Tuckahoe Herald suspends publication with its issue of this week. The Herald, in common with many hundreds of newspapers throughout the land, has felt the pinch of war —time conditions, and has been unable to continue operations. The Herald was founded by the late Rev. Gerhart and has been conducted for the past three years by Stanley Craig, of Tuckahoe.

Cape May County Times
 November 8, 1918
UPPER TOWNSHIP GOES DRY

The local option question came before the voters of Upper Township at Tuesday's election, with the result that the Township will go dry within 30 days. The vote was 78 wet and 84 dry.

Cape May County Times
 November 8, 1918

Dr. Clarence Way of Sea Isle City is promoted to Captain at the Military Hospital in Paris France.

Cape May County Times
 November 15, 1918

The first word of peace – after verification from Washington came into Cape May County over the Bell Telephone wires at three o'clock on Monday, November 11, 1918. Cape May countians were wild with joy at the announcement.

COMPARISONS

	World War 1 (7/28/1914 - 11/11/1918)	Spanish Flu 1918 (2/1918 - 4/1920)	COVID-19 2020 (3/15/2020 - ?)
World-Wide Deaths	6,000,000	50,000,000	1,595,564 *
U.S. Deaths	117,000	675,000	301,037 *
New Jersey Deaths	3,400	17,260	15,740 *
Cape May County Deaths	28	95	109 *

* As of 12/11/2020

Liberty Bonds were first utilized during the first World War to support the allied cause in World War I and to help fund the Spanish Flu Pandemic. Subscribing to the bonds became a symbol of patriotic duty in the United States and introduced the idea of financial securities to many citizens for the first time.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

CAPE MAY COUNTY.

NAME OF PLACE.	Births.		Marriages.		Deaths.	
	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.
Avalon Borough	1	2	1	2	1	4
Cape May City	31	46	42	57	27	47
Cape May Point Borough	3	1	0	5	2	4
Dennis Township	32	34	8	4	25	41
Lower Township	19	19	5	6	10	20
Middle Township	41	50	18	11	50	53
North Wildwood Borough	25	43	2	1	19	15
Ocean City Borough	51	51	28	21	32	38
Sea Isle City Borough	15	12	7	3	12	19
South Cape May Borough	4	0	0	2	1	0
Stone Harbor Borough	17	6	2	3	1	6
Upper Township	18	15	3	5	25	25
West Cape May Borough	44	24	2	7	6	13
Wildwood City	33	35	21	29	40	41
Wildwood Crest Borough	16	1	12	6	0	4
Woodbine Borough	1	42	12	13	10	10
Total	351	381	163	175	261	340

The medical practitioners in this lethal struggle had no curative treatments – without vaccines or antibiotics, they experimented, prescribing drugs to control cough and relieve pain. The regimens included morphine for pain, quinine for malaria, digitalis for heart conditions, phenacetin for fever reduction, and throat antiseptic rinses, along with ether, and chloroform for anesthetics. Some thought whiskey could cure the flu and others hung camphor balls around their neck to keep the virus away. While the global pandemic lasted for two years, a significant number of deaths were packed into three especially cruel months in the fall of 1918. Historians now believe that the fatal severity of the Spanish flu’s “second wave” was caused by a mutated virus spread by wartime troop movements. The contagion raged unchecked with no cures available.

It came to Cape May County through the military at Camp Wissahicon and spread from there. The activities that were closed in early October were opened again in early November, just before the end of World War 1. Schools were only closed for a short time.

The 1918 Department of Health Annual Report reported stated, “the southern part of the state, where the epidemic is believed to have been more severe than in the northern and central portions.” This directly contradicts the county report of October 11, which stated Cape May County had less cases than other parts of the state.

Another contradiction was that the 1919 Department of Health Annual Report that “the State Laboratory of Hygiene was able to manufacture an influenza vaccine for free distribution in sufficient quantities to meet the requirements of local boards of health.” As far as we know, there was not a vaccine for the 1918 Spanish Flu. According to the NJ Department of Health, “the epidemic reached its crest in New Jersey during the third week in October.”



Note: Remarkably, many of the same challenges we face in combatting COVID-19 existed during the Great Influenza: educating the public about the importance of social distancing; wearing masks; cancelling large gatherings of people; avoiding indoor crowds; quarantining individuals exposed to the virus; the trial and error of potential treatments; and most importantly, tirelessly working to create an effective vaccine. The big difference today is the availability of ventilators to save lives.

By M. Houdart, Historical Society of Upper Township, 9/24/2020

UPDATE: Since this writing, a vaccine has been approved for distribution!



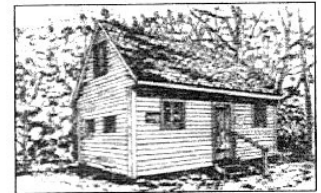
Homeschool children received a program by the HPSUT Historian Robert Holden at the Seaville Quaker Friends Meeting House in Nov. 2020. Holden's talk on local history included a demonstration of the NV-5 Archaeological dig site that was done on the corner of Routes 49 and 50 at the site of the old Willets/Williams house (Mr. Willets was the bridge tender for the Tuckahoe Bridge.) The students got to see (and hold in their hands) an 8000-year-old Indian arrow-

head (point) and other stone objects from a much later time which came from the Tuckahoe River dig site off Mosquito Landing. Holden also included his (Reproduction – non firing) colonial Brown Bess musket which is the exact size and weight of a real one. This same session was presented to the fourth-grade classes at Upper Township Elementary School in November 2019. (Photos provided by the Holden family.)

Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township
Rooted in the Past - Enjoyed in the Present - Preserved for the Future

HPSUT 2021 Membership

Name: _____
 Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____



Friendship School - Circa 1830

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

Web: www.UpperTwpHistory.org | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/UpperTwpHistory
Email: UpperTwpHistory@Yahoo.com | **Phone:** (609) 390.5656 *(Please leave a message)*

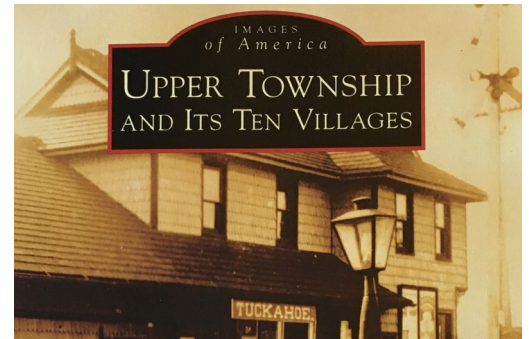
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township
Your Application



Main Street (Route 50) looking north in a late 1930s photo of downtown Tuckahoe. This is one of the several hundred photographs featured in the book *Upper Township and Its Ten Villages*. Copies are for sale throughout Upper Twp. and on the HPSUT website at www.uppertwphistory.org

Upper Twp. Historical Society - Winter 2020 - 2021 Newsletter

- See Details In This Edition:**
- Page 1 Tuckahoe Legion Post Celebrates 100th Anniversary**
 - Page 1 Cossaboone Family Donates History Collection**
 - Page 3 Somers Corson History Transcribed**
 - Page 4 Tuckahoe General Store History**
 - Page 6 Spanish Flu of 1918 in Upper Twp.**
 - Page 9 History Program for Homeschoolers**
 - Page 9 Membership Renewal Coupon for 2021**
 - Page 10 Ten Villages Book Talks Recorded on Zoom**



Book Talk Recordings

The Society's Historian Robert Holden presented two monthly membership programs about his book - *Upper Twp. and Its Ten Villages*.

Part 1, held Nov. 10, 2020, covered the villages of Beesley's Point, Marmora, Palermo, Seaville and Greenfield. Zoom recording: <https://bit.ly/HPSUTvideoNovBookTalk>

The Part 2 program, Dec. 8, 2020 featured Chapters 6 -10 (end): Petersburg to Strathmere.

Zoom recording: <http://bit.ly/HPSUTvideoDecBookTalk>

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Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township

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Marmora, NJ 08223-0658



The Gandy House - c. 1815