

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Salem County Historical Society

Founded July 31, 1884

Volume 61, Issue No. 3

Fall 2016

(ISSN 1525-0983)

“How to Make It in Salem County: Stories of Creativity, Craftsmanship and Industry” *Andrew R. Coldren*

This informative presentation about the Society's current exhibit was recently presented by our Administrator and Curator, Andrew Coldren, to the Genealogical Society of Salem County. The ability to see this well-received exhibit will continue until the spring of 2017, at which time it will close.

What is industry? The dictionary defines industry as first, “economic activity concerned with the processing of raw materials and manufacture of goods in factories”, and second as, “hard work”. The history of Salem County has been replete with both. The second definition has perhaps always been best exemplified by the men and women of our region who have, for generations, made their living from the land. Working from dawn to dusk in burning heat and chilling cold, the farmers of our area are as industrious as any people anywhere in the nation.

For the purpose of this article, it is in the first definition that we are interested. Salem County history has long been dominated by agriculture. The proof of it is as far as the eye can see. The broad flat fields of our county spread away to the horizon, and it has ever been that way. But just as there have always been those who made their living from the land, there have been those who made their living from the manufacture of goods and machines. While the legacy of early industry in Salem County is not as enduring as that of agriculture, it is great, and deep, and meaningful. Some of the early industries in Salem County shaped our very nation, and others delivered products all over the world. All of them were created by people looking for a new opportunity or a new way to do things. Our first example begins, as all good things do—in Germany.

GLASS

Caspar Wistar was born in Waldhilsbach in the Rhenish Palatinate in 1696. In 1717, he immigrated to Berks County, Pennsylvania to work as a soap maker and eventually came to own two iron forges in that area.

Wistar clearly had the entrepreneurial spirit, but it was after he moved to Philadelphia and got into the brass button business that things began to take off for him.

In an era when much of men's and women's fashions depended on brass buttons, the manufacture of buttons was a big business. It was the button business that brought Wistar to Salem County on a visit sometime prior to 1738. Having worked with iron forges, Wistar had a keen eye for the resources needed for any process that involved heat. The first thing he likely noticed was an abundance of white sand. This, coupled with clay for making bricks to build fireplaces, timber to burn in them, and easy access to waterways for transportation, was all he needed to start a business making glass.

In 1738, Caspar Wistar built his glassworks near Alloway. But Wistar was not a glass maker, and he needed people who knew about this delicate craft. These people were not readily available in the Americas, so he turned to his native Germany. To get them to take the risk to come over, Wistar implemented a profit sharing system with these workers to insure they were as invested in the venture as he was. Thus began the first true industry in Salem County.

While the Wistarburgh Glassworks, as it would come to be called, was an example of early glass manufacturing in the colonies, glass making had been going on in the Americas for over one hundred years. The very first glass house in America was at the Jamestown settlement beginning in 1608. While most of the window glass in that early settlement was imported from England, archeological evidence has found that a glass house was built on the Jamestown peninsula about a mile from the original fort. This may seem surprising at first, to commit the time, effort, and resources to blowing glass in a primitive early settlement. But one of the most essential elements we need to survive is light. It was a long way to the glass makers in England, and communicating the glass needs of the colony would have meant as much as a year's turnaround in transit.

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

Mission Statement: The mission of the Salem County Historical Society is to seek, document, preserve, interpret and perpetuate Salem County's heritage, and to enhance the awareness and appreciation of that heritage, through its research, collections, functions, exhibits, educational programs and publications, for the benefit of future generations and for the betterment of the community.

Research Library & Museum Hours

Tuesday through Saturday

Noon - 4PM

Admission Fee \$5.00

Free for Members

www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

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This publication may include historical materials that contain language or stereotypes reflecting the culture or language of a particular period or place. These items are presented as part of the historical record.

Please Recycle your Newsletter

**Message From the Administrator**

It has been a very hot summer here in Salem County, and like everyone else, we at the Historical Society are glad to see the temperature drop a bit. As the fields and towns cool off, our thoughts turn to our fall calendar. As usual, it will be a busy fall at the Society.

But first let's take a moment to review what we have been up to lately. The summer is often a down time at the Society. Locals are busy going to the shore and other family activities. Here at the Society, we have been extremely active. In June and July, we moved the majority of our stored furniture collection into our climate controlled storage facility in Salem. This was a major task and was done very efficiently and with no damage to any of our pieces. In August, we began packing and moving smaller objects and library materials and moving them into storage. This is a time and labor intensive effort, and we have received great support from the Library Committee, the Museum Committee, interns, volunteers and staff to move this project along. Our ultimate goal is to clear out some of the rooms in our Grant House headquarters that used to be exhibit space but have gone over to storage and make them exhibit spaces again.

Another significant project that has been ongoing all summer has been taken on by our Education Committee. The Society has entered into an agreement with the Salem City schools to assist in providing professional development for teachers at the Salem High School and Salem Middle School. The assistance takes the form of making the teachers aware of the resources available to them at the Historical Society and how those resources can be incorporated into the teachers' lesson plans. The process of creating the presentations for the teachers has been a lot of research and has been a lot of fun. The Education Committee has also enjoyed the assistance of our volunteers, interns, and staff on this project. The Committee will make our presentations to the teachers this fall.

Looking forward, we are anticipating an active schedule of fall activities at the Society. In September the Society will hold its Annual Luncheon at the Centerton Country Club. This year will feature music and a program by the Fort Delaware Cornet Band. The Annual Luncheon and the Annual Appeal later in the year are among the most important fundraising events the Society holds each year. As you know, with state budgets tightening and historical organizations getting less support from operating grants, it is more important than ever for the Society to grow its support from our members and our community.

In October, the Society will sponsor two events, the John S. Rock Memorial Lecture and the Salem City Walking Ghost Tour. The Rock Lecture promotes the life and work of the abolitionist and activist John Stewart Rock and helps provide a scholarship to a deserving Salem Community College student. The Salem City Walking Ghost Tour is a fun evening of spooky stories told at some of the most historic sites around town. The proceeds from this great event support the John S. Rock Memorial Scholarship.

Please check this newsletter, our website, and our Facebook page for more information on all of our upcoming events. As always, we thank our members for their continued support and look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events this fall.

Sincerely,

Andrew Coldren, Administrator and Curator

Calendar of Events

- ◆ **Sunday, September 11, 2016**
Historical Society of Penns Grove, Carneys Point and Oldmans Quarterly Meeting Time: 12:30PM at the Historical Society in Penns Grove, NJ 1:00PM Open House and two exhibit openings relating to Penns Grove Track and Field and the US Postal Service
- ◆ **Sunday, September 18, 2016**
Annual Luncheon at Centerton Country Club in Pittsgrove Township, NJ 1:15PM Refreshments 2:00PM
Program presented by the Fort Delaware Cornet Band
- ◆ **Tuesday, September 27, 2016**
Genealogy Workshop to be held at the Salem County Historical Society, in conjunction with the Genealogical Society of Salem County, 7:00PM
- ◆ **Sunday, October 16, 2016**
13th John S. Rock Memorial Lecture 3:00PM at Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church, Salem, NJ
- ◆ **Friday, October 28, 2016**
Salem City Walking Ghost Tour in Salem, NJ 7:00PM-10:00PM
- ◆ **Sunday, December 11, 2016**
Quarterly Meeting 1:30PM Friends' Village in Woodstown, NJ
Speaker: Nancy Webster, Curator and Historian of the Friends' Historical Association
Topic: Quaker Religious Policy during the American Revolution


Salem City Comes Alive
with Legends from the Past.

Walking Ghost Tour

Friday, October 28, 2016 • 7:00 PM
Tour Begins at Royal Port Antiques
13 Market Street, Salem
Refreshments will be available after the tour.


The tour will follow the
Tunes From the Crypt Concert at
St. John's Episcopal Church

Tickets may be purchased at
Royal Port Antiques



John S. Rock Memorial Scholarship recipient

Sydney Moore, *right*, a student at the Salem Community College, is the recipient of the 2016-17 "John S. Rock Memorial Scholarship". Andrew R. Coldren, *left*, the Administrator and Curator at the Salem County Historical Society, honors Moore with a copy of the society's award winning book, *John Stewart Rock: Teacher, Healer, Counselor*. This annual \$500 scholarship, from the Society, is awarded each year to a Salem County high school graduate who is a first year student at the college.



Glass Plate Negative Scanning Project

The Society would like to announce that our glass plate negative scanning project has begun. We would like to thank Dr. Larry Owen for his generous donation that went towards the purchase



of this new scanner and its accompanying equipment. Our first project will be to scan the Robert P. Dorrell Photograph Collection. The collection consists of approximately 1200 glass negatives and additional film negatives of various sizes. The photographs are primarily of Alloway, NJ and vicinity and were taken from about the 1870's or 1880's through the 1950's or 1960s. Pictured above is a photograph of Ewen Milling Co. horse-drawn wagon, Alloway, NJ.

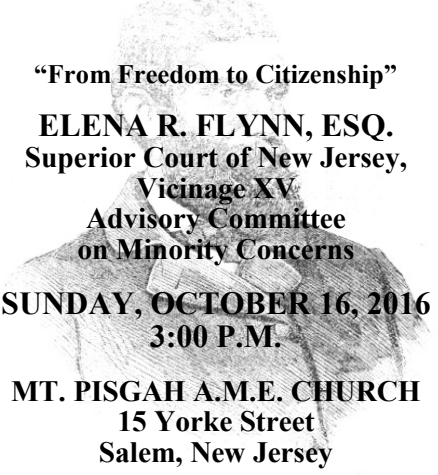
13TH JOHN STEWART ROCK MEMORIAL LECTURE

"From Freedom to Citizenship"

ELENA R. FLYNN, ESQ.
Superior Court of New Jersey,
Vicinage XV
Advisory Committee
on Minority Concerns


SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016
3:00 P.M.

MT. PISGAH A.M.E. CHURCH
15 Yorke Street
Salem, New Jersey



Annual Luncheon

This year's Annual Luncheon will be held at 1:15PM on Sunday, September 18th at the Centerton Country Club in Pittsgrove, NJ. The Luncheon will feature a musical presentation by the Fort Delaware Cornet Band. Join us for this informative presentation, drinks, lunch, conversation, raffle and auction prizes. Our raffle item this year is a two night stay in a luxury suite at the Spring Lake Inn in historic Spring Lake, New Jersey. This package also includes a sumptuous breakfast each morning and afternoon tea each day at the Inn as well as two \$150 gift certificates for dinner at Whispers Restaurant and at Larimar's Restaurant.



The Alva Glass Manufacturing Company

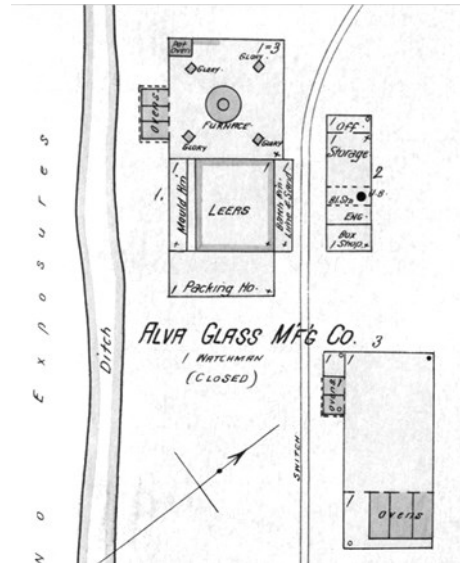
“The Alva Glass Manufacturing Company located on Tilbury Avenue, in this city, commenced operation on Thursday afternoon. They are excellently arranged to carry on business, with all the latest and most approved appliances known to the trade, and having plenty of orders, are bound to succeed.

“All the officers and members of the corporation are practical men, with a thorough knowledge of the glass manufacturing business in all its details. The company consists of the following members: Robert Torrens, President; N. S. Fox, Secretary and Treasurer; Jos. R. Westcott, Superintendent; John Fox, packer, and John Westcott, Henry Isler, Thos. Cunningham, Whittall Mingen and David McQuillen, glassblowers.

“The number of employees, including stockholders, is 28, divided as follows: 11 blower, 1 laying-up man, 1 gathering man, 1 mixer, 1 master shearer, 1 engineer, 2 packers, 1 box-maker, 7 snapping-up boys, 1 bookkeeper and shipping clerk, and 1 blacksmith. The latter, Mr. Edward Thomas, of Millville, is a most excellent mechanic; he commenced work at 12 o'clock p. m. on Sunday night, to get the tools in shape so they could go to work promptly on Monday morning.

“The main factory building is 106x48 feet, containing the tank, which has a capacity of 4½ tons of molten glass; three tempering ovens, 12x12 feet; 14 horsepower engine and 20 horse-power boiler, blower, &c. The blacksmith's forge is in this building, also. The other buildings are a brick sand house, 8x36 feet; soda sheds, 6x48 feet; mixing rooms, 12x26 feet.

“Superintendent Westcott reports that everything is working nicely, and there is no fault to find with furnace or glory holes, of which they have two. On Monday morning they were running four shops—one on 12 and 14 oz. panels; one on ammonia ovals; one on Bixby's Shoe dressing, and one on bell-bottom oils.



1896 Sanborn Map, Salem, New Jersey, Tilbury Road Section



Front and reverse of a trade card for "Bixby's Royal Polish". (Private Collection)



Bixby Shoe Dressing Bottle (Private Collection)

“They are not limited on the order for shoe dressing bottles, having orders to make all they can during the season.

“The Alva Glass Manufacturing Co. bids fair to soon be numbered among the most important manufacturing industries of Salem.”

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, September 30, 1890



ALEXANDER'S ANNALS

50 YEARS AGO

Penns Grove Record, Penns Grove, NJ
September 1966

- Salem GI 6th County Viet Victim—Sgt. 1st Class Donald L. LeHew.
- Work starts on Interstate Route 295 in County.
- Pennsville's Front Street Post Office Razed.
- Yom Kippur hours for Prince's of Salem.
- Salem County to participate in food stamp program.
- Atomic Plant Report Stirs New Speculation.
- Beachcomber Swim Club Pool closes September 11th.
- Ivin's Spiced Wafers—2 lb.—63 cents—Acme.

75 YEARS AGO

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ
September 1941

- Woman killed by lightning bolt at Riverview Beach Park, Pennsville.
- Splendid new ambulance for hospital provided by Red Cross.
- Record fifty-one babies born in August at hospital.
- Clinton Lindsey, of this city, has received a patent on a combination cutter and scrapper machine.
- John R. Powell appointed Postmaster of Alloway.
- New parking in Salem—parallel instead of diagonally.
- "Smokeless Powder" champions of the Salem County Baseball League—Sam McWilliams.
- Ritz Crackers—1 lb. pkg.—21 cents—A & P.

100 YEARS AGO

Elmer Times, Elmer, NJ, September 1916

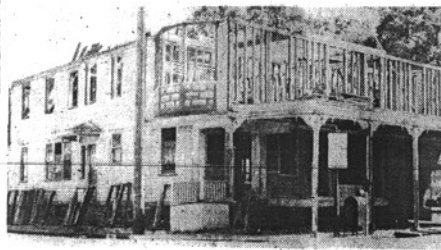
- Steeple Jack, Fred Allen, has painted the steeple of the Daretown Presbyterian Church.
- Work on erecting trolley poles commenced this week.
- Band of gypsies is located in Muttontown Woods with fifty horses.
- The Woodstown Chautauqua will be held next week.
- The Woodstown National Bank has presented a handsome clock for the new high school.
- First infantile paralysis case in Penns Grove proved to be fatal—Fred H. Sylvester.
- Indian axes have been found on the Theophilus Paulding farm, Daretown.
- Due to infantile paralysis in Philadelphia, there will be no Italian help at the canning factories this year.

FIVE GENERATIONS

Quinton, June 22.—Mrs. Lewis Myers has been exhibiting a new family photo that she is very proud of. It represents five generations of the family, all females. In the group are Mrs. Sara Sayre, aged 80 years; Mrs. Emma Bevis, Mrs. Lewis Myers, Mrs. Millard Simpson and Francis Simpson, aged 3 months.

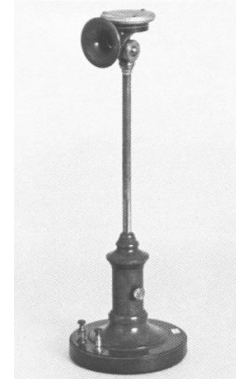
Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, June 23, 1916

Fenwick Inn Being Razed



The Fenwick Inn, Corner of Market and Grant Streets, is being torn down to make way for a service station. The Inn was **built by H. A. Sinnickson in 1893** and opened for business in September of that year as a licensed hotel called the "City Hotel." It was named "Fenwick Inn" when it came into the hands of George Hires who turned it into a boarding house and did not renew the license. The part formerly occupied by the American Stores contained the office of the Fogg and Hires Company. Mr. Hires sold the building to John Elwell who continued it as a boarding house. Mr. Elwell was in possession of the building until he died, when the present owners bought it.
Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, September 20, 1939

Alloway Jottings



The telephone is in operation between here and Quinton, and works splendidly, and we are now in communication with the outside world.

National Standard, Salem, NJ, May 5, 1886

—The first saw-mill in Salem County was erected by William Hampton in the year 1682. Place not given.
National Standard, Salem, NJ, June 25, 1879

AN IMPROVEMENT LONG NEEDED.



Covered Bridge, Salem, New Jersey, built 1851.

—Workmen are now engaged in laying a foot walk outside of the **Covered Bridge**. This is an improvement that has long been needed. From the promiscuous commingling of pedestrians, and horses and carriages on the bridge, it is really wonderful that some have not been seriously injured before this.

But a day or two ago, we saw some little children that with difficulty kept from getting entangled in the wheels of meeting carriages. In these expansive times crinoline is in especial danger of becoming caught in the wheels, or soiled in the effort to perform a journey through the bridge when carriages are going over at the same time.

The authorities are acting wisely in enlarging it, and, we hope, will complete the work by having it better lighted, so at least that ladies who are compelled to cross after nightfall may be more secure from insult than heretofore.
National Standard, Salem, NJ, October 7, 1863

**The Greatest Novelty ever in Salem !
GRAND BALLOON ASCENSION
FROM SALEM!
On Wednesday, Sept. 19, 1855.**



Arrangements have been made with Mr. S. A. KING, the successful American Aeronaut, for a Grand Balloon Ascension, from the spacious Lot adjoining the residence of Calvin Belden, Esq. on Broadway, Salem, on Wednesday, the 19th inst., between the hours of 1 and 4, P. M. Doors open and inflation commence at 11 o'clock A. M. Several pilot balloons will be let off during the inflation.

The Washington Silver Band, of Philadelphia, has been engaged.

Tickets, 25 cents.

Should the weather be unfavorable, the ascension will take place the first fair day after (Sunday excepted.)



The Old Jail—We have received from Mr. McCall, photographer, an admirable “counterfeit presentment” of the venerable stone pile on the corner, which has had a close connection with genuine judicial presentments for nearly a century. Those of our citizens who desire a memorial of the ancient structure, which will soon be removed, should secure a copy of the picture from Mr. McCall.

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, June 8, 1866

Balloon Ascension—Our people will be gratified to learn that they will have an opportunity of witnessing the *modus operandi* by which man is enabled, by a triumph of science, to navigate the air.

Mr. A. J. Fegenbush, of this town, has made arrangements with Mr. S. A. King [Samuel Archer King, 1828-1914], a very successful aeronaut, for a balloon ascension from Salem, to take place on Wednesday, the 19th inst.

Mr. King has very recently made several successful ascensions from Wilmington, and alighted from one of his aerial voyages, a few weeks since, near Shiloh, in Cumberland County. We trust Mr. Fegenbush will be liberally patronized, and fully rewarded for his enterprise, as he has the entire burden of expense, management and arrangement, to bear.

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ,
September 5, 1855

Missing Sun Dial?

In October 1925 a sundial was unveiled by the Salem County Historical Society in Johnson Park with appropriate exercises. The tablet was unveiled by Anne Dickeson, James H. Mecum, Jr. and John Fenwick Montaigne. Addresses were made by George W. Price, president of the society.

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, October 7, 1925

[Where did the sun dial go when Johnson Park was dismantled and the Law Office was moved to the garden of the Historical Society?]

Bus Line to Atlantic City Healy Brothers, Vineland, Start Service on Friday Afternoon

Healy Brothers, of Vineland, on Friday afternoon last started auto bus service between Pennsville and Atlantic City, going via Salem, Quinton, Shiloh, Bridgeton and Vineland. At the latter place connection is made with the bus line from Penns Grove to Atlantic City.

The bus is operated through Salem in accordance with a resolution of Council adopted when the permit was granted. This resolution states distinctly that no local passengers shall be carried in competition with the Salem and Penns Grove Traction Company or the Jordan bus.

The Healy Brothers are to make six trips daily from the wharf at Pennsville and the boardwalk at Atlantic City. They are to operate two large six-wheel DeLuxe busses that have a capacity of 27 passengers.



One of the busses was on exhibition here on Thursday and pleased every one who saw it for it is one of the latest model vehicles for passenger service. The bus can make the trip from Pennsville to Atlantic City in approximately three hours.

The operators of this new line in an advertisement in another column advise the public to use the Jordan bus from Salem to Bridgeton and the trolleys from Pennsville to Salem. Also that only passengers to Atlantic City will be carried by them between Pennsville and Bridgeton.

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, August 26, 1925

(continued from cover)

And should a request even make it across the pond to England, how much of the glass that was shipped back would have arrived intact after a difficult Atlantic crossing can only be guessed.

So window panes and glass bottles would have been something of urgent need even in the settlement days. But the shortage of skilled glass makers would prevent the establishment of an indigenous glass industry in the America's until the 1700's. Evidence of this is that it appears that the first glass house in Jamestown failed, was reestablished between 1621 and 1624, and failed again. Until the 1730's, there is little evidence of successful glass making on any significant scale. A glass works was established in New York in 1732, but it was not successful.

Starting in 1739, the Wistarburgh works began production of flat glass for window panes and both utility and beverage bottles. Wistarburgh may have dabbled in some tableware, though it does not appear in early advertising, and an occasional whimsy, the overwhelming majority of their production was utilitarian glass. Up until the Revolution, British law prevented any American manufacturer to produce products that directly competed with British manufacturing. This probably accounts for the lack of success of early glass manufacturing in the colonies. It also means that we should be cautious with the identification of a broad range of glass pieces as coming from the Wistarburgh works. With only a few exceptions, the Wistarburgh works did not mark their glass in any way, so definitive identification in relation to British made glass is problematic.

When we think of the Wistarburgh Glassworks, we probably imagine in our minds a group of highly skilled glass blowers crafting window panes and bottles all day. While this is true, it is actually a small portion of the work that was done there. The bulk of the work involved cutting timber for the fires, digging sand for the glass, and transporting these raw materials to the works to be made into glass. This work required what would have been considered a large work force at that time. The name Wistarburgh evokes a town, and the works were essentially a self-contained community. Workers' homes were built on the surrounding property, and a mansion was built for the overseer of the works, which also provided a place for Caspar Wistar to stay when he visited the works. Wistar himself continued to live in Philadelphia and used the profits from his various ventures to buy real estate in the city and ultimately become one of the wealthiest men in America. The works also had stores to provide for the needs of the workers and other local residents, with at least some of the workers' wages being paid in store credit.

While the works overwhelmingly manufactured bottles and window panes, one specialty glass we do know was being made there was for scientific purposes. Early experimentation in electricity required glass tubes, jars, and balls. Across the river in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin was a leader in this research, and Caspar Wistar was his friend. We know that the glass Franklin used in his experiments was made at the Wistarburgh works. It is



Three bottles and a jar believed to be made at the Wistarburgh glass site outside of Alloway. These items are currently on exhibit at the Society.

fun to speculate that perhaps Dr. Franklin came over to visit the works from time to time to give direction on the manufacture of his equipment.

Caspar Wistar died in 1752, and the ownership of the works passed to his son Richard. Richard Wistar also ran the business from Philadelphia, and neither he nor his father was ever known to work in glass. They relied on the expertise of the European workers they continued to import throughout the life of the works, most of them German. Much of the small pocket of German ancestry here in Salem County comes from these early glass workers.

The ultimate fate of the Wistarburgh works is unknown. It seems that the company was in decline during the American Revolution. In 1780, Richard Wistar attempted to sell the glassworks, but was unable to find a buyer. This would seem to indicate that the profitability of the works had declined. This is very likely due to the depletion of resources. For forty years, the works had been cutting trees and digging sand in the region. As these resources diminished, the workers had to go further to cut wood and take longer to haul it back, increasing costs. The ideal trees for feeding the fires at the works were ten to twenty years old. They were big enough to be worth cutting down, but fairly easy to cut into firewood. The big one hundred year old oak trees in the area were too big, too hard, and too time consuming to chop into firewood. A letter to Richard from his son Thomas dated Dec. 28th, 1781, indicates that the bulk of Thomas' time was spent cutting firewood. Around this time there was also competition. Several glass makers from the Wistarburgh works left to found glass factories in Glassboro, where wood was more plentiful and easy to access.

A lease drawn up in March 1782 indicates that the property was being leased to someone outside the family and while a mansion was still decreed to be maintained on the site for the Wistars to use, there is no mention of any of the glass making buildings that should have been on the site. It is possible that the Wistarburgh works were already dismantled by this time. We certainly know that

the land went over to pasture, as it remains today. No buildings related to the glassworks or any other element of Wistarburgh survived.

But the legacy of the Wistarburgh Glassworks lived on in the proliferation of Salem County glass manufacturing that followed. In 1863, Henry D. Hall, Joseph D. Pancoast and John V. Craven established a glass business in Salem. In 1878, Henry D. Hall withdrew from the business and it was carried forward by Pancoast and Craven until 1879 when Pancoast died. In 1882, Thomas J. Craven bought an interest in the company and it became Craven Brothers. In 1895, Craven Brothers reorganized into the Salem Glass Works. It operated under that name for thirty-nine years. In 1934, the Salem Glass Works merged with the Anchor Cap Corporation and became Anchor Hocking. The company sold off its glass making division to the newly created Anchor Container Corporation in 1984.

John Gayner established his glass making facility in Salem in 1874. Gayner Glass was in operation in Salem under the family name until 1974.

In Elmer, the “upper” and “lower” (the name is based on their relative position in the town) glassworks were in operation beginning in 1896. The “upper” works was the home of several companies in the ensuing decades such as the G.M. Bassett Glass Company, Gilchrist Jar Company, the Novelty Glass Manufacturing Company and the Elmer Glassworks. The “lower” works were operated at times by the Elmer Glassworks, the Improved Gilchrist Jar Company, the Sterling Glass Company and the Harloe Insulator Company.

In 2013, Ardagh Glass Incorporated took over the Anchor Hocking glass plant in Salem. Ardagh Glass closed the plant in 2014, ending commercial glass production in Salem County after 275 years.

REDWARE

One of the oldest industries in Salem County is one that goes all the way back to the original inhabitants of our region. Earthenware, or Redware, as it is often called is a direct descendent of the clay pottery that has been made since the beginning of time. The Lenni Lenape were making and using clay pottery along the banks of the Salem River for thousands of years before the arrival of the first European settlers to our area.

For our purposes, it is likely that the first Europeans in our area became aware of the potential of the local clay for pottery as a result of its use in making bricks. Salem County has excellent clay for making bricks, and bricks are one of the most basic needs of early settlers. The very first settlers to Salem County built log cabins daubed with mud much like the example in the back yard of the Salem County Historical Society. While such structures served their purpose, they were prone to rapid deterioration in our climate. It did not take long for people in our area to look around for a building material with more durability. Fortunately, in addition to having excellent sand for glass, our area had excellent clay for baking bricks.

Clay that can be made into bricks can also be made into ceramic plates, tankards, bottles, jugs, and other

cheap and replaceable utility materials. Ironically, the first reference to pottery being made in our area comes from Richard Wistar, the son of Caspar Wistar, in 1780. In an advertisement offering his property for sale as mentioned above, he made reference to a rolling mill for preparing clay for making pots. Clearly, earthenware was being made in some degree at the Wistarburgh Glassworks around that time. We know that the clay around what was then Guineatown (now Penton) was especially good for earthenware and was used by the potters in Salem County.

The first named potter that has been identified in our region was a man named Asher Bailey who was making earthenware in or near Salem as early as 1814. Bailey is believed to have been born in Pennsylvania and trained in pottery across the river. Sometime between 1814 and 1820, Bailey moved to Salem and purchased a parcel of land from Abner W. Simpkins. It appears that until 1821, Bailey was operating a kiln on that property. In 1821, Bailey purchased land from Benjamin Acton in Salem and seems to have used it for the same purpose. Asher Bailey left Salem and returned to Pennsylvania in 1827, leaving the kiln on the Acton property. We do not know if the kiln was being used during the next six years, but in 1833, William J. Diamond began partially or fully renting the property. William Diamond operated the kiln successfully until his death in 1862 when his son Thomas M. Diamond took over. The pottery left the ownership of the Acton family in 1870 with the death of Benjamin’s widow Sarah. In 1871, Thomas Diamond took over ownership of the kiln. The business began to struggle in the 1880’s and seems to have ceased operations in 1887.

Documented or marked examples of pottery of this period, whether Bailey or Diamond pottery, are very rare. The earthenware used in our region was likely made here or across the river in Delaware. The examples in the collection of the Salem County Historical Society are unmarked with two exceptions. The first is a piece marked “Miz. H. Acton” on one side and “1836” on the other, and is believed to have been made for Harriet Acton, the wife of Richard Acton. It is sometimes said to have been made by Richard Acton, but there is no evidence that Richard Acton worked as a potter, and so it is more likely that it was made by William Diamond to be given to Harriet as a gift. The second is a rare piece signed by William Diamond. It was made for a “Mrs. Benjamin Burt”, and dated “Nov. 4, 1852”.

Earthenware in Salem County is no longer an industry, but is now a craft. Individual artists still make decorative earthenware pieces, carrying on an art that started here thousands of years ago. But the mass production of earthenware for everyday use is now part of our history.

(to be continued)



Redware buttermilk batter pitcher attributed to William Diamond, 1852.

Genealogically Speaking
Civil War Veterans
1890 Census
Upper Pittsgrove Township

Form: SPECIAL SCHEDULE, SERVING SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND MARINES, AND WIDOWS, ETC.

Supervisor's District No. 5
 Enumeration District No. 288

Persons who served in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps of the United States during the war of the rebellion (two are survivors), and widows of such persons, in Upper Pittsgrove County of Delaware State of Delaware, enumerated in June, 1890.

No.	Name of Surviving Soldier, Sailor, or Marine, and Widow, etc.	Rank	Age	Date of Discharge	Date of Birth	Date of Marriage	Length of Service	Remarks	
								1	2
1	Melchior Bristol	Private	45	1862	1825		10	1	
2	Philip S. Reeves	Private	40	1850	1825		10	1	
3	Joseph S. Coles	Private	35	1855	1825		10	1	
4	Nathaniel F. Wilkinson	Private	30	1860	1830		10	1	
5	Alfred Simkins	Private	25	1865	1840		10	1	
6	William Lawrence	Private	20	1870	1850		10	1	
7	Effinger Kern	Private	15	1875	1860		10	1	
8	Stacy Moore	Private	10	1880	1870		10	1	
9	Edward R. Archer	Private	5	1885	1880		10	1	
10	Jacob Wise	Private	0	1890	1890		10	1	
11	Moses J. Paulding	Private	0	1890	1890		10	1	
12	Henry S. Paulding	Private	0	1890	1890		10	1	

- Melchior Bristol
 - Philip S. Reeves
 - Joseph S. Coles
 - Nathaniel F. Wilkinson
 - Alfred Simkins
 - William Lawrence
 - Effinger Kern
 - Stacy Moore
 - Edward R. Archer
 - Jacob Wise
 - Moses J. Paulding
 - Henry S. Paulding
- [www.ancestry.com]

Library Acquisitions:

- Beardsley, Joseph** (in memory of Lynn and Mildred Beardsley), Poland, ME. Book entitled, "Mill Hollow Revisited: Your Heritage and Mine," by Joseph Beardsley. (2016.011)
 - Chambers, Kevin**, Ocean Grove, NJ. A number of deeds relating to Pittsgrove Township and possibly relating to the Alliance Colony. (2016.014)
 - Forry, Sonia L.**, Cape May Court House, NJ. Land deed relating to the Berkowitz family in Pittsgrove Township, NJ. (2016.013)
 - Goslin, James M.** (in memory of Mary T. Goslin), Woodstock, GA. Postcard and photographs relating to Riverview Beach Park, and materials relating to James Thompson Goslin. (2015.072)
 - Goslin, James M.** (in memory of Mary T. Goslin), Woodstock, GA. War ration books relating to the Tilley family. (2016.012)
 - Harker, Curt** (in memory of Bill and Marge Brown), Salem, NJ. Genealogical materials relating to the Brown family of Salem County, as well miscellaneous photographs and negative slides of Salem City in the late 1970s. (2016.003)
 - Holdcraft, Virginia** (in memory of Joyce Park Jordan Toppin), Woodbury Heights, NJ. Photographs of Walter Harbison Jordan, Josephine T. Horner and William Elwell Pancoast. (2016.002)
 - Magill, Ronald**, Salem, NJ. Photograph entitled, "View from Historical Society, Salem," dated May 1, 1959 depicting an above view of the Stone Barn. (2016.005)
 - Salem High School Alumni Association**, Salem, NJ. Salem High School Yearbook, 2016. (2016.018)
 - Powell, Jim**, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Two mid-19th century tintypes of Joseph Denelsbeck and Lem Denelsbeck of Upper Pittsgrove Township, NJ. (2015.078)
 - Shockley, Shirley**, Penns Grove, NJ. Photographs of the Salem County Exchange Club 1959, Salem County Auto Dealers Association 1951 and an advertisement card for the Palace Theater circa 1938. (2016.007)
 - Shockley, Shirley**, Penns Grove, NJ. Materials relating to reconstruction of the Salem County Courthouse, Electoral College nominees for the election of 1836 and 1837, Mortgages and deeds relating to Sinnickson, Ray and House families. (2016.015)
- (to be continued)

Gift Memberships

What a great gift idea for family or friends with ties to Salem County!

A gift membership to the Salem County Historical Society includes many special features available only through the end of the year.

Gift memberships come in a special gift package that can be sent to you, or directly to the recipient.

Simply fill in the membership form on the bottom of page 35 and attach a note with your contact information and the contact information for the individual or family receiving the gift.

For the same cost as the regular memberships, your gift membership package will also include:

- **Charming personalized gift package**
- **A copy of Place Names of Salem County**
- **A set of 6 Grant House note cards**
- **3 postcards of the Salem Oak**
- **A \$5 coupon towards program fees**



SHEEP LOST.— A large flock of sheep, numbering some 900, belonging to James Waddington, of Salem, came down on the "Major" on Wednesday. They were so crowded that 31 of the number were unfortunately smothered before reaching the wharf.

National Standard, Salem, NJ, September 23, 1863

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Pennsgrove Happenings

The laying of the corner stone of the **St. Paul Church**, took place on Thursday afternoon of last week. The services were opened by the pastor, Rev. J. H. Hutchinson. Revs. J. H. Payran and J. B. Tarpin, two former pastors of this charge, and Presiding Elder, Rev. J. B. Graw, also addressed the meeting. After the speaking a collection was taken, which amounted to over \$400.
National Standard, Salem, NJ, October 22, 1884

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Maurice W. Ayars,
Mullica Hill, NJ

Lester Cuff, Jr.,
Stratham, NH

Richard F. Maske,
Barnegat, NJ

Kit and Fred Winter,
Manassas, VA

John E. Davis,
Wilmington, DE

Howard W. Thorn,
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Family

Frank and Elizabeth Robbins,
Salem, NJ

Oaktree

Robert L. Davis,
Pennsville, NJ

In Memoriam

David Kline,
Woodstown, NJ

Donald E. Sharp,
Harmersville, NJ

Claire Saunderlin Smick,
Elsinboro, NJ

Dorothy Trucksess Toulson,
Salem, NJ

*Yes, I would like to become a member of the
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Name _____ **New Member Renewal or Gift**

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Please make	Please circle your desired category	checks payable to the
Student	\$10	We also have Business & Corporate Membership Opportunities!
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Contributing	\$250	For more information on how your business can become members of the Society, please call 856-935-5004
Lifetime	\$500	

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

PHOTO ID PLEASE!



Unidentified photographs in the collection remain a perennial perplexity!

This photograph of the employees of the Salem Knitting Mills was taken in 1901. The photo was donated by Anna Quay (nee Long), daughter of William and Florence Long (nee Gaskill). Mr. & Mrs. Long both worked at the Knitting Mills. Florence Long is seen in the above photo— Row 3, 5th from the right. John P. Sheppard established the very successful Salem Knitting Mills, also known as the “stocking factory”, on Walnut Street, by converting the old Mosacsa skating rink into a factory. Destroyed by fire in 1893, he rebuilt the factory seen in this photo. The business was again destroyed by the Good Friday fire in April 1912.

Please help by identifying the people in the photo.

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 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 the Department of State, through the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.



Salem County Historical Society
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