

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Salem County Historical Society

Founded July 31, 1884

Volume 65, Issue No. 3 Fall 2020 (ISSN 1525-0983)

Salem Countians on the Frontline of the Global Pandemic of 1918

By: Mike Dixon

In the summer 2019 issue, we examined the pandemic of 1918, which brought terrible death and suffering to Salem County. When that piece appeared in the Newsletter, no one could have guessed that in six months, another pandemic of historic proportions, the novel coronavirus of 2020, would rip across the world, shutting Salem County down for months while public health officials struggle to control the pathogen's spread. Thus, as the nation battles the COVID-19 outbreak, the Newsletter takes a further look at the fight against the disease here 102-years-ago.

When the Spanish flu crept into Salem County in October 1918, few people initially took notice of the mysterious killer that came calling in distant corners of the County, out along the Delaware River. The pathogen, seizing hold in those pockets, hit Fort Mott, and the DuPont Powder Works hard. Of the 210 men garrisoned at the Fort, 80 were in the hospital with influenza at one time.¹ Furthermore, with World War I winding down, the Central Powers in Europe unraveling on all fronts, patriotic citizens focused on preparing to celebrate victory and welcome the boys home.

Once the virus slipped beyond these military and industrial hubs, it spread swiftly with a devastating sweep across the mostly rural landscape. When the Board of Health finally tallied up the toll from influenza the following year, the annual report noted that deaths in the County increased nearly 50 percent over 1917, an additional 226 people passing away. Upper Penns Neck Township experienced the highest mortality rate, 2.6%. Salem City, Woodstown, Elmer, and Penns Grove also suffered greatly. Lower Alloways Creek had the lowest death rate, 1.2% (see table 1 for details by township).²



ONE OF THE VERY EFFECTIVE WAYS OF SPREADING PRECAUTIONARY ADVICE.

Various public safety messages from 1918. Source: Illinois Health Department via Chicago Public Library Digital Collections.

SALEM COUNTY.

NAME OF PLACE.	Births.		Marriages.		Deaths.	
	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.
Alloway Township	18	22	15	8	27	19
Elmer Borough	24	19	15	11	21	23
Elisiboro Township	3	7	1	2	7	5
Lower Alloways Creek Township ..	25	17	3	4	11	13
Lower Penns Neck Township	36	33	10	9	21	36
Mannington Township	21	25	12	9	19	32
Oldman Township	42	28	2	18	21	20
Penns Grove Borough	174	153	50	54	80	130
Pittsgrove Township	34	29	11	6	15	24
Pittsgrove Township	27	25	13	5	12	21
Quinton Township	28	16	7	7	14	18
Salem City	180	162	88	45	120	166
Upper Penns Neck Township	223	210	3	7	65	163
Upper Pittsgrove Township	23	46	7	6	19	23
Woodstown Borough	21	29	25	15	39	53
Total	870	821	262	206	500	726

NJ Spanish Flu Deaths (image identified) The New Jersey Board of Health Annual Report provided the vital statistics for 1918.

In this topsy-turvy world, a striking, unrivaled silence fell on this corner of New Jersey, as public health boards ordered quarantines and other measures at the top of October. Not a church bell rang, while on the streets few people, automobiles, or other vehicles were around for most of the month as assemblies were called off, and businesses closed their doors while people tended to stay away from each other.

While things came to a standstill in much of the County, essential workers toiled away day and night, struggling to alleviate the suffering. These often-forgotten, overextended frontline personnel were the heroes of 1918, just as our overworked critical hands are today as they fight the coronavirus.

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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.



Message From the President

Dear Reader:

Public Health is normally a behind the scenes activity but has taken center stage for our 2020 pandemic. In the 1930's my grandmother contracted tuberculosis and was assigned to the Camden County sanatorium. Her daughter (my mother) lived with her. As a child in the early 1960's I remember enjoying the polio vaccine sugar cube.

This quarter's main article continues the history of the 1918 Pandemic in Salem County. I hope that the Society's newsletters provide glimpses into the past showing how Salem County ancestors banded together to take on tough times.

The Society's museum is now open by appointment for tours. Our museum committee volunteers have come onsite to prepare of an exhibit on the Salem County glass industry. The Library Committee will be continuing cataloging documents and selecting those for conservation. Staff have also returned to the facility to aid the committees in planning of the Society.

The Society's reopening has be staged and may include permanent changes for access, touring and research. Your patience is appreciated and feel free to make suggestions as we interpret the regulations to maximize staff and visitor safety.

I'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Curtis W. Harker, President

*Please note: A number of Society events were postponed or canceled this year due to COVID-19.

They are as follows:

- Salem County Revolutionary Driving Caravan Tour (in conjunction with the Hancock House) was scheduled for March 13th
- Spring Open House Tour, Saturday, May 2nd
- June Quarterly meeting, Sunday, June 14th
- Annual Luncheon, Sunday, September 14th
- John S. Rock Memorial Lecture, Sunday, October 18th
- December Quarterly Meeting, Sunday, December 6th

The Society relies on income from these events and greatly appreciates any extra support you can provide this year in lieu of these social gatherings. Should you wish to make a donation to our organization during this closure please do not hesitate to contact us.

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 39 and attach a note with your contact information and the contact information for the individual or family receiving the gift.

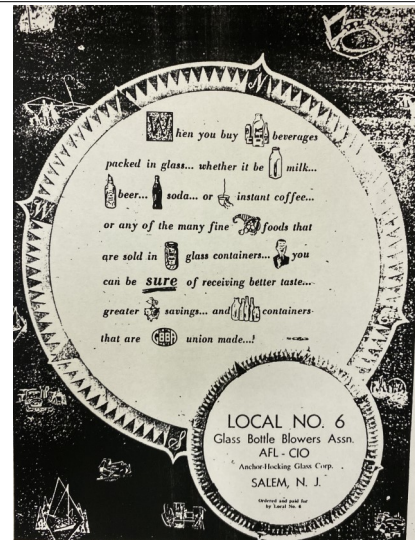
For the same cost as the regular memberships, your gift membership package will also include:

- ◆ 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



Upcoming Exhibit News!

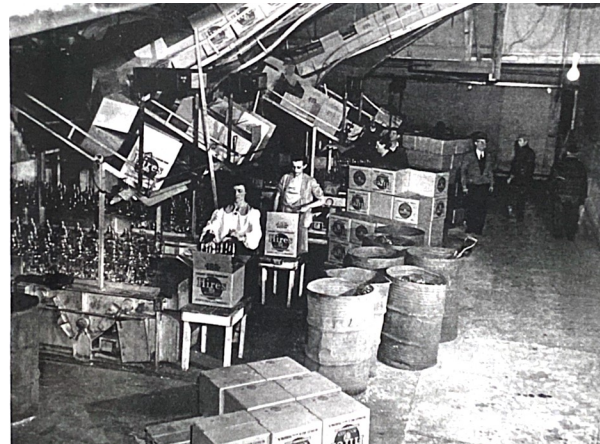
The Museum Committee has been developing an upcoming exhibit on the glass industry in Salem County. In 1738 Caspar Wistar, a German immigrant from Philadelphia, acquired over 2,000 acres of land in Alloway for the start of the first successful glass factory in North America. From 1739 to 1781, Wistarburg produced windowpanes, bottles, and other containers. After Wistarburg's closure, glass production in Salem County ceased until 1862 with the start of Salem Glass Works. Several subsequent factories will be highlighted in the new exhibit including: Quinton, Gayner, Alva, Elmer, Anchor Hocking, and Ardagh Glass Works. This exhibit will seek to highlight the economic and historical impact of the glass industry in Salem County, which by 1880 employed over 24,000 people. Electrical work has been completed in the glass room and display cases are currently being assembled. Objects have been selected and the committee remains in the middle stages of organizing a cohesive historical narrative while following social distancing guidelines. Be on the lookout for future Facebook posts regarding the committees progress on the exhibit!



Advertisement for Anchor-Hocking Glass Corp., Salem, NJ. *From the collection*



Gayner Glassworks—1943—Blowing glass by mouth. Jim Davis, Sam Shorts (white hat) Raymond “Snapper” Drummond (hand on hip), John Shorts—center. *From the collection*



Packing Machine-Made Bottles at Gayner Glass Works. *From the collection*

NEW 2020 HOLIDAY ORNAMENT



Our new 2020 ornament this year goes hand in hand with our upcoming Glass Industry Exhibit! This image is an example of the first glass company in the country. Wistarburg Glassworks was located in Alloway Township, Salem County, NJ, and was in operation from 1738 through c. 1775. The cost is \$25.00 plus tax for non-members, and \$20.00 plus tax for members!



Limited Quantity!

Last year's 2019 ornament is still available, the famous Salem Oak Tree! Get yours before they are all gone!!

ALEXANDER'S ANNALS

50 YEARS AGO

The Monitor-Register, Woodstown, NJ
September 1970

- Mrs. George Hitchner's Nursery School starts October 5th in the Educational Building of the First Baptist Church.
- Tax Collection shows Salem County as the state's 'Poor Country Cousin'.
- John Ford Evans, Jr. is appointed staff assistant to President Nixon's Domestic Council.
- Descendants of John and Amanda Dorrell hold their 11th family reunion.
- Melinda Flitcraft crowned the New Jersey State Dairy Princess.
- St. Mary's School, Salem, has first male teacher—Francis J. McCool.
- Roast Turkey Dinner—Mt. Zion A. M. E. Church, Fenwick—\$1.75—Mrs. Martha Ford Johnson, Sponsor.
- The new entrance of the Woodstown United Presbyterian Church dedicated.
- Red Delicious Apples—3 pound bag—39¢—A & P.

75 YEARS AGO

Penns Grove Record, Penns Grove, NJ
September 1945

- Penns Grove plans Victory Parade as "the most elaborate affair" this community has ever seen.
- South Jersey School of Refrigeration & Air Conditioning will open November 15th. See R. Weiser, Penns Grove.
- Mapleway Bowling Alley will open for the season September 4th.
- Bishop Eustace orders parochial schools closed Wednesday to Monday "because of the prevalence of poliomyelitis".
- The ban on voluntary enlistments in the Marines has been lifted.
- Nick's Café, West Pitman Street, has grand opening of its bocci alley.
- 108 dogs take part in the first field trial of the Salem County Beagle Club in East Woodstown.
- Meet your friends at Tom's Tavern on Hook Road—formerly Smitty's Café.

There have been over **2,000 cases of influenza** in Salem and vicinity, with 29 deaths from influenza and pneumonia in Salem since October 1, according to the reports of the Health Officer, Harry Hitchner. The hospital organization was in perfect running order by Friday. Mrs. W. H. Hazelton has had charge at night. Procuring and preparation of food has been under direction of Mrs. John F. Prendergast. Mrs. Howard C. Whitehead has shown commendable executive ability. The trained nurse who was sent from New York is Miss Irene Moore, and she was accompanied by Mrs. Charles R. Lloyd as assistant.

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, October 18, 1918

Presbyterian Corner Stone Laying

"The weather was fine and the congregation a thousand at the corner stone laying for the new Union Presbyterian Church at the corner of Shell Road and Walker Avenue last Sunday afternoon.

"Previous to the event Governor William N. Runyon and forty men officials of the Church and duPont works dined at the club house.

"As the stone was lifted into place the laying on of spiritual hands was made by Rev. O. Bell Close, Carlisle, F. J. Jewett and J. O. R. Cortias. In the stone were put a Bible, records of the Church and a *Penns Grove Record*. The only inscription on it is "1919."

"Special music was given by the duPont Dye Works Band, Chorister, Lawrence Nilson and soloist McFadden. Governor Runyon's presence was of no political significance. He came because of an old acquaintance and friendship of the pastor, and is interested in church work."

Penns Grove Record, Penns Grove, NJ,
September 19, 1919

THEIR GOAL IS \$37,500



"Employees of the local plant of the Anchor Hosking Glass Corporation, headed by this committee, are out to raise \$37,500 enough to purchase a small tank, an ambulance and a jeep, in the Fifth War Loan which started on Monday.

"Kneeling, left to right, are B. Chapman, H. Horner, J. Irwin, J. Baker, E. Williams, chairman, and M. Noonan.

"Standing are R. Bone, plant manager, J. Hunter, R. Seabock, D. Lehew, R. Channel, J. Seagraves, L. Finlaw, R. Tiger, H. Harvey, H. Wentzell, R. Dickinson, J. Milligan, R. Felton and E. Friebel."

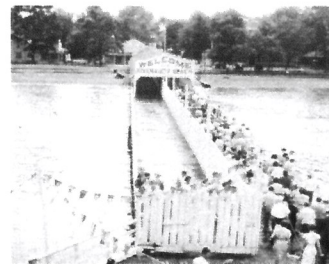
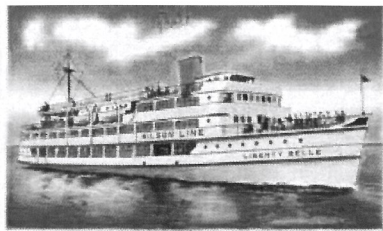
Salem Standard and Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, June 15, 1944

WILL BUILD NEW CHURCH

"The contract for the erection of the new Mount Hope Church has been awarded to Joseph P. Morgan. The work of demolishing the old church on East Broadway will be started at once and work on the new edifice will begin about July 14. The new church is to cost \$30,000."

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, June 27, 1919

Record Crowds at Riverview Beach

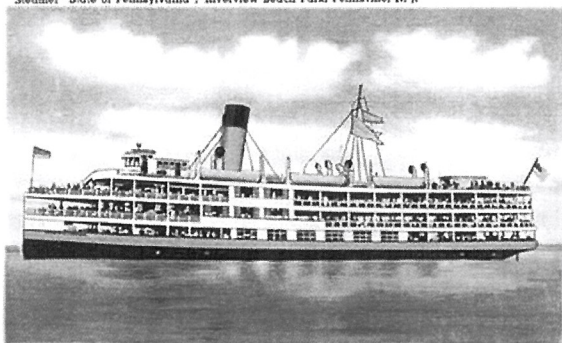


Ideal Weather on The Fourth Brought Estimated Patronage of 35,000 People to Resort Not An Accident

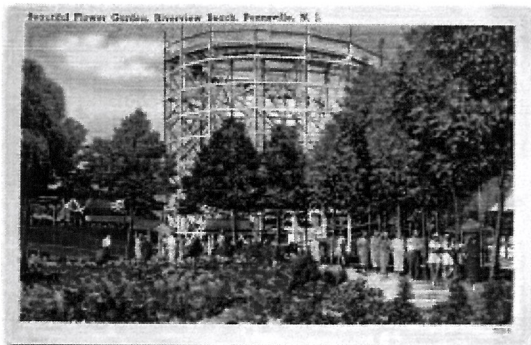
“The weatherman certainly handed out his best brand of weather for pleasure seekers bound for a day of fun and amusement on the Fourth, and judging by the crowds that selected Riverview Beach as the ideal spot, the day was truly an enjoyable one.

“The first boat from Wilmington arrived at 8:30 A. M. with a comfortable load, and every hour brought thousands more on the ferries, via trolleys and automobiles. The two big boats of the Wilson Line steamed in with flags flying and a capacity crowd of four thousand each.

Steamer "State of Pennsylvania", Riverview Beach Park, Pennsville, N. J.



“Due a cool west wind the bathing beach was not quite as well filled as in previous years, but young and old seemed to be enjoying the rides and the various amusements. The rockery, the new electric fountain and the many beautiful flower beds attracted the attention of those who enjoy the milder form of entertainment.



“We are so accustomed in these modern times to speak of big figures that the mere mention of 35,000 people in one group attracts but little attention. However, when we stop to consider that in a park the type of River view Beach, the safety, comfort and entertaining of this great number must be carefully planned for from many angles, then it really makes one stop and wonder how it is all worked out.

“While Manager Acton modestly admits that he has been fortunate, we are inclined to think that a large part of the successful handling of so many people has been due to his constant forethought for the comfort and pleasure of his patrons.

“During the entire day and evening last Friday there was not an accident nor an arrest reported, surely an enviable record for Mr. Acton in handling a crowd of 35,000 guests.

“Not only does this attractive, well managed park furnish clean, wholesome amusement to the people of this locality, but over 90 percent of all the supplies used are purchased in the county, as well as drawing on the local supply of labor for practically every position in the Park. In other works it is strictly a Salem county enterprise.



“It is also interesting that in allowing parking space for nearly 3,000 automobiles on the Fourth, two fields containing approximately 15 acres each were required. As great as the parking space it within the Park grounds every available space was taken Friday last and a tract on the opposite side of the road had to be opened up. The streets and all other available parking space was taken, so one can get a faint impression of what a throng of people gathered at Pennsville.

“Even with the thousands of cars one patron remarked, “They always give you enough room to get your car out.” The parking grounds are always kept in good condition, are electrically lighted and policed, trees planted for shade and this section for the automobiles I free to the public the entire season, except Sundays and holidays....

“No one can dispute the fact that Riverview Beach is the ideal amusement resort of the East.”

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem NJ, July 9, 1938

(continued from cover)

These Salem Countians, the flu fighters of 1918, stood at the epicenter of the local battle 102-years-ago, as the contagion raged unchecked with no cures available. In the troop of people delivering vital services, doctors and nurses stood on the front line. Alongside these bedside caregivers, the druggists, telephone operators, undertakers, Red Cross volunteers, and gravediggers played an equally essential role as the invisible virus ripped unchecked across South Jersey.

Local physicians on the home front for this fight steadied themselves



Tow nurses and two patients. Memorial Hospital of Salem County interior, undated.
From the William Harris Photography

for the battle with the invisible bug when the contagion crept into boroughs and townships in 1918. 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, alongside various treatments previously used for respiratory diseases. 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.³

Throughout late September and October, the County's doctors kept on the move, rushing from home to home day and night while snatching brief rest periods. They found it necessary to give daily attention to only the most critically ill as the medical men received more calls than they could handle, their ranks already thinned by military duty. Also, some fell victim to the malady, it being reported that Salem's Dr. Ewen was in very serious condition. Then, the sickness compelled Dr. Hummell to take to bed after handling 750 cases. With trained clinicians overstretched, Dr. N. S. Hires, who hadn't practiced for years, volunteered his service. It was apparent that the practicing physicians had far more than they could handle.^{4,5}

In this time of grave disruption, phone company operators and linemen stood out as a group of essential workers struggling to maintain a vital service. War-related communications needs had already increased demand on the wires, straining the network. Then the pandemic added to the heavy load.

This silent killer struck some of its first victims at the Powder Works. That September, before community spread took place, a large force of Bell Telephone men worked to install additional lines and switchboards for DuPont. But influenza hit them hard, practically shutting down the work. Later, the operators at the county seat's Western Union Telegraph Office came down with the bug, so that important communications work was transferred to the railroad station where ticket agent Lester Swain started receiving and sending all telegraphic dispatches.

With the growing public health emergency switchboards in boroughs all around the County received more and more calls as additional

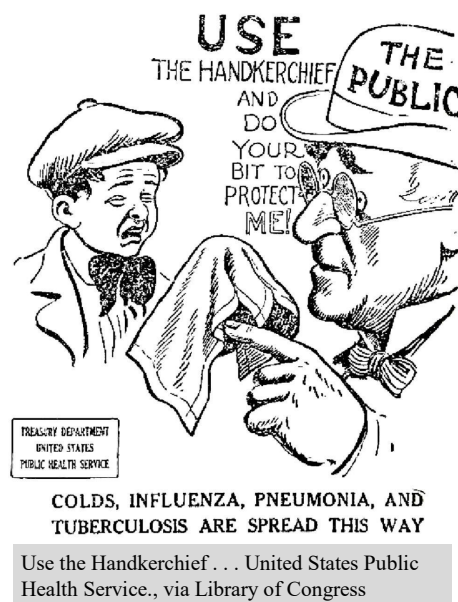
families fell victim to the flu. Plus, people became more or less afraid to mingle in public places, so they left their homes as infrequently as possible, but this too increased social and business transactions over the wires.

At this time, the network depended on local telephone exchanges in the towns, the operators working in tight quarters connecting callers at the switchboard. These "hello girls" sat closely together, almost elbow to elbow, with other workers. Thus, when the contagion started rampaging at every point, the illness struck the central stations, depleting the ranks of operators at the same time sickness and the quarantine increased calls.

"Central had literally been shot to pieces by influenza," in Salem City, is how Manager Harry W. Enos described the situation as his operators worked under a severe handicap. The few girls that luckily escaped the infection had been going to the limit of endurance, doing the work of twice their numbers.

Manager Enos urged phone subscribers to cut out every unnecessary call. "Visiting over the telephone was popular and much indulged in," he observed. And, since many unimportant calls were made, if there was "conservation of conversation over the wires," there would be service for the doctors, druggists, undertakers, and other vital business. In these days of very much illness, these unnecessary calls overloaded the struggling girls and interfered with critical service.⁶

As Salem County didn't have a hospital, one of the first measures implemented was the establishment of a temporary emergency hospital at the First Baptist Church in the City. Before the emergency hospital hastily opened, patients needing hospitalization were transported to Bridgeton or Camden. Mrs. W. Hazelton took charge of the treatment center, and she had a corps of capable local ladies assisting with patient care.⁷



From the onset of this emergency in Salem County, the sick and ill relied on the ladies to provide most palliative care. They took charge of caring for the stricken in the "flu homes," sitting up all night with ill family members and neighbors. This day-to-day care in the sick homes required constant attention, providing the person down with the flu liquids and nourishment, keeping the room ventilated, making sure they were warm enough, and administering whatever remedies doctors could provide to alleviate suffering. As the contagion rampaged across the land, the work was especially hard as frequently entire households became infected.

When entire households became stricken, weakened families struggled to survive as there was no one to care for the children and the sick. One of the saddest situations, newspapers remarked, was at the farm of Clement Lippincott in Mannington Township, where both Mr. and Mrs. Warren Nixon passed away, leaving a family of six small children. The youngest was about six weeks old and the oldest eight years. In those difficult circumstances, the local Red Cross volunteers stepped forward, the ladies nursing the stricken in the household.⁸

VOLUNTEER NURSES	
Following is a list of the volunteer nurses at the hospital:	
Miss Cornelia Prior,	Mrs. Edmund Shimp,
Mrs. Harry G. Lippincott,	Mrs. Clinton Brown,
Miss Dix,	Miss Frances Keen,
Mrs. John Radcliffe,	Miss Georgie Beck,
Mrs. R. O. H. Campbell,	Mrs. Morris Stratton,
Mrs. Dale S. Taylor,	Miss Miriam Davis,
Mrs. Howard B. Keasbey,	Mrs. Keasbey Smith,
Miss Ella Pierpont,	Miss Adelaide Sinnickson,
Mrs. George Schrier,	Miss Bessie K. Hires,
Mrs. L. E. Hires,	Mrs. William H. Chew,
Mrs. George S. Smith,	Miss Sunderlain,
Miss Margaret M. Ingham,	Mrs. Walter Smith,
Mrs. A. A. Jenkins,	Miss Mary Ryan,
Mrs. William H. Hazelton,	Mrs. Saada,
Mrs. William Brown,	Mrs. J. B. Campbell,
Miss Marion Green,	Mrs. John Smith,
Mrs. DHKs,	Miss Lena Magsam,
Mrs. Austin Harris,	Mrs. T. H. Clayton,
Miss Hooker.	

OUTSIDE NURSES	
Following is the list of volunteer nurses that have been doing duty in the homes:	
Mrs. Joseph B. Wiley,	Miss Brickman,
Mrs. Howard Royal,	the Misses Weigel,
Miss Eleanor G. Holme,	Miss Ida. K. Lawrence,
Miss Frances Mecum,	Mrs. Louis Hoelzel,
Miss Dora Waddington,	Mrs. Thomas F. Waddington,
Mrs. R. H. Butcher,	Mrs. W. A. Loder,
Miss Margaret Griscom,	Miss Elizabeth Hilliard,
Mrs. George W. Beck,	Miss Aurora Steelman,
Miss Alice Griscom,	Mrs. Davidson,
Mrs. George House,	Mrs. Biddie Hiles,
Mrs. Maria S. Bitter,	Miss May Dorrell,
Mrs. W. A. Loder,	Miss Anne Dickeson.

Salem County's Volunteer Nurses and Outside Nurses.

Salem Sunbeam, Oct. 18, 1918

One day at the emergency hospital, there was unusual bustle and preparation, as "old Mr. Stork" visited. "When he departed, there was a fine, husky man-child there to comfort the mother and to the delight of the nurses and attendants. Even the other patients forgot their sufferings long enough to join in the rejoicing with the parent," the Sunbeam reported. Mr. Burt, he had "no front name as yet," was doing very well in his temporary home and his mother too, and in due time he would take up his permanent home at the family residence on Front Street in the City.⁹

Owing to the unprecedented number of deaths, the undertakers were on the go day and night, hearses rolling along township roads and country lanes. At Ashcroft's Morgue in Penns Grove, a pathetic site took place with fathers, husbands, wives, and children weeping for their loved ones. Within a half-hour, one Sunday, six corpses arrived at the morgue, as 30 bodies waited to be embalmed. At Gross's Undertaking Parlor, there were six bodies without caskets to bury them in.¹⁰

Complicating the difficulties, many of those who cared for the dead feel ill. Funeral Director Roy Allen was down with the flu for at least ten days, and all the members of his family were sick. In Penns Grove, Ben Noal, one of the borough's undertakers was stricken. Also, the pandemic filled cemeteries in its wake, the gravediggers being worn out from opening so many graves.¹¹ When it became impossible at the Eastview Cemetery to have all the burial plots ready, Sheriff Mifflin sent a half-dozen inmates from the Road Camp to help with the digging.¹²

The druggists, from every corner of the County, toiled away too as the cases multiplied, providing vitally needed medications. Antiseptics by the gallon, atomizers by the dozens, and countless vials of patent medicines, passed over drug store counters at Dixon & Fogg, Andrews & Co & Tuchy & Lounsbury (Salem), Shur Drugs (Penns Grove) and elsewhere.¹³ But the most significant contribution from this army of professional pharmacists was filling doctor's prescriptions. Alongside their clerks, exhausted stood for long hours at their workbenches, welding the pestle and mortar. They counted, poured, measured, ground, and compounded chemicals, incessantly filling physician scripts to

alleviate the misery.

Toward the end of October, the suffering and death declined, so the Salem City Board of Health lifted the quarantine on Wednesday, October 30, 1918, at 3 pm for businesses and churches, but the order still held for schools and Sunday Schools. The quarantine, which included restrictions on funerals, along with the closing of schools, movie houses, dance halls, pool halls churches, and other places of public assembly, had been in place for practically the entire month.

A "mighty sigh of relief went up from the people when the action became known, the Sunbeam remarked. That Wednesday morning, downtown Salem bustled with activity "that had not been seen there for several weeks." The owners of the ice cream parlors, hotels, and soda fountains were busy getting in shape for business. The moving picture houses announced they would reopen Saturday, but no one under the age of 15 could attend shows.¹⁴

The quarantine had been a great hardship on Salem County, but the residents adjusted to the new normal, cooperating, and doing their part without complaint. "Among the pastors and their people, there was great satisfaction and no adverse criticism because the ban" still held for Sunday Schools. Business places, the Sunbeam observed, had suffered an enormous loss in receipts, but they too did their part.¹⁵

In some ways, the events we are living through this year mirror the public interventions introduced here in the autumn of 1918. Today as our medical providers struggle to slow the spread of the coronavirus, we hear about quarantines, social distancing, sheltering-in-place, the wearing of masks, warnings not to gather in groups, along with the shuttering of non-essential activities. While we may use different terms, these public health concepts were familiar to people living here in 1918 as the words and actions from that age had the same goals.

In that topsy-turvy world 102-years-ago, Salem Countians had lived through a global tragedy, one of the worst ever to take place. Now this summer we are once again coping with an unprecedented public health emergency.

End Notes:

- ¹ "Heavy Toll at Fort Mott," *Salem Sunbeam*, Oct. 11, 1918, p.1
- ² Department of Health of the State of New Jersey, Forty-Second Annual Report, 1919, Trenton
- ³ Lüthy IA, Ritacco V, Kantor IN. A cien años de la gripe "española" [One hundred years after the "Spanish" flu]. *Medicina (B Aires)*. 2018;78(2):113-118.
- ⁴ "Epidemic Takes Heavy Death Toll," *Salem Sunbeam*, Oct. 18, 1918 p1
- ⁵ Polk's Medical Register and Directory of the United States and Canada, 1918 p. 990, R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers: Detroit
- ⁶ "Central Shot to Pieces," Nov. 1, 1918, Salem Standard and Jerseyman, Oct. 2, 1918
- ⁷ Mike Dixon, "When Death Came Calling, Salem County Needed a Hospital," *Quarterly Newsletter, Salem County Historical Society*. Vol. 64. No. 2, p. 1 – See this article for a full discussion on the hospital.
- ⁸ "Influenza Cases in City," *Salem Standard & Jerseyman*, Oct. 9, 1918, p.1
- ⁹ "Stork Pays Visit to Emergency Hospital," *Salem Sunbeam*, Oct. 18, 1918, p.1
- ¹⁰ "Penn's Grove & Carney's Point," *Salem Sunbeam*, Oct. 18, 1918, p.1
- ¹¹ "Epidemic Takes Heavy Death Tool," Salem Sun Beam, Oct. 18, 1918 p. 1
- ¹² "Sunday School Now Hospital," *Salem Sunbeam*, Oct. 11, 1918, p.1
- ¹³ "The Era Druggist Directory," 18th Edition, 1920, D.O. Haynes & Co. Publishers: New York
- ¹⁴ "Business as Usual in This City," *Salem Sunbeam*, Nov. 1, 1918 p. 1
- ¹⁵ Ibid



Mike Dixon is a historian and writer whose research and teaching focuses on community studies and social history. For nearly four decades, he has worked to encourage public interest and participation in the preservation of the past while creating understanding between earlier eras and the present.

More about Baptist Roots in Salem County

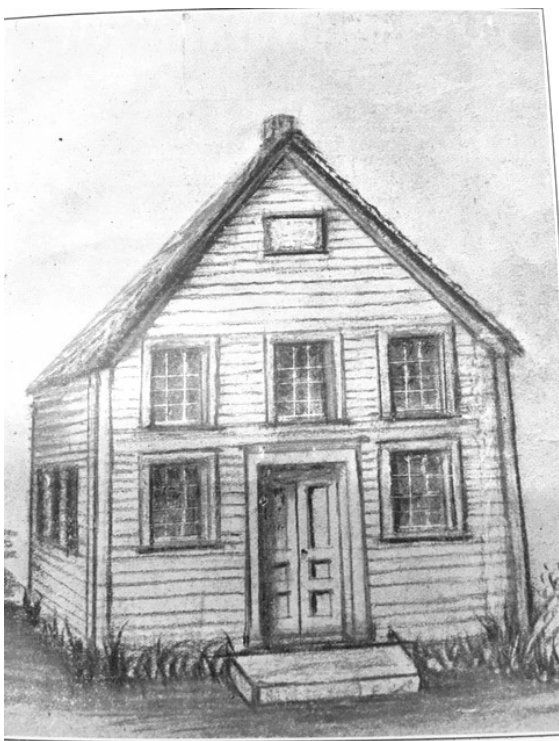
By: Ronald Magill

Following up on the informative and enjoyable information in the Summer 2020, Quarterly Newsletter (Volume 65, Issue No. 2), on the demolition of the former Baptist Church that stood in the cemetery on Yorke Street in Salem, perhaps more detail would be of interest. I knew of the church that had stood in the church yard on Yorke Street because my ancestor, Samuel Teal who was in the Salem Militia during the Revolutionary War is buried in close proximity to where the church stood. The church pictured in the Newsletter article did reveal that the building was a brick structure, which I had not known. However, this building was not the first church to be used by that historic congregation nor the last!

Not so long after John Fenwick settled the first permanent English colony in the Delaware Valley in 1675, other religious sects realized the relevance of the religious freedom being offered. Baptists were in New England, Rhode Island having been founded by Baptist Roger Williams, who also established the first Baptist Church in American at Providence, RI. It was from New England that the Rev. Timothy Brooks, with a small group of Baptists relocated from Swansea, Massachusetts to Bowentown, Cumberland County (then still a part of Salem County) around 1687.

It was from this small group of New England Baptists that the Cohansey Baptist Church was formally founded in 1690 as the first known Baptist Church in West Jersey. During this same time, other Baptists began to meet in homes on the west side of the Cohansey River in areas that today are in Salem County. As numbers of worshipers increased, a request was made to the Cohansey Church for a meetinghouse to be constructed in the Salem area. In 1743 a frame meetinghouse was constructed on ground given by Daniel Smith (whose house still stands on Route 49 in Quinton Township). This location is between Salem and the Alloways Creek, at a site called Mill Hollow based upon a tide-mill that stood in that area. This meetinghouse was said to be 22 feet by 30 ½ feet in size, with galleries on three sides. A burial ground was established around the building. That historic burying ground survives in Quinton Township and there lie Daniel Smith, who initially gave the ground, and Edward Quinton, for whom the village and Township are named.

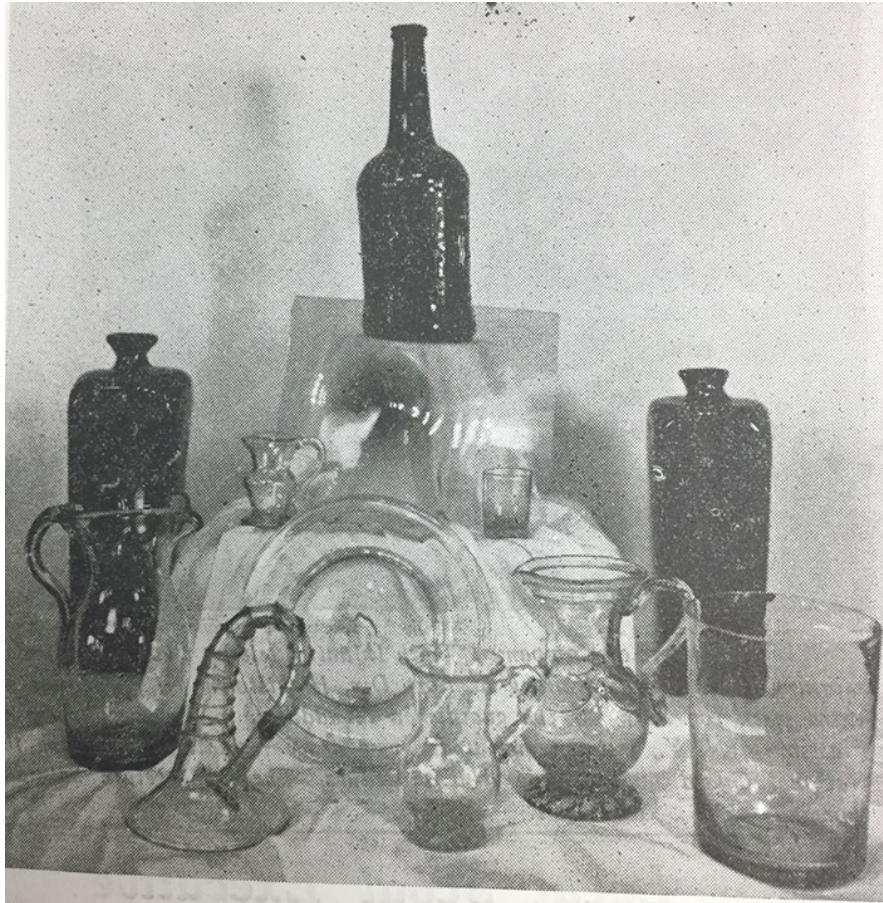
By the late 1780s the small congregation had grown, as had the town of Salem. Other denominations had established churches, and the members at Mill Hollow decided to build a larger church in Salem. Mrs. Mary Dunlap gave the initial one and a half acres of land on Yorke Street in Salem for a church and cemetery. The church on Yorke Street, discussed in the previous Quarterly Newsletter, served the congregation until 1846, when a new structure was built in the Greek Revival style, on West Broadway in Salem. That building remained Salem's sole Baptist Church until religious revivals in 1868-1869. At that time, 72 members of the First Baptist Church decided to separate and build another church. The newly formed congregation raised funds by subscription, purchased ground on the corner of Parrott (Seventh) Street and Fenwick (East Broadway), and the new building was dedicated as the Memorial Baptist Church in memory of the great revival that had occurred.



MILL HOLLOW - CELEBRATION

Sketch of church at Mill Hollow as published in the 1913 dedication pamphlet for the unveiling of the monument in the Mill Hollow Burying Ground.

WISTARBURG at the 1939 NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR



“The most striking exhibit of early American glass at the New York World’s Fair, 1939, was shown in the New Jersey Building and was honored by segregation in the room of the Commission on Historic Sites, where it attracted deserved attention. It was sponsored by the Salem County Historical Society.

“Just two hundred years ago [1739] Caspar Wistar contracted with Johan William Wentzell, Caspar Halter, Johan Marten Halter and Simeon Krusmier, German experts in glass blowing from Belgium, to teach him and his son Richard the art, and no one else, at his works near Alloway, formerly Thompson’s Bridge, Salem County, New Jersey.

“It was the first successful factory where flint glass was made in the Colonies. The business prospered with Salem County oak, barren sand and marl for a period of forty years, a long time as measured by the vicissitudes of the glassmaking industry then. In 1777 the excise on glint glass was doubled and it was the beginning of the end at Wistarburg. During the life of the factory timber, principally oak from two thousand acres, was used for fuel.

“The tools used in early glass making were few, nippers, shears, an iron pipe or tube and a punty. More depended on the tact and dexterity of the workman than in anything else. These Dutch makers had a fondness for rich amber brown and made many off hand pieces of this color with charcoal. It was also known as “Blackstrap”. A green flint they also made by using marl for color.

“Wistarburg was a great resort in sleighing time, visitors coming from far and near to see a sight so rare and so interesting as it was then. The batch was prepared and melted at night by burning oak wood which made a bright fire. Horns were made for the use of visitors to help liven the return trip home in the early hours of the morning. The one here portrayed was owned by Benjamin Tyler in 1787 and made at Wistarburg several years before.

“The three Dark Amber Gin Bottles (Blackstrap) show reliable indications of Wistarburg origin both in shape and color. The two square bottles were formerly owned by Captain William Smith of 1778 fame at Quinton’s bridge. “The Flip Glass is a distinguished piece with a life-history in the Wistar Family.

“Bulls Eye Window Glass was used for the embellishment of the frame house of Congressman Jacob Hufty on lower Market Street.

“Attention is called to three typical greenish Aquamarine “offhand” Pitchers in the exhibit here portrayed. The one on the right of Globular Body with Decoration of Ribbing and small crimped foot and semi-ear shaped handle with turned up end is endowed with its American origin.

“Some table ware was made at Wistarburg. The plate shown, an offhand product no doubt, was made by the workman for his own use.”

✂ Snippets from an Amateur Sleuth

Woodstown High Basketeers Third in League



“Phil Alampi’s Woodstown High School basketball team marks the close of a successful season, finishing third in the Tri-county League.

Front row, left to right: Irving Smith, f; Quentin Breidenback, g; David Lewis, g; Marvin Webb, f; George Howard, c; Charles Hannah, f.

Second row: Hildreth Flitcraft, f; Joseph Blight, c; Joseph Gemberling, f; William Avis, g; Harold Wilson, f.

Back row: Phillip Alampi, coach; Robert Johnson, manager. Absent from the photo is James Quinn, guard.”

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, March 23, 1938

THE TELEGRAPH

“The telegraph was completed, the latter part of this week, as far as the Railroad Depot in Claysville, and is now in working order, having an operator at this end. The delay in its completion has been caused by the necessary absence of Col. Lefferts, the principal contractor, on Government duty.

“It follows the line of the railroad to Camden, and is put up in substantial manner, with good cedar posts. Although designed particularly for the use of the company, and probably answering their purpose by having the terminus at the depot, it is the intention of the company to bring it to some convenient point in the city, easily accessible to the business portion of the community, whenever such a thing can be rendered practicable.

“The large number of trees on each side of the street presents obstructions to its passage through the streets, and a part of the property holders back of the main street as yet refuse to let it pass over their premises, even when placed along their line, so as not to interfere in the least with their agricultural operations. When this difficulty can be overcome, we shall be again placed in communication with the rest of mankind.

“Now, in an especial manner, while events of such momentous magnitude are constantly recurring, and the hopes and fears of so many patriot households are centered around the battle-fields, impatient for each tidings from the loved ones imperiled in their country’s cause, it would be extremely gratifying if the caprices and whims that selfishly array themselves against the march of improvement would cease, and all unite in forwarding the best interests of our common country, at least during this bout of her trying peril.”

National Standard, Salem, NJ, May 25, 1864

JHB SEP2020

“**Easy cure for the Ague** [fever and shivering]— When the fit is on take a new laid egg in a glass of brandy and go to bed immediately. This very simple receipt has cured a great many, after more celebrated preparations have proved unsuccessful.”

Salem Messenger, Salem, NJ, August 7, 1822

Made a Big Improvement

“**Paras Brothers** have made a very big improvement in their ice cream parlor and confectionery store in the Mecum Building. It has been papered and painted and made beautiful and inviting by decorations of palms and leaves and flowers. Paras Brothers, who recently came from Newark, have plenty of good ideas which they are putting into their business and making their place more attractive to their patrons.”

The Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, July 1, 1921



Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, June 22, 1939

COMMUNITY LAWN SERVICE

“Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Friends will unite in twilight community lawn services at Woodstown on Sunday evenings during July and August.”

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, June 1, 1923

TO PRESERVE THE TEETH

“Let finely pulverized charcoal be heated to redness in an iron kettle, and, while hot poured into a bowl of clean water. Put this immediately into a bottle and cork it tight.— When used, shake it up, take a small quantity in the mouth, and rub the teeth. Everything that renders the breath unpleasant, and is injurious and destructive to the teeth, will be removed. Or if a dry powder is preferred, the charcoal may be put into the phial and secured from the air by a tight cork.

“This is the cheapest, the most convenient, and effectual preservative for the teeth. There is nothing about it unpleasant or injurious; while many of the tooth powders that one peddled about the country as a sure elixir, are unpleasant to the taste, detrimental to the health, injurious to the gums, and destructive to the teeth; and others of these wonderful preparations, are nothing but pulverized charcoal, which anyone may prepare for himself in fifteen minutes, & thus save his twenty-five cents. *Chemist*”

Salem Messenger, Salem, NJ, May 16, 1827

Woodstown To Erect New Church

“The old edifice of the Morning Star Baptist congregation is fast disappearing, making the grounds available for a new building.”

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, June 8, 1944

A FINE VESSEL

“—Mr. James Lock launched from his ship yard on Salem creek on Tuesday 25th ult., one of the prettiest vessels that has been built in this neighborhood for a long time. She is certainly a model, and reflects credit upon her builder.

“She is owned by Wm. T. Goodwin and H. Smith Bright, and is intended as a trader. Our old friends, Wise & Thomas of Philadelphia furnished her outfit, and from the Commodore’s experience in such matter, little doubt is entertained as to the quality of the materials.

“Messrs. G. & B. in her construction had particular reference to making her a superior craft for “bay excursions,” and pleasure parties will find she possesses everything for their comfort and her owners as skillful and accommodating as any on the river.

“We are glad to learn that vessel building and repairing keep the several yards in this vicinity in active employment.”

National Standard, Salem, NJ, June 2, 1852

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Groundskeeper: *William Jackson*
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Membership Report:

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 Westfield, NJ

Lifetime Membership:
 Priscilla Glasow
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STORK PAYS VISIT TO EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

Brings Husky Little American Boy to Mother Amid Strange Surroundings

If people passing up or down Broadway yesterday afternoon about half past four o'clock had looked up a little higher than the town clock, they might have seen something different from the time of day. We say they might have seen it but then they might not, because old Mr. Stork is rather modest and while he perched on the tower that adorns the First Baptist Church he was not trying to attract undue attention. But he was there nevertheless, and there was unusual bustle and preparation for his reception in the emergency hospital, erstwhile the Sunday School room. For he it understood that the Stork does not come empty-handed.

He paused at a cot occupied by a victim of the influenza, and when he departed there was a fine, husky man-child there to comfort the mother and to the delight of the nurses and attendants. Even the other patients forgot their sufferings long enough to join in the rejoicing with the parent.

Mr. Burt, he has no front name as yet, is doing very well in his temporary home and his mother is too. In due course of time he will take up his permanent home at the family residence on Front street.

Of course no one would presume to dictate, but it has been suggested that as he chose a Baptist church for his debut he should be named John.

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, October 18, 1918

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



Name _____ New Member, Renewal or Gift

Address _____

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Telephone _____ Email _____

Please circle your desired category

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Partner	\$100	Goodwin Providers \$500-\$999
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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	

Please make checks payable to the Salem County Historical Society. The Society now accepts credit card payments for

new memberships, renewals, and upgrades through our secure website: www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

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

Photo I.D. Please



Photograph of Gayner Glass Works employees. Please help us identify these men and women!
From the collection

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



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