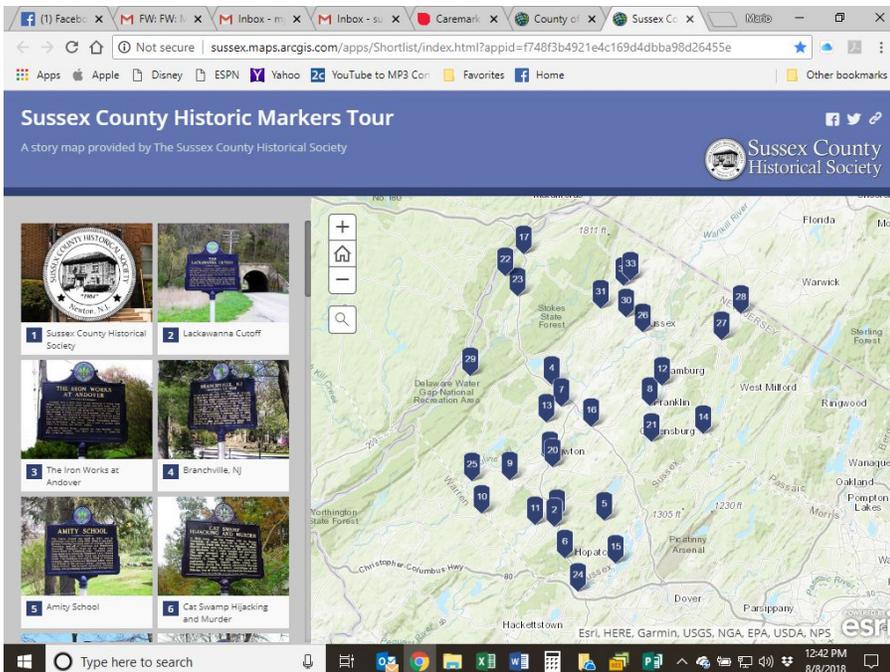


Message From The President

Hello to all members. I hope that all is well. We had our 2020 membership drive in January. I hope that those of you who did not send an application in will consider doing so. There is an application at the end of this newsletter. Included in this newsletter is an application for Sussex County History Day. Saturday September 19 has been announced as this years Sussex County History Day. There is an application in this newsletter and once again it is free to have a table for non-profits. If you have a nonprofit and would like to have a table there, please fill it out and e-mail it to me. Otherwise please come down and join us for the festivities there. More to come as the day approaches. This year's annual meeting will be on Saturday May 9 at 12:00 PM at Cornerstone Playhouse. All are welcome. I hope to see you there. Don't forget that I am always reachable at swhistoric@gmail.com If you have any questions or comments.

2020 Annual Meeting - Saturday May 9, 12PM at Cornerstone Playhouse, 74 Main St,

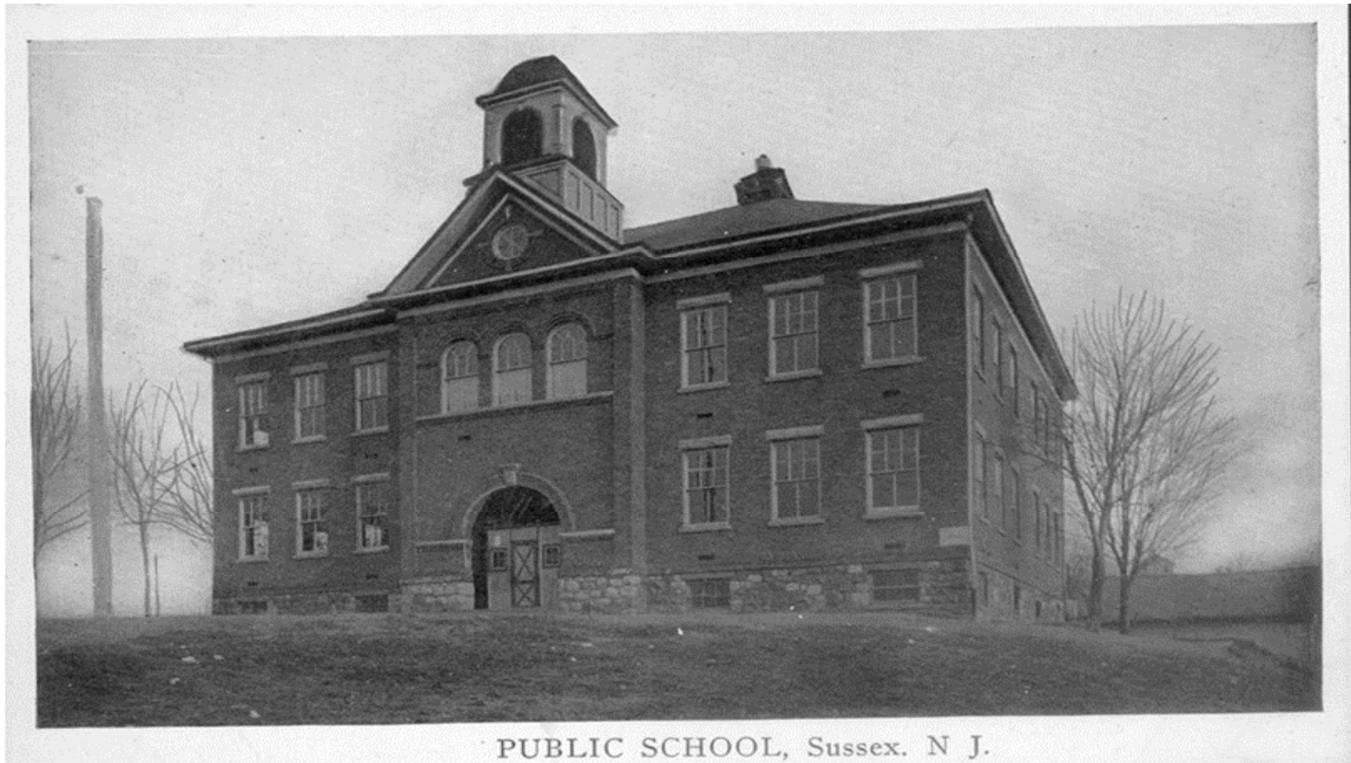


Interactive Sussex County Historic Markers Tour - <http://bit.ly/schistoricmarkers>.

In This Issue

- Harrison Street School Time Capsule
- Wantage Township Part 1
- Sussex County History Day Application.
- SWHS Membership application

The Harrison Street School Time Capsule



PUBLIC SCHOOL, Sussex. N J.

Harrison Street School



The time capsule box, long side view. Notice the large dent on the Bottom

The Sussex Public School was built in 1904 on Harrison Street to replace the Rankin school, which was a five-room wood frame building and handled up to the junior high level of instruction. The new Harrison Street School was made of brick and served all grades, Kindergarten thru 12. It did this until the new High school was built on Loomis Avenue in 1932 when its high school level students began to go there. A little after that the local school districts (there were about 17 smaller 'one room' school house districts) began to consolidate into the Wantage Township Consolidated School, built in 1937, which is now the Wantage School on Route 23. When High Point Regional High School was opened in 1966, all Sussex Borough high school aged students went there, the former high school on Loomis Avenue was converted to the now Sussex Middle School for the middle school aged children and over the next several years the Wantage School took the younger grade aged students. The Harrison Street School then closed for good in 1976. The Clifford E. Lawrence school on Ryan Rd. opened in 1981 and students from Kindergarten thru grade 2 began to go there.

The Sussex Public School on Harrison Street was dedicated by the laying of its Cornerstone on October 22, 1904, by J.J. Coons, the then President of the Board of Education. It stood from 1904 – 1976 when it closed and was raised. The ground that had served so many area students as the Rankin and Sussex Public Schools serves as a parking lot today.

A box was found in the safe of Sussex Borough Hall some time ago. I was asked to examine it and determine what it is and if it has any significant historical value to Sussex Borough. Upon examining it, it is my determination that this is a time capsule which would have been placed behind the Cornerstone of the Sussex Public School on October 22, 1904. I can only assume at this point that it was recovered and suffered the large dent in it while the building was being demolished. It is also my opinion that it is a significant and important Sussex Borough artifact. Both the 1904 cornerstone and the time capsule can be viewed in the meeting room of Sussex Borough Hall during normal business hours.

Sussex-Wantage Historical Society

P.O. Box 212 Sussex,
NJ 07461 973 864-7852
swhistoric@gmail.com
swhistoric.org

Executive Board
of Directors

Mario Poggi - President/
Secretary

Robert Holowach - VP/
Treasurer

Russ Eaton - VP

Inventory List

Item

The Harrison Street School

Comment

Photo #

Box Lid	8 3/8" L X 4 3/16" W X 1/2" H. Appears to be made of copper and is plated in some kind of silver base metal or silver. What appears to be a copper medallion with the initials "LRD" has been soldered under it. It is in good condition.
Box	8 1/8" L X 4 1/8" W X 3 7/8" H. Appears to be made of copper and is plated in some kind of silver base metal or silver. There is what appears to be blunt force caused damage on the bottom of the box which caused buckling on one of its long sides. There is also signs of expected patina as well as an indication that the box may have been encased or surrounded by red brick mortar. Some remnants of such attached to the bottom and lower part of two sides.

Contents

Crumpled Newspaper	Crumpled up newspaper makes up the top layer of the contents and appears to be used as a spacer to take up the void created by the other contents.	1
1904 Sussex County Board Of Education Book-let	A small pamphlet with an intact red cover was discovered. The papers within were so badly deteriorated that they could not be read or deciphered. It appeared to only have a few pages total.	2
Wantage Recorder Newspaper	What appears to be a full addition of the Wantage Recorder newspaper dated October 21, 1904 was found neatly folded to fit the exact shape of the box. I have not unfolded it. A copy of the article written taken from microfiche in it is in this report.	3
The Sun Newspaper	What appears to be a full addition of The Sun newspaper dated September 29, 1904 was found neatly folded to fit the exact shape of the box. I have looked at this NYC newspaper on line and cannot find any reason why it would be in the box. I have not unfolded it.	4
School District Meeting Notice	A badly decomposed School District Meeting Notice dated March 15, 1904 was discovered. It was so badly decomposed that I thought it best to leave it as it is rather than to try to unfold it and try to read its contents.	5
Original Printed Program	What appears to be an original printed program was found very badly decayed.	6
List Of Sussex County Teachers	A few printed pages were discovered under the heading of List of Sussex County Teachers. It appears that it would be a publication of the Sussex County School System.	7
Unrecognizable Page	There was a small handwritten piece of paper discovered that appears could be a list of names but was so badly decomposed that it was basically unreadable but the little that is suggest notes from a school meeting.	8

List Of Dignitaries Names	A handwritten list of dignitaries was found on a Farmers Bank piece of stationary. The stationary appears to be red and discolored to white on its fold lines. Dignitary's names include Sussex Borough Mayer S.S. VanDruff as well as 5 Sussex Borough Councilman.	9
Sussex Independent Newspaper	What appears to be a full addition of the Sussex Independent newspaper dated October 21, 1904 was found neatly folded to fit the exact shape of the box. I have not unfolded it. A copy of the article written taken from microfiche in it is in this report.	10
Ceremony Program	A typed event program dated October 22, 1904 for a ceremony surrounding what appears to be the dedication of a new school, including the laying of a cornerstone. It is in decaying condition but readable.	11
Sussex Public School List Of Staff And Teachers	A hand written list of staff and teachers was discovered on ruled paper. Is was decaying around the edges and has 1904 - 1905 written across the top.	12
Roll Of Pupils	7 handwritten pages listing the roll of student names from Kindergarten thru 11th grade was discovered on ruled paper. All pages are decaying along the edges and several had badly faded ink.	13-19
Coins	I found a total of 6 coins, all in very well used, circulated condition. 1 - 1804 Draped Bust Half Cent 1 - 1904 Indian Head Cent 1 - 1904 Indian Head Cent 1 - 1904 Liberty Head Nickel 1 - 1904 Barber Quarter 1 - 1904 Barber Half Dollar The meaning of the 1803 Half Cent is unknown to me at this time. Curiously is was no 1904 dime found.	20
		21
		22
		23
		24
		25
		26



Titsworth House—Built about 1710 by Stephanus Titsworth

Wantage Township (Part 1)

Named after the village of Wantage, in Berkshire, England, Wantage was organized as its own Township on May 30, 1754 from portions of Newton Township. There were boundary exchanges with Frankford Township in 1826 and 1834, and it lost .619 miles of its 68.1 sq. miles area on October 14, 1891 when the Borough of Deckertown was formed. The first inhabitants of Wantage were the Mansi tribe of the Lenni-Lenape Indians. Their identifier was a wolf paw which was painted on their wigwams and often used in picture writing. They used the Walkkill River as their main thoroughfare. They would travel as far as the Hudson River and the Atlantic seashore to gather shellfish and other foods and goods. They also used the Appalachian Trail which had many smaller connecting trails thru out Wantage.

Then the 'white man' started to lay claim to the land, though not quite residing in it yet. In the mid-17th century, ownership of this land was disputed between the Dutch, Swedes and English. The Swedes ending up losing any of their holdings in 1653 and the Dutch in 1664. In 1664, King Charles of England gave the lands to his brother James. Not long after that James gave it to Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. In 1673, war broke out between the English and the Dutch and the land went back to the Dutch very briefly, but England won the war so in 1674, Governor Major Andros gave all the land back to the English crown. Then Berkeley and Carteret were once again granted the land. In 1676, the whole of New Jersey was split into east and west. West Jersey was sold to William Penn. In 1680 Sir George Carteret died an indebted man so his wife sold East Jersey at a public auction to satisfy those debts. This left East Jersey owned by 24 proprietors. They also became the rulers of the land until 1702, when they returned the government to England. New Jersey would remain a royal colony until 1777. This is some of the backstory that brings us back to Wantage.

Wantage Township (Part 1) cont.

It had always been assumed that Wantage Township was part of New Jersey but from about 1700 to 1775, the area that we know as Sussex County was claimed by both New York and New Jersey. Both colonies attempted to tax and give titles to this land.

On October 7, 1769, a royal commission finally drew the boundary line that we know today securing the present-day Sussex County being in New Jersey.

Records show William Tietsoort (Titsworth) as the first permanent settler of Wantage. His father Stephanus Tietsoort (Titsworth) was probably the builder (built around 1710) of the house and William was the first owner. He built his stone house near the Clove Church on the present-day Rt. 23 North. It was built as a Minisink fort, offering protection against Indian attacks. It remained as such until Indian chief Joseph Brant led an attack of a band of Indians and British in 1781. The house remained on in the Titsworth family until 1902. After that it became a store and a stop for vacationers on their way to High Point State Park to pick up the odds and ends, they would need. A totem pole was built next to it to attract the tourists. The totem pole has since been destroyed by a motor vehicle accident and a piece of it is on display at Space Farms in Beemerville. It should be noted that William Titsworth was the son of the founder of Port Jervis. He (father) was later killed by Indians. It is almost certain that Peter Decker stayed at this house during the construction of his own home in Deckertown around 1734, and the Titsworth's assisted in that construction.

Another of the original settlers would be Peter Decker's oldest son, Joseph. He settled on what is today's Unionville Road and Rt. 23. He farmed the land and built a grist and clover mill there. His son Bodewine would also build a store and plaster mill there. As more people began to settle in Wantage, a government needed to be formed to handle the concerns and problems that they would have, and to start to prepare for the future.

This brings us to the end of part one. Look for more in the Spring-Summer 2020 edition of the Fountains.

SUSSEX COUNTY HISTORY DAY and Old Newton Burial Ground Tour

At the Sussex County Historical Society Event Field behind 79 Main Street in Newton
Saturday September 19, 2020
(Rain date Sunday September 20, 2020)
11:00am – 4:00pm
Vendor Information

Each vendor space is limited to ten foot by ten foot area. Vendor spaces for Non-Profit and Civic Organizations are free. All other vendor spaces are \$20.00 each. We suggest that all vendors have a giveaway or prizes for the visitors if possible. This is not required but people seem to really like this.

Participants should supply their own:

Tent or Canopy (Optional but very strongly recommended))

Table (or we can provide an 8-foot table upon request. Non-Profits only, limited availability)

Chairs (or we can provide two folding chairs upon request. Non-Profits only, limited availability)

There is no electric available. We would rather not have any generators being used to keep the serenity of the cemetery and area.

Vendors should start arriving at 8:30AM to set up and should be completed by 11:00am. All vehicles must be off the grass and parked by 11:00am. There is plenty of parking available on site at the old McGuire parking lot.

No alcoholic beverages will be sold or served.

Please complete and return the Vendor Form on or before August 1, 2019. The sooner the better to reserve your spot as space is limited and especially if you want us to provide you with a table and/or chairs, which are extremely limited.

Please send your completed application (and check for \$20.00 made out to the Sussex County Historical Society if applicable) to:

Sussex County Historical Society
P.O. Box 913
Newton, NJ 07860
Attn: Mario Poggi

Non-profits and Civic Organizations may e-mail your completed Vendor Application (Because no fee is required) to:

sussexhistorynj@gmail.com

If you have any questions, contact Mario Poggi at 973 864-7852 or e-mail me at sussexhistorynj@gmail.com.

**SUSSEX COUNTY HISTORY DAY
and Old Newton Burial Grounds Tour
Vendor Registration Form**

Print, complete and return Vendor Form by mail on or before August 1, 2020 to:

Sussex County Historical Society
P.O. Box 913
Newton, NJ 07860
Attention: Mario Poggi

Non-Profits and Civic Organizations complete and return Vendor Form by email to:
sussexhistorynj@gmail.com or by mail to the address above.

Business or Commercial vendors selling a product, please include check in the amount of \$20.00 made payable to the Sussex County Historical Society.

Name of Business or Group:

E-mail:

Mailing Address:

Name of Contact Person:

Contact Phone Number:

Item or Items to be Sold or Presented:

Giveaway, game or prize: (Optional)

Do you want us to provide you with an 8-foot table? Y N (Non-Profits Only)
Do you want us to provide you with 2 folding chairs? Y N (Non-Profits Only)



SUSSEX-WANTAGE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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swhistoric.org

**2020 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (JANUARY 1, 2020 THRU
DECEMBER 31, 2020)**

**CURRENTLY MEMBERSHIP TO THE SUSSEX-WANTAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS
\$10.00 (PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO SUSSEX-WANTAGE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE OR APPLY ONLINE AT
WWW.SWHISTORIC.ORG TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD USING PAYPAL)**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US _____

WHAT IS/WAS YOUR OCCUPATION _____

DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES _____

WHAT INTERESTS YOU MOST ABOUT HISTORY _____

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OUR MEETINGS TO INCLUDE _____

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BE A VOLUNTEER ON ONE OF OUR PROJECTS - Y N