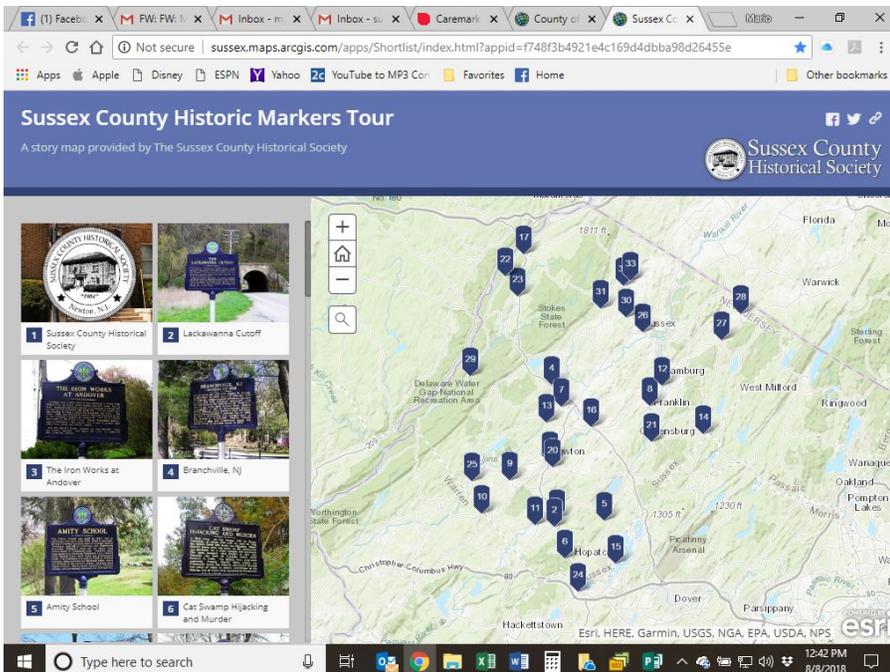


## Message From The President

My sincerest apologies to you all for not producing a Fall newsletter. I have no excuse. I just had a little too much on my plate the past few months. Hopefully it will never happen again. There is some news concerning the fountain base that was outside the Creamery on Walling Avenue, now Route 23 South, which is being stored at the Sussex Borough Garage. The Council was approached by David Case from the Fairview Cemetery in Wantage. He showed plans of a cemetery expansion and made an offer to display the fountain base in the new section. The Council is currently considering it and I will update you on any news. I don't know about you, but I can't wait for the Spring. Don't forget that I am always reachable at [swhistoric@gmail.com](mailto:swhistoric@gmail.com) if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks—Mario

**2019 Annual Meeting-  
Saturday May 4, 2019-  
12:00PM at Cornerstone  
Playhouse, 74 Main  
Street, Sussex.**



## In This Issue

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- Lusscroft
- Historic Wantage Map
- Membership application



The Alexander Linn Hospital in 1934



The Alexander Linn Hospital in 1957

## Alexander Linn Hospital

### Sussex Borough

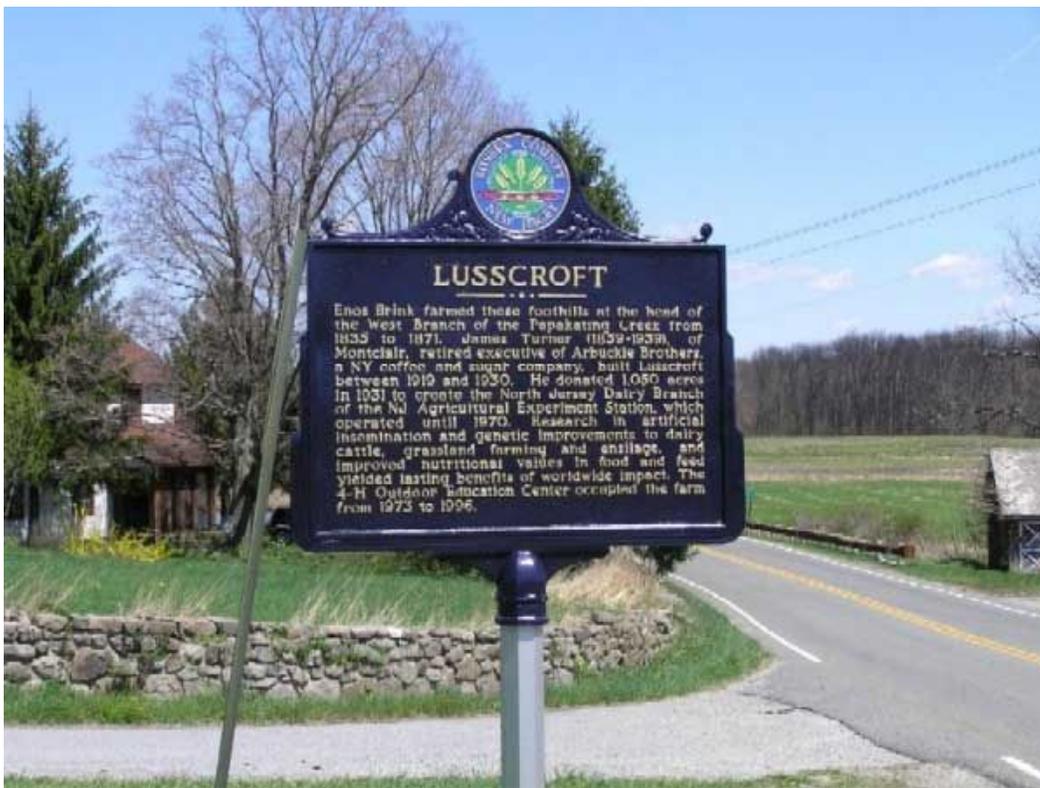
The Alexander Linn Hospital in May of 1934. This building was the Seeley Select School up until about 1909, then was used as a boarding house until 1918 when William A. Linn donated the three story wood building to Sussex Borough for use as a hospital. It was donated in the name of his late father Dr. Alexander A. Linn, who himself was a Civil War physician. It would become one of the oldest hospitals in Sussex County. This building was demolished in 1957 to make way for the new brick building which began construction in 1956. On July 20, 1968, celebrating its 50th anniversary, the junior auxiliary published a pamphlet which described the hospital in the early days. It read.

"The original hospital was a wooden frame building three stories high. The main floor or entrance housed the kitchen, dining room, office and wards. Heat was furnished throughout from a coal furnace, and it was the duty of the nurses at night to attend to the furnace, shake down the coal range in the kitchen for the cook to start breakfast, and get the general mechanics of an institution of that nature under way before the day shift arrived. There was usually time to do all, this as a nurse's work day was 12 hours long. Those of staff who lived in slept in rooms on the third floor. The second floor held patients' rooms, some private and some semi-private, and the hallway was the nursery, as mentioned before, while additional supplies were stored on the third floor beside the dormitory rooms."

Earlier it was mentioned that "infants were kept in baskets on the shelf in the hallway where linens and drugs were stored, and it was not until 1936 that the Junior Auxiliary had a room converted into a nursery and delivery room."

"As the needs of the community increased, more nurses were added to the staff, and worked eight-hour shifts; office space was increased and an entirely new business regime was set up, along with the hiring of an administrator and superintendent of nurses. The Westfall Wing, made possible by a bequest from the Westfall Estate, was added; it became the obstetrical department where a specially trained staff of nurses tended the needs of the mothers and newborn babies." Opened in 1949, it was built at a cost of \$144,000."

The new brick hospital on Walnut street in Sussex Borough was dedicated Oct. 17, 1957. It eventually became St. Claire's Hospital then Sussex Community Emergency Care. The building is currently unoccupied.



## Sussex-Wantage Historical Society

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swhistoril@gmail.com  
swhistoric.org

Executive Board  
of Directors

Mario Poggi -President

Robert Holowach - VP/  
Treasurer

## Lusscroft Farm - Wantage/Beemerville

Located at 50 Neilson Road and County Route 519 in the Beemerville section of Wantage, this 578-acre property was once a cutting-edge dairy farming location. It all began in 1914 when James Turner, a stockbroker hailing from Montclair, NJ began his dream to make this the perfect model of dairy farming. Between 1914 and 1931, he invested an incredible \$500,000 into the most cutting-edge methods of dairy farming known to man at the time. In 1916 he built his country manor house on Neilson Rd. In 1928 he added on to it making it larger. The fine pastures that it overlooked once held the finest pure bred herd of Guernsey cattle in the region. They were supervised by the very capable farm manager Edward Decker. In 1930 James Turner built the 'Outlook Lodge' for his brother, Dr. William Turner. He had craftsman salvage antique wood from twenty-five barns and houses and used that in its construction. In 1931 he donated his 1,050 acres that he had in Sussex County (which included his Lusscroft, Newbegin and Belle Ellen Farms) to the State of New Jersey to be used as an agriculture research station. Although he put no deed restriction on the property, he stated that it should be used "in every expedient way toward promoting social progress and welfare". Along with his gift of all his land, he also included 250 head of Guernsey and Holstein cattle, horses, tractors, modern (for the time) dairy buildings, the cottages that the employees used and farm equipment. Being one of the first dairy farms in the country to be used as a research facility, it made New Jersey key in the development of such technologies surrounding grassland farming, grass ensilage, artificial livestock breeding and production testing for a safe milk supply. Sires from Lusscroft were used by Enos J. Perry in 1938 for the first experiments into artificial insemination for the improvement of dairy herds in the United States. Between 1955 and 1970, Cook College established a forestry program there. After that Rutgers University maintained an outdoor education center as well as a 4-H club there. In 1996 they were forced to cease operation because of low enrollment and high maintenance costs. The State of New Jersey transferred the administration of Lusscroft from Rutgers to the NJDEP/State Park Services and the State Agricultural Development Committee in 2002. This transfer was for 578 acres including 23 original structures built between 1914 and 1932. Currently High Point State Park administers Lusscroft in cooperation of the State Agricultural Committee. Referring to Lusscroft's history between 1931 thru 1970 when it served as the North Jersey Dairy Branch of the State Agricultural Experiment Station, in August of 2000 the State Historic Preservation Office determined that "The Experimental Station, including its staff housing, barns and fields, is clearly eligible for listing on the National Register for its association with the development of agricultural techniques, especially the development of artificial insemination". Today events hosted by non-profit Heritage and Agriculture Association in cooperation with the NJDEP/ Division of Parks and Forestry raise funds for the maintenance of Lusscroft. Such events include Maple Sugaring Open House, Guided Hiking Tours, Medicine Wheel Festival and their famous Barn Sales which are held throughout the year just to name a few. As spring and summer rolls around, be sure to make Lusscroft one of your destinations this year.

# HISTORIC



## WANTAGE TOWNSHIP, N.J.

### WANTAGE TOWNSHIP

NAMED FOR AN ENGLISH TOWN.  
SETTLED BY YANKEES, DUTCH,  
GERMANS AND FRENCH.  
PETER DECKER, A HOLLANDER,  
LOCATED HERE IN 1740.

History – Community – Family – Tradition



Rural Wantage, where it was said that there were "more cows than people".  
(Adapted from a famous Louis Larsen painting of the Sam Vandruff Farm.)

**This glimpse into Wantage's history highlights some special features. Included are: Native American campsites – an extinct volcano – a border war, and a "beaver" war – a famous race horse – a famous general – college – a seminary – museums – forts – even a zoo!**

#### OUR VERDANT VALLEY — STILL THE GARDEN IN THE GARDEN STATE

Rev. Kanouse's eloquent historical sermon in 1844 helps us envision Wantage's past: "its Verdant Valley... may be said to flow with milk and honey – the enterprising colonists made the wilderness to bud and blossom like the rose. Scarcely is there to be seen a richer or more picturesque landscape – the immense valley bestudded with cottages, hamlets and villages embossed in fields waving in the rising harvest."

Have you gotten your Historic Wantage Map yet? This is a great resource showing the many historic locations in Wantage Township. A lot of people put in a lot of work to put this together. You can get yours for only a \$5.00 donation to the Friends of the Sussex-Wantage Library, who sponsored this project. You can get your copy by stopping by and seeing our friend Stephen Denman at his great store, Respectrum Books on the corner of Rt.23 and Spring Street in Sussex Borough or you can mail a check for \$5.00 for each map requested, made out to the Friends of the Sussex-Wantage Library, plus \$1.50 postage for the first map, \$1.00 for each additional map. Mail to: Barbara Young, 209 Rose Morrow Road, Sussex, NJ 07461. You can call Barbara at 973 875-7864 if you have any questions. It should be noted that the SWHS does not receive any financial compensation from the sales of this map.



**SUSSEX-WANTAGE**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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[swhistoric.org](http://swhistoric.org)

**2019 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**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](http://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**