

Message From The President

Hello to all members and friends. As we start out in 2023 I hope that you are all doing well. We celebrated Sussex Borough's 120th anniversary this year at Sussex Day on October 15th. We had a wonderful cake made by the Holland-American bakery to commemorate it, and were treated to music from the famous Franklin Band as well as Campfire Jukebox. For next years Sussex Day, we are trying to pull together an historic hayride around Sussex to point out some of its historic places. Sussex County History Day is back this year and will be at the Academy Green behind 79 Main Street in Newton on September 9. This is an event that I run yearly for the Sussex County Historical Society. Of course I will be set up there representing the Sussex-Wantage Historical Society as always. Applications for Sussex County History Day will be in the Spring-Summer newsletter, so if you have or are a part of a non-profit organization and would like to participate, please print it, fill it out and either mail or email it to me. We would love to have you. This is a celebration of Sussex County history and all of our organizations are a part of it. We are still hoping to move the fountain that TJ Dunn donated to Sussex in 1906 into the TJ Dunn Community Park in Sussex Borough. We are still waiting on donated services to do that but we don't give up. It is difficult to even get a quote to have it moved as there are only a few local companies with the expertise to do so. New membership applications for 2023 have been emailed at the end of last year and are also included at the end of this newsletter. Please consider joining so that I can make sure there is a historical resource representing this area. As always, for the latest news on what is happening with the society or for Sussex and Wantage news, Like and follow the Sussex-Wantage Historical Society on Facebook or drop me a line with any questions or comments. Let me know your ideas for upcoming newsletters or projects. Have a great year—
Mario

**2022 Annual Meeting
Held
Saturday, June 11,
2022
2023 Annual
Meeting date TBD.**

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Wantage Road Construction Protest Letter

I have a very interesting document in my personal collection of Sussex and Wantage documents that I thought I would share with you. It is 131 years old, dated February 27, 1888. It is just under 44" long and is 8" wide and appears to be typed on some type of legal, unruled stationary. If our imaginations allow us we could picture someone sitting at a Sholes & Glidden or a Caligraph (that's how it's spelled) typewriter pressing its keys to form such an eloquent message. The document is that of protest to 'The Surveyors of the Highways of the County of Sussex' about a road being built between Wantage and Vernon beginning "near the residence of James H. Heater running across lands of Edward Beemer, Kate J Haywood (handwritten), Warren D. Haggerty (handwritten) and Christopher C Clay, and ending near the residence of said Christopher C. Clay." I don't know where this is but perhaps some of you might? There are clues in this letter of protest that perhaps you will pick up on like "there is another public highway located between the same points, running parallel therewith, and less than a quarter of a mile away from said proposed road at the widest point". I would love to hear your ideas. I wonder if this highway ever got built. I must confess that I did not do any research on this to try to find out.

This is a very well-preserved document, so well in fact that all 54 signatures (plus a "+ mark" under Patrick Rasdal's signature, whatever that may mean) are all clearly visible, even the ones done in pencil. This must have been quite an unpopular project for 54 of Sussex and Wantage's most prestigious citizens would be against it. The familiar names that we all see in history books when we research our history are present. Charles E. Stickney, The Coykendall family, along with the Dewitts, Titsworths, Isaac Beemer, Armstrong, J A Whitaker and more. It is an honor for me to own this document knowing that all these people touched it and put their pen, or pencil to it. I hope that you enjoy seeing it. I tried my best to take a picture of it but it is long and framed.

To the Surveyors of the Highways of the County of Sussex,
appointed to consider and determine the necessity of the
laying out of a public road in the Township of Wantage, be-
ginning near the residence of James H. Heater, running across
lands of Edward Beemer, *Kate J Haywood, Warren D. Haggerty*, and ending
near the residence of the said Christopher C. Clay,

Gentlemen:

We, the undersigned property owners and citizens of the Town-
ship of Wantage, do hereby most respectfully remonstrate a-
gainst and oppose the laying out of the said proposed road,
and in earnest of and as reasons for our opposition thereto
allege the following:

1st---Because there is another public highway located be-
tween the same points, running parallel therewith, and less
than a quarter of a mile away from said proposed road at the
widest point.

2nd---Because the said proposed road is in reality designed
only for the accommodation of two individuals.

3rd---Because the laying out of the said proposed road would
be of great and lasting injury to the owners of property
situate along the old highway running parallel therewith,
and only a short distance away.

4th---Because there used to be a road running between the
points proposed by the new road, and it was years ago aband-
oned by non-use.

5th---Because a few years ago an attempt was made to re-open
the said abandoned road, and it failed, and the movement is
only revived now after the lapse of a long period of time
at the instance of two interested individuals who in the pro-
posed road would especially convenience.

6th---Because, in the event that the said proposed road is
laid out, the County would be subjected to the expense of
building one if not two bridges.

7th---Because the said proposed road is opposed by a large
proportion of the property owners and tax-payers of the com-
munity.

8th---Because the laying out of the said road would incur
an unnecessary expense, and deprive the established highway
running parallel thereto and between the same points of a
large part of the road moneys belonging thereto.

9th---Because the said proposed road is not feasible.

10th---Because the said proposed road is not a public neces-
sity, and is not wanted by the general public, neither is it
suggested by the needs of the community.

Wherefore we humbly protest against the laying out of the
said proposed road, and have confidence that after viewing
the same and considering the objections thereto you will be
constrained to report against the laying out of the said
proposed road.

Dated February 27, 1888.

Wantage Road Construction Protest Letter Signatures

Dated October 17, 1888.

Christopher C. Clay
 Texas Hanaback
 R. M. Shill

D. Corykendall

S. Corykendall

L. E. Armstrong

Thomas Conway

M. Corykendall

John Howell

Patrick Russell

Butler Barker

David M. Shelley

Wilson Ayers

Wm. J. Gardner

E. W. Overton

Isaac Beemer

J. Corykendall

J. J. Corykendall

G. W. William

Wm. McCoy

Edward Lane

Charles E. Stearns

B. D. Havers

M. H. Long

A. R. Decker

W. W. Bournam

Samuel McFee

N. H. Stetson

John B. Kitter

W. W. Bournam

W. W. Bournam

W. W. Bournam

W. W. Bournam

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Charles E. Stickney

Born in Wawayanda, NY on January 1, 1841, Charles Stickney would eventually become one of the most prolific editors, writers and publishers in Sussex County and possibly all of New Jersey. Somehow he also found the time to be one of the most civically active men in Sussex. Having grown up with only a standard school education, he used his talent to be very observant and to read as much as possible to soon become known as one of the best informed people in his home town. He worked in the mercantile industry in Slate Hill, NY for a number of years and in 1883 he sold his business there and moved to Deckertown. Once there he bought a general store at what is the current 19-21 Munson Street. On January 1, 1894 he established the Wantage Recorder and it was thru this vehicle that he published many of his books. Some of his published works include A History of the Minisink Region (1867), The History of Deckertown (1895), Woodburn (1897), Edsall Genealogy (1899), The Story of the Battle of Minisink; A Minisink Double Wedding (1902) (This was a novel), and the Dennis Genealogy (1904). He became well noted as a historian and used his years of research and data collecting to write these books. He was elected Mayor of Sussex in 1905 and served two terms, the second of which was to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Feakes in 1912. In its final year, he was the clerk for the 16 member Board of Freeholders. He was a Justice of the Peace in Sussex, which was officially titled the Borough Recorder, where he earned the nickname 'Squire'. But his list of civic memberships goes on. He was a member of the New Jersey Press Association of which at the time of his death, was probably the oldest editor in the state. He was affiliated with the Patrons of Husbandry in Orange County and then later with the Wantage Grange being probably the longest member of the organization in this part of the United States. He was an associate life member of the New Jersey Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vice President and former Treasurer of the Alexander Linn Memorial Hospital Association of Sussex, One of the founders of The Sussex County Historical Society as well as its Necrologist and Secretary. But wait, there's more. He was a member of the Sussex County Pomona Grange No. 2 as well as an honorary member and one of the founders of the Protection Hook & Ladder Company of Sussex. Somehow he found the time to get married to Louisa Dennis on December 11, 1867. They had a son named John who would later run the Wantage Recorder after his father's

Sussex-Wantage Historical Society

P.O. Box 212

Sussex, NJ 07461

973 864-7852

Mario Poggi - President/Secretary

Robert Holowach - VP/Treasurer

Russ Eaton - VP

SHORTS:

Wolfe Granite Memorials

A.E. Wolfe Granite Memorials is celebrating its 150th anniversary in Sussex Borough in 2023. Here is a little bit about it. A.E. Wolfe founded his business on April 1, 1873, as the Deckertown Marble and Granite Works. His original location was at the current 8 Newton Avenue in Sussex Borough. He moved his business to its current location of 86 Main Street in 1903 where it has been in continued operation ever since. It originally shared the building with the Wallkill Hose Company Number One, which would later combine with the Protection Hook and Ladder Company to become the Sussex Fire Department. The name changed through the years to Wolfe Granite Works and to its current Wolfe Granite Memorials. It has played some role in the ordering, receiving, and/or constructing all three of Sussex Borough's iconic fountains. In its 150-year history in Sussex Borough, there have been only five owners after its founder, A.E. Wolfe. Its fifth and current owner and manager, Nancy Bookbinder, purchased it from her parents in 2002 and has cared for it for over the past 20 years.

Rose Morrow

Some of you during your travels thru Wantage may have had the occasion to travel on Rose Morrow Road. So, who was Rose Morrow? The Morrow family lived in school district 88, The Clove district. The children attended the Clove school. Each district had a district clerk. It was a very male dominated position. In 1873, Robert Willson acted as the district clerk. The Judson Randolph followed him and served until 1878. John W. Decker served after that until he was followed by Edward Smith from 1882 -1887 when J.J. Wickham stepped in until 1889. In 1890, Rose Morrow became the first woman district clerk in all of Sussex County. She would serve from 1890-1894. She truly broke a glass ceiling and I think was most worthy of a street in her neighborhood being named after her. I do not know if it is the actually street that the Morrow family lived on or not. As a point of interest, Rose Morrow's brother, Judge W.H. Morrow, who practiced law in Belvidere, NJ and was the County Judge there, was on the Clove district Board of Directors and would later go on to be a member of the State Board of Education.

Sussex Borough's 120 Anniversary Cake





SUSSEX-WANTAGE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

**2023 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (JANUARY 1, 2023 THRU
DECEMBER 31, 2023)**

**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