



14 Highland Ave.
Ogdensburg, N.J. 07439

June 2022

Ogdensburg Historical Society

14 Highland Ave.
Ogdensburg, NJ 07439

Email: oburghhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Find us on:

Facebook at facebook.com/oburghhistoricalsocietypage

Borough of Ogdensburg's website: ogdensburgnj.org/committees/historical-society

MARCH 2022 MEETING RECAP

To those members who attended our March 16th meeting we had 4 guest speakers: Mayor George Hutnick, Superintendent David Astor, Bill Kroth, and Bill Truran.

Mayor Hutnick spoke first.

The mayor discussed multiple topics that will be affecting upcoming budget line items that the town has to absorb which will impact either services or special functions. Please see the largest impact on their website at this link.

To find this Resolution: [https://www.ogdensburgnj.org/wp-content/documents/minutes/township-council/2021/council meeting 10 13 21.pdf](https://www.ogdensburgnj.org/wp-content/documents/minutes/township-council/2021/council%20meeting%2010%2013%2021.pdf)

The second guest speaker was Superintendent David Astor.

Mr. Astor presented/gifted the Historical Society with a 1957 Dictionary that was Miss Dolan's. The dictionary was placed it on a table for anyone to peruse.

The third guest speaker was Bill Kroth of Sterling Hill Mining Museum.

Mr. Kroth reminded us again that the mine is accessible to all town residents and that the mine will be opening April 2nd for tours.

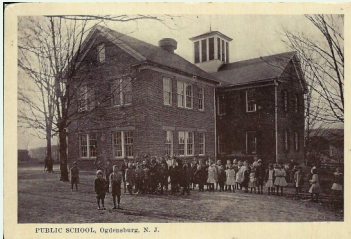
Continue page 2



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Display at Sussex County Fair Grounds August 5–13, 2022 “Welcome to Our Neighborhood” is our theme.
- August 17 - Board of Trustee's Meeting 7PM at the Museum
- September 14 - Quarterly General Meeting - Guest Speaker Paul Michael Kane
- October 8 - Sussex County Arts & Heritage Weekend - Museum open 10 am –5 pm

MARCH 2022 MEETING RECAP (con't)



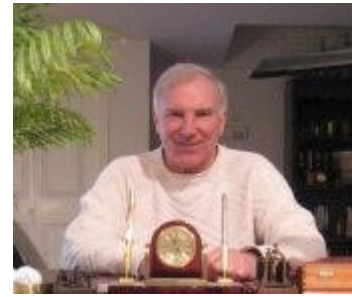
Our next Facebook tributes will be to the past Miss Ogdensburg's during Fair Week - If you know of a Miss Ogdensburg please have them send a picture of them during their reign so we can recognize their part of our history.

Send picture with name and year as Miss Ogdensburg or Queen of the Fair to oburghhistoricalsociety@gmail.com by July 15th.

Our final speaker was Bill Truran, County Historian.

He spoke on heritage in the area. Bill stated that he has published 5 books of the history and heritage of Ogdensburg and Franklin. Books are available at Sparta Bookstore, North Country Pharmacy and at the gift shop at Sterling Hill Mining Museum.

Mr. Truran discussed the significant historical markers in our area – the Sterling Hill Mine; Parker Mine at Franklin Firehouse and Palmer Plant, in the middle of the town of Franklin. He discussed the Young Historian Program where 4th grade students: Ben Franklin; 8th grade students: Thomas Edison; 12th grade students: Babe Ruth. Jeanne Sweetman. The famous names are because each of them either spent time or significant naming. Ben Franklin – Franklin furnace; Thomas Edison – Edison on Sparta



Mountain; Babe Ruth - spent time in the area with friends. George Washington also traversed the area during the Revolutionary War.

Bill discussed his Cornish descent and how 21 different cultures settled in the Ogdensburg/Franklin area.

Bill also charged us with finding specimens of the area history, in the attic or talking with an elderly neighbor.

As Bill finished his presentation, he opened the floor for questions. Several guests asked questions or added to the discussion with recollections of days gone by.

Thank You

To Chief (Ret) Lott for providing information regarding the fallen soldiers/hometown heroes who have had streets named in their honor. The discussions that it initiated were very enlightening and genuinely heartfelt from the members of the We Grew Up In Ogdensburg NJ facebook group and the Ogdensburg Historical Society facebook page.

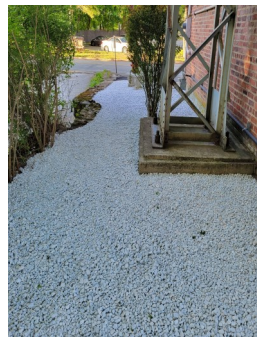
BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS



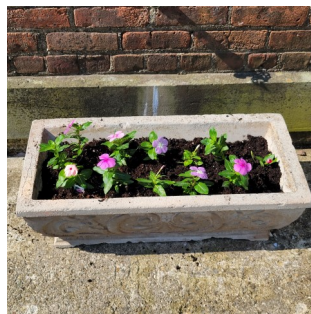
The OHS Board and Trustees want to send out a sincere **Thank You** to the Ogdensburg DPW, Mayor and Council for cleaning up the area to the right of the building.

We couldn't be happier with how it now looks!

Removing miscellaneous debris, ensuring all wiring was buried and trimming the brush, adding weed paper and stone was exactly what this little area needed! The bonus was asphalt to the road and our planters being prepped and ready for flowers for the summer!



Thank You



THE STORY OF OGDENSBURG BOOK: A PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVE

In and around 1976 was the last time a commemorative book was published about the history of our beloved town. Since it is over 45 years since that publishing, we are looking into continuing our story with the help of others. There is a lot of history in this small town and many life long residents who know it. Please consider taking some time and sharing the history of Ogdensburg and your family. We will need some historical information as well if you have that we will welcome it.

Photos are always welcomed!

Reach out to us at oburghhistoricalsociety@gmail.com with questions, comments, stories and facts!

The History of Ogdensburg...A People's Perspective

Join us in sharing your memories of Ogdensburg...as a child; as a teen; as an adult

We are looking for stories from you!

How do you think Ogdensburg helped shape you?

How do you impact Ogdensburg?

What was the landscape like when you were growing up? Do you have pictures to share?

Who were your influencers? A special teacher? A neighbor? A leader?

What is your fondest memory?

Could you write 1,000 words to help us show how Ogdensburg was when you were here?

Information we will need included in the perspective -

The street you grew up on and the dates you lived in Ogdensburg

Contact us at oburghhistoricalsociety@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

We are honored to have Paul Michael Kane as our guest speaker—discussing his article and photos of our very own Fox Film Vaults.

Here is an excerpt from his article: “In the early 1900s, anything captured on film was done so on a cellulose nitrate stock. This included photography, X-rays, newsreels and motion pictures. This stock, often called nitrocellulose, gradually decomposed, releasing nitric acid – terrifyingly flammable as one of the only compounds that doesn’t require oxygen to burn. Trying to actually put out a nitrocellulose-fire with just water would oftentimes exacerbate an inferno. This stuff could literally burn underwater.

As the industry progressed, it was discovered that storing these reels at low temperatures resulted in a delay of the deterioration. Fox Studios, located in Hollywood, California would ship, by rail, their archive of film reels to the off-site storage facilities built in Ogdensburg, deeming them far too dangerous to keep near populated areas or too close to the studios themselves.

This was a common practice among the various studios, the equivalent of today’s offsite digital backup. The vaults were, most times, sequestered to rural populations where, should a fire occur, minimal property loss could be expected.”

[Weird NJ: The ghostly vaults that stored Hollywood history \(app.com\)](http://www.weirdnj.com)

We look forward to hearing this discussion and seeing his incredible photographs on the 14th of September at 7PM.

General Membership Meetings

Wednesday, September 14 7:00 pm

Guest speaker Paul Michael Kane

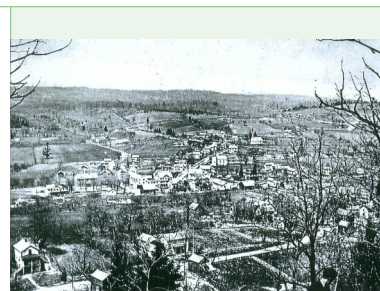
Monday, December 5 7:00 pm

Tuesday, March 7 7:00 pm

Guest speaker Bill Kroth

Special Event

Ethnic Dinner, TBD in October



Sussex County Arts & Heritage Weekend is October 8-9 to explore the various Museum around the county. Our Museum will be open 10 am –5 pm on October 8th. Please make plans to visit us. Bring along a friend or family member who has not been to see the great history of our town.

OHS Membership

Your membership in the Ogdensburg Historical Society acknowledges your awareness of Ogdensburg's rich and unique history. Join today and with your support help us preserve and promote our history.

Membership Fees:

Seniors	\$6.00
Individual	\$12.00
Family	\$18.00
Lifetime	\$50.00



OGDENSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Ogdensburg Historical Society is a non-profit and non-partisan organization formed not only to ascertain and preserve the history of Ogdensburg, NJ, but also to foster the education and enjoyment of its residents and visitors. The OHS obtained grant monies in 1988 and 1989 to refurbish the 1910 school addition/firehouse to be converted into the Old Schoolhouse/Firehouse Museum—the society's headquarters.

The museum's first floor lobby holds a display case (that was originally in the grade school) of minerals from the Ogdensburg Zinc Mine. The fire truck bays contain the Ogdensburg Fire Department's retired 1935 and 1959 American LaFrance Pumper trucks. In June of 2006, the bays were dedicated in the memory of William "Doly" Dolan and Joseph Fitzgibbons, Sr. These men were former students, OFD fire chiefs and OHS charter members and

vice presidents—all within the walls of this building.

The second floor serves as a meeting hall for the society's meetings. It contains showcases which hold donated Ogdensburg memorabilia such as postcards of old Ogdensburg, school history and graduation pictures, a display of the zinc mill operations, a scale model of the mine's hoist, and Ogden family history documents. There are also old exhibits of Thomas A. Edison memorabilia to honor the ten years Edison spent mining iron ore at the old Edison Ore Milling Company on Sparta Mountains.

The OHS sponsors two annual dinners. In June, a catered picnic meeting is held at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. In October, an Ethnic Dinner is held at the school where each family is asked to bring a covered dish that represents their ethnic background.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Ogdensburg Historical Society meeting!



14 Highland Ave.
Ogdensburg, N.J. 07439

Ogdensburg Historical Society

14 Highland Ave
Ogdensburg, NJ 07439

Email: oburghhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Facebook [@facebook.com/oburghhistoricalsocietypage](https://www.facebook.com/oburghhistoricalsocietypage)

Borough of Ogdensburg's website: ogdensburgnj.org/committees/historical-society