



September 2023

Ogdensburg Historical Society

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Find us on:

Facebook at facebook.com/oburghhistoricalsocietypage

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

JUNE 2023

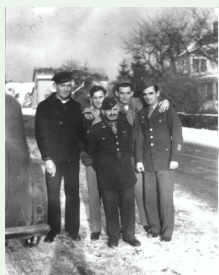
What a great day to have a picnic! Our annual picnic was well attended and as always great to see our members socializing at our events. This year's activity was a visual quiz of Ogdensburg - all in attendance were to identify on a blank Ogdensburg map where the 26 different locations were located on the map and also to list what else or other businesses were at that particular location. Everyone had a lot to talk about with each picture. Tink Washer was one who knew where just about every single picture was located and some stories behind each one. Thanks to Sterling Hill Mine for allowing us to host our meeting at their facility as well as Brick and Brew for catering the event.

Here is a sampling of the pictures to identify.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 7th-8th — 13th Annual SCAHC Weekend
- October 17th — Ethnic Dinner @ Elementary School 6:30pm
- November 2 Trustee Meeting 7pm
- December 4, Christmas/Holiday gathering doors open at 6:30pm



Revolution 250

The United States of America is turning 250 in 2026 and New Jersey is commemorating this once-in-a-generation moment through it's RevolutionNJ initiative.

RevolutionNJ is New Jersey's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Crossroads of the American Revolution is the not-for-profit partner of the New Jersey Historical Commission in planning observances and commemorations, with support from the NJ Division of Travel and Tourism and the NJ Division of Parks and Forestry.

More information will be forthcoming for both the Town and the School. Please visit this link to see all the planning efforts so far into this milestone event.

<https://revolutionarynj.org/revolution-nj/>

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Designating Franklinite as State Mineral

07/19/2023

TRENTON— Governor Phil Murphy today signed S1727/A3393, which designates franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey. Sponsored by Senators Steven Oroho and Edward Durr and Assemblymen Parker Space, Hal Wirths, and Kevin J. Rooney, the legislation recognizes a source of New Jersey pride and a crucial contributor to the state's industrial history.

"By designating franklinite as the official State Mineral, we celebrate yet another quintessentially Jersey piece of history," said Governor Murphy. "Franklinite quite literally helped build our modernizing nation's foundation while fueling the growth of the railroad industry and New Jersey's local economies. This legislation will ensure that franklinite's enduring economic and cultural legacy is remembered not just in Sussex County, but across the Garden State."

"The Murphy Administration's recognition of franklinite as the New Jersey State Mineral underscores the worldwide renown and critical role that franklinite has had in the industrial history of our state," said New Jersey State Geologist Jeff Hoffman. "The largest deposit of franklinite in the world is in the ore bodies that supplied the Franklin Mine and Sterling Hill Mine in Sussex County. Zinc from these mines supported many uses and was crucial to early industrial development in New Jersey. Moreover, these mines were the largest supplier of zinc during World War II, providing the raw materials needed for weapons that helped protect our country and troops."

"Franklinite represents an important part of New Jersey's history for the role it played in helping to industrialize our state," said Senator Steven Oroho. "Found exclusively in the United States in the communities of Franklin and Ogdensburg, franklinite is a critical link to our state's mineral mining heritage and its designation as New Jersey's official state mineral is most appropriate."

"Franklinite is a mineral unique to New Jersey and was a key component to the modernization of our state during the 19th and 20th centuries," said Senator Edward Durr. "With the signing of this bill, New Jersey will recognize the tremendous impact this mineral has had on the construction of water, electric, and other crucial infrastructure we rely on every day."

"Franklinite is as unique to New Jersey as the Pine Barrens are, and was the driving force behind the state's thriving mining industry," said Assemblyman Parker Space. "The discovery and mining of this rare ore built Franklin. Its importance can't be overstated."

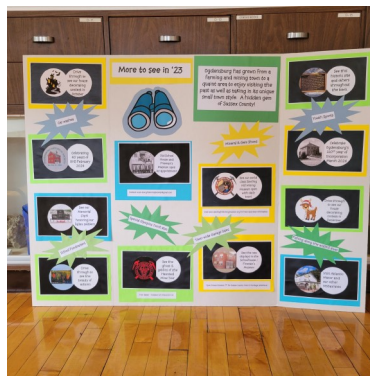
"There are many people to thank who helped get this bill to the Governor's desk," said Assemblyman Hal Wirths. "Jeff Osowski of the Sterling Hill Mining Museum built the momentum for this years ago; Bill Truran took a keen interest in organizing support when he became the Sussex County Historian in 2019; and all the students in Northern New Jersey who kept writing letters to get this bill through the legislative process and now signed into law. This is a great day for everyone involved."

"Franklinite, an ore only found in New Jersey, built a town and was a driving force in our state economy while benefitting millions around the globe," said Assemblyman Kevin J. Rooney. "It's fitting to name it the official state mineral."

"The Sterling Hill Mining Museum has been working for years to gain recognition for franklinite as the New Jersey State Mineral. It was one of the driving forces in the economic development of Sussex County in the 1800s," said William Kroth, President and Executive Director of the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Inc. "After the franklinite ore was processed to remove the zinc, it then became the source of high manganese steel, which was vital for the railroad industry. Franklinite is found nowhere else in the world in as great a quantity as in New Jersey. The Sterling Hill Mining Museum, a 501(c)(3) educational institution, is looking forward to building on this recognition in its outreach to students." (www.nj.gov)

This year's State Fair theme for the local municipalities was More to See in '23. Our display was a great way to capture all the different upcoming events and places in our town to see. We may not have won a ribbon but received several "That is creative" comments.

Thanks to the Trustees who were able to set up and take down the display at the fairgrounds and Christine Dabrowski with her help put this together this year.



OHS President Jane Krueger presented newsletters and some facts about the Ogdensburg Historical Society at the Wallkill Valley Rotary Club on August 23, 2023. This informal meeting was a way for the Rotary community to hear a little more about our museum and historical society. One of our museum items that was presented to the Rotary by Jane was the dictionary donated by the school in March of 2022. The Wallkill Valley Rotary presents to each 3rd grader in their district a dictionary for their personal use. This was a nice segway into their discussion.

Hitting Milestones in the next few years...

OHS is turning 40!

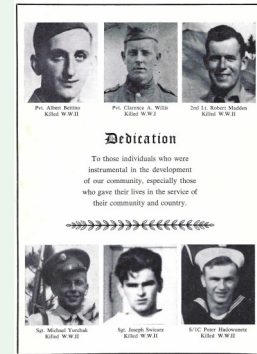
We are looking for volunteers to form an planning committee to arrange next year's celebration! Contact any board member or trustee if you are interested.

Ogdensburg is turning 110!

Mr. Astor approached the OHS President to consider an exploratory committee to help plan a simple "Birthday Party" for March of 2024. Contact any board member or trustee if you are interested.

USA is turning 250

We have been contacted by several Historical Societies across NJ to work collectively over the next few years to mark the milestone. We do need a few more committee members to help with project Revolution250. Contact any board member or trustee if you are interested.



We are always looking for volunteers to help curate the museum throughout the year, please feel free to contact us, if you are interested.



Watch for all different types of articles, topics, celebrations and pictures on our Facebook page

The OHS Board and Trustees are working to create new exhibitions at the museum with items to showcase various people and aspects of the town's history.

We are currently looking for donations of:

- ◇ Sports memorabilia from local athletes
- ◇ Memorabilia/photos from the local churches
- ◇ Memorabilia/photos regarding the railroad system through Ogdensburg



The displays are full and are all ready to show the history from the different services of our town. Incorporation of Borough Hall, Fire Department to include the prospectus for our first fire truck, Police Department visual history of our towns police officers, First Aid Squad's contributions for responding to Ogdensburg residents and VFW's support to honor our men and women from all the services and Memory Park to honor those who have fallen.

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On July 14th about 40 members of different Historical Societies and other non-profit organizations met at Skylands Stadium and braved a rain storm that included thunder and lighting in hopes of it letting up to watch some baseball. Instead we were able to network and enjoy the buffet being offered. Ogdensburg was represented with several members in attendance. Luckily we were all able to go back to another home game and enjoy a little minor league baseball.



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The school did some renovations this summer which included changing the closets of the old section of the school. By chance we were able to claim one of the closet doors for our use in the building. We haven't figured out how to display it yet, but know we will find a home for it soon. *Note – the door is actually upside-down the open spaces used to be the slats at the bottom of the door.*



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.

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:

Annually:

Seniors \$6.00

Individual \$12.00

Family \$18.00

One Time:

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 preservation of Ogdensburg history for 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) with 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 old Ogdensburg, school history and graduation pictures, a scale model of the mine's hoist, and Ogdensburg 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 Mountain, as well as memorabilia showcasing our town and first responders and the VFW.

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!

General Membership Meetings

Wednesday, September 21st-7:00 pm

Monday, December 4th-7:00 pm

Ogdensburg Historical Society Officers & Board of Trustees

Officers -

President - Jane Krueger

Vice President - Mark McFadden

Secretary - Christine Dabrowski

Treasurer - Megan MacMullin

Trustees -

Dion Derkach

John Kibildis

Dominic Zampella

Tom Kuplan

Bud Decker

Candace Horner

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