



December 2022

## Ogdensburg Historical Society

14 Highland Ave.  
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Find us on:

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

Borough of Ogdensburg's website: [ogdensburgnj.org/committees/historical-society](http://ogdensburgnj.org/committees/historical-society)

### FALL 2022

OHS has been keeping ourselves busy with many activities over the last several months. Our September meeting was well received. Guest speaker Paul Michael Kane presented his work of saving historical buildings through photography. He also presented and discussed his Weir NJ Article about Fox Film as it stands now. Amongst our guests and members, was Kevin Kervatt a former employee of Fox Film, who embellished on stories and information regarding the Fox Film. At the end of the evening, Mr. Kervatt asked if he could donate to the museum various pieces of memorabilia that was from his personal collection to display from Fox Film. A couple of movie reel tins, a mirror, a few pieces of film editing equipment all from various years.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 8 - Board of Trustee's meeting at 7pm
- March 7 - General Membership meeting at 7pm-Guest Speaker Bill Kroth discussing state mineral



Sussex County Historical Society will be having a Christmas open house on Thursday, December 15 from 6:30 - 8:30PM at the Hill Museum, 82 Main Street in Newton. Come see the displays at the Hill Museum and see the renovation plans for the Tully House and the Old Newton Academy.

We were able to host our Annual Ethnic Dinner again this year! We had about 25 members and guests in attendance. Everyone brought delicious meals and desserts. During the event Joe Mora loaned to the Museum an award that his relative, Nicholas Magallanes received in 1951.

*Magallanes was born in Santa Rosalia de*



*Camargo, now known as Camargo City, in the eastern part of the Mexican state of Chihuahua. He moved with his parents to the United States when he was five years old, first to New Jersey and then to the Lower East Side of New York City. When he was sixteen years old,*

*he was spotted at the New York Boys' club on East Tenth Street by Pavel Tchelitchev, who recommended him to Lincoln Kirstein as a scholarship student at the fledgling School of American Ballet. A handsome youth, with dark Latin looks and a strong, muscular physique, he auditioned for Balanchine and was accepted into the school in 1938. Under the tutelage of Balanchine and Pierre Vladimiroff, he soon began to show promise as a performer. He first appeared on stage in American Ballet Caravan's production of A Thousand Times Neigh, a tribute to the automobile, at the Ford pavilion at the 1939 New York World' Fair. Thus began his lifelong association with the enterprises of Balanchine and Kirstein. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/nicholas\\_magallanes#early\\_life\\_and\\_training](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/nicholas_magallanes#early_life_and_training)*

Mike Blahut donated a book he compiled titled 'Letters to Annie' A World War II paratrooper, Bill Blahut, who grew up in Ogdensburg, went through the Battle of the Bulge, and wrote to his older sister Annie. These are original letters that Annie saved and came into my possession. The letters are of original source and gives us an insight as the War comes to an end.



Dessert table from the Ethnic Dinner

*Thank You*

OHS was honored to be added as a sponsor to the Annual VFW Golf Outing that is coordinated by George O. Lott (Ret Chief PD). We are glad to help!



Another donation that has been received by the Historical Society is a late 1800s's church raffle quilt from one of the Ogdensburg Churches Mr. Arthur David Wardle asked that Mrs. Thompson drop off the quilt. One of his family members had this in their possession and wanted to give it to the Historical Society for some time. There are several family names that are still in town today. This treasure is a sight to see, it has some wear, but for the most part it is intact. From my understanding the way these raffle quilts worked was by families paying to have their names embroidered on one block (or several blocks) and then when the quilt was assembled it was then auctioned off as a fundraiser.



After the interest and conversations from the posts from Joe Mora's memoirs, during Hispanic Heritage month on our Facebook Page. Joe has decided to share 3 more chapters of his book. Upon his wishes we will be using these chapters in piecemeal fashion to put it out to the public as we see fit to share. Not all of Mr. Mora's family has seen his memoirs and he wants to present it by himself to them. We are honoring his wishes.

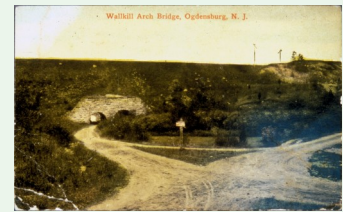
## General Membership Meetings

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 7:00 pm

*Guest speaker Bill Kroth*

Saturday, June 3, 2023 TBD

Wednesday, September 13th 7:00 pm



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



## 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](mailto: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 -

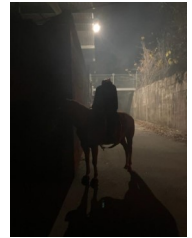
The street you grew up on and the dates you lived in Ogdensburg

Contact us at [oburghhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:oburghhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.



OHS has participated over the years by helping out the Sterling Hell Haunted Mine with parking detail, this year we have agreed to help with the outdoor logistics of the event as the school children and Sterling Hill Mine &

Museum plans the tunnel logistics. This year's event was just as creepy, spooky, ghostly and everything else that comes with Zombie Miners. We were happy to assist in this venture and help with the success of this event for the graduating class from Ogdensburg Elementary School. Judy Perentin, Jane Krueger, Mark McFadden and Dominick Zampella all participated in the weekend's events. We can't give too much away, but this is what ended the night for over 1,000 visitors.



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

Our display area is coming along—it has been painted, and the brackets are up awaiting the glass shelves and displays from the Borough Hall, Fire Department, Police Department, VFW and the Ambulance Squad. A BIG THANK YOU is to be said to John Kibildis and Dion Derkach for all their efforts to ensure the displays are ready for the general public. And a THANK YOU to Bathing Beauties for helping us with our glass shelves.





## 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
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## 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!

### Ogdensburg Historical Society Officers & Board of Trustees

#### **Officers -**

President - Candice Horner  
Vice President - Jane Krueger  
Secretary - Christine Dabrowski  
Treasurer - Megan MacMullin

#### **Trustees -**

Dion Derkach  
John Kibildis  
Mark McFadden  
Bill Washer  
Dominic Zampella

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