



June 2023

## Ogdensburg Historical Society

14 Highland Ave.  
Ogdensburg, NJ 07439

Email: [oburghhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:oburghhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

Find us on:

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

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

### MARCH 2023

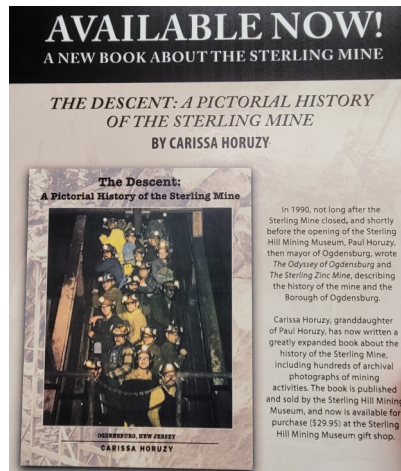
Our Guest Speaker was Bill Kroth, he spoke about Franklinite and it's unique mineral properties and now it's location in Ogdensburg and Franklin in relation to other areas around the world. He also explained why Franklinite is the most logical choice to be proposed as the New Jersey state mineral.



Bill's program discussed the scientific reasoning on how the minerals settled in Sussex County from Ice Age to now and how the various occurrences happened to make those unique deposits. He further explained the reasoning why Zinc is vital to so many different aspects of life. From a mineral for human consumption to why it is added to provide longer product life of that product.

Bill was gracious enough to make his presentation on both March 7<sup>th</sup> and an encore presentation on April 19<sup>th</sup>, due to a date change and lack of advertisement for the first presentation.

At both presentations, Bill discussed "The Descent: A Pictorial History of the Sterling Mine" by Carissa Horuzy, an Ogdensburg native, who researched, collected and incorporated photos into a pictorial book of those who had worked at Sterling Mine. The book is now available at Sterling Hill Mine and Museum.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 14—Sussex County Miners Baseball Game and Networking event 7:05pm first pitch
- August 2nd or 16th—Board of Trustee's meeting at 7pm
- September 13th—Annual General Membership meeting at 7pm
- October 7th-8th — 13th Annual SCAHC Weekend
- October 10th —Ethnic Dinner @ Elementary School 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 its RevolutionNJ initiative.

RevolutionNJ is New Jersey's commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> 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/>

## BILL NAMING FRANKLINITE AS OFFICIAL STATE MINERAL PASSES ASSEMBLY

Posted on 25 May 2023 by Jennifer Peacock

<https://www.njassemblygop.com/bill-naming-franklinite-as-official-state-mineral-passes-assembly/>

**TRENTON, N.J.** – New Jersey has an official state bird, two state foods, and even a microbe, but not an official mineral.

That is likely about to change. Since 2015, Sussex County legislators and school children have pushed to declare a state mineral. On Thursday, the Assembly passed a bill (S1727/A3393) that designates Franklinite the official mineral of the state of New Jersey.

“Franklinite is as unique to New Jersey as the Pine Barrens are, and was the driving force behind the state’s thriving mining industry in the 19th and 20th centuries,” Assemblyman Parker Space (R-Sussex), one of the bill’s prime sponsors, said. “The discovery and mining of this rare ore built Franklin. Its importance can’t be overstated.”

In 1819, French geologist Pierre Berthier discovered Franklinite, a reddish-brown or black zinc ore found only in Franklin and Ogdensburg boroughs and named for Benjamin Franklin. More than 33 million tons of zinc were mined over 250 years, and used in products ranging from sunblock to car tires, to cosmetics and brass. More than 350 minerals were found in the areas two mines, 19 of them found nowhere else on Earth.

According to an oral history shared in the Daily Record back in 2015, driven by the demand for that rare ore, Franklin became a booming mining town for 60 years. However, after the ore was exhausted, the Franklin Mine eventually shut down in 1954, and Sterling Hill Mine in Ogdensburg in 1986.

The memory of this industry and the contributions it made not only to the region but the entire state are kept alive through the efforts of Franklin Mineral Museum, the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, and the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society.

“There are too many people to thank individually who helped get this bill to the Governor’s desk. But I need to mention it was originally Jeff Osowski of the Sterling Hill Mining Museum that built the momentum for this years ago, Bill Truran who took a keen interest in organizing support when he became the Sussex County Historian in 2019, and the students in Franklin, Ogdensburg, Hardyston and Sparta who kept writing letters to get this out of committee and onto the Assembly floor,” Assemblyman Hal Wirths (R-Sussex), the Assembly bill’s other sponsor, observed. “Parker and I are grateful for the community involvement from our local elected officials to our schools that has led to this recognition of the giant contributions little Sussex County has made to the state’s history and economy.”

Sen. Steven Oroho’s bill passed in the Senate in October 2022. The bill now goes to the governor’s desk for signing.



# Hitting Milestones in the next few years...

## OHS is turning 40!

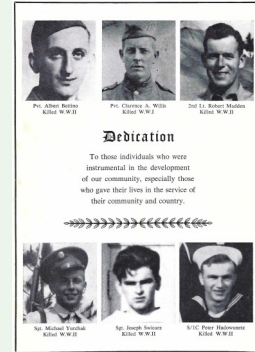
We are looking for volunteers to form an planning committee to arrange next year's celebration! Contact any board member or trustee if you are interested.

## 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



All five of our showcases are full of history from—Borough Hall, Fire Department, Police Department, First Aid Squad and VFW. We need to put together a few more touches, but come see the history of our first responders and those that serve our community.

## BASEBALL, BBQ & NETWORKING

The Sussex County History Alliance is planning a networking event at the Sussex County Miners baseball game on Friday, July 14, 2023 7:05 pm first pitch.

\$35 pp includes game ticket ◇ 90 minute unlimited BBQ w/ burgers, dogs, salads & more ◇ unlimited sodas & water ◇ tap beer for 2 hours ◇ group photo ◇ announcement of your organization during the game.



This is not a fundraiser for any one organization - cost is determined by Sussex County Miners. Minimum 35 people are needed. If we don't have enough to attend you will get your money back.

All responses and payments are due by June 23, 2023 – include email with your payment so we can provide details for the night of the game.

Contact Jane Krueger 973-670-3669 or Mario Poggi 973-864-7852 with any questions

Make checks payable to "Sussex-Wantage Historical Society"

Mail checks to: Sussex-Wantage Historical Society, PO Box 212, Sussex, NJ 07461

## 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 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 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 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 13th 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

#### **Ogdensburg Historical Society**

14 Highland Ave  
Ogdensburg, NJ 07439

Email: [oburghhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:oburghhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

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

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