



MANTUA TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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Winter 2022

WALTER HAMILTON SIMON

Resident of Barnsboro, New Jersey, Descendent of a Revolutionary War Veteran and Now at Rest
Aboard the USS Arizona

By Herb Hood, Vice Chairman and Jeff Gellenthin, Chairman



The Barnsboro Memorial Monument and Tablet are dedicated to those from the community who served in the armed forces during World War II. The brick memorial was unveiled July 1946. The original bronze table was installed and unveiled July 1947. This monument is located along Main Street in front of the Barnsboro School.



Walter Hamilton Simon

Walter Hamilton Simon was born on July 24, 1918, in Collingswood, Camden, New Jersey. He is the son of Dr. William Peltz Simon (1883-1943) and Laura Estella Down (1883-1939).

Walter had a sister named Dorothy Louise Simon who was born on January 26, 1923, in Collingswood, Camden, New Jersey and died on May 30, 1986, in Trenton, Mercer, New Jersey. She married Joseph William Pope (1922-1982) on August 19, 1950, in Collingswood, Camden, New Jersey. Although they did not marry until 1950, Dorothy's husband served in WW II as a master sergeant in the Army Air Corp.



Dorothy and Walter Simon

Walter's ancestry can be traced back to a Johannes "John" Christoph Simon who was born in 1740 in Germany and died on December 7, 1798, in Passyunk, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He came to America aboard the ship "Chance" in September of 1766. A year later at the Old Swedes Gloria Dei Church in Philadelphia he married Anna "Catherine" Bromery (1741-1829).

It is quite a coincidence that Walter Hamilton Simon and his 3rd great grandfather would die on the same day of the calendar year, 143 years apart. Also, both served their country in time of war. Johannes served in Captain Christian Grover's Company of the Sixth Battalion of the Philadelphia Militia during the Revolutionary War.

Walter's father did register for the draft in World War I but did not serve. At the time of his father's registration, Walter Hamilton Simon was just 6 days shy of his second month's birthday.

Walter grew up in Collingswood and graduated from Collingswood High School. The family remained in Collingswood at least through 1935. By the time of the 1940 Federal Census the family was living on a farm on Main Street in Barnsboro.

Walter enjoyed being in the United States Navy. It was a lifelong dream of his. He often wrote home to his family about his time in the Navy.

"Arrived OK. Had my first meal in the Navy. It was beans. I'll write soon as I land at Newport. It's swell so far" – October 16, 1940

"You should see me wash clothes and sling a hammock. They are sure nice to sleep in – no foolin!" – October 25, 1940

"By the time I get out of this Navy I'll be a first-class paint-chipper" – December 31, 1940

"We sure are working hard now. They have us loading ammunition and I mean that damn stuff is heavy! A powder bag weighs 102 lbs. And we carry two at a time. The shell weighs over 1000 lbs." – January 1941

“No...Hawaii ain’t what it’s cracked up to be, it has pretty scenery, but the place stinks. Half the inland water is polluted.” – February 13, 1941

“The officer told me today I was one of the best men in the division and to keep up the good work. Boy that made me feel good!” – March 10, 1941

“The Navy is doing me a lot of good Dad; It is taking the craziness out of me. I stop and think now before I start to do anything. I weigh almost 200 now and feel fine.” – Father’s Day, 1941

“...I know that I’ll be home with you at my first possible chance.” – May 1941

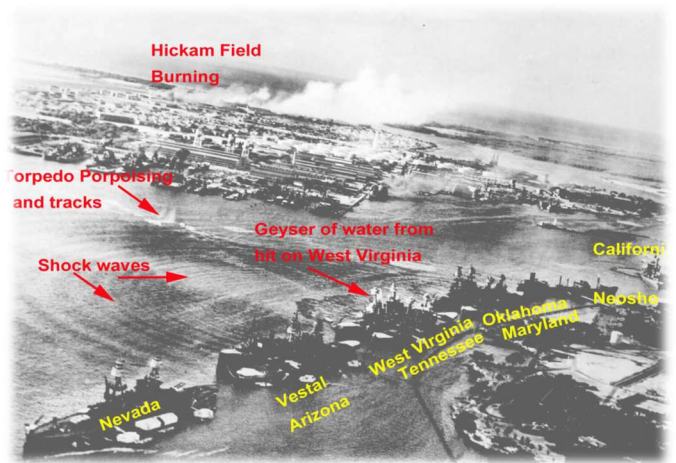
“...I feel like a million. I’ll bet Terry” [their dog] “won’t even recognize me! I’m still studying for Coxswain. I really enjoy being around the boats...ours is the best in the fleet...it looks like a million. I wish we could get together for Christmas...we’d have a real good time, you, me, Dad, and Marie...I’ll write again soon! Keep smiling!” – November 21, 1941

(Letter excerpts are from Walter’s niece, Nancy Maack)

Sadly, Walter never did make it home for Christmas.

Walter Hamilton Simon served aboard the battleship Arizona, BB 39. The Arizona was the second and last battleship of the Pennsylvania Class of battleships, belonging to the super dreadnaught type of battleships. It was built at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and was commissioned into the US Navy on October 17, 1916. (Walter had not been born when the ship was built and commissioned into the US Navy.) On December 7, 1941, both the Arizona and the Pennsylvania were at Pearl Harbor. Pennsylvania was in drydock and Arizona was moored on battleship row along Ford Island. The ship was moored inboard of the repair ship, USS Vestal.

Following is a picture of the USS Arizona, at sea, in her glory days. At one time the ship was considered as the pride of the fleet.



Battleship Row, December 7, 1941

Above, all the ships identified by a state name were battleships. The Arizona’s main armament consisted of twelve 14-inch guns. These guns were not intended to be used against aircraft. They were designed to attack other ships and for bombarding shore targets. The guns that could be used against attacking aircraft were twenty-two 5-inch guns and four 3-inch guns. Arizona also had two 21-inch torpedo tubes which would have been used against enemy ships.

Arizona’s air raid alarm sounded at 7:55 am on December 7, 1941. A few minutes later Arizona’s well-trained crew were at battle stations. At 8:00, ten Japanese Nakajima “Kate” torpedo bombers attacked Arizona. However, these torpedo bombers were not carrying torpedoes. They were carrying 16.1-inch, specially modified armor-piercing shells weighing 1,757 pounds. Four of these bombs hit Arizona

having been dropped from about 9,800 feet. The last bomb hit the ship at 8:06. It struck the ship near turret number two and managed to penetrate Arizona's 5-inch-thick deck armor. The shell penetrated several decks into the ship before exploding. That explosion led to the detonation of a powder magazine on Arizona, which tore the battleship apart and killed 1,177 men.



USS Arizona, engulfed in a raging inferno.



Above picture, the final resting place for the USS Arizona and the body of Walter Hamilton Simon. Behind it is the battleship USS Missouri, BB-63.

By the next day, December 8, 1941, Walter's father and sister were aware of the attack on Pearl Harbor and that the Arizona had been lost. They had to wait a mentally, agonizing eighteen more days to

be officially notified that Walter had been killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor. In just two years Walter's father had lost his wife and son. Walter's father's grief caused his health to rapidly decline, and he died in 1943.

Walter Hamilton Simon, whose serial number was 2437894, was awarded:

The Purple Heart

The World War II Victory Medal

Combat Action Ribbon

American Campaign Medal

Navy Presidential Citation

Navy Good Conduct Medal

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal

Navy Expeditionary Medal

DID YOU KNOW?

Since the Battleship Arizona is talked about, there have been two battleships to bear the name of New Jersey. The second one is the Iowa Class battleship USS New Jersey BB-62 that is currently berthed in Camden. It is the most decorated US battleship in American history. The first battleship to bear the name of New Jersey was the New Jersey Class battleship USS New Jersey BB-16. This battleship was part of the Great White Fleet that President Theodore Roosevelt sent on a world cruise to show America's navel strength to the world. This New Jersey served in WW I. At that time, many of the fleet's gunners were trained aboard the New Jersey for service in WW I. After the armistice was signed, the New Jersey made 4 voyages to France to bring home 5,000 soldiers.

POLITICAL RALLY IN BARNSBORO

By Herb Hood, Vice Chairman and Jeff Gellenthin, Chairman

Known by at least eight different nicknames, he stood on the back of a wagon, in a parking lot of a local hotel. A big game hunter in Africa, an explorer of South American rivers, a rancher in the American West, he watched as a crowd gathered to listen to what he had to say. A military hero who would eventually be awarded the Medal of Honor, but at the time, a man who had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, he remains the only American to be awarded both. It was only natural that people would come to hear what he had to say. A writer of over forty books, his words were of interest to all. Perhaps, at the time, he may have recalled, when as a boy of six years of age, he stood, looking out of a second story window, on the corner of Broadway and 48th Street in Manhattan, as crowds gathered to watch the funeral procession of President Abraham Lincoln. His name was Theodore Roosevelt.



Theodore Roosevelt was and remains, one of the most popular Presidents in American History, his likeness appearing on a 32, 30, 6, 5 and 3 cent postage stamps. Historians rank him as the 4th best President in American history. He, as then Vice President, assumed the Presidency after the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901. At the age of 42, he still remains as the youngest President of the United States. His Presidency changed America. He believed that the President should represent all the interests of Americans and not just those of his political party which was Republican. This he did. While in office he signed into law many important pieces of legislation that benefited all Americans. He believed that America's national resources belonged to all the American people. As such, 125 million acres of forests were added to the national forests. The number of National Parks doubled. Sixteen National Monuments were created, and 51 national wildlife refuges were established. His domestic policy became known as the Square Deal while his foreign policy was a corollary of the Monroe Doctrine. He was an advocate of naval strength and sent the United States Navy on a world cruise as a show of force. His list of accomplishments goes on and on. At the end of his second term, he was so popular that he could have easily won a third term. He decided not to run and gave his support to William Howard Taft, his Secretary of War. By the end of Taft's first term, Roosevelt decided to run for President again. The Republican Party at the time wanted to support Taft in his seeking of a second term as President. Roosevelt decided to run as a Presidential candidate for a progressive party known as the Bull Moose Party.

Presidential rallies happen every election year, particularly going into elections. Candidates from all parties hold their rallies and give speeches to put forth their stances on issues facing the nation and to put down their opponents and their ideas. While nowhere near common in Mantua Township, one

such rally or speech did occur in Barnsboro back in 1912.

Of the two major parties, New Jersey Governor, Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat, was running against William Howard Taft of the Republican Party. On the back of a wagon in the parking lot of the Barnsboro Hotel, Theodore Roosevelt held such a rally.

What was Barnsboro like back in 1912? For one thing, it was more of a town or village than a city of the time period such as Woodbury or Gloucester. The corner where the Barnsboro Hotel is located marked an intersection where five roads come together.



Barnsboro Hotel, circa 1912

***Barnsboro a Stagecoach
Stop Till the Railroad
Built Station at Sewell***

Above is a news article headline from the Courier Post, printed Wednesday, August 10, 1921. Here is what the paper reported:

Located in the center of a fertile farming district that produces hundreds of thousands of crates of produce for the markets of Camden, Philadelphia,

and more distant cities, lies the pretty Village of Barnsboro.

The Town is one of the oldest settlements of South Jersey, and at one time was an important stop on the Philadelphia-South Jersey post road. It was founded over 150 years ago by John Barnes.

The history of Barnsboro centers round the old tavern built by Barnes in the eighteenth century. The central portion of the present structure was a part of the original building. It was built of cedar logs, which are still in good state of preservation. The hotel was a post station on the old stagecoach route and was a busy trading centre. It lost much of its importance with the advent of the railroad station at what is now Sewell.

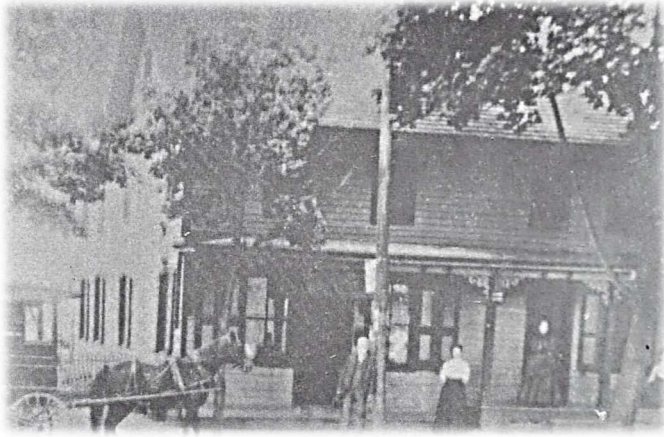
The town has two fine churches, a general store, a handsome two-room stone school and a fire house with a modern motor chemical apparatus that is the pride of the members of the volunteer company.

The town being centrally located in Mantua Township, the business of the township has been conducted there for years, the township committee meeting in the fire house and the school board in the schoolhouse. It stands on a high elevation from which the surrounding country for miles can be surveyed. The light in the statue of William Penn in Philadelphia is plainly visible on clear nights.

Perhaps the general store referred to in the newspaper article was the Kirkbride store located across from the Barnsboro Hotel. The store had a long history in the community of Barnsboro.

Asher Kirkbride purchased the store in the mid-1800's. The original building was in front of the present building and was eventually moved to be used as a wheelwright shop and was better known as Tomlin Hall. David Kirkbride, Asher's son, took over in 1870.

As early as 1880, David advertised the store in George G. Green's "Atlas and Dairy Almanac" stating that he was a dealer in dry goods, groceries, hardware, and many other items.



Asher, David's son, continued to run the business from 1907 to 1955. His son Harold and his wife Anna ran it for years after Asher retired. After Harold's death, Anna and her son, Robert, continued to run the store for a short period. The store was eventually sold and became a pizza shop.



Coming into Barnsboro from Mantua along the road that went through Barnsboro and onto Pitman and Glassboro, you had to pass through a toll gate. Revenue from these toll gates was used to maintain the road system in communities in South Jersey. The road through Barnsboro was considered at one time to be a major road and labeled on old maps as a "turnpike".

The Barnsboro Toll House - was situated along the South side of Main Street on the second lot passed the Barnsboro Academy. In this picture, you are looking East toward Pitman. The toll house is on the right. And if you look carefully through the trees on the left, you will see the Barnsboro Inn. Other features include a horse and wagon, and a chicken crossing the street at the bottom, center. The spot that

it sat on is now a grass lawn between two historic Barnsboro homes.



Other structures near the Barnsboro Hotel included the Barnsboro Fire House and the above-mentioned Barnsboro Academy. The Barnsboro Academy was replaced a year after Teddy Roosevelt's rally in Barnsboro with a new stone schoolhouse which still stands today, 109 years later, and is used as a school administration building. In front of the building is a memorial listing the names of men from Barnsboro who served their country in times of war.

This description of Barnsboro is what Roosevelt would have seen back in 1912 when he gave his speech. At this time, Barnsboro leaned Republican as did Mantua Township. Perhaps this is what motivated Roosevelt to stop in Barnsboro and hold a rally or maybe it was simply Roosevelt's belief that a President of the United States should represent all Americans and not just the ones of his own political party. What about that rally? What was it like? What happened at the rally? Such a Presidential rally had never been held before in Barnsboro, or for that matter in Mantua Township, and has never been held since. The rally was a first for Barnsboro and Mantua Township.

Those answers and more come from a newspaper article. On July 20, 1984, the Woodbury Times published an article with the title of, "Did you rally with Teddy in 1912? She wants to know".

WOODSTOWN — At age 78, Blanche Evans is curious.

She's wondering if anyone else from Gloucester County remembers an ox roast for President Theodore Roosevelt's 1912 re-election campaign at the Barnsboro Hotel on Main Street in Mantua Township.

"I would really like to hear from someone who was there, too," Mrs. Evans, a resident of the Friends Home here for the past eight years, said in an interview.

In June of 1912, the Republican party was split and William Howard Taft was running as a Republican against Roosevelt's newly formed Progressive Party. Eventually, Woodrow Wilson, who was running as a Democrat, won the election.

Nevertheless, on Aug. 7, 1912 at a Progressive convention, Roosevelt who had just been shot by an insane man from Milwaukee, told a crowd, "It takes more than that to kill a bull moose." And from then on, Roosevelt waged a vigorous campaign under the name the Bull Moose Party.

According to Mrs. Evans, Roosevelt attracted quite a large crowd during the campaign when he stopped at the circa-1270 hotel, which was then on the edge of a great pine forest.

Mrs. Evans says she remembers the day her father took her to the ox roast very clearly. "My father, W. A. Jones, was a local Republican politician who was interested in getting Roosevelt re-elected. So, he took me to a rally for Roosevelt. I remember seeing an enormous ox hanging from a spike, and a large crowd eating

sandwiches," she said.

However, Mrs. Evans said she did not even think of eating the ox. "It looked terrible," she chuckled. "Blood was gushing out of it, and people were standing around eating sandwiches."

But for Mrs. Evans, the worst part of the rally was yet to come. "I was so upset that because I lost my best red ribbon from my hair," declared the Mullica Hill native.

Mrs. Evans said she was proud to attend the rally with her father, who, in the early 1900s, was well-known throughout Gloucester County for the feed, coal and farm supply store he ran in Mullica Hill.

Mrs. Evans said that 17 years ago, when she attended a summit meeting with then-President Lyndon B. Johnson and Soviet Union Premier Aleksei Kosygin at Hollybush on the Glassboro State College campus, people asked her if she had ever met a president before.

"When I told them yes, I had met Teddy Roosevelt when I was 6 years old, no one believed me. They said, 'Oh, you mean, Franklin Roosevelt'," said Mrs. Evans.

The history buff said she has been spending her days reading Gore Vidal's latest book, "Lincoln."

Mrs. Evans said she has visited the hotel a half a dozen times looking for information about the rally with Roosevelt. Unfortunately, she has found nothing.

"When you reach a certain age, you have time to read and write letters about things that interest you. And I find that one can either become a real conservative or a little bit quirky. I tend to lean more towards the latter," Mrs. Evans confessed.

"I am really hoping that someone else will remember the rally, and we can talk about it together," she concluded.

In Mantua Township at this time, there were two voting districts called Mantua 1 and Mantua 2. Here are the results of the of the primary election of 1912.

	Roosevelt	Taft	Wilson
Mantua 1	49	10	43
Mantua 2	32	17	42

In the Presidential Election of 1912, Roosevelt split the Republican vote which enabled Woodrow Wilson to win the election and become the 28th President of the United States. Wilson tallied 6,294,384 votes. Roosevelt tallied 4,121,609 votes while Taft tallied 3,487, 939 votes. Wilson won the electoral vote by a 435 to 88 margin over Roosevelt. Taft got 8 electoral votes.

Here is an added piece of trivia. While on the campaign trail in 1912, Roosevelt was giving a speech in Milwaukee. At that event, Roosevelt was shot by a New York saloon keeper named John Shrank. Having been wounded, Roosevelt shouted out to authorities that Shrank not be harmed. Roosevelt assured the crowd that he was alright. He told the crowd, "Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot, but it takes more than that to kill a bull moose." With blood seeping through his shirt, Roosevelt continued to give a 90-minute speech before accepting medical treatment for his wound. Shrank's bullet had hit Roosevelt's eye glass case and gone through a 50-page book in his coat pocket before lodging in his chest muscles. Doctors decided it was safer to leave the bullet in his chest muscle and Roosevelt carried it for the rest of his life.

Back in 1912, the people of Mantua Township and in particular, Barnsboro, became a part of national history by attending Theodore Roosevelt's rally. They could not have possibly imagined the lasting effects the man would have on America and on future events. Sadly, there is no one alive today who remembers that day back in 1912 and it appears that it is a forgotten moment in time for Barnsboro.

TRIVIA TIME

What is the oldest cemetery or burial ground in Mantua Township that has a war veteran buried there?

1. Union Graveyard
2. Mantua Methodist Church Cemetery
3. Jesse Chew Cemetery
4. Driver Family Cemetery
5. Mt. Zion Methodist Church Cemetery

The correct answer is on page 15, along with the veteran's name, the war he served his country in, and a bit about the soldier and the military unit that he served with.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S FILES

Accepting progress isn't always easy. The hold outs most likely realized that their world was going to change in ways that did not conform with their way of life in the rural section of the township. The following article appeared in the Camden Daily Courier on Monday, May 11, 1914.

Several property owners who held out for a long time against the erection of poles in front of their premises have finally given in and now the Rural Phone line in Barnsboro is being extended to the southern section of the town from which point the company has had a waiting list of subscribers for some time.

BEWARE HORSE THEIVES!!!

By Jeff Gellenthin and Herb Hood

MEMBERS
OF THE

MANTUA TOWNSHIP PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION,
For the Recovery of Stolen Horses,
GLOUCESTER CO., N. J.

William A. Allen,	John W. Jessup,
Matthew Allen,	David C. Jessup,
George C. Allen,	Asher Kirkbride,
Josiah C. Allen,	William C. Long,
Joseph F. Alfred,	Hugh A. Long,
Lewis V. Atkinson,	Edward Low,
John Bodeli,	William Madara,
Oliver C. Boody,	Allen S. Morgan,
George C. Clark,	Felix S. Parker,
Benjamin C. Clark,	Charles Pearson,
Lucas Clark,	Elisha C. Pancoast,
John C. Eastlack,	Jeremiah S. Reeves,
Clayton D. Gaunt,	Nathan Redrow,
John Gaunt,	Job Robinson,
Amos Gaunt,	John S. Somers,
John Haines,	John R. Sickler, M. D.
Charles E. Haines,	Robert B. Shoemaker,
Elwood I. Haines,	John J. Sturmer,
John G. Hurff,	Jacob G. Tomlin,
Paschal Hewlings,	Theodore F. Tomlin,
Thomas J. Heritage,	Benjamin Vanderslice,
William Howey,	Brazilia W. Vanderslice,

Adon G. Wills.

JOHN HAINES, President. H. A. LONG, Secretary.
L. V. ATKINSON, Vice President. JOHN R. SICKLER, Treasurer.

Anyone who has had their car or truck stolen knows what it is like to lose their basic transportation and the cost and inconvenience of replacing that loss. Back in the day when the horse was the basic transportation the loss and inconvenience was felt the same way as people might feel it today.

The Mantua Township Protective Association was established with the objective to recover horses and harnesses stolen from its members and detection of the thieves. It held its first annual meeting at the Low's Hotel in Barnsboro on January 6, 1868 at 2 PM. The officers for the following year were Nathaniel W. Chew, President, Elisha C. Pancoast, Vice President, William C. Long, Secretary, Asher Kirkbride, Treasurer, Jeremiah S. Reeves, Edward Low and F. Smith Parker, Committee of Account.

The Association members were: John W. Jessup, John G. Hurff, George C. Clark, David Jessup, Charles Pearson, Dr. J. R. Sickler, Nimrod Woolery, West Jessup, Paschal Hewlings, William Madara, Asher Kirkbride, Pancoast Roberts, Lewis V. Atkinson, Samuel S. Werten, Joseph L. Tomlin, Charles F. Heritage, John Moffett, Henry Lippee, John Haines, John Gaunt, John S. Somers, James R. Albertson, George T. Doughty, Allen S. Morgan, Joseph J. Heritage, Josiah C. Wood, Charles F. Haines, William A. Allen, Joseph F. Alfred, Clayton D. Gaunt, Amos Gaunt, Caleb C. Pancoast, Charles T. Malony, William Middleton and Samuel Thomas.

A year later, on January 3, 1869, the association met once again at Low's Hotel in Barnsboro at 2 PM. At that time, eighteen new members had joined the Association bringing the total membership to 53 members. The officers for the upcoming year were John Haines, President, Lewis V. Atkinson, Vice President, H. A. Long, Secretary and Asher Kirkbride, Treasurer.

The newspaper, the *Gloucester County Democrat*, reported in January of 1897 that in 30 years of operation only one horse was ever stolen from a member and that horse was recovered. It belonged to Robert Shoemaker.

Officers have been elected as follows for the ensuing year by the Mantua Township Horse Protective Association: President, Dr. E. Z. Hillegass; vice president, Senator George W. F. Gaunt; treasurer, Thomas J. Stratton; secretary, Thomas C. Dilkes; directors, William H. Allen, Frank L. Carre and Benjamin Vandershice.

JONATHAN HULINGS

by Herb Hood

Jonathan Hulings is James Hulings' second great grandfather. James, a Barnsboro man, served his country during WW II and lost his life when his B-17 crashed on takeoff during a mission. (More on James in the Spring Quarterly Bulletin). Jonathan Hulings died on November 20, 1870. As reported in the *Constitution* on February 22, 1871, his obituary read:

"At Barnsboro, N.J., November 30th, 1870, Mr. Jonathan Hulings, in his 56th year, was called from labor to reward. Mr. Hulings was a good neighbor, and an upright and entertaining man. From early manhood, he lived an acceptable member of the M.E. Church. At different times he held various official positions and at the time of his death was a trustee.

He felt a deep concern for all the interests of the church, especially for the financial prosperity of our new church edifice at Barnsboro, which was built a little more than a year ago on ground that he donated, and towards which he otherwise contributed liberally. He will be greatly missed in our feeble society at Barnsboro.

He leaves an extensive family and many friends to mourn his loss, but we all are comforted with the that he sleeps in Jesus."

Feb. 22, 1871

Jonathan Hulings was born in Swedesboro on February 23, 1815. In Philadelphia on September 13, 1838, he married Rachel Madara who was born on October 12, 1818, in New Jersey and died on January

20, 1900 in Mantua. Jonathan was a blacksmith in Barnsboro.

NEWS FLASH!

June 16, 1909

The church bell for the new Mantua Methodist Church arrived in Mantua on this date. It was installed in the church tower the following day. The bell was donated by the Ushers' Union.

The memorial windows in the new church were donated by the Eggie, Carre and Ross families. The land for the church was given by Job Scott. This new church replaced the 1840 church which was next to the 1874 schoolhouse, now the home of the Mantua Township Historical Commission.

PLANTS...

TOMATO PLANTS.

I have several million Tomato Plants of all the leading varieties now ready, and will continue to have a large supply as long as the season lasts. Improved Stone Tomato Plants a Specialty. Price \$1.00 per Thousand.

CABBAGE PLANTS.

have 15 Leading Varieties of Cabbage Plants now ready, and will continue as long as the season lasts. Price 75c. per Thousand.

PEPPER PLANTS.

Giant Prize Takers, Ruby King and other varieties. Plants ready June 10th. Price \$1.25 per Thousand.

CELERY PLANTS IN SEASON.

My plants are all strong and healthy, true to name, raised from carefully selected stock. We pack all our plants so as to stand shipping long distances.

OROL LEDDEN,

Sewell, N. J.

Opposite Baptist Church.

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Who Supervised the State Census for Mantua Township in 1915?

The Federal Government conducts a census every ten years. Beginning in 1865, the state of New Jersey conducted a state census from 1865 until 1915. There were ten years between each census. In 1915, a man from Barnsboro was the supervisor of the census for Mantua Township. His name was J. Mason Tomlin, the same person that J. Mason Tomlin School in Mantua is named after.

[Form 15.]

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

New Jersey State Census, 1915.

THOMAS F. MARTIN, ESQ.,

Secretary of State

I, J. Mason Tomlin Supervisor of Census for the First District of Mantua Township
in the County of Gloucester do hereby certify that the following is a correct tabulation of the returns for said
municipality, as filed with me by the Enumerators:

Message from the Chairman – Jeffrey Gellenthin

The Mantua Township Historical Commission has had a very productive 2022. Besides maintaining a museum and library, we organize and run many public events each year. This year included the annual J. Mason Tomlin School fifth grade Museum and Union Graveyard visit and essay contest, and the Mantua Township Cemetery Tours. We also participated in the South Jersey History Fair, the Mantua Township Big Night Out, and the Wenonah Historical Society & Wenonah Cemetery Association 7th Annual Cemetery Walk and Picnic. Thank you to the members of this volunteer commission for your hard work and dedication in making this a satisfying and success year.

A question that I routinely raise during our monthly meetings is, *what can we do to help keep the past alive?* We have had a number of opportunities to interview some of the senior members of the community. These interviews revealed great detail about our local history and days gone by. Such detail is one of a kind and can be lost forever if not captured now. I encourage you to contact us if you are a senior or if you know of a senior that would like to share their memories of the area. You can interview as well. Discussion points and questions can include:

- Are there times in your life you remember more vividly than others?
- Tell me about your parents and grandparents. What about your brothers and/or sisters?
- What big, local, national or world events do you remember happening during your lifetime?
- What are a few of your fondest memories?
- What is your most cherished family tradition?
- Do you have any special sayings or expressions?
- What things have changed the most in your lifetime?
- What are some words of wisdom you can offer to the newer generations?
- Are there any special objects or keepsakes that you have held onto?
- Do you have family pictures, documents, or other information you would like to share?

The following was taken from SeniorAdvisor.com. *Our elders are our living repositories of personal, family, and general history. As our connections to the past and guides for the future, they offer us an invaluable gift by sharing their life experiences, knowledge, and insights.*

Please help us as we strive to preserve and share the rich history of Mantua Township. We accept donations of pictures, documents, artifacts, and stories associated with the Township's history.

RECENT NEWS

The Mantua Township Historical Commission held a cemetery tour on Saturday, October 29, 2022. The tour visited the Mantua Methodist Cemetery, the Jesse Chew Cemetery, the Driver Family Cemetery, the Mt. Zion Methodist Church Cemetery, and the Union Graveyard. Some of the prominent graves that were visited on the Cemetery Tour were, from the Union Graveyard, Joseph H. Johnson, William Ashbrook Eastlack, William Turner, Frye Hopkins, Samuel J. Dilks, from the Mantua Methodist Church Cemetery, Jeffrey Chew, John C, Eastlack, Eustace Eggie, from the Jesse Chew Cemetery, Jesse and Mary Chew, Jesse G. Eastlack, Joseph Eastlack, from the Driver Family Cemetery, John Driver, Samuel Driver, John Driver (grandson of John Driver), from the Mt. Zion Methodist Church Cemetery, J. Mason Tomlin, Mortimer Cox, Jr. and William B. Miller, Jr. Each of these individuals plus the other graves visited, all had interesting stories to tell about Mantua Township.



Tour Guide Jeff Gellenthin at the Union Graveyard



Tour Guide Carolyn Olsen at the M. E. Church Cemetery



Tour Guide Jeff Gellenthin at the Chew Cemetery



Tour Guide Herb Hood at the Driver Family Cemetery



Tour Guide Jeff inside the Mt. Zion Church



Tour Guide Herb Hood at the Union Graveyard



Tour Host: Tom Downing



Tour Guides: Carolyn Harris, Kathy MacGregor,
Barbara Heitman. Behind the camera:
Debbie Gellenthin

TODAY'S WORD

Today's word is "miscreant" – a person who behaves badly or in a way that breaks the law. The following tidbit appeared in the Monmouth Inquirer on Thursday, June 13, 1901.

Some miscreant cut the tires of bicycles in front of the Barnsboro hotel and untied several horses hitched about the town one night recently.

TRIVIA ANSWER

The correct answer is 4, the Driver Family Cemetery in Barnsboro. The veteran's name is Thomas Abel English. He is the husband of Martha Driver, daughter of John Driver. Thomas, who served along-side his brothers, Joseph and Michael, was a Revolutionary War private in Colonel Somers' Battalion of the New Jersey State Troops as per Cushing and Sheppard's History of Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties, page 43b.

RECENT DONATIONS

Mike DiGiamberardino – several boxes of various vintage textbooks, maps, pamphlet, and artifacts.

Kathy MacGregor – vintage books and two, early 1900's men's hats in mint condition from her family.

Bob Hicks – a mechanical desk clock from Harold W. Sanger whose place of business was Lamb's Road and Woodbury Glassboro Road and a mint condition medicine bottle from Dr. E. Z. Hillegass, an early 1900's physician from Mantua.

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Ann McFarland - Mother of Art Olsen, current member of the Mantua Township Historical Commission, who passed away on October 31, 2022.

THANK YOU

Mayor Pete Scirrotto and the members of the Mantua Township Committee, for their continued support.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MEMBERS

Jeff Gellenthin – Chairman

Herb Hood – Vice Chairman

Carolyn Olsen – Secretary

Kevin Hale – Treasurer

Kathy MacGregor

Carolyn Harris

Barbara Heitman

Debbie Gellenthin

Thomas Downing

Art Olsen

Our mission is to preserve and share the rich history of Mantua Township

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The Mantua Township Historical Commission accepts donations of pictures, documents, artifacts, and stories associated with the Township's history.

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/MantuaTownshipHistoricalCommission

Merry Christmas from Mantua Township's Past

And from the Mantua Township Historical Commission



The Christmas Cards shown above are from 1939 and represent the first Christmas shared by John (Jack) and Aletha Heritage who lived at 449 Tyler's Mill Road, Sewell, NJ. The first one was to John and Aletha from Mrs. Katherine Reed. The second is to John and Aletha. The third is to John and Aletha from George J. Daminger.