



MANTUA TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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THE FORGOTTEN VILLAGES OF CADORA AND HOLMWOOD LAKES

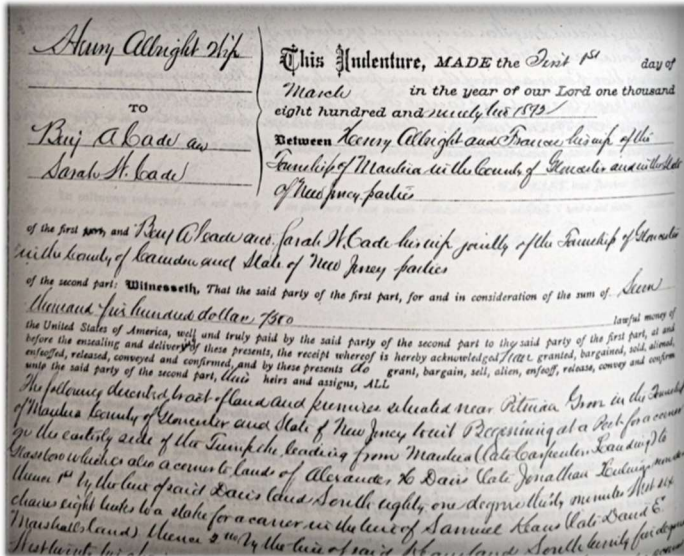


Aerial photo from May 1940 showing Cadora, Holmwood Lakes and surrounding area

The Forgotten Villages of Cadora and Holmwood Lakes

By Jeff Gellenthin

On March 1, 1892, Benjamin A. Cade, and his wife Sarah W. (Carson) purchased a 100-acre farm from Henry Albright and his wife Frances.



Copy of Deed as recorded in the
Gloucester County Clerk's Office

This property is located at the intersection of Main Street and Lambs Road in Mantua Township. The entrance to the farm was historically described as being near the Lambs Road toll gate, which was the beginning of Pitman Borough in later years.

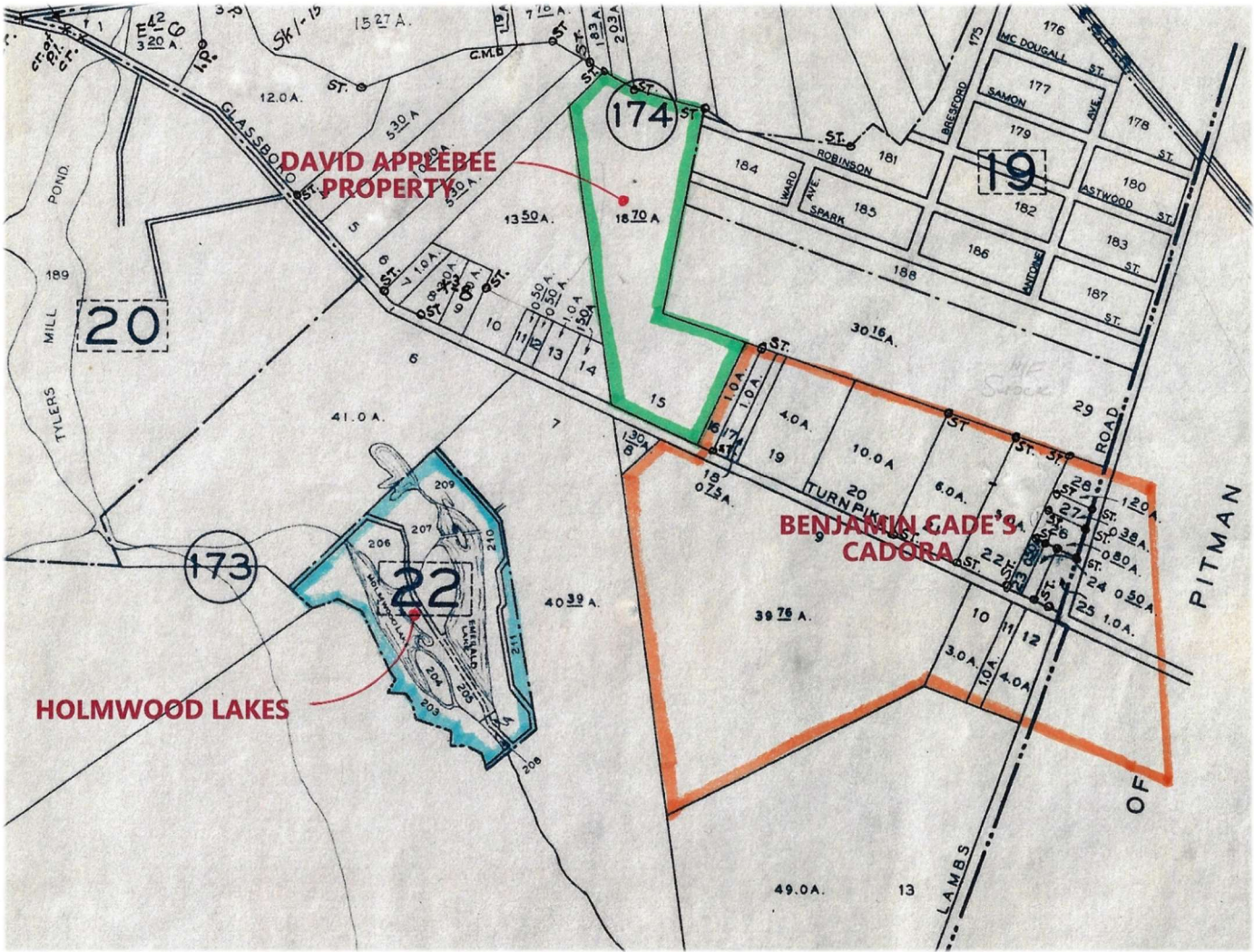
Benjamin Cade was born in 1844. He lived in Hurffville until purchasing the 100-acres. He worked as a farmer and was very active in his community. "Ben" was described as a red hot, solid Democrat, standing over six feet tall and powerfully built.

As soon as Benjamin settled on his new farm, he began the planning of a new community. A nearly 50-year-old man with a dream decided to create the Village of **Cadora**.

This area has quite a history, as it is in the heart of the long ago pits and operation of the marl mining industry. Benjamin must have felt that this was the place.

In a news article dated April 17, 1940, once foreman of the Cade farm, David Applebee shared his understanding of the history of the area: "In 1861 David Marshall of Blackwood purchased the marl beds adjoining Cade's farm, and in 1885 Marshall leased the marl beds to the West Jersey Transportation Company and they shipped marl as fertilizer to all parts of the world, paying a certain amount to Marshall for every ton. John Voorhees was superintendent of the beds and Jobey Hoffman was engineer of the small engine they operated on tracks. They built several miles of narrow-gauge tracks to transport the marl up to the main line of the railroad. They also built many shanties for the workmen, large stables and cart sheds and did a flourishing business for many years. John Weber was the stable boss. One day while they were loading several of their cars along the pits the track and cars started to sink into the marl bed and soon, they disappeared. Hoffman jumped from the engine, but it broke from the cars and held to the track on good ground. The balance of the train sank, and you can still see pieces of the train sticking up out of the marl bed today." David further stated: "It was during the time that they were removing the marl that I first became interested in the fossils, and I have secured many interesting fossils and bones of animals from the bed."

On March 10, 1894, David married Mary Van Dexter. After their marriage they purchased a cabin with 20 acres of ground in Cadora. Thereafter, they added another house that David moved over from "**Holmwood Lakes**". As further stated in the April 17, 1940, news article: "Holmwood Lakes was started many years ago by Norman Holmwood, a developer, who came into the marl section and set up 20 small homes along the lake. Nothing remains of the development today, except what was formerly the office of the development company, and it is in ruins. The cabin section of their home is one of those pioneer-built homes with wooden pegs used instead of nails, but it remains in perfect condition due to the well-seasoned materials."



Portion of the Mantua Township Tax Map – 1829 highlighting the location of Cadora, Holmwood Lakes, and David Applebee’s property.

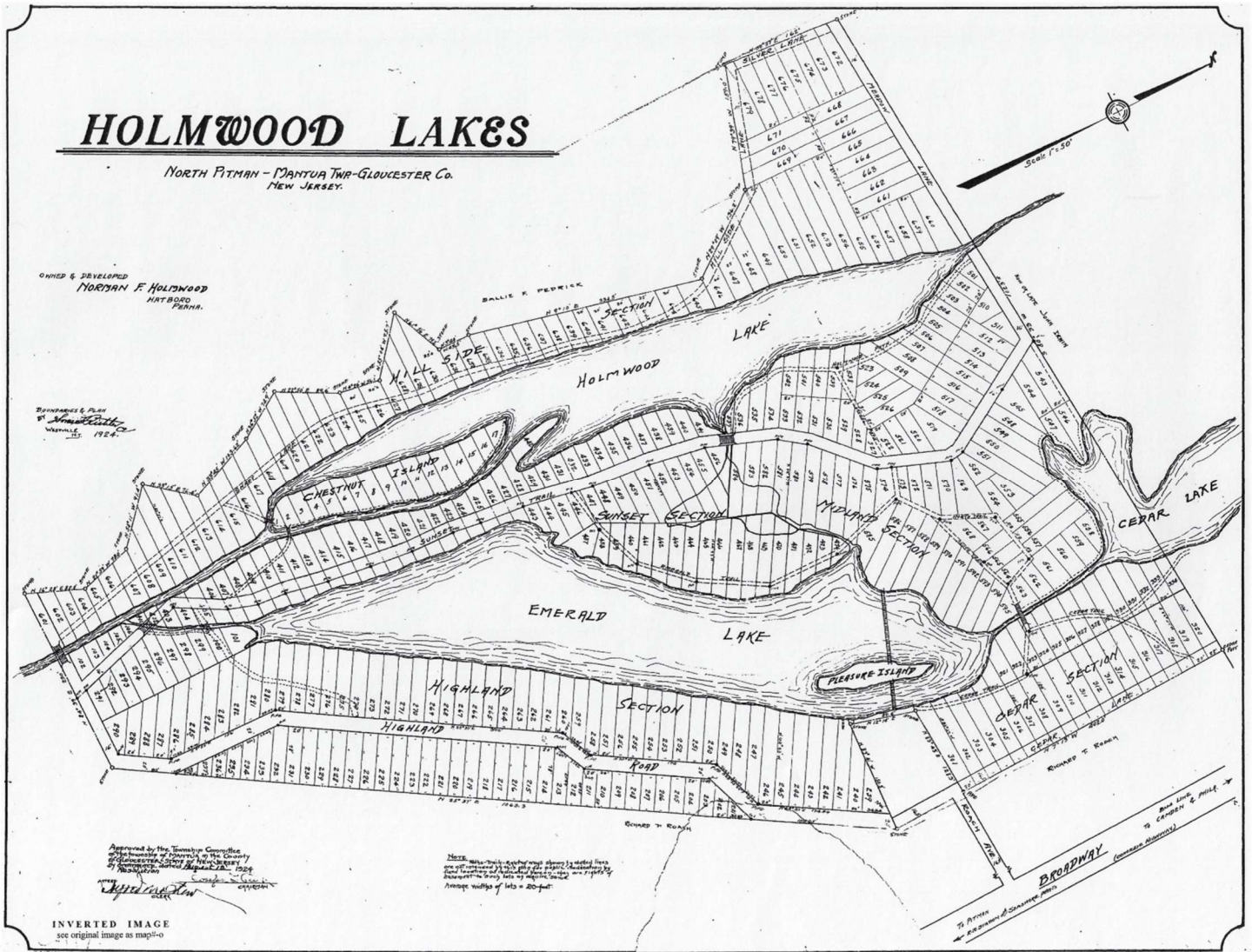
NEWS FLASH: MANTUA

Application will be made to the next Legislature of New Jersey, to give the Glassboro and Carpenter’s Landing Turnpike Company privilege to run steamers between Carpenter’s Landing and Philadelphia, and increase their capital accordingly.

W. WARWICK
Secretary

November 21, 1866

Woodbury Constitution, Notes on Old Gloucester County, Volume IV, page 102



Holmwood Lakes - 1924 – This is a copy of the plan that was filed in the Gloucester County Clerk’s Office. It shows how the property was subdivided into 100’s of lots that had an average width of 20 feet.

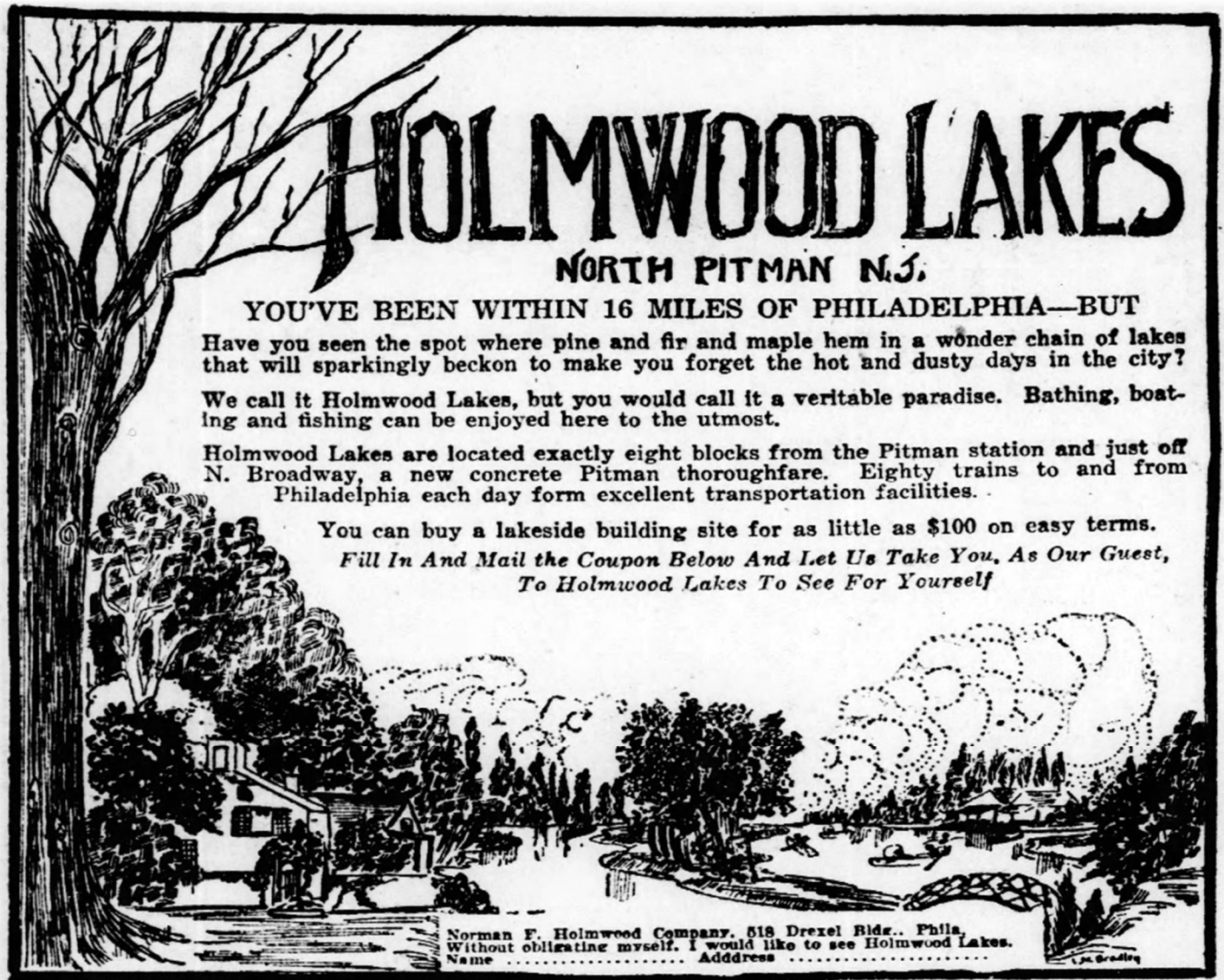
A DATE FROM MANTUA TOWNSHIP’S PAST – OCTOBER 2, 1867

The hotel at Mantua (late Carpenter’s Landing) has been reopened by George T. Doughty, who wishes to inform the public, generally, that he will endeavor to retain the name he has acquired after several years’ experience in the hotel business, both in Millville and Mauricetown.

This convenient establishment is well known to travelers, it having long been established and lately kept by Israel Elbersen. Guests will receive the best attention and the large stables attached are well calculated to give excellent accommodation to horses.

G. T. DOUGHTY.

Woodbury Constitution, Notes on Old Gloucester County, Volume IV, page 180



HOLMWOOD LAKES

NORTH PITMAN N.J.

YOU'VE BEEN WITHIN 16 MILES OF PHILADELPHIA—BUT
 Have you seen the spot where pine and fir and maple hem in a wonder chain of lakes that will sparkingly beckon to make you forget the hot and dusty days in the city?

We call it Holmwood Lakes, but you would call it a veritable paradise. Bathing, boating and fishing can be enjoyed here to the utmost.

Holmwood Lakes are located exactly eight blocks from the Pitman station and just off N. Broadway, a new concrete Pitman thoroughfare. Eighty trains to and from Philadelphia each day form excellent transportation facilities.

You can buy a lakeside building site for as little as \$100 on easy terms.
*Fill In And Mail the Coupon Below And Let Us Take You, As Our Guest,
 To Holmwood Lakes To See For Yourself*

Norman F. Holmwood Company, 518 Drexel Bldg., Phila.
 Without obligating myself, I would like to see Holmwood Lakes.
 Name Address

J. M. Bradley

The Philadelphia Inquirer, Sunday, April 27, 1924

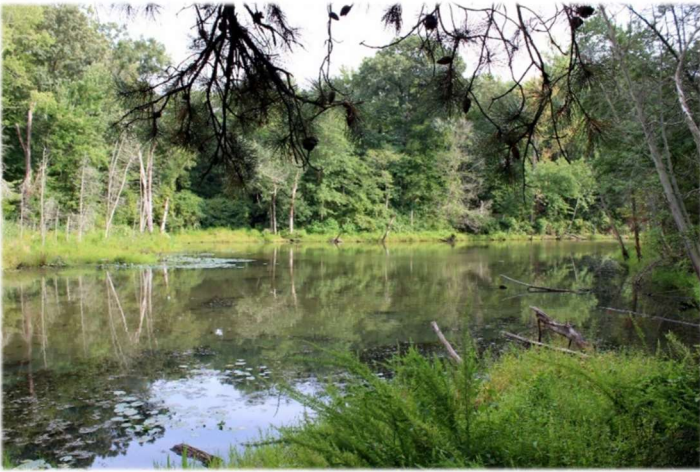
Holmwood Lakes is now known as Ceres Park, a part of the Mantua Township Park system. It began in 1924 and was all but gone by the mid 1930's. The 54-acre Holmwood Lakes tract was eventually turned over to the newly formed Y's Men's Club of Pitman by Joseph Applebaum, a Pitman attorney. The club would go on to use the land to develop a recreational and guidance program for the youth of the community.

Today, you can walk the trails that surround the lakes and sense the concept of small houses being built along the water's edge. The vision of a

wonderful retreat and seasonal home location is easy to see.



Entrance to Ceres Park along Main Street



Emerald Lake

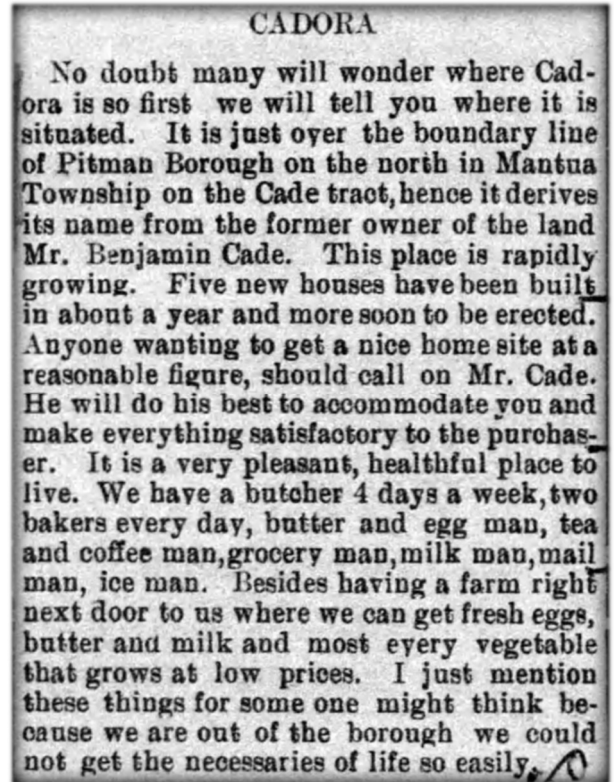


Old Emerald Trail

In years to follow, Cadora was recognized as its own community with its own column in The Gloucester County Democrat during 1907 through 1909. On February 20, 1908, the column included the following: *We have come to the conclusion we will have to advertise again where Cadora is situated, as one of our residents had a post card placed in the Woodbury post office last week, and it was returned to the sender because they did not know where Cadora was.*

This situation was addressed again in the Cadora column on March 11, 1909: *Some of the residents were made to smile when they read their gas bill this month; and read their addresses as "Pike St, Barnsboro." The gas agent will have to wake up as this place has been advertised in several places as*

"Cadora." Being named for Benj. Cade, the man who once owned all the land in this place. Our residents are almost to the conclusion that its name will have to be printed on a board and put on one of Mr. Cade's lots since it gets such queer names. Frogtown is among the many names it has received.



Gloucester County Democrat
Thursday, October 24, 1907

TALES FROM THE GRAVE

John Crane (1819-1872) is buried in the Union Graveyard. He became a shoemaker at 17 and made his living in that trade for over 30 years. His shoe shop was in Barnsboro, **not too far from Cadora**. He was a Township Committee man in 1853, 1863 and 1864, and was the Commissioner of Appeals in 1869. John's 4th great grandfather was Jasper Crane (1605-1680). Jasper is one of the founding fathers of New Jersey.

VILLAGE GETS BEARINGS

**Everybody Writing Letters to Show
it is on the Map.**

Sewell, Feb. 25.—People of the new town of Cadora, which lies between here and Pitman, are writing letters to themselves to teach the post office department where the new town is situated. A letter from Pleasantville, forty-five miles away, arrived all right, but one mailed at Woodbury, only seven miles away, was returned to the sender.

Cadora stands on the site where Marlboro stood forty years ago. The village was then five times as large as it is now, but when the marl pit gave out every house was either torn down or moved away. The houses at Cadora now are all modern ones.

The Plainfield Courier News
Tuesday, February 25, 1908

Other tidbits from the Gloucester County Democrat include:

November 7, 1907 – *The residents of this place hope to have a schoolhouse within its limits or nearby in a year or so from now. We feel that the day for children walking 2-1/2 and 3 miles to school has gone by. As we can count, 20 or more children from this place and nearby will be attending school in the next year. We feel we are entitled to a school nearer than Barnsboro. We sincerely hope that Mantua Township will think likewise.*

November 14, 1907 – *A remark has been made by a visitor to our town that one pleasing feature about Cadora was that it didn't look as if one man built the town. We wish to add that the residents of this place do not believe in one doctor having all the practice. There are six families here who employ when needed five different physicians: Duffield, Luffbary, Slaughter, Carr and Hillegass.*

November 19, 1908 – *While George Watson and family have been away, the high winds of late have blown down some of his out-buildings, but Cadorean's will expect a good supper for helping to put them back to their place.*

January 21, 1909 – *Charles Buchanan is having a five-room cottage erected on the lot which he purchased from Benjamin Cade. He expects to move into it in 2 or 3 weeks. G. Lloyd, of Pitman, is the contractor.*

July 22, 1909 – *Harry Kerns has his well dug for his house, twenty-eight feet deep, and five feet of water, a good showing for a dry time.*

The following is a list of some of the original residents of Cadora: Benjamin and Sarah Cade, George and Nellie Watson, Benjamin Murphy, Emma Schoch, Henry Kean, John Richards, John Allen, James Carson, and Mrs. Irvin.

Here is one from the Courier Post, Thursday, May 11, 1933 – *The Mantua Township Committee has again turned down the application of Frank Buchanan for a retail beer distributors license at Cadora. Officials of Pitman Borough have taken the stand that no beer license should be granted at that location.*

As reported in The Morning Post on April 8, 1940, 82-year-old James "Jim" Burton declared that he lived in a forgotten town named Cadora. Jim said: *"Twenty-nine years ago we moved down here to Cadora, a new town at that time, called after Ben Cade, who owned most of the land but since that time it has become one of the forgotten towns of South Jersey. The old-timers, like the Applebee's, the Beckman's and the sons of Ben Cade, who still live around here, are like myself. They still say they live in Cadora, and it will be Cadora with me until I die, not merely the R.F.D. of Sewell, N.J."*

James R. Burton died on May 14, 1941. He is buried at the Mount Zion Cemetery in Barnsboro, New Jersey.



Courier Post, Saturday May 17, 1941

The following pictures with descriptions show part of the area of Cadora today.



The Cadora area along Main Street at the Route 55 overpass, looking toward Pitman

JAMES R. BURTON
 Pitman, May 17.—Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 2 p. m. for James R. Burton, 83, of North Broadway, Cadora, who died Wednesday. Burial will be in Mt. Zion Methodist Cemetery, Barnsboro. Mr. Burton, who had been married for more than 60 years, is survived by his widow, Elizabeth; three sons and two daughters, Harry B., of Cadora; Paul, of Downer; Arthur, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Clarence Woodward, of Pitman, and Mrs. Clara Clayton, of Collingswood.



The Cadora area along Main Street near Lamb's Road, looking toward Barnsboro

Unfortunately, James Butron was correct. The name "Cadora" had a short life, and soon enough joined the list of lost towns.

Today, the area is much different than it was between 1892 and 1940. Many of the old homes and outbuildings have been torn down, and newer homes have been built. The farm fields are once again woods and development. Many businesses have been established atop the once residential lands. The construction of Route 55 and the apartments removed any trace of the Cade and Applebee farm lots.



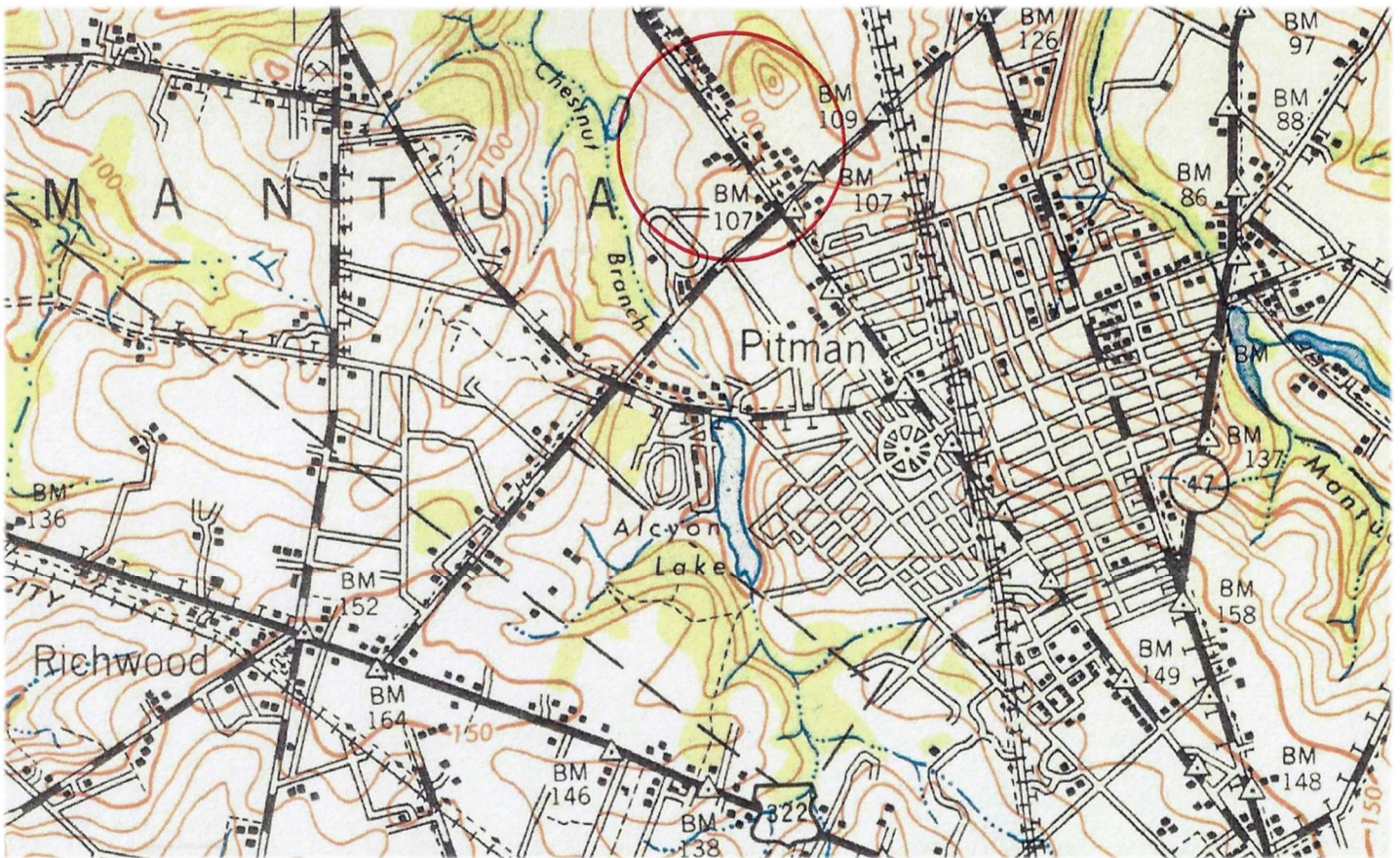
The Cadora area along Main Street near the Heritage's Store, looking toward Barnsboro



The Cadora area along Main Street,
now occupied by White Oaks Apartments

However, in 1892, this was a dream come true for Benjamin Cade, as he created a small town that had

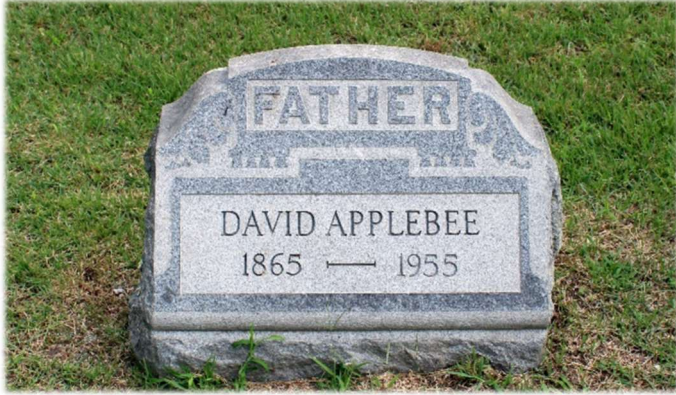
everything you could ask for. As he sold off lots, the population quickly grew. Suddenly there were several homes with happy residents, a fire company, a blacksmith, an icehouse, farms and wooded areas, a sewing club, and a Larkin's Soap club. There were visits by a butcher, a baker, a butter and egg man, a tea and coffee man, a grocery man, a milk man, a mailman and an ice man. Yet, they struggled to be recognized as their own. At one time, the residents of Cadora petitioned to have their own school and to become their own town, and in the end accomplished neither. Through these times, the Cadorean's watched as Pitman Grove managed to separate from Mantua Township and incorporate as a new Borough within Gloucester County on May 24, 1905. This did not bode well for Cadora.



USGS Quadrangle – 1949 (The remains of Cadora are circled in red.
The small black squares represent houses and other structures.)

The Cadora name continued to hold its own, even after the passing of Benjamin Cade in 1918. Then slowly, but surely, the original residents began to fade away along with the name of their wonderful little village. By the 1940's, the name was in the past.

David Applebee died in 1955. He is buried at the Mount Zion Cemetery in Barnsboro, New Jersey.



Benjamin A. Cade died on April 22, 1918. He is buried at the Eglington Cemetery in Clarksboro, New Jersey.



Cadora and Holmwood Lakes were all but forgotten, until now.

A special thanks to Wendy Wilkins Valdez for bringing the Village of Cadora to my attention.

Wendy's great-grandparents, George A. and Nellie Watson lived in Cadora along with other members of the family.

Happy 170th Birthday, Mantua Township!

By Herb Hood



On February 23, 1853, Mantua Township was created by an act of the New Jersey Legislature. The township was named after a tribe of the Lenape Native Americans. It was created from lands of Greenwich Township. Over time, the size of Mantua Township has shrunk. Former lands of Mantua Township were taken to form East Greenwich Township on February 10, 1881. Still later, on May 24, 1905, more land was taken from Mantua Township to form the community of Pitman.

Mantua Township has a little-known anomaly. The U.S. Census Bureau says that the unincorporated community of Richwood lies partially in Harrison Township and partially in Mantua Township. In 1853, the major communities in Mantua Township were Carpenter's Landing and Barnsboro. The Federal Census of 1860 shows that Mantua Township's population was 1,742.

At the time of its creation, Mantua Township had already begun its long history of quality education for its children. No less than three schools served the needs of the township's children. They were the Union School in Carpenter's Landing built in 1804 and the oldest at the time, the Emlin School in Barnsboro and the Barnsboro Academy in

Barnsboro. The township also had a community burial place called the Union Graveyard created in 1804.

On March 9, 1853, Mantua Township held its first town meeting in the Union School in Carpenter's Landing. Dr. John R. Sickler, perhaps Mantua's most famous doctor, was chosen as Moderator. In this time period, a moderator was like a mayor. The township's officers for the following year were chosen. They were, according to Cushing and Sheppard's History of the Counties of Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland, New Jersey: Hugh A. Long, Town Clerk, James B. Albertson, Assessor, William Beckett, Collector, Andrew S. Chew, Alexander R. Long, Lewis V. Atkinson, Commissioners of Appeals, John Daniels, John Gaunt, Chosen freeholders, Alexander R. Long, Isaac C. Dilks, Surveyors of Highways, Joseph R. Norris, John Haines, Elijah Chew, Overseer of Poor and Constable, Allen Moore, Isaac C. Dilks, John Crane, Township Committee Men, Charles Ballinger, Judge of Election, John Daniels, School Superintendent, Asher Turner, Jacob Battern, Overseers of Highways, John Y. Madara, Dalton L. Chew, Pound-Keepers and Franklin Denn, Pound-Keeper for the Village. (Note: Andrew S. Chew and John Crane are buried in the Union Graveyard.)

The Minutes of the first Township Meeting stated:

“Resolved, That the township of Mantua raise One Hundred dollars for Schooling purposes, and the system of maintaining roads are to be done by labour. The Committee are authorized to borrow any sum of money not exceeding One hundred and fifty dollars for immediate township purposes. The Committee are also authorized to inform the Assessor how much tax are to be raised for township purposes, and he to raise it by assessment. The next general election will be held at the Union School-house, at Carpenter's Landing, and the next annual town meeting will be held at the School-house in Barnsboro.”

“A true Copy. Hugh A. Long, Clerk”

A little over thirteen years after the formation of Mantua Township, the name of Carpenter's Landing was changed to Mantua on November 19, 1866. Since that time the communities of Sewell and Center City came into existence.

When People Dressed in Comic Costumes and Danced in the Street in Mantua

By Herb Hood

There was a time in the history of Mantua Township when adults and children paraded in comic costumes and adults danced in the street. In fact, it was actually planned that way. Today, that moment in time is almost forgotten.

Nineteen forty-seven was a year of recovery and a further return to normalcy for America. The Great Depression was gone and the Second World War was over. Harry S. Truman occupied the White House. Thousands and thousands of veterans returned home from the European and Pacific Theaters of World War Two. On the science and technology front, the swept-wing F-86 Saber Jet was flying. Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in the Bell X-1. Color television cameras and color television was demonstrated. The Chicago Cardinals defeated the Philadelphia Eagles at Comiskey Park, 28-21, for the NFL championship. The Yankees defeated the Dodgers to win the World Series. The Philadelphia Warriors won the Basketball Championship over the Chicago Stags. The Toronto Maple Leafs beat the Montreal Canadians to win the Stanley Cup.

On television, the Howdy Doody Show made its debut. ABC TV, channel 6, made its debut on September 13, 1947 joining NBC TV at channel 3. The classic John Wayne film, Angel and the Badman, hit the big screen along with the Thanksgiving/Christmas classic, Miracle on 34th Street. Bing Crosby's White Christmas was released. Children had a large number of cartoons to choose from when they were lucky enough to visit a movie theater with such characters as Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy, Tom & Jerry, Woody

Woodpecker, Heckle & Jeckle, Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Daffy Duck, Pepe Le Pew, Sylvester, Tweedy Bird, Yosemite Sam and Foghorn Leghorn. Even the Three Stooges were still going strong as shorts numbers 98-103 were released.

For mothers, they had a few new products to choose from at the grocery store such as Ajax, Wheat Thins, Reynolds Wrap, Prell Shampoo, Hi-C fruit drinks, Sno-Balls and Bazooka Bubble Gum.

By October of 1947, children in Mantua Township had already started back to school in Barnsboro, Sewell and at J. Mason Tomlin in Mantua. Farmers had already harvested the summer crops. Mothers shopped primarily at local grocery and meat stores. The township itself was ready for something new and different, something to strengthen the already existing community ties that Mantua Township was known for. Young and old, they were ready to celebrate something and have a party doing it. But what?

So, it came to be, that 76 years ago, in 1947, Mantua decided to hold a Halloween Parade. It turned out to be not just a simple parade but an extravaganza. It was called “The First Annual *Hallowe’en Parade and Frolic*”. The event was sponsored by the Mantua Lions Club. The parade was a huge undertaking and nowhere near small in size. It was held on Monday evening, October 27th and started at 7:30 P.M. The event also had street dancing, refreshments and cash prizes for costumes.

According to weather records, it was a perfect fall day for a parade. The high was in the upper 70’s with a low in the upper 50’s. It was a bit breezy with winds around 11 miles per hour. It did not rain on the day of the parade.

The parade route started at Clinton and Mantua Avenues in Wenonah. Frieda Smashey from the Mantua Fire and EMS Museum recalls that the set up for the parade stretched all the way back to Woodbury Glassboro Road. The parade proceeded west on Mantua Avenue to Union Street (Mantua Boulevard today). It then proceeded down Union

Street to Main Street. The parade turned right on Main Street and marched to the Bridgeton Pike (Route 45) where it turned left. It then proceeded south to Union Street where it turned left and proceeded back to Main Street. The parade turned right on Main Street after which it began to break up. Along the way, the parade passed a number of places that no longer exist in Mantua today such as Straub’s Store, an old Mantua Post Office, the original Mantua Bank, Katie Kane’s Candy Store, the Mantua Bakery, the Mantua Diner, the gas station at the corner of Main Street and the Bridgeton Pike, the Red Front Market.

The parade itself had been promoted in newspapers. A parade booklet had even been printed up in advance.

FROM THE MUSEUM



The item in the picture is a handheld corn husker. They were made between 1900 and 1910. The museum has two of them. To use it, the wearer placed several fingers into the leather straps and then grasp the corn husk with the metal device and the wearer’s thumb and pulled down to husk an ear of corn. The two in the museum belonged to Catherine S. *Sutton* Ott, wife of William E. Ott, who lived on Jessup Mill Road beginning in 1915. They were donated to the museum by Catherine’s great granddaughter, Linda S. Simms.

FIRST ANNUAL

Hallowe'en Parade

AND

Frolic

SPONSORED BY

MANTUA LIONS CLUB

MONDAY EVENING - - - OCTOBER 27, 1947

(Rain Date, October 28)

Starting Time: 7.30 P. M.

PROGRAM

LINE OF MARCH:

Start at Clinton and Mantua Aves., Wenonah; West on Mantua Avenue to Union Street, Mantua; on Union Street to Main Street, right on Main Street to Bridgeton Pike, left on Bridgeton Pike to Union Street, left on Union Street to Main Street, right on Main Street and disband.

Judges' Stand located at Fire House, Mantua

Masquerade Awards will be given at the Fire House during the Street Dance.

Cash Awards will be mailed on the day following the Parade.

Street Dancing will be at the Fire House following the Parade.

Hot dogs and sodas will be on sale by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Mantua

Lions Club at the Fire House.

PROGRAM

PARADE COMMITTEES

General	Atlie B. Adams, Chairman
Finance	Arnold M. Hill, Chairman
Invitations	James Mulvenna, Chairman
Parade and Street Dance	G. Wayne Post, Chairman
Judges	Leonard Peters, Chairman
Prizes (Children Comic Dress)	Russell Harris, Chairman
Club Floats	Harry Repass, Chairman

MARSHALLS

Edward Prickett	G. Wayne Post
William Wentzell	George Daminger
Roy Fleming	Jack Herbert

1947 - First Annual Halloween Parade and Program

The parade's lineup was:

Marshalls

Benash – Hilderbrand Post

Mantua Lions Club and Float

New Jersey National Guards

Boys Scouts of America and Floats

Girl Scouts of America and Floats

Children in Comedy Dress

Adults in Comedy Dress

Marching Organizations and Floats

Lions Clubs and Floats

Service-Men's Organizations

Fire Companies

Business Floats

South Jersey Riding Club

For parade watchers, estimated to be 3,000 people, they could see the Parade Marshalls, Edward Prickett, George Wentzell, Roy Fleming, G. Wayne Post, George Daminger and Jack Herbert, leading the way. The Benash – Hilderbrand Post, a veteran's organization, followed. The Hilderbrand in the name is in honor of Joseph Hilderbrand from Mantua. Joseph was a navigator aboard a B-17 named Peter

Wabbit in World War II. He lost his life on a critical bombing mission into Germany on August 17, 1943. It's very possible that his family, friends and former Mantua school classmates might have been in attendance at the parade.

When the National Guards passed by, with patriotism running high in America, the parade watchers may have stood and saluted the American flag as it passed, one with just 48 stars at that time. What they probably were not prepared for was the five heavy tanks and 15 other mechanized army vehicles that followed. It's for sure, nobody in Mantua had ever seen five Army tanks rolling down Union Street, not then or since.

The parade watching crowd had plenty of floats to dazzle them as each passed by. The Mantua Boys Club had two floats. One was dedicated to "safety on the highway" and the other was football related. The Paulsboro Lions Club had a decorated car and a float with the theme of "Democracy at Work" with a "lion on roller skates". There were undoubtedly quite a number fire trucks in the parade as twenty fire companies were represented in the parade. No doubt, the "pride and joy" of the Mantua Fire Department, a 1945 Mack Pumper, currently housed in the Mantua Fire and EMS Museum on Main Street, probably stole the show in the hearts of Mantua residents. Friendship Fire Company from Woodbury brought along their 1899 hand pumper and even gave a demonstration that it was still in working order. However, the demonstration got a bit carried away when spectators got accidentally sprayed with water. The Woodbury Heights' Fire Department staged a running water fight between two of their squads.

One can only speculate about the costumes worn by the children and adults in the parade. No doubt, since they were being judged, they were far more elaborate than what other children would wear for their normal trick or treating for Halloween. Imagine the proud parents watching their son or daughter going by and pointing them out to others at curbside. The parents, waving their hands as their children went by, consumed with pride, were just as much a part of the parade as the parade marchers themselves.



Halloween 1940s, Source: Pinterest, VTG, 1940's Halloween Kid's Photo

For the businesses along the parade route, they were just as much a part of the parade also. They were part of a contest for the Best Window Display.

A judges' stand was set up in front of the Mantua Fire House on Main Street, current home of the Mantua Fire and EMS Museum. After the parade was over, street dancing was held at the fire house area. Masquerade Awards were given out at the fire house during the street dancing. Cash prizes were mailed out the following day for other parade winners. Hot dogs and sodas were sold at the Mantua Fire House by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Mantua Lions Club.

As for the judging and the winners, Paulsboro High School won top honors for the best band followed by the Pitman Hobo Band, Woodbury High School and the Gibbstown Citizens Band.

TRIVIA TIME

What country brought trick or treating and the Jack o' Lantern to America?

1. Germany
2. England
3. Ireland
4. Spain

The correct answer is on page 18 of the bulletin.

Friendship Fire Company placed first in the category of Best Presentation with the Wenonah Fire Department coming in second. The Sewell Fire department took home the honors for the Oldest Fire Apparatus Still in Use while Friendship Fire Company won the category for the Oldest Fire Apparatus Still in Existence. The Runnemedede Fire Department won an award for the greatest distance that a Fire Company traveled to be in the parade. The S J Riding Club followed by the Paulsboro Marching Band placed first and second for the category of Best Appearance by a Marching Organization. For Best Organization Floats, Mantua Township won both first and second place awards for the Mantua Boys Club and the Sewell Community Playground Organization. The two awards for the Best Business Floats went to Haines Dairy and Mantua's Red Front Meat Market. Paulsboro won for the Best Lions Club Float followed by Runnemedede. The honor for the best window display went to Mantua's Hess Barber Shop. There were two boys, Bob Leisy and Charles Montini, and two girls, Peggy Lamborne and Rose Marie Cartwright, who won cash prizes for their efforts. For the costume wearers, there were fifty masquerade awards given out.

As you can see, this Halloween parade lived up to its name, Halloween Parade and Frolic. To put it bluntly, it was big and quite an undertaking. The Woodbury Times reported it to be "the biggest ever held in the community". Let it not be said that the residents of Mantua Township didn't know how to party.

Russell Harris, the grandfather of Carolyn Harris, a current member of the Mantua Township Historical Commission, was on the parade committee back in 1947. He was in charge of the prizes for "children comic dress".

As to the thirty-page program for the parade, it can be viewed by visitors to the Mantua Township Historical Commission Museum. The parade program lists at least 129 business contributors to the parade with 47 coming from Mantua, 15 from Sewell, 2 from Barnsboro, 1 from Mantua Heights

and 10 from Wenonah. Many of these businesses no longer exist.



Courier Post, October 28, 1947

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

W. H. NORRIS.
 Painter and Paperhanger
 Mantua, N. J.
 All work guaranteed first-class and as represented, 3-3-04-3 m.

B. F. JAMES
 ... AUCTIONEER ...
 12-15-04 Sewell, N. J.

J. F. RODAN,
 Experienced Auctioneer
 Nov. 21, '01-1y SEWELL, N. J.

JOS. T. PARK.
 Painter and Paperhanger
 Estimates cheaply given. Good work a specialty. P. O. BOX 64, Mantua, N. J. 2-25-4ts.

Gloucester County Democrat, January 5, 1905

Mantua Township residents who this year open their doors for costumed clad children might want to remember this Halloween parade from the past. Perhaps some of those parents had some connection with that parade through their parents, grandparents or even great grandparents. They should also remember that the celebration of Halloween with its contemporary icons of pumpkins, bats, ghosts, witches, graveyards and even trick or treating can trace its evolution all the way back to the B.C. era of the Celts of ancient Europe. Finally, there is one thing for certain. Back in the day, when Mantua Township put on a parade, they did it right.

The annual Halloween parade in Mantua continued for two more years. Each year it grew in size and with more prizes given out. It is not remembered why the parades stopped after 1949. One can only speculate that it may have been because of the outbreak of the Korean War. In any case, the first parade had 3,000 spectators. By 1949, 10,000 spectators lined the streets to watch the parade.

WORD OF THE DAY

Will-o'-the wisp is a naturally occurring event attributed to the decay of phosphine, diphosphane and methane which produces a bioluminescence or chemiluminescence.

The name is associated in folklore in the United States with references such as "spook-lights", "ghost-lights", or "orbs". The Halloween term of "jack o' lantern" came from Will-o'-the wisp.

In other countries the Will-o'-the wisp is called Naga Fireballs, wandering light, deceiving light and Stingy Jack.

The Will-o'-the wisp often occurs around low-lying creeks, swamps and old lakes with a lot of decaying trees and plant life. Old graveyards are another source. In the Mantua Township area, the Will-o'-the wisp is apt to be seen in Ceres Park.

SEWELL'S BIG SPOOK.

It Follows a Prominent Merchant to Church.

What appears to be a well authenticated, ill behaved ghost is making gray hairs grow on the heads of some people in Sewell, the little town on the West Jersey Railroad just below Wenonah. So far no one has been able to identify this spook or to account for its presence in such a quiet, law-abiding community so near to the great Methodist camp meeting woods, Pitman Grove. The spook naturally takes the evenings as its time for stalking. Women and children are afraid to venture out after the sun sets.

Alonso F. Junkins, the leading merchant of Sewell, says: "I was on my way to church afoot Sunday night and had no thought of anything except the service. I had gone a short distance down the road when I realized that some one was back of me I glanced backward and saw a white figure following. Every time I looked back the white figure looked back too. I felt shivery when I reached the church, but said nothing about my experience, trying to disbelieve my own senses.

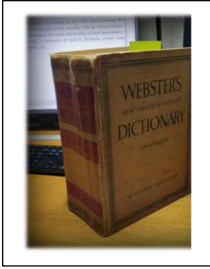
"I kept a sharp lookout when I started home after church. I had not gone far when I realized that the white figure was following. I stopped and it stopped. I attempted to approach, but it retreated at the same speed and thus kept at an equal distance from me all the time. Just before I reached my house it disappeared."

One of the best known citizens of Sewell was going to a neighbor's house to make a call. When a short distance away he observed a large white figure. He attempted to approach it when suddenly, with a hideous cry, it disappeared. A night or two afterwards it was observed by another person.

What the figure is no one seems to know. The sceptical say that it must be a practical joker or a crazy man. Those who have seen it maintain that there is nothing human about the uncanny thing and that it is too large for a human being. The braver male citizens of Sewell are talking of forming a company to rout the spook.

New Brunswick Daily Times in October of 1904.

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



HISTORY as defined in my “New Twentieth Century Webster’s Dictionary”, published in 1966: *an account of what happened, narrative, story, tale, what has happened in the life or development of a people, country, institution, etc., a systematic account of this, usually with an analysis and explanation, all recorded events of the past, the branch of knowledge that deals systematically with the past, a recording, analyzing, coordinating, and explaining of past events, something that belongs to the past, something important enough to be recorded.*

There is a story in **HISTORY**; one that is yours, one that is mine, and one that is for all time before us. As the last line in its definition suggests, history is something important enough to be recorded. I have done my best to record the highlights of my own life. Today, the memories I have recorded are a reminder of where I have been and of the many things I have accomplished along my life’s journey. We are fortunate today to have social media that allows us to post our daily doings, our travels, our family gatherings, birthdays and even deaths. We have daily reminders of what we have posted in the past and are able to reflect on them and reshare them with our family and friends. This is an amazing way of capturing your history. However, we should not depend on these sources to be the permanent place to store your precious moments. I recommend that you have a backup of this priceless information. Create a folder on your computer where you can put your pictures, stories, and memories. Print and save hardcopies in a scrapbook or binder. I speak from experience having lost irreplaceable information due to a computer failure.

As always, I encourage you to reach back into yours and your family’s past. Interview your senior family members, ask about their childhood, their life memories, the times that are most important to them. Share your own stories with your children and grandchildren. Let them see how life was for you growing up and how it is different and, in some ways, the same today. Your history is something important enough to be recorded.

RECENT NEWS

WENONAH CEMETERY CIVIL WAR EVENT

On June 17th, the Mantua Township Historical Commission participated in an event held at the Wenonah Cemetery. The event featured a live concert performed by Civil War re-enactors. The Civil War re-enactors also set up a small encampment for visitors to the event to visit.



In the previous picture are MTHC member Debbie Gellenthin and Vice Chairman Herb Hood, manning the table and ready to answer questions for any visitors. Along the back of the table were pictures and information about four **Civil War soldiers/sailors from Mantua Township**, Private Jesse Eastlack, Lieutenant Joseph H. Johnson, Corporal Samuel J. Dilks and Midshipman Henry G. Chew. Henry and Samuel returned home after the war. Jesse and Joseph made the ultimate sacrifice and did not come home from the war.



Chairman Jeff Gellenthin meeting with and engaging in discussion with Jim Scythes, the President of the Gloucester County Historical Society.

MANTUA'S BIG NIGHT OUT

On June 14th, the MTHC participated in the Mantua's Big Night Out held at Chestnut Branch Park.



Visitors to the MTHC table



MTHC manning the table at the Mantua Night Out. At the table and standing, left to right, are MTHC members Herb Hood, Vice Chairman, Jeff Gellenthin, Chairman, Carolyn Olsen, Secretary, Art Olsen and Carolyn Harris. Picture taken by MTHC member Debbie Gellenthin.



Civil War re-enactors in the outdoor concert performing music from the time period.



Answering questions and giving information to a visitor to the MTHC table.



Chairman Jeff Gellenthin sharing information and answering questions for visitors to the MTHC table.



Debbie Gellenthin visiting the 1945 Mack fire truck from the Mantua Township Fire and EMS museum.

RECENT DONATIONS

John and Patty Legge – Historic photo of current residence on Mantua Boulevard in Sewell, tinted bottle with the name of Jacob H. on it

Jeff & Debbie Gellenthin – Chop Knife, Holts Egg Beater, Cream Whip 1899

Kathy MacGregor – Brass Lock, Student’s slate (replica)

Barbara Ledden – Receipt Spindle

Diane Green Juhring – Three large metal filing cabinets, wooden supply cabinet, boxes of office supplies and office equipment

Michael DiGiamberardino – Obituary of Barnsboro resident David Souder, age 14 (1975), Scrap Books from Sewell School (1971-1972), Scrapbooks from Clearview (1973-1977)

Fred & Barbara Kershaw – Monetary donation in memory of Wayne Kircher

TRIVIA ANSWER

The correct answer is Ireland. In ancient times Halloween was a celebration of the departed. If the departed was wronged by the living the ancients would carve faces into gourds to scare their spirits away. The Irish replaced the gourds with Jack O Lanterns. Originally, trick or treating involved people in costumes bringing some sort of food or treats to the homes they visited.

THANK YOU

Mayor Robert Zimmerman and the members of the Mantua Township Committee, for their continued support.

IN MEMORIUM

Paul Robert Heitman – Brother-in-law of current MTHC member Barbara Heitman. Paul passed away on July 14, 2023. Paul received the Bronze Star Medal for his service in Vietnam, US Army

Jeffrey Downer – Cousin of current MTHC member Debbie Gellenthin. Jeffrey passed away on August 8, 2023.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mantua Township Historic Commission

Location: 145 Mantua Boulevard

Mantua, New Jersey 08051

Mailing address: 401 Main Street

Mantua, New Jersey 08051

Hours are every Saturday from 10 AM to Noon or
by appointment

856-630-9704

mthc1977@gmail.com

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

Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/MantuaTownshipHistoricalCo
mmission](https://www.facebook.com/MantuaTownshipHistoricalCommission)

MEMBERS

Jeff Gellenthin – Chairman

Herb Hood – Vice Chairman

Carolyn Olsen – Secretary

Kathy MacGregor

Carolyn Harris

Debbie Gellenthin

Tom Downing

Barbara Heitman

Kevin Hale

Art Olsen

Contributors, Authors, and Editors of this Bulletin

Jeff Gellenthin

Herb Hood

Debbie Gellenthin

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The Mantua Township Historical Commission is always accepting donations of pictures, documents and stories concerning the Township's history.