



**MATCHAPONIX JOURNAL**  
**Battleground Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 61, Tennent, NJ 07763**  
**[www.thevillageinn.org](http://www.thevillageinn.org)**

**APRIL 2011**

**APRIL MEETING**  
**FRIDAY APRIL 22, 7:30 pm at THE VILLAGE INN. located at the corner**  
**of Main and Water Streets, Englishtown, N.J.**

***JERSEY TROOPERS – SACRIFICE AT THE ALTAR OF PUBLIC SERVICE***

We are pleased to have as our guest speaker **John E. O'Rourke**, Sergeant First Class, New Jersey State Police author of *Jersey Troopers – Sacrifice At the Altar of Public Service*.

John O'Rourke has done something no one else has been able to do over the last 90 years. He has put a face and a story to the New Jersey State Troopers who have died in the line of duty. His book, *Jersey Troopers – Sacrifice at the Altar of Public Service* chronicles the lives and deaths of 37 state troopers who died in the line of duty from 1921 to 1959. He wants readers to know the officers as people not just as fallen troopers. He got the idea to write the book about seven years ago making it his effort to honor the dead and spent many hours conducting research in libraries and museums; including the New Jersey State Police Museum in West Trenton. He also reached out to relatives of the fallen troopers. Throughout the book, he emphasizes the human aspect of each officer who died. Sergeant O'Rourke hopes his book will make people aware of just how perilous the job of a state trooper is.

Mr. O'Rourke is a retired New Jersey State Trooper with over 25 years experience with the elite organization. During his distinguished career, O'Rourke conducted hundreds of criminal investigations which resulted in an equal number of arrests. Furthermore, O'Rourke was employed to provide counsel on security matters relating to state police facilities on the Garden State Parkway. He was instrumental in the design and evaluation of security measures for the Troop E Headquarters in Holmdel, New Jersey. Moreover, O'Rourke provided counsel on security to other state police facilities, including, Bloomfield, Holmdel, Bass River and the Herbertsville Bus Inspection facility.

## **HISTORY OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE**

In the early years, New Jersey was making a limited effort to provide protection for its rural inhabitants. This effort was wholly dependent upon the county sheriff and his constables.

Based on a political system of election and appointment, there were varying degrees of success. Demands for a uniformly well trained rural police force increased in direct proportion to an increasing population and crime rate.

Legislation for this purpose was first introduced in 1914 and for several years thereafter. There was some hard fought opposition to this legislation from those who feared a police state or strike breakers and a wave of public sentiment surged against it.

However, at the time, the State Police movement had become general throughout the country with thirteen states having already organized such a force. The State Chamber of Commerce and the New Jersey Grange continued their efforts in behalf of the legislation. Finally, on March 29, 1921, the State Police Bill was passed into law. Senator Clarence I. Case, who introduced the bill, is known as the "Father of the State Police."

On July 1, 1921, Herbert Norman Schwarzkopf, a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, was appointed as the first Superintendent of the State Police by Governor Edward I. Edwards.

Schwarzkopf was commissioned to organize the first training class. Competitive examinations were held for the purpose of selecting the type of man desired for this service.

Sixteen hundred men, between the ages of twenty-two and forty, made application for the one hundred and twenty positions allowed by the law.

Out of the total number of applicants, only two hundred and twenty-seven received a passing mark. From this number, one hundred and sixteen men reported to Sea Girt on September 1, 1921. Of this number, eighty-one officers and troopers completed the rigorous three month training program. On December 1, 1921, the new troopers were administered the oath of office and on December 5, 1921, in a blinding snowstorm, started out on horseback and motorcycle to their posts throughout the state.

(Source: State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General)

## VILLAGE INN NEWS

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make Colonial Soup Day a great success. 75 tickets were sold. Ticket, gift shop and soup take home sales totaled \$1,570.00. Also, members and a former member who could not attend the event donated \$180.00.

The Village Inn will be open on **SATURDAY, APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and on **SUNDAY, MAY 1<sup>st</sup>** from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm during the Weekend In Old Monmouth event. There will be open hearth cooking demonstrations, tours by costumed docents and a bake sale of the bake goods demonstrated on the hearth. In addition there will be a display of open hearth cooking tools, Victorian displays and our gift shop will be open. No entry donation on these two days.

This is an important event to bring the public's awareness to our Inn and we need the help of our members during this two day event. We need volunteers to bake cakes, to work in the gift shop, to help at the bake sale table and to give tours . Please contact Susan Davison at 732 431 5528 for the cake recipes if you are baking or if you are able to volunteer your time on either of the above dates. If you cannot volunteer your time for the entire day, a couple hours in either the morning or the afternoon would be very helpful and greatly appreciated.

The Inn will also be open on **Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, during the Englishtown Street Party from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Entry donation will be \$2.00 per person with children age 12 and younger free.

Tours of the Inn are always available by appointment for a donation of \$2.00 per person, children 12 years of age and younger free, or \$25.00 for groups of ten or more. Please contact our website [www.thevillageinn.org](http://www.thevillageinn.org) to make an appointment.

### Village Inn Events and Open Dates - 2011

**April 30 & May 1**

**County Weekend In Old Monmouth  
Featuring Open Hearth Cooking**

**May 14**

**During the Englishtown Street Party**

**May 30**

**Memorial Day**

**June 18 & 19**

**During the Battle of Monmouth  
Reenactment**

### Battleground Historical Society Monthly Meeting Dates

**April 22, May 27, September 23, October 28**

All monthly meetings are held at the Village Inn, located at the corner of Main and Water Streets, Englishtown, N.J. All meetings are open to the public. Check our website for our activities; [www.thevillageinn.org](http://www.thevillageinn.org)

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE EACH YEAR ON JANUARY FIRST  
DUES ARE \$20.00 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL AND \$30.00 FOR A FAMILY AND  
\$125.00 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Battleground Historical Society. Mail to P.O. Box 61, Tennent, NJ 07763

OFFICERS OF BATTLEGROUND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: Hans Kernast, 3 King Charles Court, Englishtown, NJ 07726 Tel 732-446-7833

Vice-President: Lora Capozzoli, 259 Van Dorn St., Keyport, NJ 07735 Tel 732-888-6061

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