

Due to circumstances beyond our control, there will be no September meeting. We look forward to hopefully resuming in-person meetings in October. Save the date for Monday, October 11, 2021 and look for details in the October newsletter! We thank you for your understanding and hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe.

## Where Were You Twenty Years Ago?

It's hard to comprehend that one of the darkest events in America's history happened twenty years ago, as it feels like it was yesterday. As a high school journalism teacher, it is important to me to not only teach my students about how the world of journalism changed on that dark day, but also how life changed for all of us in the blink of an eye. I design my lesson each year with hopes that the next generation feels the gamut of emotions we all experienced.

I was a brand new English teacher on September 11, 2001, having only been in the classroom with students for four days. I remember being in the main office during my second period prep and one of the secretaries was on the phone with her husband who worked in Hoboken and was describing the scene. Another teacher stood next to me with her hand over her mouth and her face teeming with disbelief as the secretary began to shout, "Oh my God, another one! He says there's another one!" That shocked teacher ran out of the building and ultimately lost her fiancé who worked for Cantor Fitzgerald. By the time the towers fell, we had stopped changing classes and stayed with our students until dismissal. I drove through the Inlet on my way home in search of some solace to find the towers' smoke line hovering right above the coast as it spread southwards.

I incorporate a number of videos in my lesson and begin with coverage from NBC's *Today* show as the events unfolded, when we all thought it was just an accident at first. What's most shocking to my students in that video is that people actually watched news on television since so many of them stream shows and videos on their devices, none of which existed on 9-11. I also show them a compelling documentary created by news photographer Thomas Franklin. He's the photographer who took the iconic photograph of the three firefighters raising the flag at Ground Zero that afternoon. Franklin's documentary explains the stories behind not only his photo but those taken by many others who, like him, chose to run to the towers when mostly everyone else except first responders were running away from the site.

I show my classes the ONLY existing video of the first plane (American Airlines Flight 11 hitting the North Tower), which was captured by French brothers Jules and Gedeon Naudet as they filmed New York City firefighters of Engine 7, Ladder 1 for a documentary. It baffles my students that cameras were not something that everyone carried with them and they cannot grasp the idea that no security cameras captured the plane...remember, it would be only 12 years later when the Boston Bombing suspects were identified due to the influx of images submitted by people who were there. The camera that Jules used to film the video is on display at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Two other videos have a huge impact on my students. One is Mike Piazza's home run at the first professional sports game in New York ten days after the tragedy when the Mets faced the Atlanta Braves, their division rival, on September 21, 2001. The hall of famer hit 427 home runs in his career and has gone on record saying THAT home run was the most important blast to leave his bat. I remember watching that home run live, and it was like a collective sigh of relief for not only Mets fans but for the country. The second video is called *ESPN 30 for 30: First Pitch*, which on the surface tells the story behind President George W. Bush's pitch at Game 3 of the 2001 World Series at Yankee Stadium. However, this film also illustrates how the events affected baseball's superstars, athletes who are supposed to be stoic and professional. *First Pitch* is extraordinarily well done, whether you are a Yankees fan or not. You can find both videos online through a search if you are interested in watching them.

I display numerous newspapers and magazines from September 2001 including several "extras" which were published and released that evening. I cannot recall an event since when extras were produced.

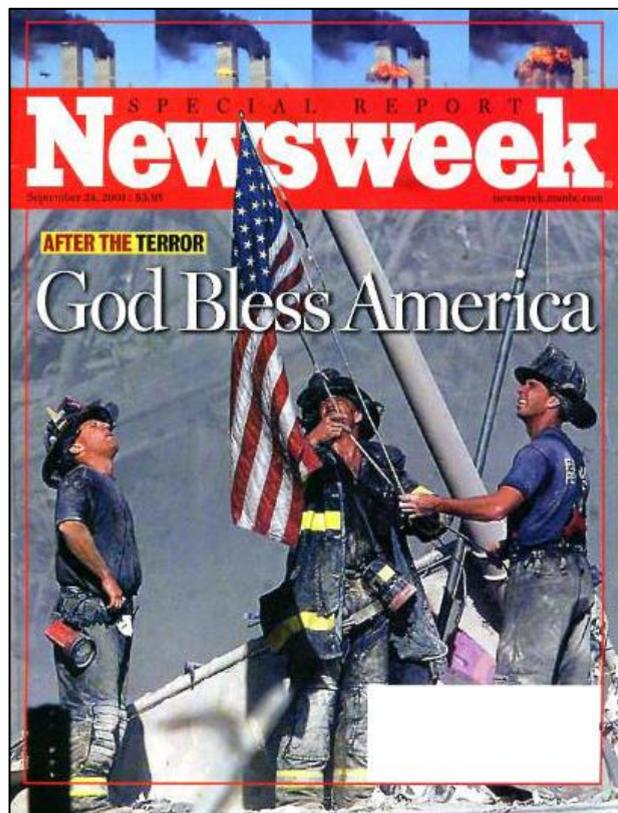
I tell my students that I wish I could take them back to two days: September 10 and September 12, 2001. I'd love to take them back to September 10, 2001 so they could see what life was like without technology dictating or recording our every move and experience a time when life seemed carefree and more innocent and a world where evil seemed to be non-existent. Conversely, I wish I could take them back to September 12 so they could see how our country came together in love, regardless of differences and without screaming or yelling anything but "USA! USA!"

Throughout the lesson, which takes my students from New York City to Shanksville, PA to Washington, D.C., I offer them fact-based artifacts and evidence as a way for them to critically think about how our lives collectively changed that day and to understand their current world and what led us here to this moment.

I will never forget where I was on September 11, 2001. My guess is that you will never forget, either.

– Jill Ocone

\* Written in memory of the nearly 3,000 lives lost on September 11, 2001. May their legacies continue to inspire us all today and every day.



Tom Franklin's iconic photo on the cover of Newsweek



Point Pleasant Historical Society  
Phone: (732) 892-3091  
Email: [pphistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:pphistoricalsociety@gmail.com)  
Website: [pphsm.org](http://pphsm.org)

Point Pleasant Historical Society  
PO Box 1273  
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

## Point Pleasant Historical Society *Serving Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach*

### *The Bitters Bottle Debacle Revisited....*

I had a story about O.B. Van Camp and his bitters bottle debacle in the October, 2014 issue of *History Term Paper*. I recently came across some notes about the story written by my friend Harvey Lynch. I believe it is worth repeating the history. Harvey writes: "From the best of my recollection and based on a conversation with the Wheeler Family:

1. O.B. Van Camp owned the first general store in Point Pleasant.
  2. He thought he could make Angostura Bitters some time in the late 1800's (?).
  3. He had bottles and labels made, his name in raised letters on the base and "Genuine Angostura Bitters" on the shoulder. (see photos)
  4. Dr. J.G.B. Siegert developed and sold the original aromatic bitters known as Angostura throughout the world commencing in 1830. It originated in the town of Angostura, Venezuela, since renamed Ciudad Bolivar in 1846. It is until this day produced only by Dr. J.G.B. Siegert and Sons LTD., the successors to the original doctor, in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, West Indies.
  5. When Dr. Siegert found out that O.B. Van Camp was falsely using the Angostura name, suit was brought to cease and desist.
  6. O.B had little choice but to discontinue. But what to do with the bottles and his great scheme?
  7. O.B. simply bought new labels that went up over the shoulder of the bottle. It was called "Concentrated Pale Orange Bitters", Wilson Graham and Sons, London England. The authenticity of Graham is unknown to me. O.B. was sure to have in Spanish on the back that he was the marketer in the Americas of this aromatic brew.
  8. The last case was in the family barn and held by the Wheelers. It was sold in a yard sale—some 55 bottles to Sal Maragno, Sal Marino and myself. The family I believe has 11 bottles as well as the original letter from Angostura demanding that he stop using the name."
- Sal Marino



### *Vintage Postcard Packs For Sale*

Thanks to a generous donation from an unnamed benefactor, the Point Pleasant Historical Society is selling packs of ten different vintage postcards for \$10. Please contact PPHS treasurer Ed Lavan at (914) 715 3432 if you are interested in purchasing a pack. Postcards will be for sale at our next in-person meeting (hopefully October). The photo to the left is a representative of one of the postcards you might receive in the packet. All proceeds benefit the Point Pleasant Historical Society and Museum.

### *Museum Open By Appointment*

The PPHS is pleased to announce that the Point Pleasant Historical Museum is now open for appointments ONLY on Thursdays between 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Please email your appointment request and include as much information as possible about what you are interested in researching/seeing to [pphistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:pphistoricalsociety@gmail.com) and someone will get back to you.