

MENDHAM MYSTERIES



by Sarah Fourie and London Morton

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever noticed a big mansion in Mendham, New Jersey that you wanted to live in or The Black Horse Pub & Tavern that you wanted to eat in?

After you read this book your plans might change. Turn the page for some chilling ghost stories and interesting history behind this historic town.

DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to all of Mendham

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you kindly for spending time with us to share some Mendham mysteries and history:

Jennifer Koch - Manager, Black Horse Pub & Tavern

The Reilly Family - Homeowners of Historic Home

Christine Serrano Glassner - Mayor of Mendham
and Homeowner of Historic Home

MYSTERY I

Manabus: a Native American god

In 1708, Mendham was inhabited by the Lenape tribe. They worshipped a god called Manabus and believed he was responsible for all things that happened, good or bad. They believed he caused storms, flooding and stole fish out of their nets.

The Lenape also believed that Manabus really liked the smell of tobacco smoke. They would sit in a big circle, and using a pipe they would puff smoke into the sky for Manabus.

When the settlers arrived in Mendham, Manabus was a mystery to them and they didn't understand how this god could cause these things. Even though the Lenape tribe was peaceful and kind to the settlers, there remained many mysteries and legends around Manabus and how he could cause so many things to happen.



MYSTERY 2

The Black Horse Pub & Tavern

The Black Horse was originally a house built in 1738 by the Pitney family. Ebanezer Byram purchased it in 1740. In 1742 it opened as Black Horse Inn. Ebanezer Byram was given a Black Stallion as a gift, which is how it got the name "Black Horse." George Washington is said to have given the horse to Ebanezer, but this fact has not been proven.

The Black Horse Inn was a well-known stage coach stop. It was important because travelers would stop to feed and water their horses, and they would eat inside the tavern and sometimes sleep overnight in the inn. Many people came through the town to eat and stay at the Black Horse Inn. Ebanezer Byram would always be seen to greet the travelers and make sure they were comfortable and their horses were well cared for.

Mr. Byram's gave Mendham its name from his ancestors in Mendham, England. There is also a well-known saying of Mr. Byram: "I'll mend 'em" referring how he cared for the horses and travelers passing through town.

While the Black Horse Pub and Tavern is no longer an Inn for people to stay overnight, there have been many other mysterious guests and discoveries.

MYSTERY 2

The Black Horse (continued)

There is actually a tunnel built underground that connects the tavern to the historic cider mill up the street in Ralston. Many years later there were old bottles of alcohol found hidden inside the tunnel dating back to Prohibition, the time when people were not allowed to drink alcohol. Think of all the people that have secretly gone through that tunnel, under the streets we go on every day.

Loud noises are often heard in the back lodge area of the Tavern, behind the current dining room. Lights flicker, there are cold drafts, objects appear, and pictures are constantly found crooked on the walls after being straightened over and over again. TVs turn on and off when no one is even near the buttons to control them.

Two little girls have been heard and seen laughing in the ladies' room upstairs at the Tavern. Once, a woman went into the ladies' room and saw a mother crying. The mother asked the woman if she had seen her little girls, and then the mother disappeared. One gentleman eating at the Pub asked a server if she had seen the little girls running around. He wondered where her parents were because one of the little girls kept coming up to tap on his knee to get his attention. No one else saw two little girls at the Pub that night.

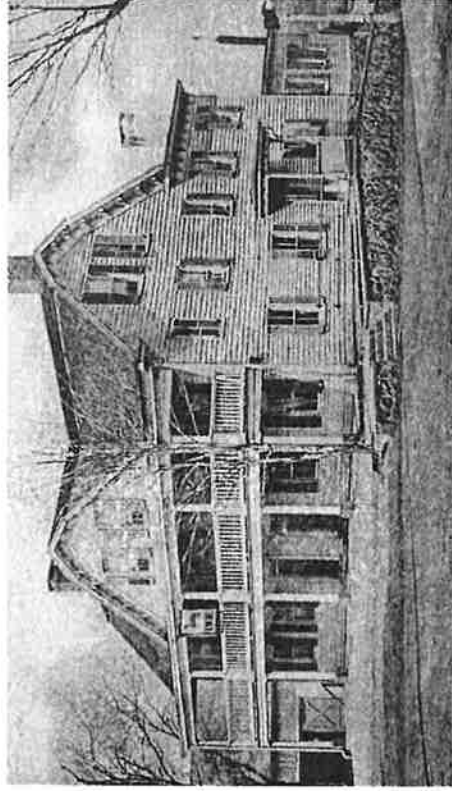
MYSTERY 2

The Black Horse (continued)

Recently, two servers were playing with a wire hanger one evening after the Pub closed. They left it on the coat rack before leaving. When they returned a couple days later, the hanger was found perfectly hanging up on one of the rafters. The Black Horse doesn't have a ladder tall enough to reach that rafter, and the beams below the rafters can't support you. so rumor has it that one of the ghosts placed it there.

Thirty years ago, a piano player died while performing at the Black Horse Tavern. To this day, the piano is heard playing, even when no one is actually playing it.

Next time you visit the Black Horse Pub & Tavern, ask your server about the ghosts... if you dare!



MYSTERY 3

Tempe Wick's Horse



Temperance 'Tempe' Wick was born in 1758. She had 4 siblings. They lived with her parents on one of the largest farms in Morristown. Today, it is known as Jockey Hollow Historical Park. She married a soldier and they had 5 children. There is a legend about Tempe Wick that she hid a horse inside her home on Wick farm during the Revolutionary War.

The first legend says the army was leaving camp in 1780 when they stopped Ms. Wick, who was out taking her daily ride. They tried to steal her horse, but She escaped and hid her white horse, Colonel, in her spare bedroom. She kept him there for three weeks because soldiers continued to search around the woods, the barns and surrounding areas to find him.

The second legend says that Ms. Wick's mother had fallen ill and she left the farm to get help. On the way a group of soldiers stopped her and tried to steal her horse. She escaped and hid Colonel in her room for 3-4 days.

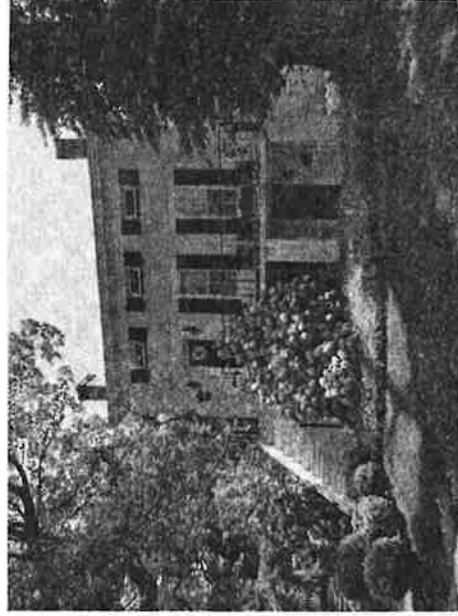
What actually happened is a mystery because there is no one still alive to ask what really happened with Tempe Wick and her horse.

MYSTERY 4

The Cube House

The Nicholas house on New Street was built by architect Aaron Hudson in the Greek Revival style. Some sources say the house was built in 1840 and others say 1842. It's a mystery which year the house was actually built. There is a 'twin' house in Ralston that was built around the same time. Once it was the stable master's house for the Black Horse Inn. It had a lookout on the top level for the stable master to see when the horses needed to come in or out. It was also once an ice house used to store ice and goods, which is how it got the name "Cube House."

The house is now occupied by a family who has worked hard to preserve the history. On the ground level of the house, a ghost with a bustle (worn under a dress in the 1800s) has been seen standing by the window looking over her shoulder. Just who is that mysterious ghost woman?



ALL ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Sarah Fourie is 10 years old and is a 4th grade student at Hilltop Elementary School. She was born in Boulder, Colorado. She has a sister Charlotte and brother James, and 2 dogs Thembi and Buddy. Her favorite sports are soccer and horseback riding.

Some of her previous stories are: *The First Time I Rode a Cat*, *The Burj Khalifa*, *When I Found a Starfish*, and *The First Time I Rode my Bike*. Sarah likes to go bike riding, go on walks, and ride a dirt bike. She loves animals and wants to be a vet when she grows up.



London Morton is 9 years old. She is in 4th grade and goes to Hilltop Elementary for education. She was born in Austin, Texas on June 11, 2010 at 4:20 in the afternoon. London wants to become a Marine Biologist when she is older. She won a best artist award in third grade. Other stories she has written are *All About Dolphins* with her friends, *All About Narwhals* for an assignment, and *The Lonely Cheese* in Kindergarten. London has a sister and brother and three fish Sapphire, Prism and Flow. London does horseback riding and gymnastics. Her favorite animal is a sea turtle.

RESOURCES

Reflections on a Community: Mendham Borough,
by The Centennial Book Committee

The Mendhams, by John W. Rae

The Mendhams

by Martha G. Hopley, Edward W. Roessler
and Wallace G. West

Observer-Tribune Article, Thursday, August 29, 2002
The legend of Temperance 'Tempe' Wick: Fact or fiction?
by Marie Pfeifer

Interviews with Jennifer Koch, Mr. and Mrs. Reilly
and Mayor Christine Serrano Glassner

