



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH of PETER OSBORNE

PETER OSBORNE IS AN INDEPENDENT HISTORIAN, historic site administrator, writer and lecturer who has worked in the public history field for almost forty years. Born in Paterson, New Jersey, he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Osborne's professional interests include Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the state and national park systems, the Civilian Conservation Corps and the famed Corps of Discovery Expedition led by Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

Osborne has been published widely over the last two decades. He has written four books on the Depression era and state parks - *We Can Take It! The Roosevelt Tree Army at High Point State Park 1933-1941*, *Images of America Series: High Point State Park and the Civilian Conservation Corps*, *Images of America: Hacklebarney and Voorhees State Parks (New Jersey)* and *Images of America: Promised Land State Park (Pennsylvania)*.

Osborne co-authored with Mark Hendrickson and Jon Inners, *So Many Brave Men: A History of the Battle at Minisink Ford* which was considered for the George Washington Book Prize in 2011. Between 2012 and 2014 he wrote a comprehensive two-volume, twelve hundred page history of the state parks at Washington Crossing along the Delaware River. They were commissioned by William Farkas, president of Yardley Press of Yardley, Pennsylvania and entitled *Where Washington Once Led: A History of New Jersey's Washington Crossing State Park* and *No Spot In This Far Land Is More Immortalized: A History of Pennsylvania's Washington Crossing Historic Park*. They will be an important resource for park historians and students of the famed Christmas Crossing of 1776 for many years to come. In 2017 they were the recipient of the *Ann Hawkes Hutton Park Ambassador Award*.

In early 2016 he finished writing the first institutional history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's official railroad museum. The book is entitled *The Trains of Our Memory: A History of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania 1965-2015*. Osborne completed a two-volume history of the Five Mile Woods Preserve in Lower Makefield Township, Pennsylvania in 2017. The books are entitled *The Five Mile Woods Preserve: A History* and *Images of the Five Mile Woods Preserve* and were commissioned by Preserve founder Donald Formigli.

Osborne was the Executive Director of the Minisink Valley Historical Society in Port Jervis, New York, from 1981-2009 and the Port Jervis City Historian from 1989-2003. During his directorship at the Society, he was responsible for the Society's Fort Decker Museum of History, and the interpretation of its long and eventful history which included the fort's destruction during British Indian Department Captain Joseph Brant's raid into the Minisink region in 1779. Osborne then served as the Curator of Education and Special Events at the Red Mill Museum Village in Clinton, New Jersey from 2010-11. In 2012 he began a career as a full-time writer and independent historian. Since 2018 he has served as the Executive Director of the Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery in Cozad, Nebraska. The museum owns the largest collection of Henri paintings and sketches on display in the country.

During his long career, he has served on the board of directors of the Depot Preservation Society, Port Jervis Centennial Committee, Orange County Historical Society, the Grey Towers Heritage

Association (Treasurer), the Delaware and Hudson Transportation Heritage Council (Treasurer), the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (Original incorporator and Treasurer) and the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County, New Jersey (Webmaster).

He lives in Red Cloud, Nebraska and owns the Wild Horse Creek Company. The mission of his company is to provide exciting journeys of discovery into our nation's history through presentations, lectures, demonstrations, motor coach tours and publications. The Wild Horse Creek Company (formerly the Pienpack Company) has been providing programs to civic, historical, fraternal, church groups, seminars, meetings, Elderhostel and Road Scholar programs for forty years.

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Peter Osborne hosting a walking tour of a historic cemetery in Milford, Pennsylvania.