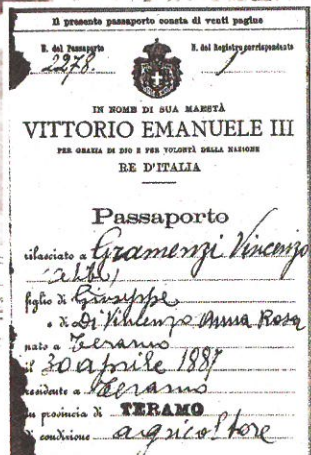
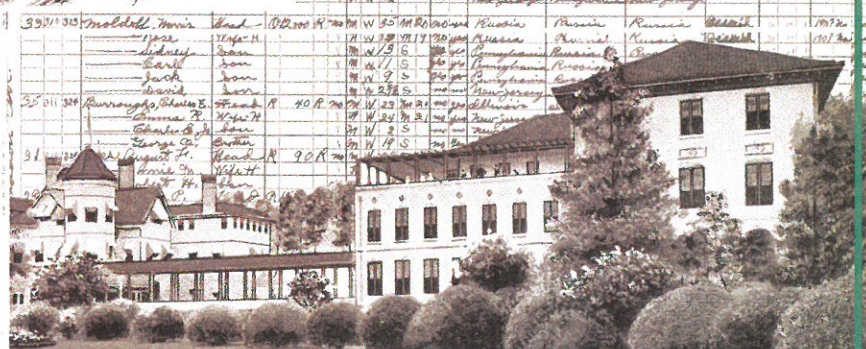


Volume 2, No. 2 • Spring 2018



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

[illegible]

a publication of the
CAMDEN COUNTY HISTORY ALLIANCE

THIS ISSUE: A LOOK BACK AT IMMIGRATION IN CAMDEN COUNTY

Historic images from communities throughout Camden County, NJ,
with information on exploring the many historic sites in the greater Camden County area.

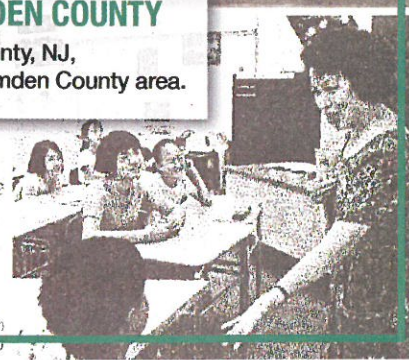
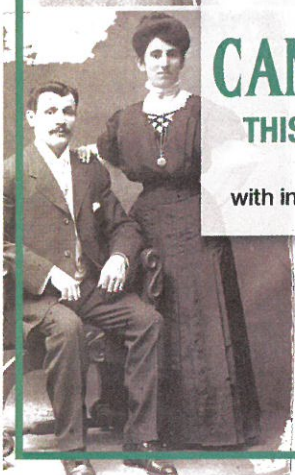
The State of New Jersey,
Camden County, ss.

the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Camden.

The Petition of *John Bradley Jr.*
Native of *Ireland*

Native of Ireland respectfully sheweth:

That your petitioner is a free white male person, and an alien, and is desirous
 being a Citizen of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, that, in pursuance
 of an act of Congress, entitled "An act to establish an uniform rule of naturalization
 in the United States, passed on that subject," he has taken the following oaths:



Places) seemed to be the perfect venue for an eatery. Around 1980, it had housed Craig's Ice Cream Parlor. This name had been adapted from the Craig's that was situated on the corner of West Chestnut Avenue and Centre Street in the early 1900s. Tavern on the Square appeared here in early 1998. Then in July 2004, Halil and Nedim Gungor established the Collins House.

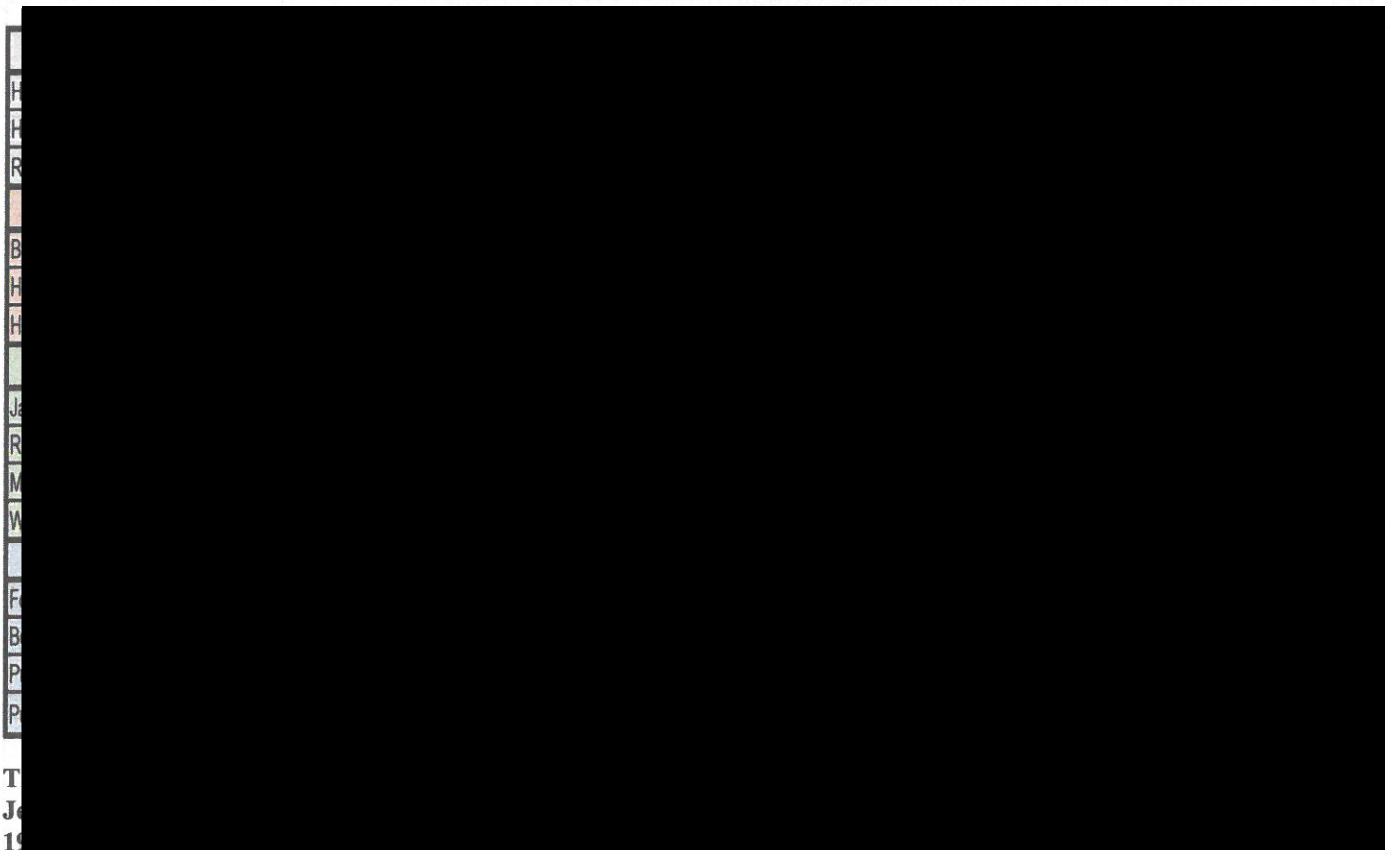
A fundraising event for Children's Hospital was the impetus for a good friend of the brothers to learn about the availability of Collins and Pancoast Hall. Halil and Nedim scouted it out and saw its promise and potential. The one liquor license in the Borough was linked with this location. The Collins House soon opened as a restaurant. After several years, analysis of trends in the culinary arena led to the revamping of the first floor to a gastro-pub establishment. Enter the Blue Monkey. This has been a win-win situation. More and more, and from farther and farther away, visitors are rendezvousing in downtown Merchantville. Halil states that the primary focus is on the cuisine, with Nedim as the chef, complimented by an extensive inventory of beers, wines, and cocktails.

When asked his impressions of Merchantville and its citizens, Halil appreciates the sense of community, the town's preservation efforts, and the people, who have supported him in his endeavors. His thoughts on being welcomed in the States are positive. Any potential stumbling blocks were always faced head on and amicably addressed.

Written by Maureen McLoone

Note: As for the quality of Halil's bill of fare, generally speaking, the author's spouse does not freely express his praises for eating establishments. But, when they dine out elsewhere, her comments on the food are always followed by his: "...but it's not as good as Halil's."

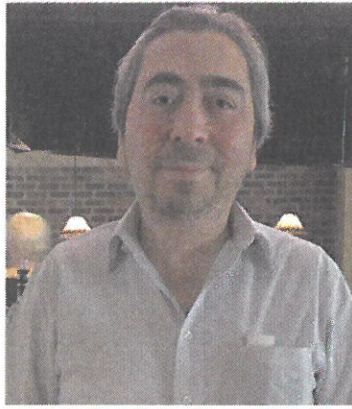
THE CROWTHER BERLIN TOWNSHIP'S



FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO MERCHANTVILLE

Submitted by the Merchantville Historical Society

Coming to the USA would be like living in Hollywood. At least that was what Halil Gungor thought when he arrived as a teenager in 1985. Brooklyn was a far cry from the glitz and glamour of Tinsel Town. There was family already in the United States but Halil's mother and father remained in Istanbul, Turkey. In Columbus, New Jersey, Halil began his path to becoming a restaurateur.



Halil Gungor

His uncle owned a diner, and Halil was put to work. Then, at 20 years old, he operated his own diner in Woodbury Heights, New Jersey. After an eight month run, Halil found himself out of the business and setting his sights on returning to college. Fast forward three years, when the Gungor brothers, Halil and Nedim, took over the Farnsworth House in Bordentown, New Jersey. Halil remained part of the operations until 2009. Last year, the family sold the restaurant.

Meanwhile in Merchantville, the Merchantville Task Force formed as a grass roots organization dedicated to the rebirth of the downtown. In the early to mid-twentieth century, Merchantville's town-center district served Delaware Town-



Collins and Pancoast Hall

ship (now Cherry Hill) and Pennsauken. The Merchantville Post Office boundaries resulted in many Delaware Township and Pennsauken businesses and attractions claiming Merchantville as their location, even though they didn't fall within the Borough's borders. When the Cherry Hill Mall was built, small town main streets felt the crippling effects. Certain there could be a turn-around, the Task Force applied for and was granted permission to become part of the Main Street Program (a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation). Venturing forth, the group sought the town's niche that would bring prosperity and purpose back to the downtown. Collins and Pancoast Hall (listed on the National Register of Historic



***Delicious gastropub dining, craft beer and full bar
in a National Register of Historic Places building***

Free Parking * Open Daily at 11 AM * Lunch * Dinner * Late Night

2 South Centre Street, Merchantville, NJ 08109 * 856-661-8008 * bluemonkeytaVERN.com

later, he was elected President of Borough Council, and on January 29, 1962, he was elected to the office of mayor, following the death of Mayor J. Weer Chew. Mayor Kurkian resigned on December 31, 1967. He stated that he had kept his promise "to strive to provide the finest municipal services for the lowest cost possible."

Mayor Kurkian also headed War Bond and Community Chest drives in the borough and served as executive director of the Camden County Heart Association. He was a member of Merchantville Lodge 119, F.& A.M., Crescent Temple and Excelsior Consistory. As president of the Merchantville Masonic Association, he planned the new Masonic Temple for this community. He was the executive chairman of the building fund for his church, St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, Philadelphia, PA. Mayor Kurkian was a member of the Camden County Mayors Association and a director of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. Long active in Lions, he was president of the Merchantville Lions Club in 1933. In 1951-1952, he was elected Governor of Lions District 16-C and served as International Counselor.

A Merchantville resident for 63 years, he and his wife, Seera, lived on Westminster Ave. His children, Sandra Selverian and Daniel Kurkian, have been a part of Merchantville, as well. The apple did not fall far from the tree in the case of Sandra. She chaired the wonderful Victorian Evening on April 15, 1989. She headed the committee for the much acclaimed Merchantville Centennial Cookbook in 1974. As part of the Merchantville Historical Society, her involvement was boundless. Her husband, Stephen, served the community on committees and boards over many years. Mayor Kurkian passed away on February 15, 1989. As mayor, Mr. Kurkian rallied the citizenry to be involved and supportive of the borough. His caring and positive ways greatly helped us as a community then and inspires us to continue doing so today!

This biography of Walter V. Kurkian, Mayor of the Borough of Merchantville, NJ, is drawn from material which appeared in the October 1964 issue of "The Merchantville Newsletter."



Walter V. Kurkian

IMMIGRATION (1930–PRESENT)

Submitted by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities

This article appears in the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia, a project of MARCH. The article and related materials can be viewed at <http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/immigration-1930-present/>.

For most of the decades since the United States' immigration restriction acts of the 1920s, Philadelphia was not a major destination for immigrants, but at the end of the twentieth century the region reemerged as a significant gateway. Beginning with changes in U.S. law in 1965 and accelerating by the 1990s, immigration added large, diverse groups of newcomers to the city and suburbs. Immigrants and refugees dramatically altered the region's economic, social, and political life and its geography of race and ethnicity. While the city and region remained more black and white than the global cities of New York, Los Angeles, or Miami, newcomers from Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Eastern Europe significantly diversified the population of Greater Philadelphia.

During and after World War II, with limited foreign migration, internal migrations transformed the city and region. From the 1940s through the 1980s, two major demographic trends—the Second Great Migration of African Americans and mass suburbanization of the region's white population—were joined by a third smaller, but significant development, the Great Migration of Puerto Ricans. Between 1940 and 1980, the nine-county region's black population grew from 330,000 to more than one million. The Puerto Rican population expanded from 3,000 in 1950 to almost 55,000 in 1980, and by 2010 to more than 120,000, the second-largest Puerto Rican population in the country, behind only New York. As U.S. citizens, Puerto Ricans are not an immigrant group, but as migrants to the mainland they became the largest group of newcomers to Philadelphia since the 1920s whose first language was not English.

Puerto Ricans and African Americans settled mainly in the old rowhouse neighborhoods in Philadelphia and working-class suburbs like Norristown, places earlier immigrants and their children left in the post-World War II era. Unlike earlier generations, however, the new migrants entered a region whose manufacturing economy crashed in the 1950s through the 1980s, as the jobs that had sustained these communities disappeared. Socially, economically, and spatially, in this period the region became a different destination for new immigrants. Although the federal government re-opened the borders with new immigration regulations in 1965, immigrant settlement in Philadelphia intensified and diversified only after 1980 and to a greater extent after 1990. New immigrants came from a much wider range of countries outside of Europe, with large numbers of Indians, Mexicans, Southeast Asians, Africans, Chinese, and Koreans in the city and suburbs. They entered a new regional economy, with the bulk of jobs dispersed in the suburbs, including high-paid posts in service and scientific sectors like health care, higher education, finance, computers, and pharmaceuticals. These jobs have attracted well-educated immigrants, while working-class immigrants have found work in food and domestic service and other low-wage jobs. These trends marked significant changes in immigration to the region and nation, as today's newcomers are far more diverse socially and economically than the working-class immigrants from Europe a century ago.

The Camden County History Alliance
 thanks our advertisers, patrons, contributors,
 & volunteers for making this publication possible.
 We look forward to producing future publications
 as we seek to preserve and promote
 Camden County history.

MERCHANTVILLE MAYOR KURKIAN WAS NATIVE OF OLD COUNTRY

Submitted by the Merchantville Historical Society

The life history of Mayor Kurkian is an American success story. He was a living example of what can be accomplished in the United States. Mayor Kurkian was born on May 1, 1906, in Armenia. His father was dean of the local university and a highly respected member of his community. When World War I flamed across Europe, the Kurkian family faced extreme hardships and the horrors of war. Mr. Kurkian's father was killed, and his mother with her three children fled the country. She moved from place to place, and finally came to America in June of 1920, settling with an uncle in Philadelphia.

In 1921, the family moved to Camden, and Mr. Kurkian attended Camden High School. He left school every day at 2:30 PM in order to work. Upon completing the curriculum, he graduated from Camden High. He moved to Merchantville in 1926 and went into the dry cleaning business. He supervised the growth of the business into a chain of four stores. He also engaged in other commercial enterprises and was president of Maple Bowling Lanes, Inc., Walbac Inc., and Kurk-Kay Inc. Mr. Kurkian served as a director of the Fidelity Mutual Savings and Loan Association.

Civic, fraternal, and religious activities benefited from his service over the years. In recognition of these activities, he was awarded the F. W. Grigg Post American Legion Citation in 1954 as "Citizen of the Year." Mr. Kurkian took office as a member of Borough Council on January 1, 1952. Four years



*"Preserving
our past
while fulfilling
the promise
of our future"*

*Mayor Edward Brennan,
Merchantville Historical Society
and Merchantville Borough Council*