

Troop 41 Pennington, NJ  
Washington Crossing Council  
Mercer Area District  
Updated 8/2021

1915: New Troop:

This is the first Boy Scout troop in Pennington Borough, known simply as the Pennington Boy Scout troop, with no troop number. The troop registers with National in New York City and is not affiliated with a district or with a council.

1918 Lapse Registration:

Troop registration was allowed to lapse after only three years. I have no idea why this happened.

1933 Renew Registration:

With the help of some of the former troop leaders, the troop again registers with National in New York City. The troop may have used the number Troop 1.

1937 Join a Council:

The troop registers with the newly created George Washington Council. Around this time, the troop becomes Troop 41.

1939 Lapse Registration:

Troop registration lapses again. I have no idea why this happened.

1944 Renew Registration:

The troop, sponsored by the Pennington School for Boys on West Delaware Avenue, recharter with the George Washington Council. Meetings are held at the Pennington School, and the troop has the use of the gymnasium and the swimming pool. The Red Cross offers swimming instruction once a month.

1952 Change Sponsor:

The Lions Club now sponsors the troop, with the Pennington Methodist Church as co-sponsor. The troop continues to meet at the Pennington School and use the school facilities.

#### 1957 Change Meeting Place:

The troop moves from the Pennington School to the newly constructed Lions Club on Reading Avenue. This is a large, single story building, with cinder block walls, a large main room with a big fireplace, an overhead loft that can be used for storage, and some smaller rooms. The building, on the outskirts of the borough, offers the scouts greater access and freedom of action. The troop rents the land from the Borough at a dollar a year fee.

#### 1987 Change Sponsor:

The Pennington YMCA now sponsors the troop, with the Pennington Methodist Church as co-sponsor.

#### 1987 Change Meeting Place:

The troop moves from the former Lions Club Building to the YMCA portion of the school district Administrative Building (Old Toll Gate School on South Main Street). The troop renovates the area above the YMCA offices as a meeting room on the second floor at the rear of the building, and is allowed use of the gymnasium. Pennington Borough assumes responsibility for the former Lions Club Building and renovates the building for use as a Senior Center.

#### 1999 Change Council:

The Central New Jersey Council was created January 1, 1999 with the merger of the George Washington Council and the Thomas A. Edison Council.

#### 2014 Change Council:

2014 Bucks County Council participated in a transfer of territory from Central New Jersey Council to include the Hunterdon and Greater Mercer Counties in New Jersey.

#### 2015 Council Renamed:

In 2015 through the collaboration of dozens of volunteers Bucks County Council officially was renamed Washington Crossing Council.

## Troop 41 First Charter

### George Washington Council

This is taken from the original charter. The troop has been continuously active from December 1, 1944 to current times.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Status | Originally chartered with the George Washington Council, Mercer Area District. |
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|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Scout Master | Raymond Hill |
|--------------|--------------|

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Assistant Scout Master |  |
|------------------------|--|

### Scouts

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| William Abey      | Ronald R. Levy    |
| Robert Blake      | Ralph Loen        |
| Rudy Boschwitz    | Charles W. Martin |
| Andrew Brachears  | Phillip Robbins   |
| Frank Brown       | William Rogers    |
| Jeffrey V. Colby  | Harold E.         |
| Carl DeGrange     | Spedding          |
| Donald E. Freeman | James Tsigounis   |
| Dennis Garbis     | Richard Wertheim  |
| Fred Hillenbrand  | William Yeoman    |

Sixteen of the above scouts lived at the Pennington School. The remaining three scouts, William Abby, Carl DeGrange and Harold E. Spedding, all lived in Pennington. All of the scouts ranged in age from 12 to 16 years old.

September 2, 1999

## Some Newspaper Articles about Troop 41 Washington Crossing Council

**April 11, 1945:** In a fairly long article about an upcoming drive to collect clothing, the following sentence appears. "Articles are to be taken to the Boy Scout house on North Main Street next door to the bank. which has been donated for use through the courtesy of Father Frank of St. James RC Church."

(This could have been one of two banks. The Pennington Savings and Loan, 10 North Main Street on the west side of Main Street, or the First National Bank of Pennington, 1 North Main Street at the intersection of Main and East Delaware. I tend to believe it was the First National Bank. . . jos)

**Through 1946:** There are some references to the Boy Scout troop, such as participation in the July 4th celebration and the Memorial Day Parade, without including details such as troop number or names of participations.

**October 23, 1946:** Article about Pennington Girl Scouts raising funds for the Scout House on North Main Street. Not clear whether the house is being shared by the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts. In 1946, there were five Girl Scout troops in Pennington. The Girl

Scouts seem to have an article in the Hopewell Herald almost every week.

**September 24, 1947:** Mentions Troop 86 of Harbourton. Not pertinent to Pennington, but interesting historically.

**November 17, 1948:** The Boy Scouts, Troop 41 reported they have written every Latin American Republic offering to trade with them a troop or an American Flag for flags of their native land or troops. Mr. Thomas Mooney, scoutmaster of the troop promises to let the Trail publish the results and any letters they receive. (Anyone know what the Trail is?)

**February 2, 1949:** Boy Scout Troop No. 41 will attend the Boy Scout church service at the Trinity Episcopal Church, Princeton on Sunday. The troop will be under the direction of their leader Thomas Mooney. This service is part of the program that commemorates the National Boy Scout Week.

**March 16, 1949:** Mentions a patrol leaders training program to be given at the Pennington School and includes several names.

**April 6, 1949:** Court of Honor at Pennington School.

**February 15, 1950:** Henry Weeks, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weeks of South Main Street became an Eagle Scout on Saturday in a Court of Honor held at the Shaw Memorial Chapel of the Pennington School. He is the youngest Scout of Eagle rank in the country. 120 merit badges were presented at this time to local Scouts, under the leadership of Scoutmaster Thomas Mooney. (This is a long article with many names. . . jos)

**February 14, 1951:** Phillip Robins, Eagle Scout Troop

41, has been selected as the outstanding Scout of this area. Other Eagles include Henry Weeks Jr. and Donald Ditmars. William Sanders is Scoutmaster of Troop 41, which is sponsored by the Pennington School. The school has placed clubroom facilities at the group's disposal as well as the gym and the swimming pool. Once a month, swimming instruction is given by a member of the American Red Cross.

**April 18, 1951:** 37 Tenderfoot Scouts join Troop 41 at the Shaw Memorial Chapel. Troop 41 participated in the bait casting and jamboree cooking events at the Scout Circus which was held at the Armory in Trenton. William Sanders is Scoutmaster.

**November 21, 1951:** Scout Troop visits West Point. (lots of names)

**June 4, 1952:** Court of Honor held by Boy Scout Troop 41. The Lions Club now sponsors the Troop. (lots of names)

**September 17, 1952:** The first Fall meeting of Troop 41 will be held at the Pennington School, under the direction of Scoutmaster William Johannsen. George Fernsler is the commissioner.

**February 11, 1953:** The Boy Scouts will stage a paper drive.

**August 5, 1953:** Mr. and Mrs. Fernsler visited Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimaron, NM. (interesting article)

**August 12, 1953:** Members of Boy Scout troop 41 enjoyed a weeks stay at Camp Pahaquarra.

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**January 13, 1954:** The Lions Club will sponsor the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts Night at its regular dinner - meeting at Landwehr's Restaraunt. Earl Van Hise is scoutmaster, cubmaste is James Lawrence. (article includes many names)

**November 20, 1957:** (Pennington Press)  
Troop 41 honors four Eagle Scouts at their Court of Honor. The new Eagles are William Antheil, George Cheatile, Robert Flynn, and Martin Fritach. (article includes many other names)

**November 1957:** (Pennington Press)  
The new Scout Hut on Reading Avenue is now ready for occupancy after the heating is installed. Built by volunteer labor and funds contributed by the Lions Club, the Scout Hut sits on Borough Property rented to Troop 41 at a dollar a year fee.

**March 4, 1976:** Boy Scout troop 41 held their annual Family Dinner Court of Honor at the scout house, Reading Avenue. The troop is in the Stony Brook District.

(The above exerpts are from the Hopewell Valley News, the Hopewell Herald, and the Pennington Press.)

## Troop 41 celebrates Golden Anniversary

Washington Crossing Council

Hopewell Valley News

How do you celebrate a really important event, your 50th anniversary of service to the community? Pennington Boy Scout Troop 41 held a Court of Honor, and to make the event special, they invited former Scoutmasters and alumni as guests. The evening began with dinner at the Pennington First United Methodist Church, followed by speeches, memories, and awards.

Pennington Mayor Mike Winkler, State Senator Bill Schuler, and State Assemblyman Leonard Lance presented commendations. Jim McGuire introduced the former Scoutmasters and read the names of Eagle Scouts graduated by the Troop. Doug Ditmars spoke about the values of Scouting and their positive effect upon the community. Franklin Smith, Mercer Area District Executive, represented the George Washington Council.

A beautiful, new neckerchief, designed to commemorate the occasion, was presented to each of the former Scoutmasters, and to each of the Scouts currently in the troop.

Originally chartered to the Pennington School in 1944, Ray Hill was the first Scoutmaster of the troop and meetings were held at his house on West Welling Avenue. Later, the Hopewell Lions became the sponsor



and troop meetings were held at the Scout House on Reading Avenue. Present co-sponsors are the Hopewell Valley YMCA and the Pennington First United Methodist Church.

(The above article was published by the Hopewell Valley News, March 30, 1995, on the occasion of the Troop 41 50th Anniversary Court of Honor. The same article was later published in the Pennington Post, September 21, 1995. . . jos)



**Troop 41 50th Anniversary Photo**  
**Washington Crossing Council**  
**Hopewell Valley News**

Pennington Boy Scout Troop 41 recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special Court of Honor. The guests included nine former scoutmasters still living in the Pennington area. From the left are Bill Groth, current scoutmaster Mike Speck, Jim Consolloy, Bob Goertz, Lou Beck, Albert Phillips, David Olson, John Huddleson, Jay Neary, and Fred Rasweiler. (Albert Phillips is a former Troop 41 scout, not a scoutmaster. . . jos)

(Caption and photo from an article in the Hopewell Valley News, March 30, 1995, published on the occasion of the Troop 41 50th Anniversary Court of Honor. The same article was later published in the Pennington Post, September 21, 1995. . . jos)



This neckerchief was created for the 50th anniversary of Troop 41. Each scout and each honored guest received one as a gift at the Court of Honor. The design is based on the stars in the Pennington Borough flag. I believe it is fair to say that Roy Nelson suggested this design.

To this day, the neckerchief is proudly displayed in the Scout Room at 425 South Main Street, Gymnasium Attic, Pennington, NJ 08534.