

Order your tickets today for this unique and enjoyable theatrical event with a local flair. Select either the opening public performance or the more formal catered Benefit Performance.

Benefit Performance catered by
Robin's Nest of Mount Holly

Please RSVP by September 5th

☐ Yes, I will attend the Reception and Benefit Performance on Sat. Sept. 15

Name (s) _____

Phone # _____

attending _____ Amt. encl. \$ _____

(checks payable to H.B. Smith Conservancy)

\$55 per person, \$100 per couple

☐ I will be unable to attend the Benefit, but would like to show my support by:

- making a donation to the Conservancy in the amount of \$ _____

- attending the public performance on Friday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m.
@ \$25 per ticket (# of tickets _____)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

This event is sponsored by the H.B. Smith Industrial Village Conservancy. Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Department of Resource Conservation, Division of Cultural Affairs and Tourism.

**The H.B. Smith Industrial Village
Conservancy**

801 Smithville Road,
P.O. Box 902, Eastampton, NJ 08060

H.B. SMITH AND J.J. WHITE

It is said that when J.J. White married Mary Fenwick in 1869, "it was a marriage made in Cranberry heaven". The reason was that the union brought together two of the largest Cranberry farm families in New Jersey and created what would someday become "Whitesbog" — the Cranberry and Blueberry capital of New Jersey. During their first year of marriage, J.J. and Mary collaborated on a book, "Cranberry Culture", a standard guide to cranberry cultivation, that became the "bible" of the cranberry industry.

What is less known is the story of the relationship between Hezekiah B. Smith (1816-1887) and Joseph Josiah White (1846-1924). When they met and joined forces, one might say it was a marriage made in political, industrial and territorial heaven. The press made much of the relationship, calling it the "Smithville-Pemberton Syndicate".

In 1875, when he was 29 years old (he had been married to Mary for a little over 5 years) White moved to Smithville, basically to train as a mechanic. Smith had apparently seen White's potential and probably had more in mind when he employed J.J. than simply to have him work in his woodworking machine plant. Within 3 years White became a company officer (1878) and held shares in the company.

White received patents for a number of inventions, namely, a lightning rod, chain-making machine, fare-box, Wood tenoning machine, belt-shifting pulley, hot-air engine and a machine for cutting files. During 1878, at age 32, White became the general manager of the H. B. Smith Company. This was also the year that H.B. Smith was elected to Congress. Could Smith's mentoring of White have been politically motivated? They were called "The Smithville-Pemberton Syndicate" by the press because of their control of most of the economy along the Rancocas above Mt. Holly. Between their land holdings, control of the waterway, employees (votes!) and mutual ambitions, this was an important alliance.

In 1880, at the age of 34, J.J. White became the general manager of Smith's retail franchise in Philadelphia. It was J.J. White who invited George W. Pressey of Hammonton to Smithville to propose a new type of velocipede or high wheeled bicycle to H. B. and his company officers—which led to the manufacture of the STAR BICYCLE phase of the company.

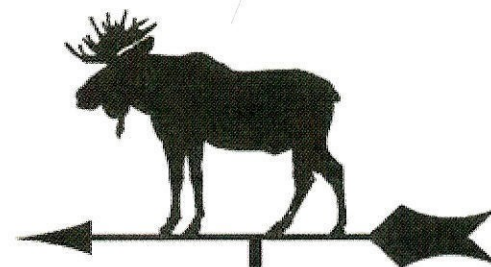
In 1886, after an evening of playing cards with H.B. Smith, J.J. was asked to make the final revision on H.B.'s Last Will and Testament. In the will, a Board of Trustees, of which J.J. White is a member, inherits H.B.'s holdings, for the purpose of establishing and conducting a SCHOOL FOR APPRENTICES AND YOUNG MECHANICS. This is the will that will be contested by the family over nine years and two months after H.B. Smith dies (resolved on March 2, 1897 in favor of Smith's "estranged" family).

During the "Casino phase" of H.B.'s life, J.J. White fit in well, but, like others, he had become distrusted by H.B. in his final days due to J.J.'s ambitious nature and H.B.'s apparent reluctance to see any one man succeed him. After Smith died in 1887, White contended with V.P. William Kelley for control of the company. White got 4 votes to Kelley's 5, and without a simple majority neither won. The Presidency went to Smith's personal secretary, "Major" A.J. Smith.

Compiled and edited by Joe Laufer with excerpts from William Bolger's "Smithville, The Result of Enterprise" and information on the website of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust.

**The H.B. Smith Industrial
Village Conservancy**

Presents . . .



**White & Windy
February**

by Frank Musickel

**The 5th Annual
Mystery Theater Production**
Performed by the Bridge Players
Theatre Company in the tent
theater on the grounds of Smithville
Mansion, Eastampton, NJ

Opening Public Performance
Fri., Sept. 14 at 7:30 - Tickets \$25
Benefit Catered Performance
Includes Reception & upscale hors d'oeuvres
Sat., Sept. 15 at 6:00 - Single \$ 55; Couple \$100

Reservations: 609-265-5068

A White and Windy February

Original script based loosely on historical events at Smithville Mansion, written and performed by **Bridge Players Theatre Company**, sponsored by H.B. Smith Industrial Village Conservancy.

*This year's performance brings to light a little known "connection" between **H.B. Smith** and **J.J. White** of Whitesbog, Pemberton Township. J.J. White served as an apprentice at Smithville and worked his way into a management position with the company.*

*Eventually he would become a confidant of Smith and played a role in the execution of H.B. Smith's Last Will and Testament. At one point, the **New Jersey Mirror** referred to Smith and White as the "Smithville-Pemberton Syndicate" because of the political and economic power they wielded in the region.*

OVERVIEW OF THE PLOT

The American Centennial has passed and it is back to business as usual at Smithville. After a decade, H.B. Smith wields immense political, economic and social influence in the bucolic environs of Burlington County.

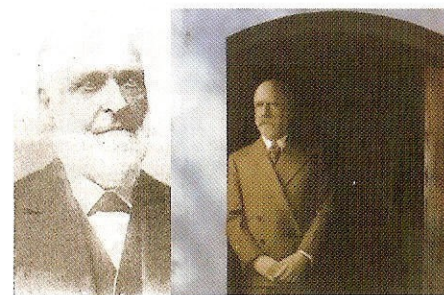
Smith's life and life at Smithville are the subject of near constant report - and speculation - in the newspapers of the day. The H.B. Smith Machine Company has gained a national reputation for its innovative products and treatment of its employees. Congressman Smith enjoys near political hegemony from Mount Holly to the headwaters of the Rancocas thanks

to the Smithville-Pemberton Syndicate.

All seems well, but suddenly discord, distrust and a disappearance disrupt these halcyon days and threaten to dissolve the Syndicate.

Who is behind these disasters? Is it mysterious newspaper columnist "Meddlesome Matty"? Could it be the newly crowned "Cranberry King"? Or maybe it is the minions of the growing number of political enemies lining up against Smith?

All will be revealed in "A White and Windy February".



H. B. Smith (1816-1887) J. J. White (1846-1924)

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"The Smithville - Pemberton Syndicate"

