

Marjorie Ladd Saxe Papers I
(1876 -1980)

HUNTERDON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Finding Aid prepared by Erin Brennan, Archival Volunteer

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY:

Creator: Marjorie Ladd Saxe (1896 - 1980)

Title: Marjorie Ladd Saxe Papers I

Collection Number: 79

Dates of Process: August – November 2009

Volume: 1.25 linear feet in 3 containers

Restrictions: None

Access: During open library hours of the Society (12 PM to 4 PM every Thursday; 10 AM to 4PM every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month; and by appointment

Related Collections: 40, 16 – Readington Township

Abstract: The collection comprises published works, Mrs. Saxe's notes and papers on Centerville history, and photographs of houses and other landmarks in Centerville and people having a connection to the village. Centerville is a village of Readington Township, located along the Old York Road. It received the name "Centerville" due to its being the midpoint and therefore overnight rest stop of the "Swift Sure Stage Line" between New York City and Philadelphia.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Marjorie Ladd Saxe moved to Knollcrest Farm in Centerville, Readington Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey in 1937. In 1970 she wrote: "The charm and quaintness of Centerville intregreed (*sic*) me 33 years ago when we moved into the area. I had dreamed of some foundation restoring the village which had escaped complete distruction (*sic*) when route 202 was laid—not following the Old York Road. When the late Henry Beck suggested collecting stories from the old people in the community my interest was again stimulated and in 1955 I did get some stories from Mr. Abram Schomp, Mrs. Abram Schomp, Mr. Leonard Cole, Miss Kate Stout, Mrs. Eva Cole and Mrs. Elizabeth Sargent all deseased (*sic*)...

Mrs. Saxe collected these stories and researched the history of Centerville almost up until her death. She was the compiler and editor of The Centerville Methodist Church 1869 – 1969 with traditions and recollections of Old Centerville,

published by the Centerville Methodist Church, 1970.

Mrs. Saxe was a pillar of the Centerville Methodist Church, a member of the Readington Township Tercentenary Committee and active in the Township's Bicentennial Celebrations in 1976. She moved to Upstate New York in 1980 where she died on December 1 of that year.

SCOPE AND
CONTENT

The Marjorie Ladd Saxe Papers I consist of: (i) 10 published works; (ii) 17 folders of handwritten or typed materials; and (iii) 20 photographs. The collection provides information on Centerville and Readington Township history, the families who lived there and the types of lives they led.

Series 1:	Published Works
Box/Item	Contents
1.1	<u>History of the First Baptist Church of Plainfield, NJ, 1818 – 1877</u> by O. B. Leonard, Church Clerk. Newark, New Jersey: Starbuck & Dunham Printers, 165 Market Street. 1877
1.2	<u>The Capture of the Block House at Toms River New Jersey, March 24, 1782.</u> Read at the Memorial Service at Tom's River, May 30, 1883 by William S. Stryker, Adjutant General of New Jersey. Trenton, NJ: Naar, Book and Job Printers. 1883
1.3	<u>General Washington at Coryell's Ferry</u> by Hannah Coryell Anderson. June 21, 1928. Hunterdon Historical Society Reprint, Lambertville, NJ "The Beacon". 1969
1.4	<u>Articles Of Incorporation And By-Laws Of The Hillsborough Mutual Fire Assurance Association Of The County of Somerset, Incorporated 1844.</u> 1888, Compliments of William Leully, Secretary.
1.5	<u>Jamesburg, New Jersey, Historical Address by T. Wilton Hill, July 4, 1876.</u> Philadelphia: Allen, Lake and Scott's Printing House, No. 233 South Fifth Street. 1876.
1.6	<u>Washington's March to Trenton on Christmas Night in 1776</u> by Dr. Carlos E. Godfrey. An address delivered before the Trenton Historical Society, March 20, 1924. Trenton: Press of the State Gazette Publishing Co. 1924.
1.7	<u>Illustrated Fact Book and History, Greater Somerville Area of New Jersey, 1664 – 1964.</u> A special invitation to visit during the New Jersey Tercentenary Celebration and the New York World's Fair. Compiled 1964 by Lenhart and Company, Publishers, Princeton, NJ, Constance Mann, Editor.
1.8	<u>An Old Veteran Reminisces. Being some of the reminiscences of Marvin Stowe Saxe, Sergeant, 304th Brigade, Tank Corps United States Army in France, June 1917 to January 1919</u> by Marvin Stow Saxe (prepared for publication by Marjorie Ladd Saxe, wife of Marvin Stow Saxe). Self-Published, 1968. (2 copies)
1.9	<u>Know Your County, a Survey of Hunterdon County,</u> published by the League of Women Voters of Hunterdon County, October 1952.
1.10	<u>My Two Roads,</u> by J. Brian Eby. 2 nd ed. Houston, TX: Pacesetter Press, A Division of Gulf Publishing Company. 1974, 1976.

Series 2	Papers
Box/Folder	Contents
2.1	Centerville Vigilant Society
	1 8 ½ x 14” Poster on cardboard listing members, officers and directors Mrs. Saxe’s handwritten notes on the Society Mr. Leonard Cole’s recollection of the Society transcribed by Mrs. Saxe
2.2	Drafts of <i>The Centerville Methodist Church 1869 – 1969</i> by Mrs. Saxe
	Twenty typed and handwritten documents, in some instances pieced together with cellophane tape.
2.3	Research Notes on <i>The Centerville Methodist Church 1869 – 1969</i> by Mrs. Saxe
	One list of names on the back of a hotel bill; one typewritten and marked list of ministers; one list of subscribers dated August 24, 1920 to purchase the property for the church parsonage ; brochures for the 87 th , 88 th , and 90 th anniversaries of the Centerville Methodist Church; two copies of a dittoed list of Pastors of Centerville, Hunterdon County, New Jersey 1868-1954; three page transcription of the information on the Centerville Methodist Episcopal Church from <i>History of Hunterdon and Somerset Co’s New Jersey</i> , Compiled by James P. Snell 1881.
2.4	Notes from the Flemington Paper copied by Mrs. Saxe for George Bushfield
	Seven handwritten sheets containing transcripts of items relating to Centerville possibly from the Hunterdon County <i>Republican</i> 1869 – 1871
2.5	Readington Township Tercentenary Committee
	One facsimile of a photograph of the Committee on History; dittoed form letter from George Bushfield to Mrs. Saxe dated July 8, 1964; dittoed News and Notes of our Readington Township Tercentenary Committee dated March 17, 1964; program from the tercentennial celebration of Readington Township, March 12, 1964; Letter to Mrs. Saxe from the Chairman of the State of New Jersey Tercentenary Commission dated December 5, 1963; form letter from George Bushfield to Mrs. Saxe dated November 18, 1963; possible candidates for historical markers in Readington Township; Centennial Committee for Readington Township (names, phone numbers and assignments)
2.6	Notes on the Centerville Tavern
	Eleven handwritten pages of notes of real property transfers relating to the Centerville Tavern
2.7	Notes on Centerville History
	Subjects include: Mrs. Saxe’s notes on coming to Centerville; Notes on the Methodist Church; descriptions of memorials in the church; The Indian Village on the present site of Centerville; Notes on Centerville History; the first white settlers in this area; Nicholas Egbert; Recollections (Andrew van Syckle); The Revolutionary Days in Centerville; Centerville Tavern; Centerville, a thriving community; Early Centerville from the Hall of Records; the Swift-sure Stage Coach Barn 1764

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2.8	Notes on Centerville History
	Subjects include: The Stage Coach Barn; Additional information on Methodist Church – Centerville; Some Notes on Centerville History; Notes on the Centerville Store; The Indian Village on the present site of Centerville; First White Settlers; Campbell’s Brook – The Old York Road; Centerville; Swift-Sure Stagecoach Line; The Centerville Tavern; The Centerville Inn Burns; The Jackson Committee of 1828; the Post Office; Pinchtown – Morrisville – Centerville; The Centerville Store; Fire Destroys the Store; Centerville, a Thriving Community; Mr. Andrew van Syckle’s Story; Notes from Leonard Cole to Mrs. Lorena Vincent 1955; the Story of Pompey Lane.
2.9	Events held in the Centerville Stage Coach Barn
	Eighth Annual Hobby Show and Flower Exhibit June 6, 1964; October 4 th Fall Bazaar; Bicentennial Events May 24 th 1976
2.10	Newspaper Articles on Centerville
	<i>(Newark) Sunday Star Ledger</i> , July 3, 1955 – “Centerville Revival Recalls Stories of the Old York Road”; <i>(Plainfield) Courier News</i> June 1, 1955 “Centerville Plans Community Center in Carriage House”; <i>Hunterdon County Democrat</i> May 7, 1970 – “Centerville Society Plans Early American Tour”; <i>Hunterdon County Democrat</i> May 1, 1975 – “4H Riders Gallop in Hunterdon for US 200 th ”; <i>Hunterdon County Democrat</i> May 29, 1975 – “Centerville Visitors See Village Historic Spots”
2.11	Centerville Church Societies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1965 Church Conference; • Typed and marked up copy on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sunday (Sabbath) Schools 1870 to 1881; Sabbath School Library 1872; The Sabbath School Reorganized; the Sunday School from 1909 to 1913; Church School members enrolled in 1918; Church School members in the 1930’s; Sunday School 1921 – 1923; Sunday School 1921-1923; Sunday School 1932-1941; Church school closed 1941-1952; 1952-1969; Members of the Church School since 1952 ○ Women’s Societies; Women’s Society of Christian Service; Women’s Society ca. 1969; Annual Reports of the 10th Annual Meeting of the Woman’s Society of Christian Service, Southern District, Newark Conference, The Methodist Church, First Methodist Church, Plainfield, ; Thursday, March 28, 1963; ○ Methodist Youth Fellowship ○ Church Memorials ○ Church Reorganization • Exercise Book containing Secretary’s Report of the Ladies’ Aid Society September 18, 1907 and Treasury Records of the Missionary Society 1892
2.12	Centerville Recollections

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	Almar Cole; Boss Craig; Leonard Cole; Lucinda Huff; Mr. William Rowland's Pipeless Furnace; Rev. Thaddeus Pace; Cornelius Dilts; Andrew van Syckle; Katherine L. Stout's Notes on the Centerville Store
2.13	Marjorie Saxe Correspondence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five letters from Katherine Stout to Mrs. Saxe May 14, 1954 to May 16, 1956 • Seven letters from Ernest Higgins (nephew of K. Stout) to Mrs. Saxe June 29, 1958 to September 26, 1969 • Letter from "Charlotte B. C." to Mrs. Saxe Thursday, 1969 • Letter from Ruth May, 771 Amsterdam Avenue, Roselle, NJ to Mrs. Saxe, January 13, 1970
2.14	Other Letters
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of letter from Howard S. Cray, 258 Garfield Avenue to Rev. Henry Beck, July 6, 1955; • Letter from Rev. Henry Charlton Beck, St. George's Vicarage, York Harbor, ME to Mr. Thompson July 31, 1957 • Copy of Letter written to District Superintendent of Methodist Church (Rev. Henry J. McKinnon) by Marjorie Saxe circa 1976
2.15	John Huff Letter
	Copy of a letter from John V. Huff in Westfield, NY written to his father, E. G. Huff, Esq. at Centerville, July 9, 1974
2.16	Subscription List – Improvement Centreville M.E. Church 1906
	One Handwritten ledger sheet
2.17	Elmira, NY Journal December 1894
	<p><i>Descendants of Cain</i> by Rev. Geo. S. Mott, Flemington, NJ</p> <p>Articles on:</p> <p><i>The Presbyterian Church of Flemington NJ</i> by Rev. George Scudder</p> <p><i>Methodist Episcopal Church of Flemington, NJ</i> by Rev. Gilbert C. Monsdale</p> <p><i>The First Baptist Church of Lambertville NJ</i> by The Rev. Edward M. Lightfoot, Pastor</p> <p><i>St. John's Catholic Church, (A Magnificent Edifice at Lambertville, NJ)</i> The Rev. Wm.J.Fitzgerald, Pastor</p> <p><i>Very Rev. Dean Burke</i>, Phillipsburg, NJ</p> <p><i>Rev. J. E. Sagebeer</i>, Lambertville, NJ</p> <p><i>The Episcopal Church of Lambertville</i></p> <p><i>ME Church of Lambertville</i></p> <p><i>Principal of the High School</i> Prof. V. C. Pilgrim of Phillipsburg, NJ</p> <p><i>Reading Academy</i></p> <p><i>President of the Board of Education</i>, Phillipsburg, NJ</p> <p><i>Phillipsburg Public Schools</i></p> <p><i>Judge Octavius P. Chamberlain</i>, Flemington, NJ</p> <p><i>Nestor of the County Bar - Charles A. Skillman</i>, Lambertville, NJ</p> <p><i>Francis W. Larison</i>, MD of Lambertville, NJ</p>

Series 2	Papers
Box/Folder	Contents
	<p> <i>Peter McGill MD</i> of Lambertville, NJ <i>James W. Snowball, MD</i> of Flemington <i>Dr. Geo. L. Romine</i> of Lambertville <i>Dr. O. H. Sproul</i> of Flemington <i>Jno. B. Hopewell</i> of Flemington, Cashier of the Hunterdon County National Bank <i>Torbert Coryell</i>, Mayor of Lambertville <i>Hon. Charles N. Reading</i>, Frenchtown <i>Home of Senator W. H. Martin</i>, Frenchtown <i>Lewis Osman Beers</i>, Instructor, Phillipsburg High School <i>Miss Mary L. Mack</i>, Instructor, Phillipsburg High School </p>

Series 3:		Photographs					
Box/Folder No.	Px No.	Creator	Title	Date	Location	Physical Characteristics	Subject Keywords
3.18	4830	Unknown	Centerville School	Ca. 1880	Centerville, Readington Township, NJ	Framed albumen print 20 x 12 cm Condition: Fair—cracks and chipped edges	20 children and teacher outside of the school. Pupils include: Magdalena Stout (rear, 3 rd from right); Frances Ann Hoagland (rear, 4 th from right)
3.19	4831	Montfort	John V. Huff	Ca. 1870s	Plainfield, NJ	Albumen studio print 14 x 10 cm Condition: Fair-some mirroring, mat stained	John V. Huff, son of E. G. Huff. Man with goatee in coat with velvet collar holding a derby hat
3.20	4832	Unknown	Bridge over Campbell's Brook (Pleasant Run)	Ca. 1890 (Summer)	Old York Road, Centerville, Readington Township, NJ	Silver gelatin print 20.5 x 15 cm Condition: Fair—mat torn; upper right corner of image is missing; some mirroring; scratch on lower right corner	Woman and little girl on the bank of Campbell's Brook by the bridge at Old York Road. A dog sits on the bridge. Three men in shirtsleeves stand on the bridge looking west. Another man drives a hay wagon over the bridge.
3.21	4833	The Loveland Photo Studios	Miss Katherine Stout	Ca. 1900	E. Front Street, Plainfield, NJ	Albumen studio print 14 x 10 cm Condition: good	Miss Katherine Stout of Centerville, NJ; a young woman in a dark dress with high collar

Series 3:		Photographs					
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3.22	4834	Smith Studios	Rev. F. W. Gutlieb	Ca. 1912	Madison, NJ	Sepia toned matte developed out studio print 12.5 x 9 cm Oval Condition: image good; mat fair—spotted	Portrait of Rev. F. W. Gutlieb, pastor of Centerville Methodist Church, 1912-1913
3.23	4835	Unknown	Centerville Tavern	Ca. 1940-1960	Pleasant Run and Old York Roads, Centerville, Readington Township, NJ	Black and white glossy developed out print 7.5 x 10 cm Condition: poor—mirroring on left and right edges; fading throughout; several horizontal scratches	Oblique shot of the Centerville Tavern (Methodist Parsonage) in the 1940's. The picture looks west. The building at this time has dark colored trim, different from other photos of the building
3.24	4836	Unknown	Cornelius Lane House	Ca. 1950's	Centerville, Readington Township, NJ	Black and white glossy developed out print 13.5 x 8 cm Condition: good	White clapboard, 2 story, four bay farmhouse; barn with silo and windmill
3.25	4837	Unknown	Centerville Methodist Church	Ca. late 1970's	Old York Road, Centerville, Readington Township, NJ	Black and white glossy developed out print 9 x 11.5 cm Condition: fair—wrinkles, mirroring	Centerville Methodist Church and Sunday School Addition
3.26	4838	Unknown	Centerville Blacksmith Shop	Ca. late 1950's	Old York Road near Pleasant Run,	Black and white glossy developed out print 9.5 x 9.5 cm	Small barn-like building with open doors on gable end. Clapboards

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					Centerville, Readington Township, NJ	Condition: good	need repair; picture taken in autumn Notes on back: Centerville Feature; Review 100% Centerville Blacksmith Shop; owners and smithies in 1900's Howard Huff and Fred Snyder, now owned by Charles Grey, 1980
3.27	4839	Unknown	Shingled House	Ca. 1950's	Centerville, Readington Township, NJ	Black and white developed out print 9.5 x 9.5 cm Condition: good	Shingled 4 bay I house with addition. Taken in early fall; large oak tree in front of house
3.28	4840	Unknown	Peter D. Vroom House	December 1966	Craig Road; Centerville, Readington Township, NJ	Black and White glossy developed out print 9.5 x 9.5 cm Condition: fair—scratches, cello tape	Four bay white house with addition, 2 story, 3 chimneys; house sits on a rise and faces south. Note on back: Said to be the home of Peter D. Vroom, a governor of New Jersey; married Elise Borgart Born 1745 – died 1831; Backus Hoagland 1855; presently is occupied by the Terp family, 1969.

Series 3:		Photographs					
Box/Folder No.	Px No.	Creator	Title	Date	Location	Physical Characteristics	Subject Keywords
3.29	4841	Unknown	Centerville Tavern	Ca. 1955-1965	Pleasant Run and Old York Roads; Centerville, Readington Township, NJ	Black and white glossy developed out print 9.5 x 9.5 cm Condition: Fair—two scratches scored vertically through the print; cellophane tape (yellowed, brittle) on bottom	Late fall afternoon shot of Centerville Tavern
3.30	4842	Lee	Miss Jennie Elberson	Ca 1880's	441 South Main Street, Phillipsburg, NJ	Albumen studio print 10 x 14 cm Condition: Fair—dirty	Strong-featured young woman in striped high-necked dress Note on back: Miss Jennie Elberson, a teacher, dressmaker
3.31	4843	Lee	Oscar Huff	Ca. 1885 – 1895	441 South Main Street, Phillipsburg, NJ	Albumen studio print 10 x 14 cm Condition: Fair—print peeling from lower left corner and slightly torn, faded, spotted	Portrait of young blond man with moustache and cleft chin. Note on back: Joined Centerville Methodist Church in 1882
3.32	4844	Hunterdon Review	Village of Centerville	February 1974	Pleasant Run Road near Old York Road, Centerville, Readington Township, NJ	Black and white glossy developed out print 25 x 20 cm Condition: good	Looking south on Pleasant Run Road on a snowy winter day, the photo depicts the rear of the stagecoach barn, the parsonage (formerly the Centerville Tavern), and a white house at the

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							NW corner of Pleasant Run and Old York Roads
3.33	4845	Mettler	Mrs. Alfred Ureh, nee Miss Maggie Snyder	Ca. 1850-1900	Clinton, NJ (opposite Clinton House)	Albumen studio print 10 x 14.5 cm Condition: Fair—Faded, some mirroring, dirty	Head portrait in profile of young woman with dark ribbon choker. Soft finish Note on back: Miss Maggie Snyder was the sister of Fred Snyder and sister in law of Howard Huff, blacksmiths in Centerville in early 1900's
3.34	4846	Unknown	Voorhees Farmhouse	Ca 1950's	Centerville, Readington Township, NJ	Black and white developed out print 11.5 x 7.5 cm Condition: good	3 bay clapboard I-house with 2 bay addition; rural setting Note on back: From early 1900's Owners: George L and Mary Jane Huff Voorhees; Joseph & Jennie Voorhees Taylor; Charles and Kate Hall; Charles and Bessie Dilts; Jean Barber
3.35	4847	Lee	Mrs. George	Ca. 1880	Phillipsburg, NJ	Albumen studio print	Photo of woman in fur

Series 3:		Photographs					
Box/Folder No.	Px No.	Creator	Title	Date	Location	Physical Characteristics	Subject Keywords
			G. Brokaw, nee Frances Hoagland			10 x 13.5 cm Condition: Fair—some dirt and staining	jacket. Note on back: Benefactor of Centerville Methodist Church. Father was owner of tavern, later to become Methodist Church Rectory
3.36	4848	Lee	Boss Craig's wife's brother	Ca. 1870	Phillipsburg, NJ	Albumen studio print with serrated edges 10 x 14 cm Condition: Fair—some dirt and fading	Portrait of a middle- aged man with moustache in wool vested suit, no tie. Note on back: John S. Craig (Boss Craig) was a landowner in Centerville, NJ in mid- 19 th century
3.37	4849	Smith	Rev. Thomas Sharp, Pastor of Centerville Church	Ca. 1879- 1880	303 Broadway, New York, NY	Albumen studio print 9 x 6 cm Condition: good	Note on back: Rev. Thomas Sharp, pastor of Centerville Church 1879 – 1880. Membership over 100