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# Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Volume 47 No. 2 Spring 2011



### Hunterdon County Historical Society

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Now thru June 14 - Exhibit "The Stars and Stripes:Fabric of the American Spirit" Featuring sixty-nine American parade flags The Red Mill, Clinton

June 5 - Society Gala "River Road Ramble" See lead article for more info

#### June 18 - Auction/Flea Market

Antiques, collectibles and more Holcombe Jimison Farmstead Lambertville

July 17 - Barn Tour Sponsored by the Tewksbury Historical Society and Tewksbury Trail Association

Aug 6 - Civil War Re-Enactment Holcombe Jimison Farmstead

Aug 26 - Lecture "Post Offices of Hunterdon County" Bouman Stickney Farmstead Stanton

Sep 24 - Farmstead Festival Tour the museum, enjoy the crafts and demonstrations Holcombe Jimison Farmstead

#### **OPEN HOUSES**

Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Stanton First Sunday of each month

Marshall House Museum Lambertville Historical Society Weekends thru Oct 16

## A FIRST! Governor Reading House Open for Society's Gala Tours on June 5, 2011



Built in 1760 by Governor John Reading, Jr., the handsome Georgian style mansion sits along the South Branch of the Raritan River. The house, a private residence for 251 years, has never been opened to the public.

rare opportunity exists to tour the 251-year-old, privately-owned Georgian style mansion Gov. John Reading, Jr. built along the South Branch of the Raritan River in 1760 when it is opened for the Hunterdon County Historical Society's annual gala, the "River Road Ramble", Sunday, June 5 from 3 to 6pm.

Raritan Township Police are closing River Road from Junction to Pennsylvania Avenue between 2:30 and 6:15pm to assure the safety of guests. Parking and registration will be at 67 River Road. Flat heel shoes are suggested to protect the antique flooring and for one's own comfort.

The Ramble also includes six other properties in the South Branch Historic District. Three houses on the tour are short strolls from the Reading mansion and include that property's c.1775 Reading English-style barn with a two-story 1995 apartment, the c.1750s Barber Farmstead, and the Society's 2009 state-of-the-art Archive Building. Although the *c*.1770-1810 Shippen House will afford only exterior views, guests can walk a path from the Gov. Reading house to see the surprising 40-foot drop to the Raritan River there. An eightpassenger van will shuttle guests to the other two houses at the intersection of Junction and River Roads where the c.1760 Daniel Reading House and c.1840 Cherryville

Store, relocated from Franklin Township, are under restoration for commercial use. Parking is available there, so guests have the option of stopping to see these two houses before or after seeing the other five.

Attendance at Society galas, usually limited by invitation, is open to the public this year because of the unique opportunity to tour the Reading Mansion and other historic buildings. A donation of \$75 includes the tours, hors d'oeuvres from *Max's Trattoria* in Flemington, wine, and music by harpist Mary Elizabeth Young. Guests also may have a 5 by 7-inch profile cut by silhouette artist Ruth Grabner of Washington, NJ for \$25.

Reservations may be secured online at www.hunterdonhistory.org or by mail to HCHS, 114 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822. Make checks payable to the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Attendance by pre-orders only by May 30.

Tours will be ongoing during the gala so guests can see the houses in their order of choice and still have time to visit and enjoy the food. Vignettes of historical artifacts and documents, two of the Society's many Hunterdon quilts, and a room-size hooked rug of Sergeantsville will be displayed on the first floor of the Society's "smart," state-ofthe-art archival storage building.

Brief descriptions of the historical tour houses follow on page 1109.

### HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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#### **OFFICERS & TRUSTEES**

President: Richard H. Stothoff (2013) Vice President: Charles H. Fisher (2012) Recording Secretary: John Matsen (2013) Corresponding Secretary: MaryAnn Adams (2013) Treasurer: John W. Kuhl (2014) Lora W. Jones (2012) Edna Pedrick (2012) Beth Rice (2012) Donald F. Scholl (2012) Jay Langley (2013) Mary Ellen Soldavin (2013) Mary Elizabeth Sheppard (2014) Stephanie Stevens (2014) Harold O. Van Fleet (2014) William Young (2014)

### **Membership Report**

warm welcome is extended to those members who have recently joined the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

Reported by Harold O. Van Fleet, Membership Chair

Patricia Bacigalupo, Flemington, NJ John Baka, Clinton, NJ Kimberly Costa, Lebanon, NJ Mary Lou Crabtree, Flemington, NJ William A. Decoster, Califon, NJ Ms. Nancy L. Heath, Thorofare, NJ, upgrade to Life Member-THANK YOU! Louis J. Judice, Hampton, NJ, Life Member David Kemp, Oldwick, NJ Jay Langley, Flemington, NJ, upgrade to Life Member-THANK YOU! Patricia K. Linde, Derby, KS Cathie Moran, Pittstown, NJ Elizabeth Pellicane, Glen Gardner, NJ Christopher Pickell, Flemington, NJ Kenneth Tremaine, Milford, NJ John Van Blarcom, Easton, PA Joanne W. Whitney, Pittstown, NJ Mr. and Mrs. Donald Yard, Flemington, NJ

Acquisitions Materials representative of the history of Hunterdon County and the families who resided here are welcome additions to the Society's collections. Large collections may not be available for research until they have been processed. To the donors of recent acquisitions, the Society expresses its sincere appreciation.

The library has received a significant gift of books about historic preservation and related subjects from Ilona English of Ringoes, NJ:

Alderson, William T., and Shirley Payne Low, Interpretation of Historic Sites. 2d ed. (1985)

Blumenson, John J. G., Identifying American Architecture. 2d ed. (1981) Bowman, John S., American Furniture (1985)

Bowsher, Alice Meriwether, Design Review in Historic Districts (1978) Carley, Rachel, The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture (1994)

Connors, Tracy D., The Nonprofit Organization Handbook. 2d ed. (1988) Guter, Robert P., and Janet W. Foster, Building by the Book: Pattern-

Book Architecture in New Jersey (1992)

A Handbook on Historic Preservation Law (1983)

Hosmer, Charles B., Jr., Presence of the Past: A History of the

- Preservation Movement in the United States Before Williamsburg (1965)
- Hosmer, Charles B., Jr., Preservation Comes of Age: From Williamsburg to the National Trust, 1926-1949. 2 v. (1981)
- MacLeish, A. Bruce, The Care of Antiques & Historical Collections. 2d ed. (1985)
- Moss, Roger W., ed., Paint in America: The Colors of Historic Buildings (1999)
- New Jersey Quilts, 1777 to 1950: Contributions to an American Tradition (1992)

Preservation & Conservation: Principles & Practices (1976) Rifkind, Carole, A Field Guide to American Architecture (1980) Ritzenthaler, Mary Lynn, Preserving Archives and Manuscripts (1993) Schwartz, Helen, *The New Jersey House* (1983)

Schwartz, Marvin D., American Furniture of the Colonial Period (1976) Seale, William, *Recreating the Historic House Interior* (1979) Sloane, Samuel, Sloan's Victorian Buildings (1981)

The following books were donated by the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, occasioned by the Commission's move to new quarters:

Cohen, David Steven, The Folklore and Folklife of New Jersey (1983; reprint 1991)

Jordan, Catherine Stewart, The Milligans: A Legacy in Stone (1997) Jordan, Catherine Stewart, The Red Mill: Failure and Fortune (1997) Kingtown Mill ... Photographs, Written Historical and Descriptive

Data (Historic American Engineering Record, 1997) Living With Old Houses (Greater Portland Landmarks, 1975)

*New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail* (2000)

*New Jersey's National Historic Landmarks* (n.d.)

In addition, the Commission donated a number of books and pamphlets which can be sold for the benefit of the Society.

The following items were donated by recently retired trustee Clifford L. Hoffman:

Two photographs of the Flemington Cornet Band

Rittenhouse, Edna, diploma from Flemington High School, 1913, and county school certificate, 1909.

### In Memoriam: Edwin K. Large by John W. Kuhl

t was with much regret that we read in the April 14, 201 Hunterdon County Democrat of the death in Evan Georgia on April 3, 2011 of one of our long-time forme trustee, Edwin K. Large at age 98. The Large family had lon been prominent in the legal circles of this county and Ed wa no exception, having been the registered agent in the 1960 for such companies as Eastman Kodak, Standard Oil, an American Tobacco in the days when those and many othe national firms were registered and held their annual meeting here in Flemington. In addition, he served for 30 years as th Hunterdon County Counsel.

He had a wide variety of lifelong interests but it was h support of our Society that we particularly appreciated over the years. More than just a trustee, he was our legal advise delivering calm, sound opinion on the many such problem that confronted a society such as ours. From its founding 1959 until 2001 he was the president of the Large Foundation one of the area's key philanthropies, which continues annually grant much needed financial support to our Society

Upon retirement he moved to Georgia and most of us ha not seen much of him lately. But we remember him well a nice man of unquestioned integrity who was always read to assist where he could. His wife, Mary Mitchell Westa Large, died at age 93 on February 4, 2010. Our sympath goes out to his family.

### Notes and Queries

**PHILHOWER:** Descendants of Philip and Mary Mueller Philhower are planning their 95th Annual Family Reunion to be held this September 10, 2011, at the Cokesbury United Methodist Church, Cokesbury, NJ. If you are a Philhower descendant, or enjoy studying the Palatine Immigration into Hunterdon County, contact Jane Eick at 908 766-0807 or visit our website at www.apgarfamily.org.

## **Historical Houses on June 5 Tour:**

influences with colonial revival embellishments. The 1760 Governor John Reading House stands today as a testament to the great wealth, social, and political importance The c.1750s Barber Farmstead is a charming, fully restored, of the man. Constructed with Flemish Bond brick on a wood-framed, one-and-a-half story cottage known to cultural geographers as an Upper Delaware Valley Type. A 1747 coin stone foundation, the house is a prime example of perfectly symmetrical Georgian architecture. Its construction year is was unearthed by the house. verified by the large numeral inlay of specially darkened bricks The c.1760 Daniel Reading Homestead, a frame structure has had many additions and enlargements, but some original features remain such as windows, some siding, eaves, paneled doors, and a huge walk-in kitchen fireplace. Restoration of this large dwelling is nearing completion.

across a side wall. The interior matches the exterior beauty. The c.1775 Reading Barn of English design with large double doors on each side to allow wagons to drive through and also provide a threshing area will be party central for refreshments and entertainment. A charming The c.1840 Cherryville General Store was established by John 1995 apartment with a loft bedroom in the barn is on Hoffman at the Cherryville crossroads in Franklin Township. It the tour. also served as the Cherryville Post Office from 1850 to 1919. The c.1770-1810 Shippen House also had a 1754 mill, now but was last used in the 1920s. It was purchased and moved in apparent only by its stone foundation. After the Readings sold 2007 by David Hauck; its restoration is nearing completion.

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	HOW TO JOIN	
11 IS, er	Hunterdon County His 114 Main Street Flemington, NJ 08822	-
ng as Ds	Please enroll me as a member of your Society.	
ad er gs ne is er er, ns in n, to y.	Annual Family Contributing Sustaining Institutional Life Patron Student Amount enclosed \$ Name	<ul> <li>\$20 per year</li> <li>\$25 per year</li> <li>\$50 per year</li> <li>\$100 per year</li> <li>\$100 and up per year</li> <li>\$400</li> <li>\$1000 or more</li> <li>\$5 per year (up to 18 yrs old)</li> </ul>
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ıy	ph #	
er	email	Yes

the property, which stands on a bluff about the river, it changed hands frequently. One owner was Edward Shippen, a prominent lawyer and loyalist from Philadelphia, who purchased it in 1776 as a retreat during the Revolution. He sold it two years later at a £5,800 profit, and it is said, used the money to finance the marriage of his daughter, Peggy, to General Benedict Arnold. The house was enlarged over time and now shows Georgian

### WILLIAMS TALL-CASE CLOCK **INHERITED BY THE SOCIETY**

### Grandfather's clock, made by Thomas Williams, Hunterdon County's first clockmaker, now among the Historical Society's collections

### by Fred Sisser III

That is undoubtedly among the first clocks ever made in Hunterdon County has been inherited by the Hunterdon County Historical Society, who accessioned the timepiece on 14 March 2011. Coming from the estate of Society member, Lester V. Rockafellow - who died on 16 February 2010 at the age of 71 - the tall-case clock was made by Thomas Williams of Flemington circa 1803. Generally known at that time as an eight-day clock, but also called a tall-case clock, or simply tall clock, it is now usually referred to as a grandfather's clock.

Made of fruitwood, probably cherry, the clock's overall height measures ninety-six inches. On the dial is painted "Thomas Williams" underneath of which is "Flemingtown." Regretfully, the provenance of the clock is not known, but it is assumed that it descended to Mr. Rockafellow either through his father's family, or his mother, who was Grace Van Dyke.<sup>2</sup>

So far as is known, there are only four other existing tallcase clocks made by Thomas Williams, who flourished at Flemington in the period of from the 1790s to 1809.<sup>3</sup> One of Williams' clocks is owned by the family of Historical Society member Juli A. (Langerak) Wilson of Minden, Nevada. This clock, now in the home of her brother who resides in Idaho, was originally purchased by a member of the Thompson

family of Readington

Township, from whom

Mrs. Wilson descends.

The purchaser was

probably Mrs. Wilson's

Thompson, Sr., whose

1847 inventory lists

an "eight day clock,'

appraised at \$20.00.4

case clock made by

Thomas Williams was

bought by John W.

Thatcher of Clinton

(New Jersey) in 1985.

Subsequent research by

Mr. Thatcher revealed

Another

ancestor,

John

tall-



Detail of the dial of the Williams tallthat, in addition to Mrs. case clock Wilson's clock, a couple

from Media, Pennsylvania, also owned a Williams tall-case clock. Including that recently inherited by the Society, makes for a total of four clocks known to have been built by Thomas Williams.<sup>5</sup>

The workshop of Thomas Williams was located at what is

now William Street, Flemington. The foundation of his place of work was unearthed during an excavation in 1922, and this discovery resulted in an article in the local newspaper.<sup>6</sup> Giving details on Thomas Williams at that time was renowned Hunterdon County historian Theodore Bellis  $(1849-1927)^7$  and this account may have been the first published on Hunterdon County's original clockmaker. Williams' apprentice, Joakim Hill (1783-1869), proved to be more famous than his mentor, and a number of his tall-case clocks have survived to this day.8

Thomas Williams was the son of Jonathan Williams (c.1730-1788), and his wife Joanna (c.1730-1768), of Elizabeth Town, Essex (now Union) County, New Jersey.9 Thomas was born 13 September 1763, at Elizabeth Town.<sup>10</sup> He is first of record in May 1786 when Thomas and his father. "Jonathan Williams the older," and his brother, "Jonathan Williams the younger," borrowed £811 from Robert Kennedy, at which time they were all described as of "the Township of Grinwitch [Greenwich] County of Sussicks [Sussex]." When the Williams' failed to return this by Thomas Williams, money, they were sued by Kennedy in the New Jersey Supreme Court in

April 1788, by which time Thomas senior was dead and his sons were living in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County.<sup>11</sup> The case was not resolved until October 1788 when the Sheriff of Hunterdon County sold "three different lotts of Land" in Lebanon Township belong to the Williams' "on the North side of the Brook called Beaver Dam" and the "road that leads from Potterstown to the South branch of Rariton... [near] a bridge over Beaver Dam brook."12

Jonathan Williams senior died intestate about January 1788 at which time "Jonathan Williams & Tho<sup>s</sup> Williams both of the County of Hunterdon" were appointed his administrators in Essex County, from where their father originally came.<sup>13</sup> As the appointed administrators of the "Goods & Chattles, Land and Tenements which were of Jonathan Williams deceased & at the time of his death in the Hands and Possession" of his sons, they were sued in the Hunterdon County Court of Common Pleas for a debt not paid by their father.<sup>14</sup> This case was still active in May 1788.15

By 1789 Thomas Williams was living in Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County, at which time he was recorded as a "Householder" and assessed on 40 acres of land.<sup>16</sup> The "Householder" appellation would indicate that by this time Thomas was married. In August 1790 he continued to be

Tall-case clock, made

c.1803, now in the

Society's possession.

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taxed on 40 acres of land in Alexandria Township.<sup>17</sup> longest litigations involved the allegations made by "Harry On 26 March 1795 Thomas Williams is recorded as "of Peters and Thomas Gedney . . . partners in trade under the the Township of Amwell" when he purchased two lots there, name . . . of Peters and Gedney at New York," which was one consisting of nine acres, and the other, located on the initiated in August 1808 and not resolved until a year later. east side "of the road leading to Trenton," containing two Accordingly Thomas owed the firm \$375.00.<sup>34</sup> New York acres.<sup>18</sup> This property was located in what is now the town City directories from 1805 until 1808 describe "Peters & of Flemington, which in the eighteenth century was part of Gedney" as merchants of a "china and glass store" located at Amwell Township. "Thomas Williams of the Township of 204 Pearl Street.<sup>35</sup> Perhaps Thomas bought glass and other Amwell" purchased eleven more acres in Amwell Township in items from this establishment for his clocks. Other creditors who brought charges against Thomas April 1799.<sup>19</sup> The account book of Jacob Anderson of Amwell Township, who died *circa* May 1799, makes reference to in the Hunterdon County Court of Common Pleas were "Thomas Williams (Clockmaker)."<sup>20</sup> This is the first known Nathan Hutchins, seeking a return of \$300.00 in May 1808; instance in which Thomas is referred to as a clockmaker. Jonathan Hutchins demanding \$192.00 in October 1808,

n the ensuing years Thomas held several responsible positions, including that of an auditor<sup>21</sup> as well as a Juror in the Hunterdon County Court of Common Pleas.<sup>22</sup> As "Thomas Williams of Flemingtown in the Township of Amwell" he bought several more acres in that Township in 1802 "on the public Highway . . . leading to Trenton."<sup>23</sup> The Amwell Township tax list for 1802 describes Thomas as being in possession of 37 acres, one horse and two cows.<sup>24</sup>

"Thomas Williams of the County of Hunterdon" was among those who signed the administration bond of "John Sutphin (son of Jacob) late of Amwell" who died in the summer of 1802. Among the items listed in Sutphin's inventory was a "Clock and was most likely made by Thomas.<sup>25</sup>



Case," appraised at \$60.00, which Thomas Williams and his apprentice, Joakim Hill, jointly witnessed a Hunterdon County will made in August 1802.

By this time Joakim Hill was Thomas' apprentice as attested charge, the Sheriff noted that he had confiscated "one clock, by a will which they jointly witnessed and signed in Amwell case, &c." from Thomas' effects.<sup>39</sup> When the Sheriff took Township on 30 August 1802.<sup>26</sup> In October 1803 "Thomas Thomas' goods in July 1809 to compensate the charge made Williams of Flemington in the township of Amwell" borrowed by Joseph Capner, he listed, among the possessions, "Clock tools."40 And in August 1809, concerning the charges made \$500.00 from "Joseph Capner of the same place."27 At the time of the sale of some of Thomas' property "on by Peters and Gedney, the Sheriff seized "one clock case."41

the public highway formerly called the Kings Road leading to The final misfortune came in December 1809 when, Trenton," in December 1802, the deed described the grantors in order to satisfy Thomas' creditors, the Sheriff auctioned as "Thomas Williams of Flemington in the Township of off the land of "Thomas Williams ... situate in the village Amwell County of Hunterdon and Rhoda his wife."28 This is of Flemington . . . on the road or street running through the first known instance in which Thomas' wife is named. Flemington" consisting of 36 acres.<sup>42</sup> On 30 December 1809 They were married some time before the birth of their oldest Thomas submitted a petition to the Hunterdon County Court known child, Betsy, who was born in June 1793.<sup>10</sup> When they "for the benefit of the Insolvent Laws," which the judiciary sold more of their land in Amwell Township, in March 1803, allowed.43 Hunterdon County's earliest known clockmaker was reduced to insolvency, and nothing further is known of Thomas' wife is called "Rhody."29 him in Flemington and/or Amwell Township.

The 1803 ratable for Amwell Township records Thomas as owning 20 acres of land and lists him as a "Merchant."30 When "The Flemington Aqueduct Company" was established in December 1807, Thomas owned one share.<sup>31</sup> He added fourteen acres to his property when he purchased a lot aside his own "in the Township of Amwell" in May 1808.32

By the latter half of 1808 Thomas began to experience the same year, Thomas first, on 21 October 1816, at the age considerable financial difficulties, and at one point (apparently in an effort to keep himself solvent) sued a person indebted to him in the trivial amount of \$8.33.33 More often Zion Lutheran Churchyard at New Germantown.44 than not he was indebted to others, and was listed as the Editor's Note: Forty-four footnotes are cited in Mr. Sisser's article. defendant in several court cases in the Hunterdon County These have been compiled into a book which has been deposited in Court of Common Pleas, all on the charge of debt. One of the the Society's Deats Memorial Libary.

May 1809 and August 1809; and Joseph Capner in August 1809,<sup>36</sup> suing for the return of the money he loaned Thomas in October 1803.27 In an apparent attempt to gain some financial stability, Thomas resorted to suing Francis Besson in December 1809 for the sum of \$1.64.37

It is significant to note that, in trying to compensate his creditors, the Sheriff of Hunterdon County levied on certain assets of Thomas' in order to satisfy his respective debts. The

> Sheriff noted, for instance, in the case of Jonathan Hutchins in April 1809, that he seized "A Lott of Land said to contain thirty acres more or less with the appurtinances Sittuate by the village of Flemington," as well as "2 Beds . . . Clock case & other house furniture."38 In another document concerning the same

pparently Thomas and his family removed to the area of New Germantown (Oldwick) in Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, where he and Rhoda, along with five of their children, were baptized at the Zion Lutheran Church of New Germantown in 1816.10 The Williams' died of 53 years, 1 month and 8 days, and Rhoda on 21 December 1816, aged 53 years and 2 months. They were buried in the

### **HCHS Releases Four New Manuscript Collections**

#### **by Donald Cornelius**

he Hunterdon County Historical Society is pleased to announce the release of four new and significant manuscript collections. These collections are now available for research by Society members and visitors during open reference hours at the Hiram E. Deats Memorial Library. Credit for the arrangement, description, and production of finding guides for the collections is entirely due to the dedicated volunteer archival staff members who serve our Society so selflessly.



The Egbert T. Bush Papers arranged by Erin Brennan

Egbert Trimmer Bush was born on June 21, 1848 to Sidney L. and Elizabeth (McPherson) Bush on a farm about a mile above Croton. Largely selftaught, Mr. Bush earned his teaching certificate, then served many schools in the area, including Croton, Klinesville, Cherryville, Mount Pleasant, and Van Dolah's. In addition to teaching, Mr. Bush owned Egbert T. Bush, portrait, 1924. a peach farm during the late

1880s until the early 1900s.

He was a published author and

Historical Hunterdon County Society, Manuscript Collection No. 83. PX5063.

poet; in addition to a regular column in the Hunterdon County Democrat, his stories and essays appeared in many periodicals and his book of poetry, When Leaves Grow Old, was published in 1916. Mr. Bush married Sarah Eleanor Willson in 1871. They were married for 51 years until Mrs. Bush died in 1922. They had two children: Percy W. and Evelyn B. (Bush) Johnson. Mr. Bush died on November 12, 1937 at the age of 89.

This collection is comprised of personal papers of Mr. Bush, a Stockton resident who was a prominent educator, author, columnist, and peach farmer in Hunterdon County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The collection includes his diaries, manuscripts of his fiction and essays, research notes, correspondence, financial records, and some photographs. In particular, Mr. Bush's articles and research notes provide valuable insights into the history of southern Hunterdon County and many of the families who lived there.

#### **The Bartles II Collection** arranged by Diane Kinney

Charles Bartels was undoubtedly one of the most influential citizens of Hunterdon County in the eighteenth century; the Society is very pleased to have the ability to arrange and make available to the public a second collection of his personal and business papers. Charles Bartels was

born in New Germantown (now Oldwick), NJ on March 18, 1801. After graduating from Union College in Schenectady. NY, he began his prosperous career as a lawyer at the office of Nathaniel Saxton in 1822. Bartles married Eliza Hart of Flemington in 1833 and had four children, Mary, William H., Charles Jr., and George. From his second marriage to Eliza E. Randall in 1846, following his first wife's death the previous year, he had two more children: Joseph and Margaret. In addition to his law practice, Bartles was successful in real estate operations, was integral to the construction of the Flemington Railroad as well as its first president, and was also President of the Hunterdon County Bank in 1858. He died on June 19, 1883.

This collection, an amalgamation of sources and materials spanning nearly two centuries, consists largely of court dockets, deeds, articles of agreement, account information, and correspondence related to the family, business, and personal records of Charles Bartles and his descendants. Charles Bartles was a prominent Flemington attorney during the nineteenth century, and the principal attraction of this collection is the group of court dockets from his practice.

There are four docket books that cover the work of Bartles and affiliated attorneys in the Court of Common Pleas of Hunterdon County from 1807 to 1845; a time period that is not well represented by official docket books within the records of the county court or clerk. Other items of note include documents discussing the treatment and sale of slaves in the area, the construction of the Flemington Railroad, and the Civil War as it relates to Hunterdon County. There is no doubt that this rich collection of local historical materials will be heavily referenced by local historians and genealogists alike.

#### Survey of Hunterdon County Historic Sites arranged by Linda Hahola

This survey of historic sites in Hunterdon County was carried out primarily by Dr. Edward Johnson. Edward Johnson, Ph.D. (English) was a member of the Hunterdon County Historical Society. From 1960 to 1961 he was the Chairman of the Hunterdon County Committee on Historic Sites and Structures, and conducted this survey as a private endeavor paid for by D. Howard Moreau, solely for the good of the county. Dr. Johnson established his own criteria for site selection, which may help to explain the absence of several prominent historic structures. Johnson's survey was used in the 1970s as a source for the more formally funded historical survey conducted by the State and County.

The collection contains NJ State Historical Site Evaluation Worksheets and their supporting material. Forty-one sites have been evaluated, and each includes the worksheet, a map, and commentary. Photographs are included for many of the sites, as well as attendant negatives. All of the sites are in Hunterdon County. Dr. Johnson provided an index that divides the sites by category. There are twenty-seven possible categories; fourteen of which are represented. Interestingly, three have notes that they will be sent at a later date, but are not present in the collection.

The Records of the Kingwood Grange, No. 106 arranged by John Matsen

Spring 2011

This collection contains the records and papers of the Kingwood Grange (No. 106) of Hunterdon County, NJ from its formation in 1882 to 1987. The Grange played an important role in the life of rural communities; it was a fraternal, social, professional and lobbying organization in grand combination. These materials as preserved are important for a variety of reasons. They are a resource for general historical research in Kingwood and Hunterdon County; they provide a record of individuals in the Kingwood area for genealogical purposes: and they are a window into the sociology of rural America during the covered time frame.

Hunterdon County Historical Society, Manuscript Collection No. 81, PX5894. standpoint is the minute books of the Also of interest to local genealogists

Probably the most useful aspect of this collection from an organizational



Kingwood Grange. They are fairly complete from its founding in 1882 until the last entry in 1987 that noted the grange building was to be sold. The organization continued for perhaps a dozen more years, but with no home, records were not kept in a central location and were apparently scattered.

### FROM THE DESK OF DONALD CORNELIUS, HCHS MANUSCRIPT CURATOR

impressive as this is, I am happy to one of the volunteers provided....

from the Deats family. Many of them of the film as a clip to our website. are family images, and most are poorly

pring has arrived, and things able to celebrate the sesquicentennial of some multimedia in the collection I am could not possibly be any busier that conflict with a release of interesting currently arranging (the records of the here at the HCHS Archives! I am material. Linda Hahola is arranging the Flemington Children's Choir). Nestled sure that the members of the Society records of the G.A.R. Post #20 (Major C. in the middle of this collection of will be very happy and impressed to A. Angel) from Lambertville. There is a photographs (lots and lots), scrapbooks, see the release of four new manuscript wealth of information regarding the civil and programs were two recorded collections in the past few months war vets of that post in this collection. CDs of Choir School performances. (see related article for details). As Look for both of the above by summer! One is clearly labeled the Graduation In addition to these, many folks Performance of 1954. The other has report that it is only the beginning! may interested to know that the film no label at all. It is clearly a different My happy (I think) volunteers are still "Money at Work" has returned from performance, but I am left guessing as busily involved in the preservation of the preservation house. If you recall, to where or when. When this collection our County's history; and I know that last year the Society obtained a grant to is finished and released I will put a by next newsletter we will have at restore this interesting and unique film selection of the choir up on the web for least two or three more collections to that was partially shot in Flemington in all to hear. As time goes by, I am sure release. Actually, I think the increase the 1930s. Now that the film is back, I that there will be more and more of this in production may have something to have had a chance to view it for the first type of material coming to the Society in do with our new coffee machine that time, and it contains a few surprises. the donations we receive.

Although I won't spoil anything, I will

peaking of our website, if you have Shirley Wydner has finished say that there is a segment of the film not had a chance to view it yet, by all means, please do so! I will, of arranging a collection of glass plate that is particularly interesting, and after negatives (an older photographic image a public viewing to be determined by the course, continue to write a column for technique) that came to the Society Trustees, I hope to post at least a portion our Newsletter, but in the future there will be updates and posts concerning Dealing with multimedia archival new releases, archival happenings, and identified, but they are a valuable items like the film is something that other news posted to our website and documentary of the county and its your curator is finding more on my its attendant Facebook page. I am not people and places nonetheless. For all mind lately. Not only have I had the entirely sure what Facebook is, but my of our Civil War Buffs out there, the experience of handling the preservation daughter says it is the "bean." I hope Society should, barring any problems, be of this film, but I have also run across that is a good thing.... Happy Spring!

Sergeantsville Degree Team, April 1961.

and historians will be the Secretary's Ouarterly Reports, the Membership Applications, and the Dimit lists. The grange family compilation may be of interest as well. Those interested in the history of grange activities may wish to consult the incoming and outgoing correspondence, as well as the reports of various levels of the grange hierarchy. The collection concludes with a small group of photographic images.

All of these collections may be accessed for research purposes during the open hours of the Hunterdon County Historical Society. The Hiram E. Deats Memorial Library is located at 114 Main Street, Flemington, NJ, 08822, and is open from 12pm to 4pm every Thursday; 10am to 4pm every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month; and by appointment. Inquiries to the Society may be made at 908-782-1091 or hunterdonhistory@ embargmail.com.

### **Images from the Past**



New acquisition, gift of Les Hoffman. Hunterdon County Historical Society.

The Flemington Cornet Band, photographed in 1888 by Sunderlin. Standing, left to right, [unidentified], Al Fisher, [unidentified], Will Fisher, [three unidentified], John Kunsman. Seated, left to right, ---- Smith, [unidentified], Howard Barass, [two unidentified], Chas. Rittenhouse, Harry Green.

