

Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Volume 47
No. 1
Winter 2011



Hunterdon County Historical Society

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 12 - Workshop
"Marvelous Machines" and
Historic Architecture
Prallsville Mills, Stockton

Mar 26, 31 - HCHS Book Signing
For "Urban Abraham Kerkhoff
of Readington, Hunterdon
County..." by Michael Gesner

Mar 19 - Workshop
Historic Preservation
Prallsville Mills, Stockton

Mar 20 - HCHS Annual Meeting
"Architecture in Hunterdon"
by Chris Pickell, AIA
Flemington Presbyterian Church

Apr 12 - Lecture
"Washington's Forgotten Victory:
The Battle of Assunpink"
by Wayne Daniels
The Red Mill, Clinton

Apr 20 - HCHS Workshop
"How to Use Our Library"
by Don Cornelius
RSVP req'd (see pg 1105)

May 6 - Program
"Three Centuries Fashion Show"
Howell Living History Farm,
Lambertville

OPEN HOUSES

Bouman-Stickney Farmstead
Stanton
First Sunday starting in Feb

Marshall House Museum
Lambertville Historical Society
Weekends starting Apr 30

Society's Annual Meeting March 20, 2011 at 2 p.m. Chris Pickell, AIA, Speaks on Architecture in Hunterdon County

Christopher Pickell, AIA, founder of Pickell Architecture on Main Street in Flemington, speaks on *Architecture in Hunterdon County* at a Hunterdon County Historical Society meeting Sunday, March 20. The public is invited to attend the hour-long program at the Flemington Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street, at 2pm. Refreshments will be served.

The lecture, with slides, provides a two-hundred-year overview of local buildings, from the simple vernacular houses of early Hunterdon through the various Victorian styles up to World War II.

Members will vote on Trustees for the Society Board. Four incumbent Trustees are re-nominated for three-year terms. They are John Kuhl, Stephanie Stevens, Harold O. Van Fleet, and William Young. Clifford Hoffman, who has served the Society for 21 years, is retiring from the Board. Candidates for five Trustee positions will be announced and other nominations may be made from the floor.

Society President Richard Stothoff will give an illustrated overview of the Society's many activities and achievements since the last spring meeting. A sampling from his remarks includes more than tripling the research library hours, expanding the volunteer programs, and completing the documentation and conservation of the Society's large collection of Hunterdon quilts. The new website for the Society, designed by Louis Judice, also will be debuted at the meeting and go online the next day.

Chris Pickell's adaptive reuse and preservation work has received several awards, including three from the Hunterdon County Planning Board. Some of his historically significant Flemington Main Street projects include the 1858 J. Bodine Building, 1865 Central Railroad passenger station for Unity Bank, 1874 Town Clock

Building, 1881 Deats Building, and 1898 Flemington National Bank Building. Other projects include Hunterdon's oldest house: the 1711 John Holcombe house at the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum, 1786 stone Pittstown Inn in Pittstown, and 1798 Case Farmhouse at Dvoor Farm.

Pickell is working on or has completed a number of barn projects and recently shared a New Jersey Historic Preservation Award with the New Jersey Barn Company and Readington Township for the reconstruction of the historic Ann Reno barn at the township's Cushetunk Nature Preserve. Other barn work includes the Phillips Barn and Fish Barn Visitors Center at Howell Living History Farm.

In addition to commercial and public work, Pickell Architecture designs historically informed residential projects throughout New Jersey and in New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. In collaboration with the New Jersey Barn Company, he has designed a series of residential projects using historic timber-framed barns.

Pickell holds both Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Science degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. He is a Registered Architect in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, and a member of the American Institute of Architects and the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, and a popular guide for historical tours of Flemington. Pickell also helps enrichment teachers at Holland Brook School develop an *Architecture-In-Education* program, teaching American architectural styles and terminologies, and replicating historic buildings with cardboard.

Originally from Morristown, Pickell has lived in Hunterdon with his wife and children since 1987.



Chris Pickell, AIA, founder of Pickell Architecture

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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Thursday, Noon to 4 p.m.
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 and by appointment

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OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

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- Beth Rice (2012)
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- Jay Langley (2013)
- Mary Ellen Soldavin (2013)

Membership Report

A 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 Barber, Glen Gardner, NJ
- Eleanor Roach Davis, Milford, NJ
- Robert A. Glasgow, IV, Fredericksburg, VA
- Michael Hall, Flemington, NJ
- Elena and George Hess, Ringoes, NJ
- Russ Lamendola, Flemington, NJ
- John Leonard, Clinton, NJ
- William H. Saunders, Whitehouse Station, NJ
- David K. Taylor, Flemington, NJ
- Rob Walton, Hampton, NJ

Genealogical Charts For Sale

The Society is offering for sale its supply of genealogical charts, "Ye Colonial Kinsmen From Plymouth Rock to York Towne." The study is presented on eight 2-foot by 3-foot charts documenting about 200 immigrants of Plymouth, Massachusetts and New Amsterdam (present day New York City) and tracing their families through six generations. In total, over 3,000 individuals, all related by blood or marriage, are included. Compiled in 1978 by Joseph N.

Kearney of the Roadmaps-Thru-History Association, the charts are suitable for framing and available for \$30 (\$20 for members); an index is included. For an additional \$10, they can be shipped anywhere in the U.S. Supplies are limited and there will be no reprints.

A sampling of families: Bergen, Bodine, Bonham, Bowne, Bray, Budd, Cool, DeWitt, Drake, Dunham, Fuller, Greenland,

Hageman, Higgins, Hull, Lott, Manning, Martin, Moelich (Melick), Nevius, Piatt (Pyatt), Probasco, Rapalje, Runyon, Staats, Schenck, Schuyler, Shotwell, Smalley, Stockton, Stoothoff (Stothoff), Strijcker (Stryker), Suebering (Sebring), Sutton, Ten Broeck, Ten Eyck, Van Arsdalen (Van Arsdale), Van Couwenhoven (Conover), Van Der Vliet (Van

(cont'd page 1101)

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.

- Collection of photographs of local scenes in Hunterdon County, including many copies of post-card views. Gift of Ron Schultzel.
- Collection of textiles made in Hunterdon County by Hilda Kohl and Martha Lamendola. Gift of Russell Lamendola.
- Commemorative plates, First Amwell Presbyterian Church, 1738-1955, and Readington Reformed Church, 1719-1969. Gift of Stephanie Stevens.
- Gesner, Michael, *Urban Abraham Kerkhoff of Readington, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, and His Descendants...* (2010). Gift of author.
- Lathrop, Fred, *Cemeteries in Hunterdon County, NJ, & Those Interred* (2011). Gift of compiler.
- Photograph, panoramic, Flemington High School Graduating Class, 1947. Gift of Gerald Matcho.
- Reading, John, *John Reading's Diary: The Daily Business Record of the First American-Born Governor of New Jersey*, Transcribed and Edited by David R. Reading from Original Transcripts by Dorothy A. Stratford (2010). Gift of David R. Reading.
- Williams, Lois Crane, *Modern Agriculture of the 1930's: Robert B. Crane, Hunterdon County Potato Grower and Poultryman, 1930 to 1942* (2010). Gift of author.
- Winkler, Gail Caskey and Roger W. Moss, *Victorian Interior Decoration: American Interiors, 1830-1900* (1986). Gift of Stephanie Stevens.

Notes and Queries

MYER/PETERS: Johannes and Henry Myer were in Hunterdon County as early as the 1750s. Henry Myer's son, Peter (from Amwell Twp.) married Anna Peters in Hunterdon County and moved in 1790 to Allegany County, MD. I would like to correspond with anyone connected to these families. Anna Peters' father was Henry and he was the son of Godfried Peters. I may be reached at evamyer@att.net.

RAKE: Looking for Rake family members, stories and Bibles, willing to share for genealogical research. Please contact Geoff Raike at rcds95@aol.com or 215-795-2359.

Calling All Hunterdon Girls!

by Dan and Marty Campanelli

In November 2009 we gave a presentation about the needlework samplers in the collection of the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Over sixty people attended, and the feedback was extremely positive. Ella M. Haver, a venerable resident of Franklin Township, approached us after our talk and asked if we could look at an early 1800s sampler, by Eliza Ann Bonnell, that had descended in her family. We agreed, and that led us to look at yet another sampler, stitched ca. 1820-25 by Faney Britton, that belonged to relatives of Ella. We are now the caretakers of this lovely piece of needlework by Faney (actually Fanny) Britton.

Fanny (1809-1851) was the daughter of Samuel Britton and Lavinia Larison who resided in Lambertville and then Milford. Upon acquiring this sampler, we have chosen to make it a promised gift to the Hunterdon County Historical Society. That means we get to enjoy it now, and when we are gone, it will remain in Hunterdon County as part of the Society's collection. We have signed a legal document acknowledging this gift, and placed copies with our will, and attached one to the back of the sampler to ensure that it goes to the Society at the appointed time. The purpose of telling everyone this is to plant a seed: Perhaps you have a special family artifact that you'd like to donate, but just can't part with it right now. A promised gift is one way of insuring that your family treasures will stay in the community. Contact the Society for more information.



Faney Britton stitched this beautiful sampler ca. 1820-25 in Hunterdon County. The decorative motifs and alphabet indicate that her instructress may have been a Quaker. Photo of detail from Dan and Marty Campanelli, personal collection.

Getting back to the Hunterdon girls...in the early days, our county was a rural, farming community, and needlework from this area is not found in great quantities, like samplers from Burlington or Salem Counties. After researching around twenty Hunterdon County samplers, we've come to discover that there were a handful of instructresses teaching in various parts of the county. We are planning a future presentation on Hunterdon County needlework for the Society, and would like the help of the Society's members. If you have or know of any needlework samplers dating from the 1700s up to about 1850 that were made by Hunterdon girls, we want to know about them. Our goal is to examine and photograph Hunterdon samplers and eventually find the instructresses or schools, if possible.

Perhaps you've heard from a grandparent or great-aunt that a relative took lessons from someone in the early to mid-1800s. Or maybe there's a 'granny note' on the back of your family needlework which may identify the maker and/or the teacher. We'd love to hear your story. Please send a photo of the sampler, if possible, along with your name, address and phone number to the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Also include brief information about the stitcher—her name, age, residence, and relationship to you, if any. You'll hear from us directly.

HOW TO JOIN

Hunterdon County Historical Society
 114 Main Street
 Flemington, NJ 08822

Please enroll me as a member of your Society.

Annual	\$20 per year
Family	\$25 per year
Contributing	\$50 per year
Sustaining	\$100 per year
Institutional	\$100 and up per year
Life	\$400
Patron	\$1000 or more
Student	\$5 per year (up to 18 yrs old)

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

ph # _____

email _____

I want to volunteer! Yes

(Charts cont'd from page 1100)

Vliet, Vliet, Van Fleet), Van Dyck, Van Kerk (Van Kirk), Van Liew, Van Nest (Van Ness), Van Nuys, Van Voorhees (Voorhees), and Wyckoff. Library Assistant Michael Gesner has volunteered to provide free look-ups. Please email specific names and dates to: mgesner@yahoo.com.

**Book Signing March 26th and 31th
 Noon to 4pm at the Society's Library**

Author Michael Gesner will be available to sign copies of his latest book entitled, *Urban Abraham Kerkhoff of Readington, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, and His Descendants, Carhuff - Carkhuff - Kirkhuff - Kirkuff*. Copies sell for \$35 with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Society. Personal checks or cash are accepted.

Ten years in the making, the 697 page volume boasts a 27,000 name index that can be viewed by going to www.lulu.com. Type in "Michael Gesner" in the search box and you can preview the entire roster of associated names. Questions may be posed directly to Michael Gesner, who is also a Library Assistant at the Society, by email at mgesner@yahoo.com or (908) 689-1048.

Civil War Taxes in Hunterdon County

by Marfy Goodspeed

When the country went to war with itself in 1861, neither the North nor the South could foresee the amount of killing that would take place or the years of fighting that lay ahead, and they were not at all prepared for the financial cost of war. Like the wars of our time, the Civil War caused the government to incur massive debts. Unlike today, the federal government raised taxes to maintain solvency. The first war tax was ordered by the Congress in 1862. But costs kept rising, so additional taxes were levied each year of the war. By 1865, practically everything was being taxed. The act did not expire until 1873.

In order to levy taxes, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue was required to make assessments. The country was divided into Districts and the Districts into Divisions. The assessments were compiled by assistant assessors for each division. According to the Revenue Act of 1864, any person with income over \$600 or owning certain luxury items had to submit a list of their taxable property to the assistant assessor on or before the first Monday in May. There were three types of taxes: ad valorem (income taxes), license (on nearly all occupations, at set rates) and enumerated articles (luxury taxes).

Annual tax lists were compiled for 1862-63, 1864, 1865 and 1866. In addition there were monthly lists made from 1862 through 1866 that contain partial lists of names. The law required that assessors create their collection lists, giving the taxpayer's name along with annual income, articles subject to tax, and quantity of goods made or sold that were taxable. But this last item, goods made or sold, does not appear on the 1865 lists for Hunterdon County, even though these items were counted in other districts. Also missing is a separate list for non-resident landowners.

I have chosen to focus on the tax list for 1865 because I found an abbreviated version in the Hunterdon Republican, thanks to the work of William Hartman.¹ The complete lists have been kept by the National Archives and were recently digitized and published on Ancestry.com.

LOCATIONS

Hunterdon County was part of District 3, and its towns were in Divisions 5, 7, 8 and 9. Robert Rushing was the Assessor for District 3. The assistant assessors were J. McCloughan for Division 5, John Pierson for Division 7, Newton Gary for Division 8, and Jacob S. Dunham for Division 9. Division 6 was left blank, perhaps reserved for some purpose.

Division 5 contained these post offices, some of which also show up in Divisions 7 and 8: Anthony, Asbury, Bethlehem, Bloomsbury, Changewater, Clarksville (Glen Gardner), Clinton, Clinton Station, Cokesbury, Dansville, Everittstown, Fairmount, Frenchtown, German Valley (Long Valley), High

Bridge, Holland, Lebanon, Little York, Middle Valley, Milford, Mountainville, Mt. Pleasant, Musconetcong, New Germantown (Oldwick), New Hampton, Pattenburg, Penwell, Perryville, Pittstown, Rowlands Mill, Springtown, Stanton, Stuartsburg, Succasunna, White Hall and White House. Succasunna is in Morris County, Middle Valley is in Somerset County, while Penwell, Springtown and White Hall are in Warren County. I assume that Hunterdon residents living near the county lines used these post offices.

Musconetcong had me stumped; was it Warren or Hunterdon County? The name is not listed as a village in Thomas Gordon's *Gazetteer of 1834*, nor in Barber and Howe's *Historical Collections of 1845* (they include Musconetcong River, Creek, Valley and Mountains, but no town). Snell's *History of Warren and Sussex Counties, New Jersey* didn't help much either. Fortunately, the estimable Phyllis D'Autrechy listed it (along with the Gorge, Mountain, River, Creek and Valley) as a post office in Holland Township, "north of the village of Mt. Joy."²

The post offices included in Division 7 were located in Baptistown, Cherryville, Clinton, Croton, Everittstown, Franklin, Frenchtown, Headquarters, Kingwood, Lambertville, Locktown, Oakdale, Oak Grove, Pittstown, Quakertown, Raven Rock, Ringoes, Sand Brook, Sergeantsville, Sidney, Stockton, and Tumble. Post offices in Division 8 were Barley Sheaf, Centerville, Cherryville, Clover Hill, Copperhill, Croton, Flemington, Klinesville, North Branch, Pleasant Run, Potterstown, Readington, Reaville, Ringoes, Rowlands Mill, Sand Brook, Stanton and Whitehouse. Post offices in Division 9 were Centerville, Clover Hill, East Amwell, Lambertville, Reaville, Ringoes, Wertsville, West Amwell and Woodsville.

As you can see there is a lot of overlap between divisions and post offices. Somewhere there might be a map showing the boundaries of each division. Since the listings only include the post office used by each taxpayer, we cannot be certain which municipality those taxpayers lived in.

INCOME

The income tax was intended to be progressive. In the Act of 1862, all income under \$800 per year was tax free. The Revenue Act of 1864 (which applied to the 1865 levy) created three tax rates: 5% for income from \$600 to \$5000; 7.5% for income from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and 10% for income over \$10,000. At first I was bewildered to find people with income as low as \$1 being taxed at 5%. But apparently, that one dollar was net income above \$600. Since income in the lower ranges was not tallied, we cannot know who the poorer residents of Hunterdon were in 1865. However, by my count, there were 1657 people taxed on occupations or possessions who were not taxed on income. We must presume that their income was less than \$600.

I use the term 'by my count' because I know that the

² Phyllis D'Autrechy, *Hunterdon County Place Names*, (Flemington, 1992), pg. 41.

¹ Bill has been doing an amazing job of compiling abstracts from the newspaper and publishing them online at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njhrna/index.html. (Click on the box for "Text Files" and then the year 1865. The published tax list begins on page 20, September 15, 1865.)

spreadsheet I made of these taxpayers is not 100% accurate. I am particularly irritated by Mr. McCloughan, assistant assessor for Division 5, whose nib was less than sharp, and who was a bit casual with his numbers.

Despite the legislation requiring incomes from \$600 to \$5000 to be taxed at 7.5%, people in Hunterdon with income between \$600 and \$4400 paid the same 5% rate. Income over that amount got taxed at 10%. Not many people were rich enough to pay that higher tax. The fortunate few in Divisions 5, 7, 8 and 9 were Ashbel Welsh and James D.

Stryker (Lambertville P.O.), Jonathan Higgins (Wertsville P.O.), Charles Bartles, John S. Emery, Judiah Higgins, Jno. C. Hopewell, Franklin Reading, and John G. Reading (Flemington P.O.), Joseph B. Cornish (Bethlehem P.O.), and Mr. O. L. Gardner (Clarksville P.O.). The total amount of income taxed in Hunterdon County amounted to \$941,709.

Looking over the assessments can be endlessly fascinating. For instance, it is abundantly clear that Flemington and Clinton were the centers of commerce, based on income and number of occupations. Flemington had 106 people paying taxes on income of \$126,795. The total number of Flemington taxpayers was 237. The next most important post office was Clinton, with 110 people paying taxes on income of \$87,256 and a total of 202 taxpayers. Then came Lambertville with only 59 people taxed on income of \$57,751, but a total population of 155 taxpayers.

On the other end of the scale, there were ten post offices where only one person was counted: Barley Sheaf, Danville, Franklin, Headquarters, North Branch, Robbinsville, Succasunna, Stuartsburg, German Valley, and New York City. It's probably safe to conclude that James Dolan of 790 3rd Ave., NYC was an absentee owner of Hunterdon property, as was George Ambuster of Danville, Jno. C. Willet of Succasunna, and Marietta Row of Robbinsville.

OCCUPATIONS

Another way to study these lists is to examine the occupations that were licensed. Most of the people who were charged fees for occupations were not taxed on income, although that was not always the case. The total number of people taxed in Divisions 5, 7, 8 and 9 was 3132. There were 736 people taxed on 29 different occupations. Agriculture was not listed as an occupation, perhaps because it was so universal. The most common non-farming occupation in Hunterdon was "retail dealer" or storekeeper (222 were taxed). The second most common was "retail liquor" or liquor store owner or manager (100 taxed). Clearly the temperance movement had not made much of an impact by 1865.

Flemington had the greatest number of occupations licensed, but did not have the most hotels. That distinction went to High Bridge with 4, followed by Clarksville, Clinton, Frenchtown, Lambertville, Milford, New Hampton, Pittstown, Whitehouse and, surprisingly, Croton, each

having three. Most hotels had liquor licenses. However, Lambertville had 8 retail liquor licenses, Flemington had 7, while High Bridge, Frenchtown and Wertsville each had 6 licenses. Those were the places where you could be sure of getting a drink.

These are the occupations licensed, in order of frequency: retail dealers 222, retail liquor 100, manufacturers 84, hotels 66, "stallions" (horses for breeding or racing) and horse dealers 43, physicians 39, cattle brokers 35, peddlers 32 (2d, 3d and 4th class), butchers 23, lawyers 18, insurance agents

17, produce brokers 12, conveyancers 11, wholesale dealers 10, livery stables 9, claim agents 7, distillers 7, dentists 6, auctioneers 5, photographers 5, bankers 4, contractors 3, veterinary surgeons

3, civil engineers 2, eating houses 2, patent right dealers 2, wholesale liquor 2. There was one apothecary, one fish peddler, and one tobacconist.

Strangely missing from this list are blacksmiths, harness makers, wheelwrights—people responsible for making all those horses and carriages run properly. By law jugglers and circuses were licensed, but not blacksmiths. Sadly, there were no jugglers or circuses in the Hunterdon divisions.

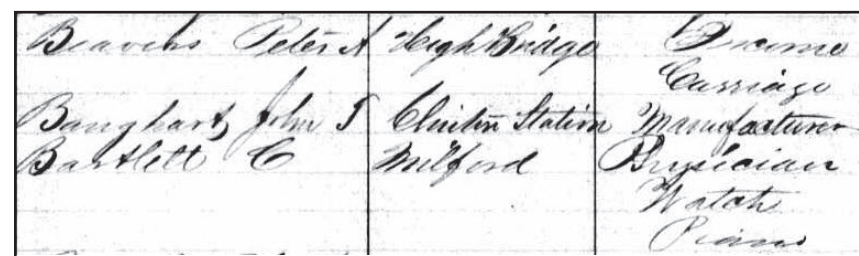
CARRIAGES

Carriages for personal use were the equivalent of automobiles. Carriages valued at between \$50 and \$100 were probably one-horse carriages (taxed at \$1). Those worth \$100 to \$199 were probably two-horse carriages, with a tax of \$2. Flemington had the most carriages, both one-horse (95) and two-horse (45), followed closely by Clinton with 92 one-horse and 40 two-horse carriages. Third came Lambertville (50 one-horse and 27 two-horse carriages), more or less tied with Ringoes (58 one-horse and 35 two-horse carriages). More valuable carriages were rare. Ely Garvis of Ringoes, A. K. Kinney of Clinton, Peter W. Melick of New Germantown and Franklin Reading of Flemington all owned carriages worth more than \$300 and less than \$500.

WOMEN

There are very few women on the lists, and when they appeared it was usually for possessions like watches and carriages. 113 women were taxed, only about 4% of the total. There were six retail dealers, three hotel keepers, and four retail liquor sellers who did not own hotels. 25 women were taxed on income, 13 on pianos and melodeons, 30 on carriages, 31 on watches. I suspect that many of the women with watches and carriages were school teachers. One woman was taxed on silver plate: Aletta Hill of Flemington. And there was one physician, Hannah E. Archer of Flemington.

There is so much more to learn from these assessments. I encourage you to look them up, especially if you have mid-19th century ancestors in Hunterdon County. For more information on the Hunterdon taxpayers, please visit my website, Goodspeed Histories (www.goodspeedhistories.com).



Detail of U.S. IRS Tax Assessment List, Division No. 5, District No. 3 of N.J. for the year 1865.

Manuscript Describes 1930s Farming

by Lois Crane Williams

A Franklin Township farmer's account books for 1930 through 1942 along with his diaries for some of the years form the basis of a manuscript presented to the Hunterdon County Historical Society – "Modern Agriculture of the 1930s: Robert B. Crane, Hunterdon County Potato Grower and Poultryman, 1930-1942." Crane's death at 37 was front page news in the *Hunterdon County Democrat*, and his obituary subtitled, "Young Pittstown Farmer Was a Leader in County Agricultural Activities."



R.B. Crane, ca. 1941, with copy of 1921 Soil Survey saying the area had been 'farmed continuously for 150 years with no diminution of fertility.' All photos from Lois C. Williams, personal collection.

"Modern Agriculture of the 1930s" was prepared by Crane's daughter, Lois Crane Williams of Potomac, MD, and his son, Donald Crane of Harrington, ME. The account books and diaries will be housed in the Franklin Archives.

The narrative uses diary entries to describe each crop. For the potato crop year, Crane unloaded a boxcar of seed potatoes at the Lehigh Valley station in Pittstown; treated, cut and planted seed potatoes; cultivated and sprayed (11 times in 1931!); harvested using local pickers; and marketed potatoes through the winter at the farm and in Philadelphia, Plainfield and elsewhere. The text draws from the account book for a record of machinery purchases, the cost of production, and income from the sale of potatoes – from Crane's first sales at \$2 a sack to later sales of \$.90 for the 1932 crop, \$1.69 for the 1939 crop, and again \$.90 for the 1940 crop. Account book information is tied to national farm price data.

The text similarly follows Crane's wheat, corn and hay crops, his successful venture into tomatoes, and an unsuccessful peas and lima beans effort. The text tracks Crane's burgeoning poultry enterprise from 300 layers in 1930 to 4,000 layers



R.B. Crane, 1941, in photograph taken for the Flemington Auction Market newsletter.



R.B. Crane, 1939, with Diamond T truck loaded with potatoes.

of Directors, and the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture. "Modern Agriculture" includes family photographs and pictures taken for the Auction Market newsletter.

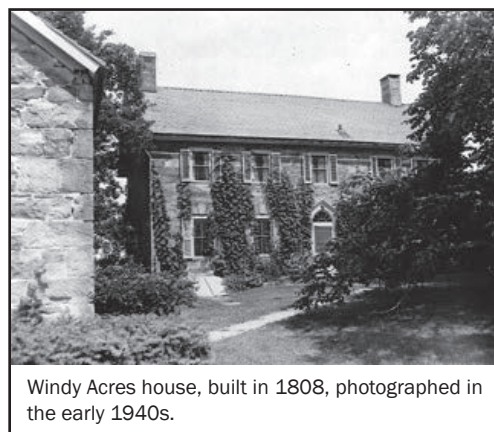
Appendices provide historical information for the farm. Crane's land had been continually farmed since the mid-1750s when John Embly, son of one of West Jersey's first Quakers, gave part of land purchased from a Philadelphia speculator to his son, Elisha Emley. Elisha died soon afterward, but his daughters married into Hunterdon County's Reading and Holcombe families. The Emley surname disappeared from the county, but both "Emley" and "Elisha" survived into the mid-1800s as the given name of some male descendants of Elisha Emley's siblings and daughters.

Jacob Race owned the farm from 1796 to his death in 1857. Race figures in county history as owner of Mingo Whano, a slave who purchased his own freedom in 1798 with the help of Quakers of the Kingwood Meeting. The 1850 Census showed a 75-year-old slave on the Jacob Race farm, one of 14 slaves in the county. Rachel was born too early to be freed by New Jersey's Gradual Manumission Act of 1804 that gave women born after that date their freedom at 21.

The Jacob Race farm was among the largest in Franklin Township in 1850, and never subdivided. Remarkably, Race built four major stone buildings in four years. Date stones mark the "wash house" built in 1807, the handsome two-story main house built in 1808, the two-story stone barn built in 1810 (one of the few stone barns in Hunterdon County), and the "wagon house" built in 1811. Race's son, Dr. Henry Race, was a physician and an historian. He wrote the Alexandria Township chapter of James P. Snell's *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties* and contributed to the Franklin Township chapter. Dr. Race was a founding member of the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

at his death, then one of the largest flocks in the county.

Crane was appointed to the Hunterdon County Library Commission, the Flemington Auction Market Board



Windy Acres house, built in 1808, photographed in the early 1940s.

FROM THE DESK OF DONALD CORNELIUS, HCHS MANUSCRIPT CURATOR

The air may be frosty, but the activity inside the HCHS Archives has been sizzling! As detailed elsewhere, your Society's dedicated volunteer archival staff has been hard at work processing more of the rich documentary treasures that we hold in our collections. Recently, Erin Brennan completed a project to arrange and describe a series of papers donated to the Society a very long time ago by Egbert T. Bush. He was a prominent educator, journalist, and historian who was active in Hunterdon County throughout the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Also, Diane Kinney completed the description and arrangement of a series of papers relating to the Bartles family and law practice. As many of you know, Charles Bartles was a prominent Flemington citizen and attorney in the 1800s. The first series of Bartles Papers has long been one of the most heavily used collections in our Archives; this second series of manuscripts contains similar material that should see frequent use as well. Both of these new collections are now available for research in the Deats Memorial Library.

The release of these two collections is a substantial accomplishment. However, they do not represent all of the efforts of my staff by a long shot! We have a number of "coming attractions" that are due to hit the library soon as well. John Matsen is putting the finishing touches on the arrangement and description of the papers of the Kingwood

Grange. This collection highlights the activities and social history of an organization that contributed greatly to the local history of Hunterdon County over its 100+ years of operation. Shirley Wydner has just about completed a survey and inventory of a series of daguerreotypes, cased photographic images, and glass plate negatives that were donated to the Society by Hiram E. Deats. These images are virtually all from the nineteenth century and feature many images from the Deats family and their environment. Linda Hahola, a recent addition to our volunteer staff, has not wasted any time. Soon, she will complete the arrangement and description of the original survey of historic sites and buildings in Hunterdon County from 1961-1962. This was the privately commissioned survey led by Dr. Edward Johnson that was later incorporated into the more formal survey conducted by the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission in the 1970s.

On the subject of new volunteers, we are very happy to have Mary Elizabeth Sheppard back with us! Ms. Sheppard has agreed to assist volunteer Jane Otto with the Herculean task of cataloging our immense photographic image collection and updating the index to electronic form. Photographs of past individuals, groups, events, and places from our county history has always been one of the most sought after components of our research collection. The successful transition of the collection's index into a modern, searchable format will make

this vast resource more accessible to anyone who wishes to use it.

These projects, of course, are only the highlights. Many more projects are in active production that will give me, and our Society's members, quite a lot to discuss in future newsletters. Thinking of this is exciting, but it also brings up a horse of another color. Namely, what of the materials that are already available from our archives and from the history and genealogy holdings in the Deats Library? How many of our Members really know exactly how deep our collections go? Would you like to find out, and learn how you can help others interested in our county history find out as well?

On April 20 (see inset below), the Society will host an informative seminar in the library that will highlight both our major and minor holdings as well as how to access them. This seminar is designed to stimulate a deeper knowledge of the materials themselves and how they can be used. It will assist our library volunteer staff in their ability to help our patrons, encourage some new volunteerism, and educate any who wish to learn more about the Deats Memorial Library. The seminar itself will be free of charge, but we sincerely hope that the knowledge we can provide will be priceless!

So, in closing, I hope our membership will join me in thanking our wonderful volunteers for the success of our archival program while anticipating the successes still to come!

HCHS to Hold Library Use Workshop April 20th

On Wednesday, April 20, 2011, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, the Society will host an informative workshop in the Hiram E. Deats Memorial Library. This workshop is designed as a hands-on primer to teach library volunteers, experienced patrons, and prospective friends of the library about the holdings of the library and how they are used. Conducted by the Society's Curator of Manuscripts, the workshop will cover the location and use of all of the library's major genealogical and historical source collections, including how to access or use the appropriate index. It will also include a discussion of some of the library's more frequently used smaller collections and how to access the information in the HCHS Archival Collection.

One of the most intimidating factors that prevents some re-

searchers from using a local history library is unfamiliarity; fear that their lack of knowledge of local sources or lack of helpful library assistants will make for an unproductive trip. The Society highly encourages anyone who is currently a library volunteer to attend this workshop to broaden their skills in assisting the public with accessing our wealth of material. Likewise, the Society encourages attendance from anyone who may be considering volunteering in the library, or simply wishes to learn more about the library's holdings and inner workings.

The workshop is free, but attendance is limited to 20 persons.

Please RSVP by leaving a message, including a contact phone number, to either the Society's answering machine at 908-782-1091 or via email at hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com.

Images from the Past



Hunterdon County Historical Society Postcard Collection.

This real-photo postcard depicts an outdoor quilting bee probably somewhere in Hunterdon County, probably circa 1910. An embossed mark tells that the photographer was John C. Sunderlin of Flemington. There are no other identifications.

The quilt pattern has been identified as a nine-patch on point in a bars arrangement.

Can anyone recognize any of the quilters or the particular garden setting? And can anyone reveal that the quilt itself still exists, and its current owner?

