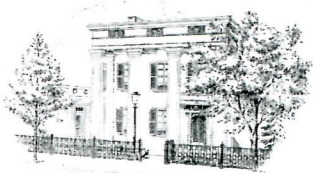


Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Volume 47
No. 3
Fall 2011



Hunterdon County Historical Society

www.hunterdonhistory.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Now thru July 2, 2012 - Exhibit

"Gone for a Soldier:
Jerseymen in the Civil War"
Features many HCHS items
Macculloch Hall Hist. Museum
Morristown

Nov 13 - HCHS General Meeting

"Clock Making in Colonial NJ,
the Best of Both Worlds"
by David A. Sperling, MD
Flemington Presbyterian Church

Nov 21 - Lecture

"New Jersey and the Alamo"
by Chip Riddle
The Red Mill, Clinton

Nov 24 - HCHS Closed

Happy Thanksgiving

Dec 17 - Lecture

"The Christmas Night Crossing"
by Mark Sirak
Washington Crossing State Park

Dec 24 - HCHS Closed

Merry Christmas

Dec 25 - Reenactment

Commemorating the 235th anniversary of George Washington's Christmas Night Crossing of the Delaware River
Washington Crossing State Park

SOCIETY'S DORIC HOUSE HOLIDAY TOURS

Local garden clubs compete for best holiday decorations based on guests' votes - see pg 1121

Dec 4, 10, 11, 17, 18
Noon - 4 pm

CLOCK SPECIALIST DAVID SPERLING HEADLINES SOCIETY'S FALL MEETING

1939 Movie Filmed in Flemington About Banking Also on Program

David A. Sperling, MD, Antiquarian Horologist, speaks on *Clock Making in Colonial New Jersey, The Best of Both Worlds*, at the Society's fall meeting Sunday, November 13th. A 24-minute movie, *Money at Work*, some of it filmed in Flemington in 1939, precedes Dr. Sperling's lecture. The public is invited to attend the program, which begins earlier than usual at 1:45pm, at the Flemington Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street. Refreshments will be served, including popcorn for the film. This program is free of charge.

Dr. Sperling's lecture is sponsored by the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission and funded in part by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Colonial New Jersey was an important center of clock making, producing tall case clocks of high quality that rivaled the best made anywhere in this country. Dr. Sperling's slide lecture presents a comparison of 18th and 19th century clock making as it developed in both East and West Jersey, including Hunterdon County, and demonstrates how a uniquely American style gradually came into existence. He highlights what made Flemington's Joakim Hill the leading clock maker in 19th century New Jersey. Clocks shown at the lecture are in private collections, museums, and historical societies, including our Society's tall case clock made by Joakim Hill, and one made by Thomas Williams, Hill's mentor.

Dr. Sperling was educated in New York City, earning a B.A. with a dual major in science and art history from Columbia College at Columbia University, and an M.D. from New York Medical College. He retired from private medical practice in Morris County in 1997. His interest in Americana and clocks began in 1966 during service in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. For years primarily a collector, over time he became a specialist in buying, selling and appraising fine American timepieces for antique dealers, insurance

and appraisal firms, and private individuals. He appraises clocks, watches and scientific instruments online for a Canadian firm and was the first American hired to appraise American clocks and watches by a London-based online appraisal company. Although he specializes in American horology, he has become well versed in English, German, French, and Swiss clock and watch making.

Also a researcher and writer, he has uncovered information on several early clock makers and cabinetmakers and is a regular horological feature writer for the *Bulletin of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors* and the *Maine Antique Digest*. Next summer the *Digest* will publish his article, *The War of 1812: Timely Reflections*, detailing the artists and engravers who inspired glass painters of Federal clocks and mirrors to depict the war's naval battles.

The movie about money was produced by the American Bankers Association as a public service to help restore public confidence in American banks in 1939, a subject relevant today. Highlighting banks in both metropolitan and rural locations, it features the Hunterdon County National Bank, the *Democrat* and other businesses, people, and street views. The film, in its original state, was donated to the Hunterdon County Historical Society by Anne Moreau Thomas; its restoration and preservation was made possible by a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation.



HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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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.

Clothing: Three women's dresses that belonged to Mrs. Charles Burkett of Chorister Place, Flemington. Gift of Lewis Sanders.

Coverlet, blue and white, once owned by Sherin De Bray, Readington Township. Gift of Jean and Steve De Bray.

Descendants of John Bilby (1750-1810), 11 p. Gift of A. Eugene and Mary L. Dauch.

Flemington Fair ticket, 1924; clippings about Stanton Grange Hall, 1948; advertising booklet for Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, n.d., with imprint of J.M. Bellis, Flemington; and other items. Gift of Peter Crowl.

Hauptmann, Bruno R., 37 photographs of events surrounding his execution, 1936. Gift of Roderick Eyer via Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Holcombe Genealogy, by Jesse Seaver (1925); wooden plaque with Holcombe coat of arms; Grange certificates of Lou Ella Pratt, 1928, and Nellie Prall, 1949, pair of goggles in case. Gift of Evelyn Holcombe and the late Wilma Holcombe.

Hunterdon County Fair "Programme," Sept. 24, 1879. 1 leaflet. Gift of F.C. Batula.

Lindbergh kidnapping, 11 facsimiles of reward offers and related documents, 1932. Gift of Bob Perzel.

Readington Township documents, including 2 account books of Aaron Van Doren, 1832-1850; School exercise book, c. 1833; Receipts to David Lowe, 1857-1861; etc. Gift of the late Virginia Everitt via NJ State Archives.

Stabilization of the Reading Burial Ground Final Report; The Mount Amwell Project, Feb. 15, 2011. 16 pp. Gift of David R. Reading.

Teetertown and the Lance Farm (history and photographs); Jugtown Mountain Ski Area (history, photographs, clipping copies); Historical Parks of Hunterdon County, 16 pp.; Joseph Chamberlain Furnas (1906-2001) and his Chicken Coop, and related papers concerning a farm next to the Hunterdon County Arboretum; article and clippings about Cornet Francis Geary; 4 photographs and clipping about Governor James Florio signing Green Acres bill, July 1993. Gift of Douglas Kiovisky.

William Bonnell (1804-1865), by Anne Kennedy (Master's thesis, 2010). Gift of author.

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

Ross and Marion Alfieri, Whitehouse Sta., NJ

William C. Allen, Davidsonville, MD

Robert James Apgar, Branchburg, NJ

Mike Apgar, Dover, DE

Lorena Bennett, Benton, PA

Peter J. Crawl, Flemington, NJ

Richard A. Gray, Kansas City, MO

William E. Honachefsky, Clinton, NJ

Gloria G. Kendall, Flemington, NJ

William McCrea, Flemington, NJ

Joseph E. Milligan, San Antonio, TX

Virginia N. Pratt, Fort Mill, SC

Karen Pidcock Price, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Randall R. M. Redman, Sicklerville, NJ

Linda Setescak, Flemington, NJ

Barbara Arnold Stokel, Jensen Beach, FL

Theresa C. Strasser, Albany, NY

Ronald Morris and Naomi Waksberg,

Flemington, NJ

The Society's newest Trustee is Howard Thomas, elected to fill the uncompleted term to 2013 of Jay Langley, an active Society supporter who withdrew to pursue an advanced degree in creative writing.

Howard, a Hunterdon native, earned a B.A. degree in marketing at Rutgers University and owns a firm with his wife that handles medical billing for rescue squads and ambulance companies. He also serves the Alexandria Township Historical Society as Vice President, Delaware Valley Junior Lacrosse as coach, Round Valley Youth Center as a Trustee, and Alexandria First Presbyterian Church as an Elder. He is a former board member of the Sons of the American Revolution in New Jersey.

His knowledge of local history will serve the Society well.

In Memoriam: Virginia Ruth Everitt

Former Trustee, volunteer and Life Member of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, Virginia "Ginny" Everitt died August 23, 2011, at her home in Whiting, NJ. She was 85. Formerly of Neshanic Station and Three Bridges, she was a 30-year employee of Hunterdon County in the courthouse from which she retired in 1981. She was also a former member of the Old Whitehouse and General Frelinghuysen Chapter of the DAR. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

Following is an excerpt from a memorial service in Whiting:

"Ginny was born, raised and spent her entire life as a proud New Jersey resident. She was the daughter of Judson Biggs and Mary Ruth (Brown) Everitt of Neshanic Station. She loved to travel, and her journeys took her to all but three states in the US. She was known for her work in genealogy and traced her family roots all the way back to the Revolutionary War. She regaled us all with historical facts and often traveled to famous places, walking the very streets of our forefathers.

"Ginny loved the Jersey Shore but also cherished her old and dear friends in Hunterdon County. She was 'Aunt Ginny' to her sixteen biological nieces and nephews (and numerous great nieces and nephews) but so many others affectionately called her 'Aunt Ginny.' We all had a special and loving relationship with this grand lady. She will be missed forever."

Society Financial Report Now Online

The Society's 2010 Financial Report may be viewed in detail online at www.hunterdonhistory.org. Usually reported annually in the Fall Newsletter, it will now be made available online. If hard copy is required, please contact the Society office at 908 782-1091.

NEW BOOK ON THE HISTORY OF QUAKERTOWN FRIENDS MEETING DEBUTS

The book features original historical material written by former HCHS trustee Ed Stout (1923-2001), along with updated information written and compiled by Dan and Marty Campanelli in 2011. With over ninety images, including vintage photos, artwork, new photography, maps and colonial-era documents, this 100-page book tells the story of the beginnings of Quakerism, the settlement of Hunterdon County, and the history of the Friends Meeting in Quakertown up to the present day. It also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Meeting (in 2012) and the 300th anniversary of the founding of Hunterdon County (2013/2014).

There will be a book signing party at the Quakertown Friends Meeting (corner of Rt. 579 and Whitebridge Road in Quakertown, New Jersey) on Sunday, November 13th from 1 pm to 3 pm. Books are \$10 each and will be signed by the Campanellis. Can't make the signing? Send \$10 plus \$5 shipping to: Quakertown Friends Meeting, PO Box 520, Quakertown, NJ 08868.

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 \$ _____

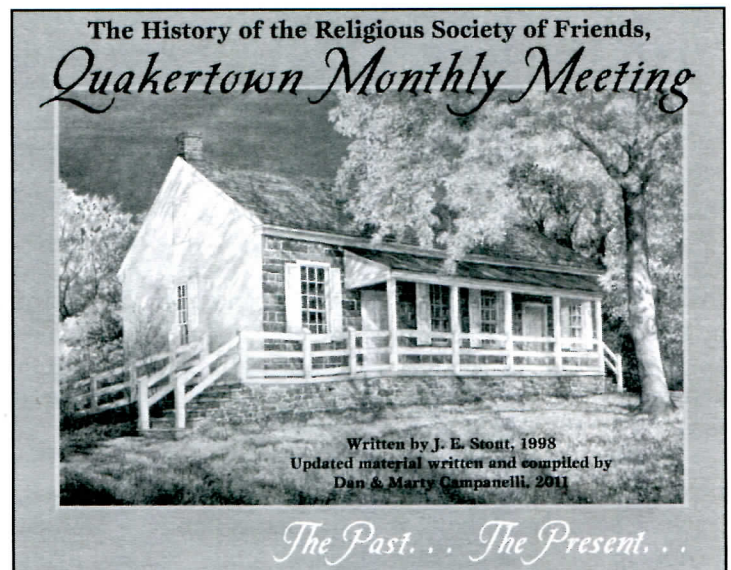
Name _____

Address _____

ph # _____

email _____

I want to volunteer! Yes



THE TAYLOR MAUSOLEUM - A LAMBERTVILLE-MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY MYSTERY

(Part 1 of 3)

BY PAT SHAMY

I recently became curious about the person who built a mausoleum atop Mt. Hope Cemetery in Lambertville, NJ. The small building is marked with the name "TAYLOR" and the date "1900." It is unusual to see an ostentatious memorial in this historic town's cemetery. The 1900s in Lambertville were the factory years where its citizens had no problem finding work. Today the town still boasts many fine homes of that era so it can be concluded that there were wealthy people living here along with all of the workers. But who were these Taylors?

After looking at Lambertville censuses at the turn of the century, I could find no unusually rich Taylors. I finally went up to the mausoleum and peered through a space in the door with my camera and found the name "Bryan Hough Taylor" on one of the plaques. I had seen his name on the 1880 census as "working in a rubber mill" and then in 1900 as a "traveling salesman." Further research revealed the story of the man who built a mausoleum for his family. I also found a piece of Lambertville history that had been unknown until now--but that was later in my research.

Bryan H. Taylor was born October 11, 1853 in Frenchtown, NJ. He was the son of Peter S. Taylor and Mary (Stull) Taylor and the grandson of Alfred and Lorana (Sinkler/Sinclair) Taylor. His grandfather and father were both "carpenters" on the 1850 Kingwood census. Bryan's father, Peter, became a "Team Driver" (for horses) on the 1860 Frenchtown census. Besides Bryan, age 6, there were four sisters living with him in 1860: Mary 12; Frances 8; Ann 4 and Isabella 1. By the 1870 census there was no record of these Taylors in the Frenchtown area. Realizing that the Civil War years had occurred in the previous decade, I checked the Civil War Pension records and found that Bryan Taylor's father, Peter S. Taylor, was a Corporal (1st Reg. Co. D) who had died of typhoid fever at Hagerstown, MD., Dec. 4, 1862.

Then I discovered a newspaper abstract from the *Hunterdon Republican* dated May 1, 1871 showing that settlement had been made for a guardian named Christopher Snyder for the four Taylor children, all minors (under the age of 14): Frances Matilda, Bryan H., Anna/Jane and Isabella/Alice Taylor. Bryan's mother, Mary Taylor, died soon after her husband, in 1864. Both parents are buried in the Frenchtown Cemetery. By 1866, Guardian Snyder applied for Civil War Pension Funds for the Taylor children and Hunterdon County records show that four vouchers were received for the Taylor family for 1862-1863.

In checking for the possible Taylor girls' names on the 1870 census, I found a Mary Taylor, 21, in East Amwell, teaching school and living with the Servis family; a Matilda Taylor, 19 was seen in Philadelphia as a tailoress and living with the Cassidy family and Anna/Jane Taylor, 13 was living



The Taylor Mausoleum at Mount Hope Cemetery, Lambertville, NJ.

with the Taylor children's guardian, Christopher Snyder and his wife in Alexandria Township. I found an Alice Taylor, the youngest girl, age 11, in the 1870 census in the New York Institute for the Deaf and Dumb. Alice was listed as "from New Jersey." (Later in 1886, guardianship papers indicate Alice was married to an Apgar.)

I found Bryan H. Taylor, age 16, on the 1870 census living with Samuel L. Hudnit, who was listed as "harness maker," a trade he learned in Lambertville before opening his own shop in Frenchtown. He was largely instrumental in getting the town its borough status in 1867 and became Frenchtown's first mayor serving until 1872. Since buying his first lot in Frenchtown in 1848, Samuel Hudnit had continued to buy more land to build on. He joined Gabriel Slater in the hardware business there and the partners went on to build houses in the north end of town. He died in 1873 at the age of 52 years. He was a man of "considerable-prominence in the county" and may have had a big influence on young Bryan Taylor. But where did Bryan H. Taylor go to live after his mentor died?

I did not see Bryan H. Taylor again, except in Orphan's Court records, until the 1880 census when he was age 26 and living in Lambertville in the home of Keziah Broadhurst on North Union Street. He was listed as a "son-in-law" but I never found out how this was possible. Keziah was 69 years old and although the Jonas Mertz family also lived at this address, I still have not found any family tie to them. I read in a 1934 Taylor inquiry at the Hunterdon County Historical Society that Bryan Taylor "was a protege of a man with some money and position in Lambertville..." and that "he had a sister still living in Frenchtown."

Living in Lambertville at that time, there were indeed men of money and position such as Ashbel Welch, listed as "President of Rail Road", on the 1870 census. Welch was Keziah Broadhurst's neighbor at that time. Welch's personal estate value was listed as \$150,000. Frenchtown mayor, Samuel Hudnit, had also been a property owner in Lambertville before his death.

(cont'd page 1121)

Give A Gift of History

Give a gift with real meaning this holiday season - give a book about local history! We're selling several new titles at bargain prices. Several items were donated by the *Hunterdon County Democrat* weekly newspaper. Stop by our library to pick up your copy! For mail orders: Include \$5 for the first book and \$1 for each additional book (unless otherwise specified); maps and posters add \$10 shipping for up to 4 items. Out-of-country checks, add \$5. **For these items if 2 or more are mailed in one tube, shipping is still \$10.

Address on the Dissolution of Nations

William Paterson (HCHS 1997). Essay on political science written about 1770 by a future Governor of NJ and US Supreme Court Justice. 25 pp., soft cover. \$1

Atlas of Hunterdon

Beers, Comstock and Cline (1873, reprinted by HCHS 1987). Contains maps of 14 townships and 32 towns. 77 pp., 13"x16", hard cover, \$40

Baptists in Kingwood, NJ

Stephen Zdepski (1974). A History of the Kingwood Baptist Church at Baptistown and Locktown and the present Baptistown Baptist Church. 37 pp., illus., soft cover. \$5

Beneath These Waters

Stephanie Stevens (2009). Chronicles the colorful history of Round Valley from its geological formation and Lenape habitat to summer refuge for early Revolutionary Patriots, rich fields farmed by some of Hunterdon's oldest families, and the reservoir that took the land for drinking water and recreation. 70 pp., illus., maps, index, soft cover. \$7

The Centre Bridge

Elmer Roberson (1928). History of the Centre Bridge Company and the covered bridge over the Delaware River that burned in 1923. 10 pp., soft cover. \$3

The Choyce Compendium

Betty Choyce Sheehan (2006). The Choyces were part of an English migration to Flemington in 1785, along with the Capners, Peter Haward, Isaac Passand, and others. 907 pp., indexed, illus., family charts, hard cover. \$85 plus \$10 shipping.

Ye Colonial Kinsmen From Plymouth Rocke to York Towne

Joseph N. Kearney, 1978. Genealogical study documenting about 200 immigrants of Plymouth, MA and New Amsterdam (present day NYC) and tracing their families through 6 generations. Over 3000 names. 8 24"x36" charts. \$30 non-members, \$20 members. Plus \$10 for shipping.

Facts and Fantasies of Franklin Township

J. Edward Stout (1995). Traces Franklin Township's geographic, political and social roots over the 150 years from 1845-1995 when the rural community moved from "the combine to the commuter." The author's account of The Peak in Franklin speaks to the fantasies of the title, offering history with a sense of humor. 448 pp., indexed, illus., maps, soft cover. \$20.

The First 275 Years of Hunterdon County, 1714-1989

Hunterdon Co. Cultural and Heritage Commission (1990). Local history by local experts. 125 pp., illus., maps, soft cover. \$3.50

Flemington, NJ Map

O.H. Bailey and Co. Reprint of 1883 bird's-eye view map of Flemington. Approx. 20"x25". \$10. Plus \$10 for shipping**

The Flemington Fair Story

Kenneth V. Myers (1978). 95 pp., illus., soft cover. \$5

Flemington Fair Poster

Russell & Morgan Printing Co. Reprint of 1885 Hunterdon County Fair poster. Approx. 24"x33". \$30. Plus \$10 for shipping**

Flemington Fire Department 140th Anniversary

140th Anniversary Parade Committee (1982). Includes the early history of the department, list of chiefs, photos of men and equipment from 1842 to 1982. 118 pp., illus., soft cover. \$5

The Ghosts of Hopewell

Jim Fisher (2006). The professor's back! In his second review of the Lindbergh kidnapping, he examines many of the wild new claims about whodunit, how, and why. 200 pp., illus., hard cover. \$20

History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, NJ

James P. Snell (1881, reprinted by HCHS 2008). The standard classic county history. 2 vols., 864 pp., illus., maps, hard cover. \$89.50 non-members, \$85 members. Plus \$10 for shipping.

Hunterdon County, NJ Map

Lloyd Van Derveer & S.C. Cornell. Reprint of 1851 map. Approx. 24"x31". \$25. Plus \$10 for shipping**

Hunterdon County New Jersey Fisheries 1819-1820

Phyllis B. D'Autrechy (1993). Historical background on shad fishing and the names and locations of fisheries in the county. 44 pp., indexed, illus., maps, soft cover. \$7.50

Hunterdon County New Jersey Militia, 1792

Hiram E. Deats (1936, reprinted by HCHS 1994). Alphabetical listings by township of "free and able-bodied white male citizens" between 18 and 45 yrs. 37 pp., soft cover. \$12

Hunterdon County's Forgotten Lime Industry

Frank A. Curcio (2006). Winner of the NJ Author's Award. History of the lime kiln industry in Hunterdon, including background on the process of quarrying, the uses of lime and the major sites of mining in the county. 132 pp., illus., maps, soft cover. \$5

Hunterdon Gazette Weekly Newspaper

Digital photographic images of the *Gazette* newspaper pages as well as typed and formatted text of the newspaper items containing people's names and events of Hunterdon County, with an overall name and key word index. Covers 1825-1866. DVD format works on both PCs and Macs. Also contains text of book *Hunterdon Place Names*. \$25 non-members, \$20 members and includes shipping.

Hunterdon's Role in the Revolution

Hunterdon County Democrat (1976). This large format booklet describes scores of brave local men and women who fought to found a free nation. Many rare old illustrations. 88 pp., illus., maps, soft cover. \$3

I Remember

Gloria Sipes Paleveda (1997). What if Tom Sawyer had been a girl? A Frenchtown matron tells 14 more tales of life along the Delaware early in the 20th century. 78 pp., illus., \$8

In Defence of Her Honor

By Dennis Sullivan (2000) – The New York press went wild in 1886 at the lurid rape and murder of Tillie Smith. An innocent man was set to hang. This real-life mystery occurred in Hackettstown, on the Centenary College campus. 169 pp., illus., soft cover. \$10 for non-members, \$8 for members.

In the Grip of the Expert

Egbert T. Bush (1904). Novel by noted Hunterdon County newspaper writer. 277 pp., hard cover. \$7 non-members, \$5 members.

The Jerseyman: A Quarterly Magazine of Local History

Hiram E. Deats, ed. (1893-1905). Local history and genealogy, primarily of Hunterdon County. Vols. 2-11, 376+ unbound pages, with added table of contents compiled by Roxanne K. Carkhuff. Some early issues may be supplied through photocopies. \$100

Lindbergh Kidnapping

Lost for 65 years! Found in a NJ barn! Original cartoon drama traces the "The Crime of the Century." Fully colored computer-repaired panels with footnotes. 36 pp., soft cover. \$5 non-members, \$4 members.

Lindbergh Newspapers

Time travel in a box! This set of 11 reprinted local newspapers covers the "Trial of the Century." Rare photos. Depression-era ads are priceless! Great gift for students, history buffs, senior citizens and legal eagles. \$25 non-members, \$20 members.

Marriage Records of Hunterdon Co, NJ, 1795-1875

Hiram E. Deats (1918, reprinted with additions and corrections, 1986) 348 pp., hard cover. \$25

More Records of Old Hunterdon County, Volume I

Compiled by Phyllis B. D'Autrechy (HCHS 1998). Includes division of lands 1795-1876; Orphans Court Minutes 1785-1797; Naturalizations 1803-1876; and much more. 276 pp., full index, illus., maps, hard cover. \$25

More Records of Old Hunterdon County, Volume II

Compiled by Phyllis B. D'Autrechy, edited by Roxanne K. Carkhuff (HCHS 2000). Includes abstracts of wills; letters of administration and inventories, 1818-1825; bastardy cases, 1761-1890; and more. 331 pp., full index, maps, hard cover. \$25

Old Stones at Oak Summit

Kenneth V. Myers (1985). Kingwood Presbyterian Church at Oak

Summit, Kingwood Township. 20 pp., index, soft cover. \$3

A Precious Place

By Don Freiday (1997) – A local naturalist spins his favorite tales. An engaging flock of stories, whether you're home by the hearth or out on the trail. 161 pp., illus., soft cover. \$10 for non-members, \$8 for members.

Raritan Township, NJ Map

J.C. Sidney. Reprint of 1850 map. Approx. 24"x33". \$25

Records of the Kingwood Monthly Meeting of Friends

James W. Moore (1900). 42 pp., soft cover. \$12.50 non-members, \$10 members.

The Ride to Pleasant Grove

By Sal Vuocolo (1999) – A modern couple, repairing their Lebanon Township home, Hance Farm, follow clues to find the early-1800s family that worked this same land. 160 pp., illus., soft cover. \$8 for non-members, \$6 for members.

When Leaves Grow Old and Other Poems

Egbert T. Bush (1916). 32 pp., hard cover. \$6 non-members, \$4 members.

The Trial of the Century

Harry Kazman, Famous Trials Theater (2010). Video recording of the final showing of the two-hour drama that recounts the 1935 trial of Bruno Hauptmann who was charged in the 1932 disappearance of the Lindbergh baby. Filmed in the historic county courthouse, site of the actual trial. \$25

The Vought Family, Loyalists in the American Revolution

Donald E. Sherblom (2009). Explores the background of the historic Vought House in Clinton Township that contains rare plaster ceilings and was saved at the last moment from demolition. Also delves into the prominent family that built it, planned raids against neighbors and plotted disruptions of Revolutionary activities. 63 pp., illus, maps, soft cover. \$5

SMALL PAMPHLETS**Postage Only \$1 Per Item****General Washington at Coryell's Ferry**

Hannah Coryell Anderson (1928, reprinted 1969). 24 pp., illus. \$2.50 non-members, \$2 members.

Historical and Genealogical Sketch of James Sterling

Edward Boker Sterling (1893). Hunterdon Historical Series, no. 3. 27 pp., illus., soft cover. \$2.50 non-members, \$2 members

History of the Readington School, Formerly Called Holland Brook, 1804-1897

John Fleming (1898). Hunterdon Historical Series, no. 4. 15 pp., soft cover. \$2.50 non-members, \$2 members.

Tucca-Ramma-Hacking

E. Vosseller (1901). Hunterdon Historical Series, no. 5. Tales and traditions from the area where the branches of the Raritan River meet. 21 pp., soft cover. \$2.50 non-members, \$2 members.

(*Taylor Mausoleum cont'd from page 1118*)

On October 13, 1880, Bryan H. Taylor married Florence Ashbrook of Lambertville. The ceremony was performed by her grandfather, Rev. Joseph Ashbrook, a Methodist minister. Florence, born January, 1860 was the daughter of Samuel C. and Cassandra Ashbrook.

Florence's father also was destined to die during the Civil War. Samuel Comstock Ashbrook was born in 1835 in Cape May Courthouse. By 1850 he was attending the Pennington Male Seminary and later worked in the printing trade. He eventually married Cassandra Anderson and moved to Lambertville. Her grandfather had been the pastor of Lambertville's Centenary Methodist Church in 1857. When the Civil War began, Ashbrook became a war correspondent for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He reported much action, and brought war souvenirs back home on visits to Lambertville. He sent letters to the Lambertville newspaper, the *Beacon*, from time to time with items of interest. Although he was eligible to leave the Army in 1863, he re-enlisted for three more years. While working for the hospital department, during the first month, the many long hours of work left him susceptible to exhaustion and he died from "disease of the heart" by the end of that month. He was buried in the Union Burial Ground in Philadelphia.

After their marriage in 1880, Florence and Bryan Taylor lived at 10 Bridge Street in Lambertville with Florence's mother. Their only child, a son, Bryan Ashbrook Taylor, was born August, 1882. Their house bordered the Delaware and Belvidere railroad track and was across from Lambertville's train station. They lived there until at least 1899.

On January 30, 1889, Taylor applied for a passport to go to "Great Britain and the continent of Europe." His description was noted as 32 years of age, height 5'6", forehead "High," eyes, "Hazel," nose "Straight," mouth "Medium," chin "Short," hair "Dark Brown," complexion "Florid," and his face was "Full." The completed passport was to be sent to him c/o Goodyear Rubber Company. By 1897, Bryan Taylor was a traveling salesman. In 1905, the family had moved

to a quieter neighborhood at 53 Delaware Avenue in town. In 1908, Taylor once again applied for a passport to travel abroad intending "to return within one year" but this time his hair was described as "Iron Gray."

Near the turn of the century, Bryan H. Taylor, perhaps feeling more affluent, had decided that he wanted to build a fine mausoleum for his family to be buried together someday. He chose a spot on Lambertville's Mt. Hope Cemetery at the peak of the hill. The only problem was that the cemetery managers had already granted this most prominent spot for the Civil War Soldier's Monument which had been built there in 1870. The Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society had worked very hard to raise the money and when it was finally erected it was a "shaft of marble in three sections, topped with a brass eagle with wings spread."

How did the Soldier's Monument get moved from the Mt. Hope Cemetery to the current place in the park on York Street? Find out in Part 2 that will appear in the Winter 2012 issue of *Hunterdon Historical Newsletter*.

Doric House Festive Holiday Tours

The Doric House will be open for holiday tours starting Sunday, December 4th, the day of Flemington's holiday parade, and the following two weekends, Dec. 10-11 and 17-18. Hours each day are noon to 4pm.

Viewers will have the special treat of seeing the first floor dressed in holiday decorations created by the Community Garden Club of Hunterdon County and the Hunterdon Hills Garden Club. Guests' votes on which decorations they most favor will win one club an award. The Whitehouse-based Community Garden Club has a "Holiday Welcome" theme for the high-style Greek Revival parlor. "Holiday Open House" is the theme the Hunterdon Hills club of High Bridge plans for the entry hall and dining room. Decorations will adhere as closely as possible to those used in the mid-19th century, while meeting today's legal restrictions on live greenery.

Both garden clubs are more than a half-century old. The Community Club has 30 members, Hunterdon Hills has 42. Open house co-chairs for the Community Club are Debi de Lorenzo and Barbara Stawicki. Chris Endris is chair for Hunterdon Hills.

SOCIETY ACTIVELY SEEKS GRANTS

The Society's Fundraising Committee has been successful in winning several grants this year to help maintain the 1845 Doric House, which because of its age always needs work.

A Hunterdon County Historic Preservation Grant for \$20,160 will help open a sidewalk level door from Main Street into the research library for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility. A Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission grant for \$7,000 also will help on the barrier-free access, as will a Kapp Foundation grant of \$500. Further grants will be sought to make the restroom ADA accessible.

The 1772 Foundation, in cooperation with the New Jersey Historic Trust, awarded the Society a \$15,000 Historic Preservation matching grant that will help make repairs to the east side (back) of the Doric House. A Large Foundation grant for \$4,663 also will be applied to this work, which is expected to begin shortly. It includes removing, replacing and painting wood

siding on the back wall of the Doric House with 100-year-old wood cut to the original specifications. The second story porch added in the 1940s will be removed and three levels across the back will be re-roofed with painted metal and re-sided with Hardiplank, which has a life expectancy of 50 years. Gutters and downspouts will be replaced and window sills, doors, and casings repaired. Work will adhere to Secretary of Interior Standards and follow lead-safe procedures. The job is contracted to Eckelmann Brothers Construction, craftsmen recognized for excellence in historic restoration.

A Society member, retired from Exxon Mobil, prompted a matching grant of \$2,000 for his donation. If your employer has a similar program, do consider a donation to the Society and request a match by your employer.

The Doric House has another pressing maintenance project to repair a brick wall in the basement so that the kitchen can be furnished and opened for public tours. Donations for this and other maintenance projects are greatly needed and appreciated.

“21 Miles to Trentown”

BY FRED SISSER III

On 28 April 2011 the Society's latest acquisition was positioned on the grounds in front of the Doric House at 114 Main Street, in Flemington. Made of stone, and weighing from two to three hundred pounds, it required two strong men (Trustees Bill Young and John Kuhl) to maneuver and erect the approximately two-hundred-year old artifact into a place where Society members, visitors and passersby can admire it for years to come.



The object accessioned is a crudely inscribed milestone marker, on which is engraved “21 Miles to Trentown.” The ancient signpost was recently donated to the Hunterdon County Historical Society by the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, whose Chairman, Stephanie Stevens, explained that the Commission secured the marker approximately eight years ago.

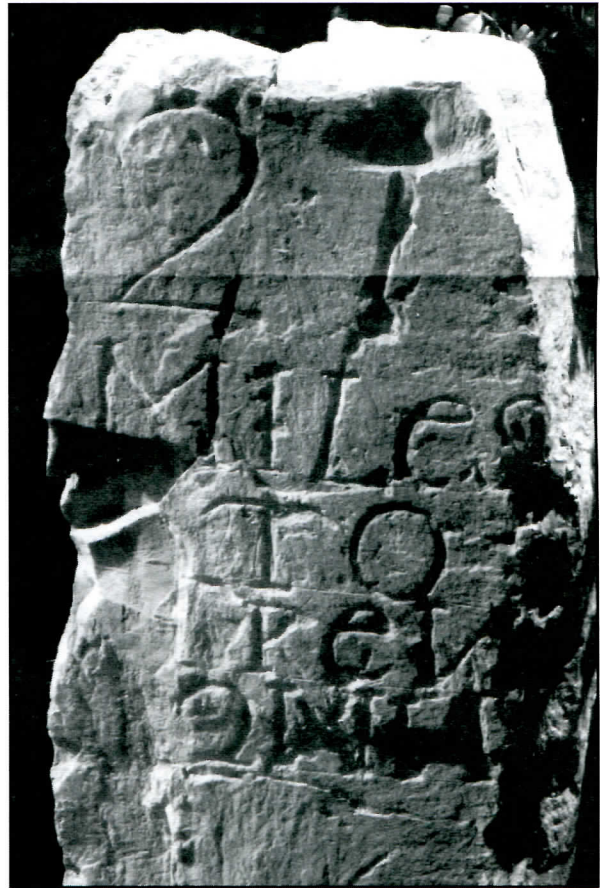
Accordingly, a bicyclist peddling along Hunterdon County Route 579 (the old Easton-Trenton Road) in Raritan Township observed the stone mile indicator along the roadside, beneath some brush that all but concealed the relic. He brought the marker to the attention of Mrs. Stevens who in turn spoke to County Engineer Glynn. It was decided at the time to leave it where it was. However, when the Hunterdon County Road Department resolved to widen Route 579 (where the stone had measured the distance between that spot and the capitol city of Trenton, New Jersey) its removal was required in order to accommodate the enlargement of the road. At that time it was transferred to the Cultural and Heritage headquarters in Flemington for safekeeping.

When the Cultural and Heritage Commission recently moved to their new quarters, it was decided by the Board of Commissioners to give the stone marker to the Historical Society. This proved to be especially symbolic in several ways. Not only is the original placement of the twenty-one miles indicator now located on a thoroughfare (Flemington's Main Street) that is parallel to where it was on County Route 579, but in a trek taken to Trenton as traversed by roads in existence with those in the early nineteenth century, it measures exactly 21 miles to the State Capitol.

An assumed trip from Flemington to “Trentown” two

hundred years ago could have been made along several roads which were present at the time. One of these is the route from “Flemingtown” (as it was sometimes called c. 1811) by horseback, stage, carriage or farm wagon, that leads to the area generally called “Amwell” (in the present area of Ringoes), and then on to present-day Harbours in Hopewell Township (then part of Hunterdon County). From there the traveler would go on to that section close to the Delaware River known then (and now) as Bear Tavern, where a wayfarer would, if so inclined by this point of the trip, stop and have a libation while the horses rested. The remainder of the journey would parallel the River until it reached “Trentown.”

It is significant to note, that, in a trip recently made along this particular route by automobile from the stone marker's new location in front of the Historical Society, it is exactly “21 Miles” to the sign on present-day Route 29 South leading into Trenton that reads “Welcome to Historic Trenton.”



Editor's Note: The use of milestones as markers along main roads harkens back to Europe where they had been in use for thousands of years. In America they were crudely carved of native stone. Without the benefit of street signs, the traveler in colonial/early America relied upon these markers to indicate that he was on the correct path and how far he was from his destination. Mile markers were placed as close and as far apart as thought necessary - some were 10 miles apart. On the long narrow roads of Hunterdon they were the only guide for travelers. With the ravages of time, as well as the improvement in signage, remaining milemarkers are amongst the most rare of artifacts.

FROM THE DESK OF DONALD CORNELIUS, HCHS MANUSCRIPT CURATOR

The seasons turn, the leaves fall, and I look at the calendar and ask, like many do, where has the time gone? The summer warmth (and rain) has disappeared and it is almost time for Thanksgiving, for goodness sake! One thing that is not difficult here at the HCHS Archives is to find a reason to give thanks. Every Wednesday night I am continually amazed at the generosity of time, dedication, and professionalism of our group of volunteers here in the archival program. When I envisaged an archival volunteer group, I never imagined the response we would receive. Thanks to their efforts, the archival program at HCHS is producing research material at an all-time high, and I sincerely hope our membership shares in my joy at their success.

Those of you who follow our website on Facebook know that I have gotten in the habit lately of announcing new collections that are available for research. For those of you, like me, who are not exactly up to speed on social media, I will give a quick recap. Just in the last few months, we have released several new collections. The Sarah Craig Letters, Manuscript Collection No. 85, is a group of (367!) letters received by Sarah Craig, a teenage girl from Hunterdon County and three sent by her during the American Civil War and the following years. The Julia Deats Papers (collection No. 95) is a small collection of materials related to

the Aunt of our most famous member, Hiram E. Deats.

Another new collection is No. 82, the Hunterdon County Collector Records of 1830. These records are basically the accounts payable for the county in the year 1830; they include 164 individual receipts such as bridge repair/construct orders, election related receipts, constable certificates, school fund receipts, court related receipts, and other miscellaneous documents. The collection is a great glimpse of what the county accomplished in the year 1830 as well as the names of those who actually did the work.

Also, a finding guide has been released for almost 200 scrapbooks that have been collected. Over the years, many scrapbooks have been donated to HCHS; some are part of larger collections and are kept together with them, but many are stand alone items that were not previously available to the public. The scrapbooks may be of current events and news clippings, or family news and photos, with anything in between possible! The guide is available in the Deats Library, and hopefully will be posted soon on our website.

If these are not enough, I will share with you a "sneak peek" at those collections that are soon to be released. A group of deeds from Amwell Township has been cleaned and preserved and will be made available. A group of glass plate negative images from Milford has also

been arranged and described and will shortly become available. A collection of ledgers and day books relating to the Van Fleet Family is almost ready to be released. The papers and letters of James Bullock, William Mattison, Jack Shepherd, and the Bauer Farm are also very close to completion and will be released soon. In all honesty, there are probably more that I am overlooking; we have been that busy here at the archives! But, I will be sure to put out notices on our website and Facebook page when these materials are open to the membership and public.

Lastly, I want to be sure that all of our members are aware of the special treat that precedes our fall meeting. Many of you remember, I am sure, the grant we received from the National Film Preservation Foundation to preserve the film "Money at Work" that was donated to us by Anne Thomas. Well, that film is back and ready to be screened; and we will do so prior to our Fall Meeting! This film dates from 1939 and was produced as a 24 minute short by the American Bankers Association. I know that most people probably would not think that banking is very exciting. But, what is exciting is the several minute segment of the film near its completion that was shot on location in Flemington, and shows some people and places in town from a bygone age – now that is something you do not get to see very often!

Historical Society Offers 'Trial of the Century' DVDs

For the first time ever, *The Trial of the Century* is available on DVD, with all proceeds of the sales to benefit the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

Only 200 copies of the film will be sold, at \$25 apiece, plus shipping and handling charges.

As a special fall fundraiser, the Historical Society is selling "premiere" DVDs, which were videotaped last fall as the play ended its 20-year run at the historic courthouse on Main Street, Flemington. The two-hour drama recounts the 1935 trial of Bruno Hauptmann,

who was charged in the 1932 disappearance of the Lindbergh baby. The case caused international headlines and brought a media circus to Hunterdon's county seat.

The DVD offer is being made in cooperation with playwright Harry Kazman and his company, Famous Trials Theater. The videotaping was done by Mr. Kazman last fall, expressly for the Historical Society, with logistical and financial support from several anonymous donors.

"The play had a great run, for two decades," said Mr. Kazman, "and people keep asking when we're going to do it again. You never say never, but I guess my answer is 'Not this year.' So we're offering the DVDs to help a good cause and to make people happy."

See newsletter insert for ordering details.

WANTED

INFORMATION AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF



CHAS. A. LINDBERGH, JR.
OF HOPEWELL, N. J.

SON OF COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH
World-Famous Aviator

This child was kidnaped from his home in Hopewell, N. J., between 8 and 10 p. m. on Tuesday, March 1, 1932.

DESCRIPTION:

Age, 20 months Hair, blond, curly
Weight, 27 to 30 lbs. Eyes, dark blue
Height, 29 inches Complexion, light
Deep dimple in center of chin

Dressed in one-piece coverall night suit

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
COL. H. M. SCHWARZKOPF, TRENTON, N. J., or
COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH, HOPEWELL, N. J.
ALL COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE TREATED IN CONFIDENCE
COL. H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF
Supv. New Jersey State Police, Trenton, N. J.

March 11, 1932

Images from the Past



First "automobile run" of Flemington Motor Club, 1910, to Bound Brook.
Photograph by Greisamer of Flemington.

Hunterdon County Historical Society. Photographic Collection Px6274.



Hunterdon County
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08822