



# Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

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WINTER 2008

## Flemington Raid is Subject of Annual Meeting Talk

The annual meeting of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, on March 30, 2008, will be held at the Flemington Public Library at 2 pm. Society President Richard Stothoff will present a talk on the Revolutionary War Flemington raid by the Queen's 16th Light Dragoons that took place on December 14, 1776. A talk on this subject, scheduled to be presented by Mr. Charles Riddle a year ago, was cancelled due to bad weather.

Mr. Stothoff has been involved with the preservation of this Raritan Township skirmish site since 1950 as an Eagle Scout project, and later with the Raritan Township Historical Committee to restore the site after the marker was knocked over during construction of a new housing development.

The Hunterdon County Historical Society has, since the 1880's, researched the data on the raid, the various people involved, the excavation of the site where a British officer, Cornet Francis Geary, was killed and buried, and made contact with the Geary family in England.

An interesting letter of 1922 from Geary's great-nephew to Hiram E. Deats of our society expressed his gratitude for sending over the buttons of Cornet Geary's uniform, and to the farmer who looked after the monument. He also revealed the fact that Cornet Geary's father, an admiral in the British Navy, commanded a fleet that blockaded the French fleet in Brest for over two months in 1780, delaying French support of the Americans and the end of the Revolutionary War.

The talk will summarize and bring out what precipitated the raid and activities of the nearby loyalists and Amwell militia. Thomas Lowry's son-in-law and partner was a Tory, had his Flemington property confiscated, and moved to New York City with the British. Edward Shippen, Benedict Arnold's future brother-in-law, was operating a nearby general store on River Road. He joined General Howe's army at New Brunswick prior to the raid and was captured and released by General George Washington on December 26, 1776. All of the information included in this presentation has been gathered from the records preserved by the Hunterdon County Historical Society.



## 2008 Calendar

March 30, Annual Meeting of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington Public Library, 2:00 p.m.

April 19, Hopewell Valley Historical Society's "Homes on Main" Pennington Historic Home Tour, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Information at [www.hopewellvalleyhistory.org](http://www.hopewellvalleyhistory.org)

May 4, Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Opening Day, Lambertville, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Information at [www.holcombe-jimison.org](http://www.holcombe-jimison.org)

May 7, Annual Volunteer Luncheon

May 17, Delaware Valley Herb Society Herb Sale  
Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

May 18, Car Show, Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead,  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June 14, Flag Day Open House at the Doric House,  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.; Fleming Castle will also have an open house event that day.



**HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER**

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**Terry A. McNealy, editor**

**Library hours**

Thursday, Noon to 4 p.m.

2nd and 4th Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

and by appointment

TELEPHONE 908-782-1091

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**Officers & Trustees**

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**William Young (2008)**

## Membership Report

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

Dan Bartholomew, Springville, UT

Dr John Budin, Stockton, NJ

Veta L. Burroughs, Wilmington, NC

Louis J. Cissone, Stockton, NJ

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Steven A. Pruess, Green Valley, AZ

Lillian Snyder, Browns Mills, NJ

Nancy Apgar Winship, Darien, CT

Harold O. Van Fleet

Membership Chair

## Prall Family Reunion

The Prall Family Association will hold its reunion at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, September 25-29, 2008. The Prall family has been historically significant in both Hunterdon County, NJ, and Bucks County, PA (not unlike many other families that straddled the Delaware River). Further information at [www.prallfamily.name](http://www.prallfamily.name).

## HOW TO JOIN

Hunterdon County Historical Society  
114 Main Street  
Flemington, NJ 08822

Please enroll me as a member of your Society

Annual	\$15 per year
Family	\$18 per year
Contributing	\$25 per year
Sustaining	\$50 per year
Institutional	\$50 and up per year
Life	\$250
Patron	\$1,000 or more
Student	\$3 per year
	(18 years of age or less)
Century Club	\$100

I enclose my remittance in the amount of \$

NAME

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

## **HCHS now has Internet Connection**

The Hunterdon County Historical Society is now connected to the Internet. This means that we can access a multitude of web-sites that can be useful for research, cataloging and other activities, but also that we can be contacted by e-mail. Our address is [hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com](mailto:hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com). Members are welcome to communicate with the society through this medium.

## **Expanded Library Hours**

The library of the Hunterdon County Historical Society will be open to the public for research on an expanded schedule beginning in March. It will be open the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 10 AM to 4 PM. The first Saturday opening will be on March 8. Several members have already offered their help as volunteers to support Saturday openings. Additional volunteers are welcome. You do NOT have to be an expert on Hunterdon County history or genealogy. Tasks include welcoming visitors, helping them to register, explaining rules for the use of the library, making photocopies, showing researchers how to use microfilm machines, etc.

As you gain knowledge about the library and its collections, you can be even more helpful to the people who use our resources.

If you are interested in helping contact Terry McNealy at 908-782-1091 or you can contact him at the email address [hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com](mailto:hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com).

## **Changes on the Board**

Board member Shirley V. Favier has resigned effective December 31, 2007. The board has chosen a new trustee, William Young, to fill out her term. In addition, the board has decided to enlarge the size of the board from twelve to fifteen. Nominations will be made at the Society's annual meeting on March 30.

Also, Margery C. Van Fleet has accepted an appointment was the Membership chair in place of Shirley Favier.

## **Progress on the Archives Building**

Ground was broken for the Society's new Archives Building last fall. Now, all the permits and paperwork are in place, and construction is under way. New trustee William Young has cleared brush and trees from the area of our proposed new sewer line at the site. A photograph of the work in progress appears in this newsletter along with the names of donors since the last issue of the newsletter. In fact, although we were able to meet the challenge of a matching grant of \$88,000 from John Matson, donations have lagged since then, and a total of \$317,000 has been collected at last count.



# Archives Building Campaign Donors

The following gifts have been received since the list published in the last newsletter, and are here gratefully acknowledged.

## Contributions up to \$99

Carol C. Barrick in memory of Roberta Reading  
Judith Biebesheimer  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Everitt  
Mr. & Mrs. I. Glaser  
Marfy Goodspeed  
Janet Hoff  
Fran Holmok  
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Vera Lambert in memory of Boletta J. Morris  
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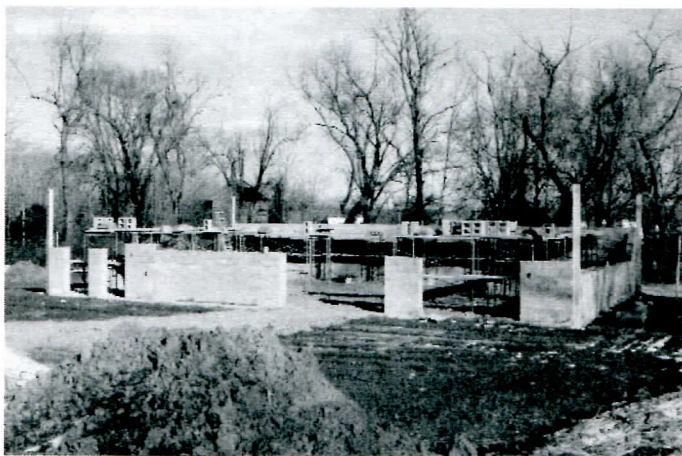
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The Proctor Family, grant from Community Foundation of NJ  
Louise Rorer Rosett c/o Prall Family Association  
John Thomas  
Margaret Wittwer

## Platinum Club \$5,000 and up

William H. Hartman, Sr.  
John M. Matsen  
David Reading  
Anne M. Thomas



*The Archives Building under construction at last!*

# Bethlehem Presbyterian Church Records, 1768-1790

Roxanne K. Carkhuff

The records transcribed here were copied in February 1991 from the Sessions Book of the Grandin Presbyterian Church, earlier known as the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, and previously as the New Frame Church, and ever earlier as the Old Stone Church. The congregation is one of the oldest in Hunterdon County, and was originally organized in 1730. Formerly located in Lebanon Township, the church is adjacent to the original church and is at present within the boundaries of Union Township.

Copied the same day as the following records was a 1795 subscription list for the churchyard adjoining the church. This list was published in a previous issue of the Hunterdon Historical Newsletter, on page 618 of the Spring 1991 publication. The original order, spelling, and spacing are preserved here. Page numbers are enclosed in parentheses; not all numbered pages of the book were used to record information. Editorial notes are enclosed in brackets. These are the earliest extant records of the congregation and were in the minister's custody when copied.

The Session Book / for the Congregation belonging to the Frame Meeting House in Bethlehem Township made / in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven / and sixty nine in which is Recorded all / the Marriages and Childrens names that / are Baptized with their age from their Birth / from January the 1st 1769 [lower part of page torn away]

## (1) Marriages

Nehemiah Dunham and Ann McKinney was married the 26th of October 1768

Mark Thompson and Ann Brackenridge November [blank], 1768

James Willson & Ann Patterson Nov. 7, 1768

Thomas Malone and Sarah O. Cryan Nov. 21, 1768

George Rea & Ann Clover Nov. 30, 1769 [sic]

Theobald Bartholomew & Elizabeth Brewer Dec. 5, 1768

Abraham Slack & Catharine Lear Jan. 2, 1769

Joseph Hagerman & Woolepy Closser Feb. 9, 1769

John Stillwill & Mary Mulliner Feb. 22, 1769,

Johnathan Dilley & Ellizibeth Cull Feb. 19, 1769

Joseph Barthollemey & Ellizebeth Barber April 24, 1769

John Crozier & Ann Oller Oct. 9, 1769

John Hacket & Sarah Preston Oct. [illegible, faded]

Petter Poling & Catherin Dewit Dec. 7, 1769

John Slack and Kethren Eggburd Apr. 12, 1770

William Creag & Martha Little [---iniry] 14, 1771

Benajay Dunham and Johanna Dunham Aprill 18, 1772

Robert Willson & Martha Steward Febr'y 1, 1776

## (24) Christenings

Thomas Little son of Joseph was born May 10, 1768

John Little was born January 20, 1771

Mary Little

Robert Little

Robert and Elizabeth Little their children born and baptized

Mary Little, Feb. 231, 1767

Ann Little, June 8, 1769

Jean Little, Oct. 1771

Samuel Pollings children baptized

Sarah Pollings born Nov. 20, 1752

William Pollings born Oct. 18, 1752

Jean Pollings born Apr. 22, 1769

Leanny Pollings born Aug. 18, 1763

Martin Pollings born Apr. 6, 1766

Samuel Pollings born Sept. 21, 1768

Jemima Pollings born Jan. 11, 1769

Children of Abram & Pheby Hagerman baptized

John Hagerman March 8, 1769

Joseph Hagerman May 25, 1769

## (25)

Andrew & Mary Foster's children born and baptized

Thomas Foster was born June 26, 1767

Ellizabeth Foster was born July 15, 1769

Robert Foster was born Febr'y 20, 1771

Jean Foster was born March 18, 1773

Agnes Foster born Apr. 5, 1775

Mary Foster was born June 26, 1777

Children of John Cock baptized

Daniel Cock born Jan 14, 1765

Joseph Cock born July 24, 1766

Benjamin Cock born May 21, 1768

Hannah born March 30, 1770

Children of Andrew & Rebecca Fleming baptized

William Fleming born May 31, 1769

Elinar Fleming born Apr. 23, 1771

Martha Fleming born June 11, 1773

Meakin Fleming [Malcolm] Feb. 11, 1775



Children of Thomas & Mary Fleming Baptized

Thomas Fleming born Oct. 24, 1753

James Fleming born Sept. 2 1756

(26)

Children born to John & Ann Armstrong

William Armstrong born March 19, 1747

Jean Armstrong born Apr. 1, 1749

Agnes Armstrong born Apr. 14, 1751

Robert Armstrong born March 19, 1761

Children born to Joseph Corriell & Jemima his wife and Baptized

Levi Corriell born June 22, 1767

Lewis Corriell born Dec. 28, 1768

Cornelius Corriell born Oct. 5, 1770

Catherine Corriell born Sept. 19, 1772

Martha Corriell born Feb. 6, 1775

Susannah Corriell born April 13, 1777

Sarah Corriell born Aug. 26, 1779

Keziah Corriell born Nov. 23, 1781

Mary Corriell born Jan. 5, 1784

Rachel Corriell born June 2, 1786

(28)

Francis McShane son of Robert & Mary his wife was  
born October 22, 1747

Cornelius McShane son of Robert & Mary his wife was born  
May 8, 1787 and baptized July 22, 1787

Isable McShane daughter of Robert and Mary his wife was  
born September 22, 1789 and was baptized Apr. 4, 1790

(29)

Martin Wyckoff son of Elias & Mary his wife was. ix Wyckoff,  
Martin

born September 3, 1766

William Wyckoff was born Sept. 22, 1767

John Wyckoff was born June 11, 1769, baptized

Elisabeth Wyckoff was born July 9, 1774

Elias Wyckoff was born February 16, 1777

James Wyckoff was born Dec. 3, 1781

Mary Wyckoff was born September 23, 1783, baptized

Sarah Wyckoff was born Feb. 28, 1787

Rachel Wyckoff was born Aug. 13, 1790 & was baptized Sep-  
tember 25 (or 26) 1790

## NOTES AND QUERIES

Address correspondence to the Genealogical Committee.

One query listing of ten lines free to members, 25 cents per line over ten; non-member rate is 25 cents per line. Remember to enclose a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) with genealogical correspondence if you expect a reply.

TEEPLE, TUNISON: Seeking identify par/o Lydia Teeple, b. or baptised 1 Oct. 1770. She m. Bernardus LeGrange Tunison at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Germantown [now Oldwick], Tewksbury Twp. 34 Jan 1790. ADD: Jim Tunison, 3353 Saint Clair Shores Blvd., East China, MI 45054 [e-mail: jtunison@argus-group.com]

LUKENS, POTTS, RITTENHOUSE, ROCKHILL: Des info re life/oWilliam L ukens Potts, b. 1771, s/o Thomas Potts and Elizabeth [Lukens] Potts. Apprenticed 1786 to Benj. Rittenhouse to learn survey instrument making. By 1800 advertised "Surveying instruments...made and sold by Wm. L. Potts Pittstown, New Jersey..." Where in Pittstown area was his shop? About 1808 he rem to Upper Black/Eddy, PA until 1817, then mov to Phila., started in the iron business, d. 1854. Thomas Potts d. 26 Jly 1776 Hunt. Co., widow m. 2) John Rockhill who d. 1798. When did Elizabeth [Lukens] Potts Rocikhill die, where is she buried? ADD: Robert C. Miller, 227 Wolfs Lake Rd., New Alexandria, PA 15670. e-mail: rcmliller@alltel.net]

CASTNER, EMMON(D)S: Want info re date of death of Asher Castner, b. Oct. 1878 at Changewater, NJ, s/o Daniel S. & Mahaly Castner. Asher m. Anna G. Emmonds 6 May 1900. They resided Lebanon Twp., Hunt. CO., where three children were born: Vivian b. 1902; Olive E. b. 1905; and Percy E. Castner b. 1906. Asher d. 1909-10, Anna enumerated in 1910 census liv. in Lebanon Twp., a widow. ADD: James Smith, 71 LeGrand Place, Stratford, CT 06614 [e-mail: bptgeneweb@snet.net]

GERMAN FAMILIES of Hunterdon County, NJ - i.e. APGAR, WAGONER, PHILHOWER, PICKEL, etc. Looking for speakers for September 2008 Family reunion. Contact George Apgar @ 732-297-6686.



## FROM THE CURATOR'S DESK

### Did You Know?

The membership of the Hunterdon County Historical Society is well aware of the valuable library of genealogical resources that are available for research in the Deats Memorial Library attached to the Society's home and museum. Many of our members, however, are unaware that our holdings extend well beyond the shelves of books and files of genealogical research available in the reading room.

In addition to the Society's historical and genealogical library, the Society maintains and is constantly expanding a considerable group of archival collections and historical manuscripts. At this printing, our Society has 72 archival collections that are open to reference, and these collections contain a wealth of material that is a significant documentary repository of the history of Hunterdon County. These collections include manuscripts, papers, correspondence, business records, photographs, and other materials from a diversity of sources. Represented in our holdings are records of the Flemington branch of the American Red Cross, records from the Hunterdon County Clerk, including deeds and slave manumissions, and papers from the Lambert Boeman post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Also to be found are the papers of important County individuals and families, such as the Capners, Bartles, and Larges, just to name a few.

The collections are not all in document boxes either; the Society also maintains a collection of over 1,400 bound manuscripts including the day books of prominent historical business concerns, hotel registers, diaries, and scrapbooks. All of these materials are open for reference and research use during the open hours of the Society's library. Some of the materials have been micro-filmed and are available for viewing through that medium, while others are "in the raw" but accessible for those researchers who enjoy holding a bit of informative history in their (careful!) hands.

To care for these materials and to add to this collection of important history, the Society has employed a part-time Manuscript Curator for almost twenty years. Many older members will remember "Reverend George" who helped to organize the first portion of our collections. Ron Schultzel followed; he expanded the processed holdings of the archives to its current 72 collections.

Since 2004, the activities of the Manuscript Curator have been devoted almost exclusively to arranging and describing a massive collection of historical papers and other materials that belonged to arguably the most influential member of our Society, Hiram E. Deats. The Society already holds an equally massive portion of Mr. Deats collections. They represent a bequest to the library of many of the books and histories in the reading

room, the very familiar collection of genealogical files available to researchers, and archival collection No. 32, the Hiram E. Deats collection, which contains nine boxes of correspondence and other papers.

This collection, which will be identified as Collection No. 73, the Hiram E. Deats Papers II, will be opened to the public shortly. It is an extensive collection, a richly detailed look at the life of one of Hunterdon County's leading citizens of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It contains over fifty boxes of general correspondence alone, and is rounded out by large amounts of Mr. Deats personal records and records of his family. Also included is a large collection of material dealing with Mr. Deats passion for philately (he was an internationally known stamp collector). The records of Mr. Deats association with other interest and civic groups, such as the DAR, Hunterdon County Schools, and the Agassiz Association, are also well represented. The records even include many documents and items of a historical nature, such as newspaper clippings, legal papers, and pamphlets; and for those visual historians the collection also includes over 450 unique photographs.

For those interested in the release of this collection, look to this space in the Newsletter in future editions. It is my intention to make *From the Curator's Desk* a regular feature of the Newsletter. It will be a place where the membership can get news and updates on the activities of the Curator, an alert regarding the upcoming releases of archival collections and reference materials, and a spotlight on those existing resources that members may not even know about.

So, until the fall edition, Cheers and Happy Historical Searching!

Don Cornelius  
Manuscript Curator



*Hiram E. Deats, Darcy  
Lodge No. 37, Lulu Temple,  
undated photograph.*



## Recent Acquisitions

Artifacts, manuscripts, books, pamphlets and other material representative of the history of Hunterdon County and the families who lived here are welcome additions to the Historical Society's collections. To the donors of recent acquisitions the Society expresses its appreciation.

"The Iron industry at Union Furnace and Union Forge" (carbon copy of typescript, 27 p.) Gift of Mrs. Lorraine Palmer.

Rev. Frazer's Marriages, 1768-1795, reprinted from the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, volume XII... with an every name index... (Doylestown, Pa.: Bucks County Genealogical Society, 1989), with marriages by Frazer from History of St. Michael's, 1700-1925, by S. Ella DeCou. Gift of Fred Sisser III.

Photograph, Hunterdon County Courthouse during the Hauptman Trial, by International News Photos, Inc.; also copies of two photographs of the Flemington Fair, n.d. Gift of Lois Stewart.

Descendants of John Miller (born 1470): Miller, Lamb, Shoemaker, Carmichael, Sallaz, Hudgeons, Woda, Ledvina, by Louis H. Miller (2001). Gift of Louis H. Miller.

Genealogical data on the Alpaugh and Emery families (1 folder). Gift of Susan Wyckoff Cooper.

Envelope with illustration of the Hunterdon County Courthouse, postmarked Jan. 31, 1935. Gift of Elizabeth K. Zimmerman.

Flemington Fire Department 150th Anniversary and Rededication of 1928 LaFrance, October 10, 1992. 80 p. Gift of Stephanie Stevens.

Opportunity Valley: A History of the Delaware River Valley Before 1800, by Edwin G. York (Xlibris, 2007) Gift of author.

Little Memories of Childhood in Glen Gardner, New Jersey, by Lillian B. Hunt Floherty, 1936 (New Brunswick, N.J.: David Joseph Riley, 2008) Gift of David J. Riley.

"Copy of material sent to state genealogist including nine family Bible records, copies of early deeds and cemetery records" (typed carbon copy) (Bible records include Stryker, Ditmars, Van Pelt, Hoagland, and Whitenack family Bibles and cemetery inscriptions.) "Papers regarding settlement of the estate of Isaac Stryker, Revolutionary War soldier" (typed carbon copy) Gift of Old White House/Frelinghuysen Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, through the courtesy of Stephanie Stevens.

"The Jacob Gearhart Farmstead of Franklin Township, Originally Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County, NJ, 1765-1791:

EagleScout project of Ethan Everett White" (2007) Gift of Ethan White.

10 photographs of the Elmer Schorr farm, top of Stanton Mountain Road, ca. 1943, later part of the Round Valley project. Gift of Kenneth R. Schorr.

17 color slides of races at the Flemington Speedway, Labor Day 1960. Gift of Thomas L. Toth.

## Snell's History Reprinted

The classic county history by James P. Snell has once again been reprinted. The HISTORY OF HUNTERDON AND SOMERSET COUNTIES, NEW JERSEY, With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers, was first issued in 1881. The two-volume set is offered for \$89.50 to non-members or \$85.00 for members, plus \$10.00 for shipping and handling. No index is included.

Also available for purchase are a limited number of copies of the following:

Anderson, Hannah Coryell, GENERAL WASHINGTON AT CORYELL'S FERRY, 1928, small 24 page pamphlet. \$2.50 for non-members, \$2.00 for members. Add \$1.50 for mail orders.

Moore, James W., RECORDS OF THE KINGWOOD MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, 1900, 42 pages, paper-bound, \$12.50 for non-members, \$10.00 for members. Add \$3.00 for mail orders.

Voorhees, Oscar M., EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR BOUNDS OF HUNTERDON COUNTY, N.J., 1929, 19 page pamphlet, \$6.00 for non-members, \$5.00 for members. Add \$3.00 for mail orders.

If ordering two or all three of these items, add only \$3.00 for mail orders.