

Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Volume 50
No. 2
Summer 2014



Hunterdon County Historical Society

www.hunterdonhistory.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hunterdon County Celebrates 300 Years Throughout 2014

Walking Tours, Reenactments, Lectures, Concerts, Historical Performances, Exhibitions, etc.

For entire calendar go to:
www.hunterdon300th.org

First Sundays thru October - Tours

Guided walking tours of historic Lambertville, 2 PM

www.lambertvillehistoricalsociety.org

Thru September 21 - Exhibitions

Maps of Hunterdon County and Over Hunterdon: A History thru Aerial Photography

The Red Mill, Clinton
www.theredmill.org

July 27 Festival of Farming

Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead
www.holcombe-jimison.org

SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

July 13 & 20 - Doric House Tours

Noon - 5 PM

September 9 - Quilt Raffle Drawing

3 PM at the Society Library

October 11 - Book Sale

see lead article, this page

Library Hours

Open 12 - 4 PM every Thursday and 10 - 4 PM these Saturdays:

July 12, 26

August 9, 23

September 13, 27

October 11, 25

Society's Third Annual Book Sale is October 11

This year the book sale is set for Saturday, October 11 at the Archive Building, 67 River Road in Raritan Township. A few "flea market" items also will be on sale and tours of the state-of-the-art 2009 archive storage building will be given. Manuscript Curator Donald Cornelius and docents will be available to answer questions about the archives.

Books for the sale are drawn from the Society's collections when there are two or three other copies or when, although of historical interest, they are not relevant to Hunterdon County history. Most of the books are hardcover, non-fiction, and from the 19th and 20th centuries. There are some pamphlets, most notably, *Poor Richard's Almanac*, printed in 1766 by Benjamin Franklin.

Book sale coordinator Mary Ellen Soldavin calls several of the books "special," specifically naming *The Ice Crop: How to Harvest, Store, Ship and Use Ice* with photographs and recipes by Theron L. Hiles in 1908; *Log Cabins: How to Build and Furnish Them* by William Wicks in 1889 with photographs and drawings of cabins built on or near the water in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut; and an 1829 leather-bound Greek Testament. Also, an 1812 bridge charter agreeing to building a bridge over the Delaware between Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and a miniature leather-bound book only four by two inches titled *Psalms Carefully Suited to the Christian Worship* from 1813 and completely readable.

Other offerings include a 1952 first edition copy of *Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647* by William Bradford with an introduction by Samuel Eliot Morrison; *Social New York Under the Georges 1714-1776* by Esther Singleton in 1902; *Household Conveniences from 1884* with 220 illustrations; and *Pocket Farrier and Farmer's Guide* from 1845 with illustrations.

Sorting for the sale is not yet complete, so more detailed information will be sent to the local press along with pricing ranges closer to the sale.

The selection has not been gone through by commercial book buyers or sellers, so shopping will be particularly interesting. All proceeds will support Society programs.

If you have questions, call Executive Director Linda Hahola at 908-782-1091. Volunteers who would like to help with the book sale are asked to call Trustee Mary Ellen Soldavin at 908.996.4512.



HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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Hunterdon County Historical Society
Published Winter, Spring and Fall by the Society
114 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822
Linda Hahola, Editor
Beth Rice, Layout

Library Hours

Thursday, Noon to 4 p.m.
2nd and 4th Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
and by appointment
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US ISSN-0018-7850

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Membership Report

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

Reported by Mary Ellen Soldavin, Membership Chair

John Allen, Ringoes, NJ

Richard Barber, Woodbridge, VA

Gayle Caylton, Willcox, AZ

Cyrena Condemi, Ridge, NY

John Kalajian, Flemington, NJ

Daniel Leechan, Flemington, NJ

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Joan Spitzform, Poland, ME

Dereck Williamson, Ringoes, NJ

Acquisitions

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

Abegg, Edmund Deats - Nine Diaries, and a typed autobiography of his time living with his grandfather, Hiram Deats, on his farm in Flemington.

Allen, Charles, in memory of Marion Crissman Huff - Two CDs containing transcripts of the Robbins Family Documents.

Barnes, Shirley More - Genealogical files for the Moore family.
Haver, Ella -

Wood bait boat made by Samuel Bonnell, which he took to Lake Hopatcong every spring and fall.

Dr. James Pyatt's [Ella's fifth grandfather] apothecary scales and weights.

Brass lantern inscribed to Samuel L. Bonnell, Clinton, NJ. On bottom: A. France, Pat. 1861. It was carried by him in the Civil War.

Two copper and brass Civil War powder horns, one inscribed Samuel L. Bonnell, Clinton, NJ.

Leather shot holder with embossed hunting dog and tree design; shot is in a separate glass jar.

Wagon wheel measuring tool, or traveler, which measured the length of iron band needed to go around a wagon wheel.

Two transfer ware cups with no handles. One, ca. 1850, is decorated with drawings of MacDuff's Castle and Berwick Solag. The second cup appears to be a Chinese-influenced design, ca. 1800. Ella had the cup through the descendents of the Fuller family, who came over on the Mayflower.

Family Bible of David Haver [Ella's great, great grandfather], 1846.

Columbus and Columbia, The Progress and Development of the Western World by James G. Blaine; 832 pages, n.d.

Nine family images: Grandmother Ella Margaret Risler and Grandfather Daniel Spangenberg Fox are ca. 1870-80 prints on albumen type paper; the smaller cased image is a daguerreotype. The following are all ambrotypes: large ¼ plate cased image of two men in fire hats; smaller 1/6 plate of a young girl in a half case; 1/6 plate of an older woman in an unusual holder; 1/6 plate half case of Ella's Great Grandfather Cavalry Lieutenant Samuel L. Bonnell; Two photographs of Great Grandmother Helen Mar Bonnell and Great Grandfather Samuel L. Bonnell.

Embroidery cross stitched on punched paper: "I am the light of the world," ca. 1880-1920.

Three ca. 1850 quilts in excellent condition. Two of them are registered and written up in *Herstory: Quilts of Hunterdon County* by Veronica Michell.

Wood chair with rush seat, ca. 1850, owned by David T. Leigh, three-time Mayor of Clinton. The chair was purchased by Samuel B. Haver from Minnie Ella and Cassy Leigh, sisters, for \$39. Mr. Leigh was Mayor of Clinton three times and lived in the large mansion that is the present Town Hall.

Hunt, Janet - 18th century cupboard.

Hunterdon County 300th Committee - Signature quilt, ca. 1845.

Laxon, Margaret, in memory of Jeannie Marie Fitzpatrick - Needlepoint matted and framed with poem beginning, "The logs were hewn...."

Murray, Joan England - Genealogy of Brunnell and Allied Families.

Notes and Queries

Submit queries to hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com
with subject line 'Newsletter Query.'

A NEW WAY TO PRESERVE FAMILY HISTORY

A new video timelining the 1654-2014 history of the Vanatta/Vannatta Family in America is available at the Society for viewing on your laptop computer.

Vanatta/Vannatta ancestry goes back as far as 1725 in West Jersey and even further to 1654 in New York (New Netherland) when Jacobus Jansen settled in Esopus (Kingston) and later took the surname of Van Etten, his home area in the Netherlands. As new lands became available to his descendants, they moved to Sussex County, NJ, and later to Warren County and beyond. The video includes such family notables as the 28th Governor of New Jersey, George T. Werts, several Vannatta mayors of Warren County towns, family members who served to protect our nation, and a New Jersey State Landmark bearing the Vannatta family name.

**SEEKING INFO ON MISSING HEADSTONES**

Our Cemetery Committee is calling for help to solve the mystery of the missing ten headstones from the Barton Family Burial Grounds located between Barton Hollow, Thatcher's Hill and Sand Hill roads just north of Flemington. The farm, established by the Barton Family in 1763, was developed into Barton Hills Estates with new roads and houses in 1985. The headstones, with names Barton, Case, McPherson and Anderson, went missing sometime between January and August of that year. An account of the loss ran in the November 13 *Democrat*, and reported that Revolutionary War officer Elisha Barton was buried there. Prime candidates to solve the mystery would probably be Hunterdon natives now between the ages of 45 and 55. Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the stones, even if they are now broken into bits and in fireplaces or patios is encouraged to send an anonymous tip or photos to let us know what happened to them, or to tell us where to go pick them up. Send mail to the Society at 114 Main Street, Flemington 08822. We just want to put the stones back in their historical site; no questions asked.

Sheets, John - Box 1 of 4; Collection of the papers of the Sheets Family Genealogy.

Simmons, Raymond - The Pedrick Letter, postmarked 1866.

Van Natta, William - *A Family Genealogy, Will the Real William Van Natta Please Stand Up!?* and the DVD "Jacobus Jansen Van Etten, Family Genealogy Guideline 1657-2014."

Volckening, William - Double Irish Chain Quilt, ca. 1840.

BECOME A MEMBER!

Individual	\$20 per year
Family	\$25 per year
Contributing	\$50 per year
Sustaining	\$100 per year
Institutional	\$100 and up per year
Life	\$500
Patron	\$1000 or more
Student (up to 18 yrs)	\$5 per year

Mail your check to us at the address below and include the following:

- Name	- Email address
- Address	- Would you like to
- Phone number	volunteer?

Hunterdon County Historical Society
114 Main Street
ATTN: Membership
Flemington, NJ 08822

or join online with a credit card at:

www.hunterdonhistory.org/membership

ATTENTION MEMBERS

To receive this newsletter electronically instead of a printed version through the mail, please email your request to hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com with 'Electronic Newsletter' in the subject line.

We will email the newsletter in a PDF format to you *before* the printed version even reaches the post office! And best of all, all photos will be in **FULL COLOR**.

SOCIETY NOW FULFILLING RESEARCH REQUESTS

\$25 per 2 hours of research.

Go to www.hunterdonhistory.org/research-policy
for forms and more info.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Society welcomes these experienced volunteers who are helping in the Library. Come in and meet them.

Jennilee Carlson, a researcher from Lebanon.

Melissa Jannuzzi, a sophomore at Rutgers who is a History major.

A big thank you is extended to **Leslie Moore** for his service to the society. We wish him well in his new home in Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES A RICH LODGE FOR NJ RESEARCH

By Mike Alfano

Hunterdon County was very seldom the original destination of European immigrants. Dutch settlers came for the most part from Brooklyn, Kingston and Staten Island in New York and from earlier New Jersey settlements in Somerset, Middlesex and Monmouth counties. English and Scots came west from Monmouth and north from Pennsylvania and old Burlington. The Germans mostly came from Philadelphia and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. These migrations occurred in the late 1600s and early 1700s. After the Revolutionary War, many of the children of these immigrants headed west and south in their turn. They helped to populate the frontier lands in places like Ohio and Kentucky, but more importantly the newly opened regions in western Pennsylvania and New York.

Possibly the single most important source for the study of the many connections of Hunterdon County families to Pennsylvania is the set of books called *The Pennsylvania Archives*. All told, there were 138 volumes published in nine series from 1852 to 1914, and they are available at the Society's Hiram E. Deats Library. They provide a wealth of information crucial to being able to track just about any Hunterdon family. Especially important are the numerous colonial tax lists, early marriage records and military records of the Revolutionary War period. Some of the volumes of particular interest to those researching Hunterdon County families are listed below. Space does not permit a detailed explanation of the use of this resource, but such is available at the website http://sc.akronlibrary.org/files/2013/05/PA_Archives_Research.pdf.

SERIES 2

- VIII Pennsylvania Marriages Prior to 1810. Vol. 1
- IX Pennsylvania Marriages Prior to 1810. Vol. 2
- X War of the Revolution. Battalions and Line 1775-1784 Vol. 1
- XI War of the Revolution. Battalions and Line 1775-1783 Vol. 2
- XIII War of the Revolution. Associated Battalions and Militias Vol. 1
- XIV War of the Revolution. Associated Battalions and Militias Vol. 2
- XV War of the Revolution. Lists of Officers and Soldiers.

SERIES 3

- XI Chester County Tax Lists 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1771
- XII Chester County Tax Lists 1774, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1785
- XIII Bucks County Tax Lists 1779, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786
- XIV Philadelphia City and County Tax Lists 1769, 1774, 1779
- XVI Philadelphia City and County Tax Lists 1781, 1782, 1783
- XVII Lancaster County Tax Lists 1771, 1772, 1773, 1779, 1782
- XVIII Berks County Tax Lists 1767, 1768, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1784, 1785
- XIX Northampton and Northumberland County Tax Lists 1772 to 1787
- XX Cumberland County Tax Lists 1776, 1779, 1781, 1782, 1785
- XXI York County Tax Lists 1779, 1780, 1782, 1783
- XXII Tax Lists for Bedford, Huntingdon, Westmoreland, Fayette, Allegany and Washington Counties
- XXIII Navy and Line, Militia and Rangers 1775-1783

SERIES 5

- II Col William Thompson's Battalion of Riflemen June 25, 1775 - July 1, 1776
- III Continental Line Vol. 1
- IV Continental Line Vol. 2
- V Muster Rolls
- VI Cumberland Muster Rolls
- VII Lancaster Muster Rolls
- VIII Northampton Muster Rolls

SERIES 6

- I Philadelphia Muster Rolls
- II Washington, Westmoreland, York Muster Rolls
- III Militia Rolls

Reaville, New Jersey As I Remember It

by Irvin E. Hockenbury

In years past Reaville was just one of the little towns on the Old York Road, a stagecoach run between New York City and Philadelphia. In 1764 Surveyors Richard Holcombe, who lived at Coryell's Ferry, and Abraham Prall, who resided between Ringoes and Reaville, called the town Reaville. The town also had two other names: "Manners' Tavern" and later "Greenville," but the name of Reaville stuck and was recorded on the maps. In 1745, Reaville was bypassed by the stagecoach in favor of Flemington. In 1727, the census reported that there were 3,377 persons living in Hunterdon County; back then we were still Indian Territory.

Growing up in the Reaville area, I can remember a lot about how the town used to be, and even more was told to me about its history by the folks in this area. It was a busy little town with lots of small businesses. Reaville contained a church, a hotel, a schoolhouse, a butcher shop, a fur trader, a clockmaker, a gunsmith, two chicken farms, East Amwell's Tax Collector's office, a dairy farm, a creamery, a milk stand, and two general stores with a post office in one of them.

Because the church is the tallest building, all directions are given as though you are standing on the church steps looking out at the town.

To your left is a Y in the road where the Old York Road goes to the left and Amwell Road goes to the right. In the middle of the Y, there is a large building that was the first general store in town and it had the Reaville Post Office in one corner. It also was a home with the owners living above the store. *Today the building is known as Traditions, a care facility for senior residents.*

The hotel also was to the left of the church and next to the general store headed on Amwell Road in the direction of Clover Hill. There was a delivery lane between the general store and the hotel so that the businesses could get deliveries. After a while, the delivery lane became a shortcut between the Old York Road and Amwell Road, so that you would not have to make the sharp corner around the general store. The hotel had a bar and pool table and was a popular place for locals to go for a drink. The story goes that in the early 1900s one Halloween night one of the patrons of the bar got a little drunk, so some of the local men, took his horse drawn wagon apart and put it all back together again on the roof of

the Hotel. When the man came out of the bar, he could not find his wagon! *The old hotel has been since converted into apartments.*

There was one chicken farm to the right contiguous to the church property, and another chicken farm on the corner of Manners' Road. The Kaim Farm to the right, had about three acres of ground and four fairly large chicken coops. They also had a family cow and their son, Walter, rode his bicycle throughout the town selling raw milk and eggs. *This is now a private residence, and a second home has been built on the same property, closer to the church.*

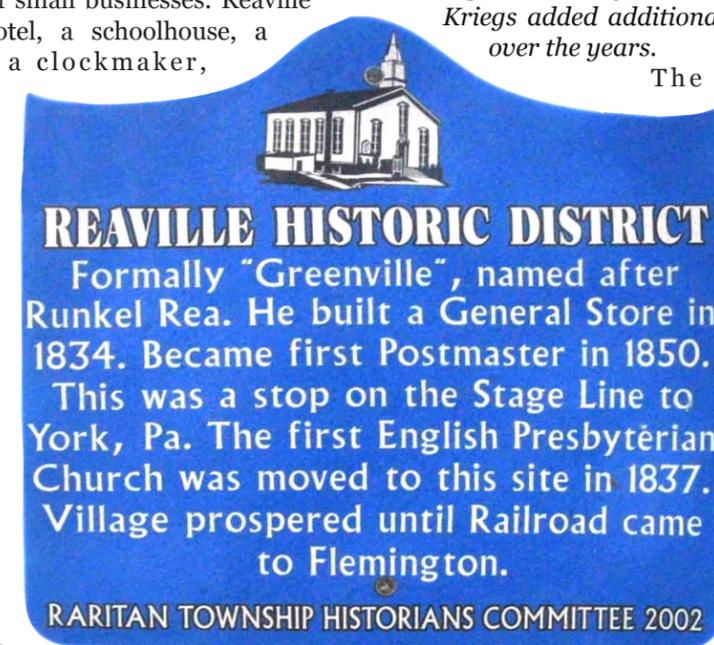
The dairy farm was to the left of the church. Its barn sat in the middle of the ground where the road forks again, this time left for Barley Sheaf Road and right for the Old York Road. Ralph Swarer milked cows in that barn, and for years had a milk stand at the very fork of the roads. Farmers delivered their ten-gallon, 82-pound cans of milk there for pickup and delivery to the creamery for processing. *Years later the barn was converted into a house with a business on the ground level for the Krieg Electrical Company. The Kriegs added additional buildings for their business over the years.*

The second General Store opened up some time after the first one closed. It was to the right, diagonally across from the church. It had the first phone in the area, so everyone would go there to make a call. You picked up the phone and a live telephone operator answered and asked for the phone number or person's name you wished to call. The operator put through your call. The store was later known as Mrs. Kennedy's. It had a gas pump out front;

a counter with all types of candy was inside. There was bread, lunchmeats, soda, ice cream, and canned groceries, but also odds and ends like diaper pins, baby bottles, two-quart milk tins to carry raw milk, kerosene lamps, light bulbs, and newspapers. The store opened early on Sunday morning so you could get your newspaper. It closed when church was about to begin and remained closed the rest of the day because Mrs. Kennedy was the church's choir director. After Mrs. Eleanor Kennedy died, a number of other people tried to run the store but eventually it was closed. *This property is now a private home.*

The butcher shop was in a small building on Amwell Road, almost opposite from Manners Road. Carl Alvater was the butcher.

The fur trade was in the house of Mr. Sipler who would buy the animals that I trapped in the winter. Trapping was



not easy; you had to get up early to walk your trap lines every day before milking the cows and going to school. A skunk, muskrat, or raccoon would bring anywhere from \$1 to \$3 dollars, depending on which type of pelt you had. That was big money when you were a youngster and your family was not rich. There was also a bounty paid for killing a fox. You had to take the dead fox in to the county where they would cut off its ears, so you could not claim the bounty twice.

Dave Hoffman repaired clocks and watches in his home on Amwell Road across the street from the hotel. He also may have sold jewelry, but I am not sure.

Mr. Boyko was the local gunsmith, fixing and selling guns out of his home. In later years, Albert Balek had a gun and machine shop in an addition on the house he rented on his brother's dairy farm, right next to the Kaim chicken farm. *The property has since been divided and sold following Richard Balek's death.*

You had to go to Bea Aten's house in Reaville if you wanted to pay your real estate taxes to East Amwell. You went in her side entrance and she had her desk all set up in her sitting room right off her kitchen. The living room was in the front of the house. Her house was three houses down from Mrs. Kennedy's General Store. *East Amwell has since built their Municipal Building in Ringoes, and you now go there to pay your real estate taxes.*

Reaville is divided between Raritan Township and East Amwell Township. There was a one-room schoolhouse on Barley Sheaf Road that 12 to 15 children from both townships attended. There was no running water in the school and it had two out houses, one for the boys and one for the girls. The boys would bring the well water into the school to drink with lunch, and the girls would be allowed to erase the blackboards or sweep the wood floors during lunchtime, if they were really good. After lunch that we brought from home, we played outside until the teacher rang the bell. A music teacher came once a month; she played the piano and taught us songs. The library truck also came once a month and we could choose books to read and then write a report on what we read. All eight grades were in the one-room building, with one teacher for all the children. I spent all eight grades going to one-room schoolhouses in Reaville or in that area. When there were too few students to keep the doors of the school open, they sent us to Pleasant Ridge or Voorhees Corner School. At Pleasant Ridge, Miss Jenny, our teacher, came by horse and buggy. The teachers also were responsible for coming to school early to make a coal fire so that the students would be warm in the winter. *The building in Reaville is now used as the Reaville Sportsman's Association, Inc., or is called locally "Reaville Gun Club."*

The Amwell First Presbyterian Church (The First English Presbyterian Church of Amwell at Reaville) was the mother church for all of the Presbyterian Churches in the area and was part of the establishment of the Presbytery of New Brunswick dating back to 1738. Here are a few highlights about the church: the Rev. John Witherspoon was the church's minister at the time of the Revolutionary War, the Rev. Witherspoon was the only ordained clergy to sign the Declaration of Independence. The Rev. George Whitefield

was a charismatic speaker and preached here to a crowd of 3,000 persons. Governor Reading was a member of the congregation and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. He gave monies for a silver communion chalice to be purchased on his death, and this chalice with the hallmarks made by DuBois is now in the Presbyterian Church Museum in Philadelphia. The church building originally was located in the middle of the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery and was moved into the town of Reaville in 1838. There is a long history of the church, but the Presbytery closed its doors in 2006 against the protest of the local congregation and many others. The congregation then disbursed to numerous other local churches. The church building was sold by the Presbytery to a buyer, and then was resold by him to a past parishioner, and reopened its doors in November 2009 as Reaville Church, Inc. a Nondenominational Christian Church with services on Sunday mornings at 9:30 and Bible Studies on Thursday nights at 7:30. *Of all the small home-based businesses, public, or commercial buildings in the hamlet of Reaville, the church is the only building still being used for its original purpose.*

300TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE DONATES QUILT

This ca. 1845 signature quilt was found by the Society's Textile Curator Judy Grow in a private collection in Kokomo, IN. She secured it for the recent exhibition of Hunterdon quilts and negotiated its purchase when the 300th Anniversary Committee agreed to cover the cost as part of its lasting legacy to the County. The Society will preserve the quilt with the other 50+ in our collection.

The quilt features signatures of several Kingwood residents and is believed to have been owned by Deborah Kugler who signed both the front and back. The pattern is unknown among today's published pattern encyclopedias. The Kugler family genealogy has been researched to accompany the quilt.



FROM THE DESK OF DONALD CORNELIUS, HCHS MANUSCRIPT CURATOR

Normally, I begin this feature and report to the members by bragging about our exceptional group of Archival Volunteers and highlighting their accomplishments since the last newsletter. This past spring has been no exception; the group has been very productive and has converted several past donations into processed collections that are ready for viewing and research. In addition, we are introducing an interesting new concept into our archival program: *crowdsourcing*. Read on for details!

If you have ever noticed the plethora of bicycle riders on the roads of Hunterdon County, then you should know that this is not a new phenomenon. This is documented in Collection No. 116, Records of the League of American Wheelmen, Hunterdon County Chapter (1890-1910). The League of American Wheelmen is a member driven advocacy group that serves bicyclists through training, education, and advocating for good roads and road sharing awareness; founded in 1880, it still exists today as the League of American Bicyclists. This collection encompasses a wide variety of documents related to the League chapter in Hunterdon County. The documents in the collection include newspaper articles, maps, and internal operational records from various organizational levels of the group. The organization was very active both politically and socially, and the group had a sizable membership within Hunterdon County. This collection would interest anyone researching the League of American Wheelmen, bicycling in the era of 1890 to 1910, or the contributions of this group to Hunterdon County's social history. Special Thanks to archival volunteer Dan Leechan for processing this collection.

2014 also marks the 100th year anniversary of the Agricultural Extension Service in Hunterdon County. We are pleased to celebrate with the release of Collection No. 136, containing records of the Hunterdon County Agricultural Extension service and some of its employees from 1933 to 1960. Important subjects include the history of the artificial breeding of dairy cattle (in which Hunterdon County agricultural agents and farmers played a significant role), the careers of

agricultural agents Enos Perry, William Schaefer, and Edward Gauntt, and statistical accounts of cattle research in Hunterdon County. Researchers interested in the beginnings of the artificial cattle breeding program within the U.S. would also find this collection very helpful. Special thanks to archival volunteer Scott Preston for arranging and describing this collection.

If you were tired of the potholes in the roads this past winter and spring, perhaps you should consider a petition! Collection No. 129 is composed of petitions to the Freeholders and Road Commissioners of Hunterdon County, from 1892 to 1907, along with other correspondence, pertaining to the construction and maintenance of roadways throughout the county. The petitions contain the signatures of many citizens from affected areas, and are an interesting source of information about the development of county roads and their use. See the entry for the collection on our website for more details, and special thanks go to archival volunteer Peter Corcoran for arranging and describing this collection.

Finally, some good old fashioned family photos round out our recent offerings. Collection No. 128, the Clark-Dunham Family Photographs, consist of photographs from the Clark-Dunham and Apgar families. The majority of the images are studio portraits, but only a few are identified. Of chief interest are the identifiable photographs of the Clark-Dunham and Apgar families, and two tintypes. One group of photographs appears to have been taken at the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial held in 1925. Thanks to our Director, Linda Hahola, who arranged and described this collection.

Although principally a family oriented collection, the Clark-Dunham Photographs illustrate an interesting problem to the archivists of historical societies. There are many donations like this in our archives, composed of groups of loose photos or often scrapbooks that are mostly from a family group and may or not be from several generations, but which are poorly labeled or sometimes not labeled at all. At some point in the past, someone knew who all of the subjects of the photos were, but because they



Collection No. 128, Clark-Dunham Family Photographs. Px6822.

were not labeled, *we* have no idea who they were. Saving family groups of images is well within the collecting policies of HCHS, because they directly record the history of the people of the county in a way that written words cannot. Even without names they are interesting records, and we process these collections regularly for that very reason - but with names they become highly valuable records for historical purposes.

Increasingly archivists are turning to a technique called "crowdsourcing" to help with this issue. According to Wikipedia, "**Crowdsourcing** is the process of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting contributions from a large group of people, and especially from an online community." In this specific type of crowdsourcing, we will ask our members and other interested parties to help us identify the names, and approximate dates, of the subjects of photographs in the Clark-Dunham and other collections. On our website, there will appear a story on crowdsourcing, with a link to a group of images from the collection. If anyone can identify these images, we would greatly appreciate it, and that information will of course be added to the finding aid and index tools for the collection in question. So here is everyone's opportunity to become, at least in a small way, one of our very special archival volunteers!

Images from the Past



Hunterdon County Historical Society, Photograph Collection, Px581.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Harrison of Plainfield, NJ, stopped in front of the Clinton Democrat office with their "Gospel Wagon." The Harrisons made two tours of the United States in their wagon between 1903 and 1906, preaching the Gospel with no collections of fees or charity for support.

Image Date: ca. 1903-1906.

08822
 Flemington, NJ
 114 Main Street
**Hunterdon County
 Historical Society**