



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

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FALL 2005

Life and Legacy of the Hunterdon County Indians **Sunday 4 December 2 p.m. at Flemington Public Library**

Come take a journey back in time with Jim Wade and discover the original Indian inhabitants who lived in our towns and uncover the hidden presence of the Indians who once hunted, fished, and gathered wild plants through the central New Jersey Area — maybe in your own backyard.

Mr. Wade's presentation will provide a "window in time" on how the Indians lived, who they were and their success in survival here in New Jersey for thousands of years. Find out about the Indian origins of some of New Jersey's roadways, town names, rivers, etc. Learn about his research of Delaware-Lenape deeds, as special project assistant at the New Jersey State Museum, and his experiences as a field archaeologist on a prehistoric Indian excavation site at Abbott Farm near Trenton.

The meeting site, at the Flemington Public Library, will be in the second-floor room where Hunterdon County Historical Society Indian relics are on exhibit, which will provide Society members and guests an opportunity to view these artifacts and hear Mr. Wade identify and discuss their use.

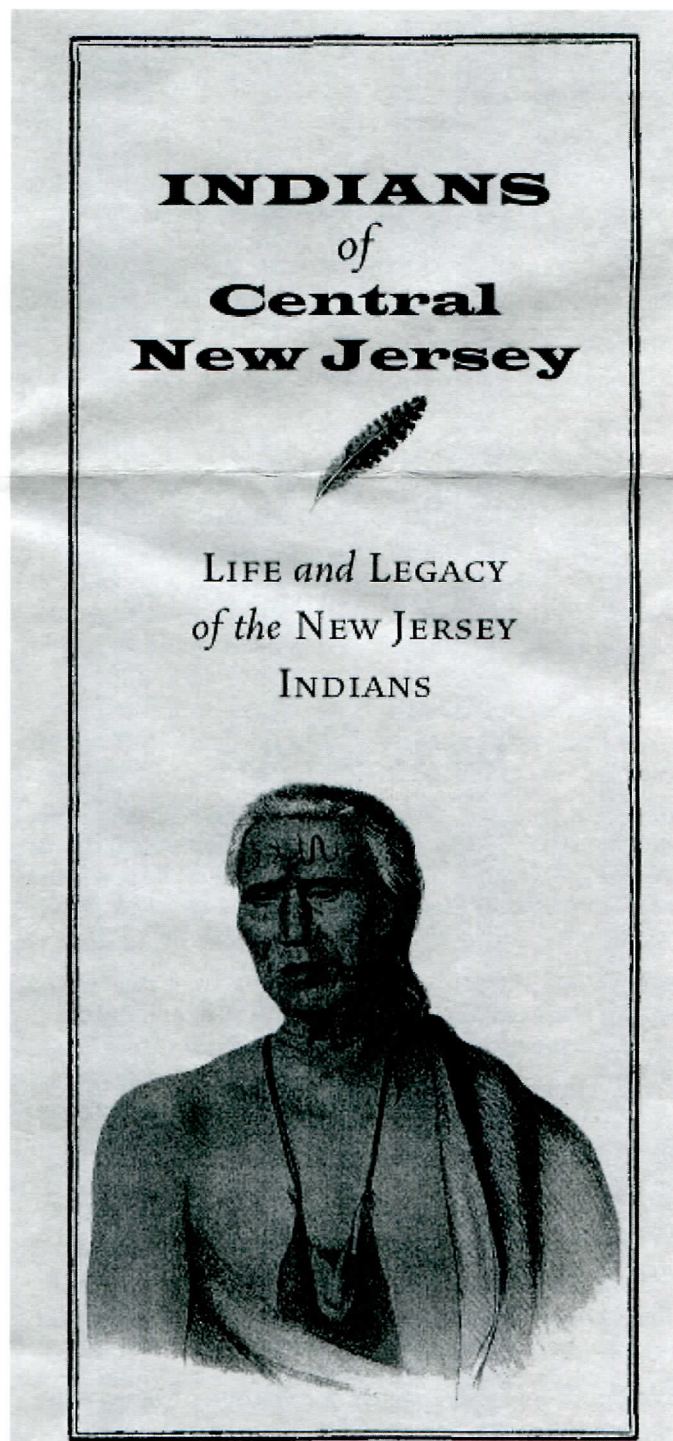
Note the meeting this time will be at Flemington Public Library. Plan to join us on 4 December at 2 p.m. for an interesting afternoon. Off-street parking is available behind the Library and on Maple Avenue. The second floor of the Library is accessible by elevator as well as stairs.

Refreshments and social time will follow Wade's lecture.



2005-2006 Calendar

24 Nov.	THANKSGIVING Society museum and library closed
4 Dec.	Historical Society FALL MEETING "Indians of Hunterdon County," with speaker Jim Wade, Flemington Public Library, Maple Avenue
25 Dec.	MERRY CHRISTMAS
1 Jan	HAPPY NEW YEAR
26 March	ANNUAL MEETING



HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Roxanne K. Carkhuff, Editor

— Library Hours —

Thursday, 1-3 p.m. and by appointment

TELEPHONE: 908 / 782-1091

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Library Winter Hours

For the months November through February evening library hours, 7-9 p.m., are being discontinued. They will resume in March 2006.

Acquisitions

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

Framed 17" x 23" award to D. H. Moreau; front page of the *Hunterdon Gazette*, Wednesday, March 19, 1828; framed 17" x 21" "The Address of the Carrier of the *Hunterdon County Democrat* on the commencement of the year 1858; framed 14" x 16" Associated Press Certificate of Membership to H. Seely Thomas, 1964; framed Associated Press Certificate of Membership to D. H. Moreau, 1929, donated by *Hunterdon County Democrat* former publisher Catherine T. Langley, granddaughter of D. H. Moreau and daughter of H. Seeley Thomas, Flemington, NJ

Catalpe Farm — A Reflection, by Charles A. Jurgensen, 2005. Donated by the author, Gettysburg, PA

William Prall's gold pocket watch, donated by the Missus Wilda and Evelyn Holcombe, Ringoes, NJ.

Membership Report

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

Donna Arold, Flemington, NJ

Ms. Petrea D. Best, East Brunswick, NJ

Kathy & George Cevera, Frenchtown, NJ Contributing

Beverly A. Cook, Winchester, VA

Kenneth & Marilyn Cummings, Stockton, NJ Contributing

Kim Echardt, Fredericksburg, VA

Anne Hummer Greaney, Santa Barbara, CA

Diane W. Hearne, Dana Point, CA

Deirdre and Michael Kravec, Pittstown, NJ

Linda McElroy, Landsdowne, PA

Terry A. McNealy, Holicong, PA

Contributing

Boletta J. Morris, Southampton, PA

LIFE

Carol D. Parks, Vineland, NJ

James & Dorothy Pickell, Kendall Park, NJ

David A. Sherman, Brick, NJ

Contributing

Bob and Nancy Sweazey, Bonney Lake, WA

Family

Valerie M. Bowlby Tinnes, High Bridge, NJ

Janet M. Todd, Bethel, ME

Nancy L. Wheeler-Driscoll, Cape May Court House, NJ

We thank the following members for their continued and upgraded support.

Sharon K. Wagoner, Lynn Center, IL

LIFE

Mrs. Shirley V. Favier

Membership Chair

HOW TO JOIN

Hunterdon County Historical Society
114 Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822

Please enroll me as a member of your Society

Annual	\$15.00 per year
Family	\$18.00 per year
Contributing	\$25.00 per year
Sustaining	\$50.00 per year
Institutional	\$50 and up per year
Life	\$250.00
Patron	\$1,000.00 or more
Student	\$3.00 per year (18 years of age or less)
Century Club	\$100.00

for which I enclose my remittance in the amount of \$

Name _____

Address _____

It's A Stick-up

For all our members and subscribers a handy 2006 stick-up calendar is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Dues for the calendar year 2006 may be paid anytime before receiving a dues notice. Payments may be mailed to Mrs. Shirley V. Favier, Membership Chair, 114 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822.

How Could Cornelius Larison (1837-1910) Have Known So Much about “The Ancient Village Amwell” in the 1730s?

by Carter Litchfield

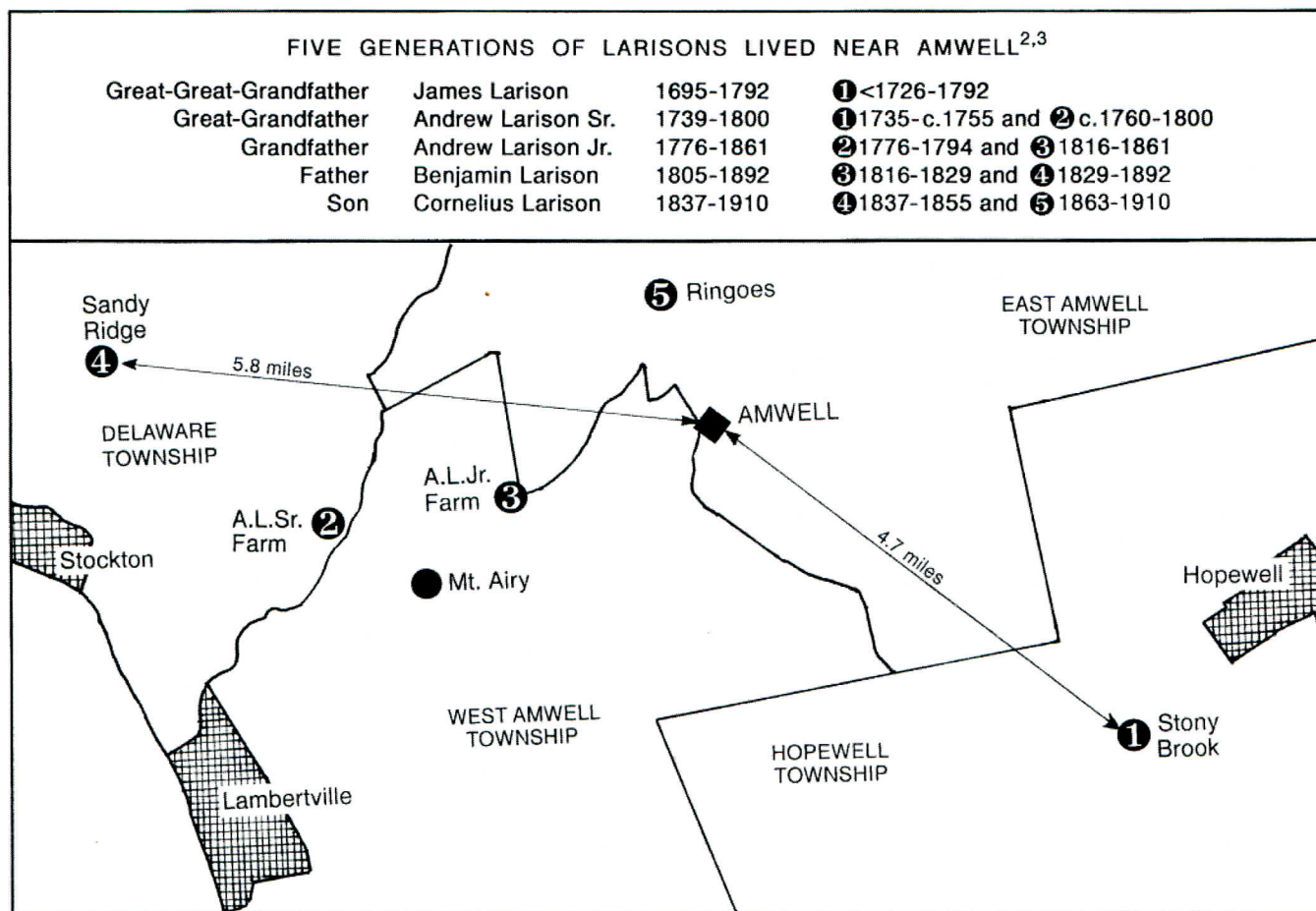
On January 11, 1908, Cornelius W. Larison read a paper titled “The Ancient Village Amwell” at the annual meeting of the Hunterdon County Historical Society in Flemington. The text was posthumously published in 1915, has been reprinted several times since, and is well known to Hunterdon County historians.¹ Amwell village (which no longer exists) was located 0.9 miles SSE of Ringoes, just east of route 31. Water-power from Clearwater Rill (a tributary of Back Brook) attracted people to this location. Larison’s paper recounted the extensive milling activity at Amwell around the 1730s.

Larison presented many specific details about the six early mills at Amwell — two gristmills, two distilleries, a linseed oil mill, and a sawmill. He recounted when they were built and how the tail race of one mill became the headrace for a second mill, etc. Larison explained how and where the distillery slops were used to raise pigs. And there was much more to his story. His knowledge of the Amwell mills in the 1730s

seems extraordinary for someone who wasn’t born until 1837. Following the custom of 19th century historians, he gave no sources for his statements. Because records from the 1730s are very limited, many of Larison’s details cannot be confirmed from other sources. Where did Cornelius Larison get his facts for writing “The Ancient Village Amwell”?

Examination of Larison family genealogy and their places of residence gives some insight into how Cornelius Larison might have obtained his information about Amwell in the 1730s (see map). James Larison (1695-1792), the great-great-grandfather of Cornelius, moved to Stony Brook before 1726.² He almost certainly visited the Amwell mills many times in his life, for Amwell was only 4.7 miles from his home at Stony Brook. Great-grandfather Andrew Larison Sr. (1739-1800) must have also seen the Amwell mills in operation. Cornelius was the fifth generation in the Larison family to live close to Amwell village for the majority of his lifetime. Moreover, Cornelius

(Continued on page 970)



How Could Cornelius Larison (1837-1910) Have known So Much about "The Ancient Village Amwell" in the 1730s? (Cont'd from page 969)

reached the age of 24 before his grandfather died, so there was plenty of time for conversations between them about the history of their neighbors. This suggests that Cornelius' familiarity with Amwell in the 1730s was passed on to him by his family. Amwell was an important part of Larison family history.

References

1. C. W. Larison, *The Ancient Village Amwell*, Flemington, 1957, 22 pp.
2. Lida Cokefair Gedney (comp.), *The Town Records of Hopewell, New Jersey*, New York, 1931, pp. 24, 26, 68, 81, 99. These records show James Larison resided in Hopewell as early as 1733. But his sister Elizabeth married David Stout (a Hopewell resident) in 1726, suggesting that the Larisons came to Hopewell before that date. Ralph Ege, *Pioneers of Old Hopewell*, Hopewell, 1908 (rep. Hopewell, 1963), p. 93.
3. Cornelius W. Larison, *The Larison Famili (sic)*, Ringoes, 1888, pp. 105-123, 129-153, 176-179, 324-325, 336, 357-359. Ege, pp. 226-228. Richard W. Hunter and Richard L. Porter, *Hopewell: A Historical Geography*, Titusville, 1990, p. 240. Harry B. Weiss, *Country Doctor. Cornelius Wilson Larison of Ringoes, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, 1837-1910*, Trenton, 1953, pp. 9-21, 27, 32, 48, 60.



Editor's note: "The Ancient Village, Amwell," read by Dr. Larison at the annual meeting of the Hunterdon County Historical Society and published in the *Hunterdon County Democrat* in April 14 and April 21, 1915, and from which type one hundred copies were printed and sold in pamphlet form.

Dr. Larison most likely had access to a group of nine unrecorded deeds which were in the Society's manuscript collection and which all pertain to the village and mills, now MSS#0018, numbered folders. Property descriptions provide an overview of what was on each piece of property and where each was situated with relationship to others. [RKC]

- 010 William Dawles to Jacob Race, 1773
- 018 Philip Peters to Jacob Race, 1768, mentions Dawlis old mill and title back to 1702 sale by Benjamin Fields
- 019 Godfrey Bast to Philip Peters, 1753
- 050 Catherine Dawles to Lawrence Marr, 1748, mentions mill pond and dam
- 057 Gershom Mott to Tunis Quick, 1748, mentions grist mill
- 090 Jeromus Horn to Godfrey Boss, 1751, mentions Dawlis "old" mill
- 165 Jacob Race, Sr. to Jacob Race, Jr., 1787
- 175 Abraham Bosenbark and Jacob Snider, executors of John Bosenbark, to Jacob Race, 1783, purchased from William

Give History for Christmas (Cont'd from page 971)

Sam Bryan & the Pole Farm

This history genealogy and family stories was written and illustrated by Pat Shamy and is available from her at 122 Clinton St., Lambertville, NJ 08530.

In the late 1700s, Ms. Shamy's oldest known Bryan ancestor, Abraham Bryan, first appears in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County. This book describes the three generations that followed in Delaware Township: Parmer Bryan, Holcombe Bryan, and Sam Bryan. The remainder of the book focuses on the life of Sam Bryan, the author's grandfather and how circumstances led him to live on a place later known as the "Pole Farm" in Mercer County. This was the nickname of AT&T's only Overseas Electronic Transmission Station in the US.

The author extensively researched her Bryan family and the book includes brief biographies of Sam Bryan's four children and short stories written about him by his ten grandchildren.

The soft cover book, 8" x 10.5", has 220 pages with a sewn binding and an attractive cover design. The price is \$23 plus book rate shipping of \$2.75 for a total cost of \$25.75.



NOTES AND QUERIES

Address correspondence to 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.

DILS/DILTS/DILTZ, HOFFMAN: Who were par/o Anna Mary Dils? Was Dils her maiden name? She m. 2nd William Hoffman of Amwell Twp. In his will probated 1754 he cites 4 Dils stepchildren Peter Dils, Philip Dils and two daughters. There was a Mary Dils who evidently m. Philip Dils, his sister-in-law. Is this the Philip Dils and Mary Hoffman, progenitors of the WV Dils? Philip retained surname Dils. Who were par/o, sib/o Peter Dils who m. Ann Mary Sciperton 29 July 1865 at Swedes Church, Phila.? ADD: R. E. Dils, 27515 Rd. U6, Delores, CO 81323 [redils@frontiernet]

ATHERTON, LEE, TAYLOR: Looking to confirm these families in New Jersey. William Henry Lee, b. ca. 1745, m. ca. 1760s Margaret Atherton. Phillip Taylor, b. 1740s, m. Hannath Atherton, unknown date, had son Emmanuel Taylor, b. 1777, New Jersey. ADD: Cindy Taylor Evans, 3692 State Route 657, Lewisport, KY 42351.

Give History for Christmas

Give the gift that continues to give! For the historian/genealogist on your Christmas gift list the Historical Society offers some gift suggestions.

For mail requests, order by number and add \$4 for the first book ordered and \$1 for each additional book to cover postage. For #14 the postage is \$ 10. For out-of-country checks please add \$5.

1. Beers, Comstock and Cline, 1973 *Atlas of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*. The *Atlas* is 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 16", 77 pages with a hard cover and contains maps of fourteen townships and thirty-two towns existing in Hunterdon County in 1873, printed on acid-free paper. Reprinted 1987 by Hunterdon County Historical Society. \$40.00.

2. D'Autrechy, Phyllis B., *Hunterdon County New Jersey Fisheries 1819-1820*, 44 page soft cover booklet with maps, illustrations, and a full-name subject index, 1993. Gives the historical background on shad fishing and the names and locations of fisheries along the Delaware River within Hunterdon County. \$7.50

3a. *More Records of Old Hunterdon County, Volume I*, compiled by Phyllis B. D'Autrechy, published by Hunterdon County Historical Society, 1998, 276 pages, full-name index, maps, illustrations, hard cover, \$25.00.

3b. *More Records of Old Hunterdon County, Volume II*, compiled by Phyllis B. D'Autrechy. This hardcover volume has 258 pages plus a full-name index and has maps and illustrations. \$25.00

4. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *Hunterdon County New Jersey Militia, 1792*, an alphabetical listing of "free and able-bodied white male citizens between . . . eighteen and forty-five" listed alphabetically by townships, 37 pages, published 1936, reprinted 1994, soft cover. \$12.00

5. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *The Jerseyman: A Quarterly Magazine of Local History*; Volume II, No. 4, 1905, 376+ pages, unbound, with added Table of Contents compiled 1985 by Roxanne K. Carkhuff. \$100.

6. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *Marriage Records of Hunterdon County, New Jersey 1795-1875*, 348 pages, hard cover. Reprint, with additions and corrections, of 1918 edition. \$25.00.

7. "Flemington, New Jersey 1883," a bird's eye view of Flemington showing exterior details of buildings in 1883, black and white lithograph, 20" x 24" suitable for framing. \$10.00.

8. *Hunterdon's Role In The Revolution*, published by Hunterdon County Democrat 22 July 1976 in honor of our nation's Bicentennial Year and the 150th Anniversary of the Hunterdon County Democrat, 88 pages, photographs, illustrations, maps, soft cover, \$3.00

9. Myers, Kenneth V., *The Flemington Fair Story*, 1978, 95 pages, photographs, soft cover. \$5.00.

10. Myers, Kenneth V., *Old Stones At Oak Summit*, Kingwood Presbyterian churchyard at Oak Summit, 1985, 20 pages, added index, soft cover, \$3.00.

11. Vail, Mary C., *History of Land Titles In The Vicinity of Quakertown, New Jersey*, 1915, 15 pages plus added index 1983 by Marfy Goodspeed. Soft cover, \$5.00.

12. Voorhees, Rev. Oscar M., *East and West Jersey Boundary Line Controversy*, 1906, 21 pages, soft cover. \$6.00.

13. Wittwer, Norman C., *The Faithful and The Bold*, the story of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldwick, New Jersey, 14 August 1714, 1984, 49 pages, photographs, maps, index, hard cover. \$10.00.

14. Snell, James P., compiler, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*. 1881, October 1995 facsimile reprint dedicated to Kenneth V. Myers, late president of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, 800+ pages, maps, illustrations, no index. \$80.00 plus \$10.00 postage.

15. Stout, J. Edward, *Facts and Fantasies of Franklin Township*, 448 pages, maps, photographs, illustrations, October 1995. \$20.00.

16. The weekly newspaper *Hunterdon Gazette*, 1825-1834, Volume I, 1835-1844, Volume II, and Volume III, 1845-1854 on CD, includes digital photographic images of the *Gazette* newspaper pages, and 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. Price per volume includes shipping and handling — \$20 for nonmembers, \$15 for members.

The fourth and final CD in the *Hunterdon Gazette* series, IVolume IV, 1855-1866, is soon to be released. It contains a bonus, with the permission of Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission the full "Hunterdon Place Names" book updated with information from the *Hunterdon Gazette*. It includes about 100 new entries and about the same number of added information to existing names. Orders will be accepted for shipment in early 2006.

Other New Publications

Her Story: Quilts In Hunterdon County, New Jersey - 1820-1950 by Veronica Mitchell. This publication portrays Hunterdon County women and the quilts they crafted from early 1800 to 1950 and their ties with the history of Hunterdon County. The book includes the connection of quilts to farm and town life, the resourcefulness of the women and the role of Church groups, the Granges and the Flemington Fair.

This book is the culmination of Hunterdon County QuiltSearch, a project documenting over 300 quilts made in Hunterdon County from 1820-1950. For information and ordering information contact author Veronica Mitchell at (908) 996-3385 or e-mail: Quiltbookvm@att.net.

(Continued on page 970)



Images from the Past

Frenchtown Fire - May 3, 1940 "Biggest fire in 62 years"



Hunterdon County Historical Society Collections,
Moreau Papers

Early Friday morning, 3 May 1940, spontaneous combustion caused a fire in Eddy's historic three story hardware store on Bridge Street in Frenchtown. The alarm went in about 6 a.m., but the fire was not declared under control until near noon. Eleven fire companies responded with nine engines and nearly 100 firefighters. Water to fight the fire was drawn from Worman's Race, the Nishisakawick Creek and the Delaware River. At one point the water within the first floor of the building was over three feet deep as the firefighters poured water into it to keep the blaze from spreading to adjacent structures. It was a difficult fire to fight with little flame and huge clouds of smoke.

The fire was believed to have started in a sanding machine that was returned to the store late Thursday evening just before closing time. The machine was still warm when it was returned. The bag of the machine contained fine sawdust mixed with paint, shellac, and other chemicals which were believed to have smoldered and blazed up. The fire started at the foot of the stairs leading from the main store to the second floor in the area where the machine had been placed.

The building was described as fire-resistant with plank walls and partitions. It was believed to have been built before the civil War and was not damaged in the Frenchtown fire of 1878 when the entire block from the bridge to Harrison Street on the north side was burned bare of its buildings.

Eddy Family - Three Generations In Hardware Business

The building housing the hardware business had been in the Eddy Family about 56 years. It was purchased from Hudnit and Slater, who had operated a hardware store there, by George W. Eddy who bought the building and business in 1884. He sold a great variety of articles — iron and steel, paints, oils and varnishes, window glass, putty, wooden and willow ware, horse blankets and robes, etc., and manufactured rubber bucket pumps, too. His son, Samuel O. Eddy later joined him in the business and Samuel's son, George W. Eddy, II was the third generation and owner when the fire occurred.