

Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Volume 51

No. 2

The newsletter of the Hunterdon County Historical Society

Spring 2015



HUNTERDON
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

hunterdonhistory.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click 'SAVE THE DATE' on our website for more details

June 13 - Talk and Walk

Greek Revival Architecture
Includes the Doric House Museum Meet at the County Court House, Main St., Flemington, 10 AM

July 12 - Exhibit Opening

"Hunterdon County, Mid-19th Century: A Map Exhibit"
Showcases the Society's collection Doric House Museum Gallery

July 19 and 26 - Museum Days

20 County museums including the Doric House Museum will be open 1-5 PM

September 19 - Seminar with Awards

Ancient Farm Burial Grounds of Hunterdon County
Cemetery Seminar and Awards Luncheon hosted by the Society and the Hunterdon 300th Flemington Presbyterian Church

October 17 - Society Book Sale

4th annual event includes tours of Society Archives 67 River Rd., Raritan Twp., 9 AM

Society Library Hours

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

June 13, 27

July 11, 25

Aug 8, 22

FROM FLEMINGTON TO ANTARCTICA

By Patricia Millen, Administrator

"I often thank God for hobbies," Miss Elizabeth Vosseller told a reporter in 1935, as she lay in her bed stricken with a sudden paralysis. Elizabeth Vosseller, or Miss Bessie, as she was affectionately called, started what became the Flemington Children's Choir School in 1895. For over forty years she mentored hundreds of students each year in music and singing from churches of all denominations. The Hunterdon County Historical Society has a collection of her furniture and personal memorabilia.

To battle her boredom in the last years of her life, Miss Bessie took to typing with one hand and made a hobby of writing to famous musicians, collecting autographs and making scrapbooks of her treasures. The reporter from the *Newark Evening News*, however, came for a story when he heard of Miss Bessie's scrapbook collection chronicling the adventures of Admiral Byrd.

Admiral Byrd was a "rock-star" in his time. His skill as a navigational aviator pioneered the technology that laid the foundation for modern polar exploration. After flying to

the North Pole 1926, he turned his attention to Antarctica -- exploring the region in five expeditions beginning in 1928. He claimed hundreds of thousands of miles of territory for the United States and gained world-wide fame.

Recently, as part of a multi-year inventory project, Miss Bessie's desk was opened. In her bottom desk drawer, out of sight for decades, lay 12 scrapbooks of her archive of Admiral Byrd and his 1928-1929 expedition to Antarctica. She wrote to all members of the expedition and they wrote back!

The Historical Society is working with other archives to determine what is truly unique to Miss Bessie's collection. Until then, we will preserve and study the images of the South Pole, autographed photographs of the crew and sled dogs, (including one named Shackleton), study the invitations and news clippings and admire a piece of the flag that flew with Byrd's plane over the South Pole.

Watch for an exhibit and programs in coming years on the new *Byrd Expedition Scrapbook Collection*!



Admiral Byrd, signed, circa 1928. Byrd Expedition Scrapbook Collection, Hunterdon County Historical Society.

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
Editorial Board: Lora Jones, John Kuhl, Stephanie Stevens
Layout: Beth Rice

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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Don Cornelius, Manuscript Curator
Cindy Knight, Librarian

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.

Apgar, Wayne - Seven boxes of genealogical and historical research notes regarding the Apgar family of Hunterdon County and beyond, including material from the Apgar Family Association.

Bush, Anita - Two ledgers Raritan Township Board of Education 1900-1913.

Dempsey, Jack - Embossed leather garment bag belonging to the Flemington Children's Choir School (1895-1939).

Dilts, Tom - Ewing and Lant family Bibles and three Flemington High School Yearbooks, 1944, 1945, 1947.

Kioovsky, Doug - Two photographs of Tower Hill Farm, 1947, 1965.

Sisser, Fred III - Violin, 18th century owned by Colonel David Schomp; supposedly played for George Washington on his visit to Pleasant Run.

Staats, John R. - One large model representation of the Pleasant Run Schoolhouse, including a file of correspondence and photographs concerning the same and other subjects, ca. 1950-1960.

Toth, Victoria - A scrapbook, "Service Men from Hunterdon County," and one publication, "Alexandria Township's War Record," 1944.

Wehr, Mildred - Quilt foundation "Courthouse Steps" pattern, ca. 1880.

SAVE THE DATE: SOCIETY BOOK SALE OCT 17TH

The Society has set the date for the fourth annual book sale, October 17, 2015 from 9 am until 2 pm. For the second year, it will be held at the Archives Building at 67 River Road, Raritan Township. There will be tours of the Archives, hosted by Don Cornelius, HCHS Manuscript Curator.

Come see a remarkable assortment of books in varied conditions from all ages and on all subjects. Examples from past sales include: *Poor Richard's Almanack* (printed by B. Franklin); *American Chimney Sweeps: An Historical Account of a Once, Important Trade*; *Historical Collections of the Great West* (Henry Howe); *The New Testament in Greek* (all leather covers); *Log Cabins and Cottages: How to Build and Furnish Them*; *Social New York Under the Georges 1714-1776: Houses, Streets and Country Homes with Chapters on Fashion, Furniture, China Plate and Manners* (1902); *The Jersey Devil*; *Delaware Canal Journal: A Definitive History*; an application, uncompleted, for *Camp Mystic, A Summer Camp for Girls* (1928) - probably the most famous girls' camp of all time.

The sale attracts book dealers and lovers of history - as you can see, there is something for everyone. New books are added every year so make it a date to be marked on this year's calendar - October 17th!!!

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**.

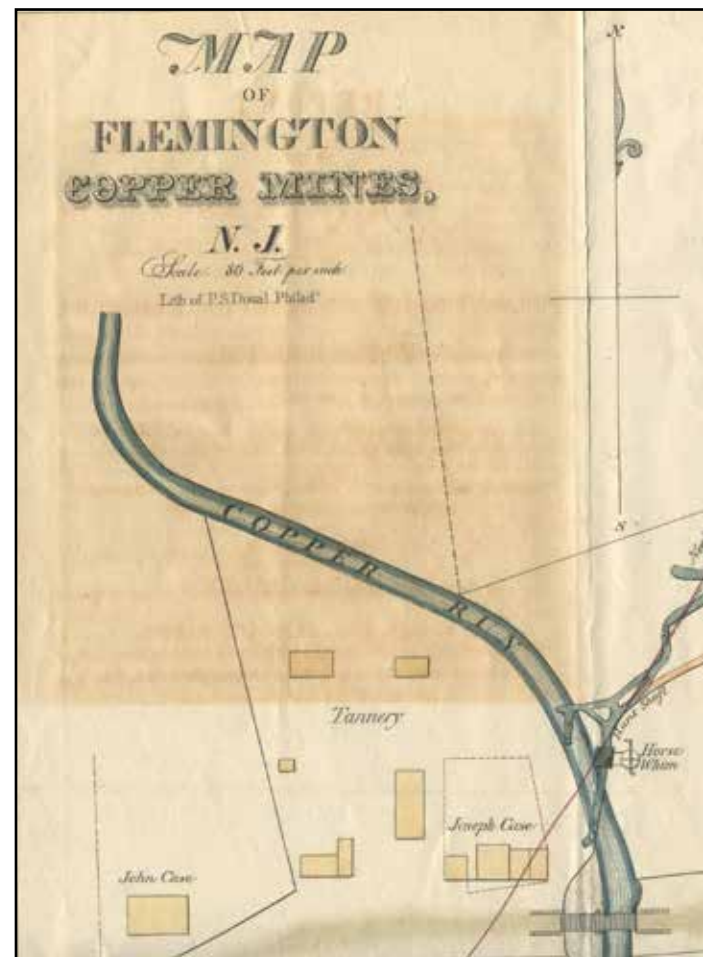
What's in the Gallery?

Current or upcoming exhibitions of the new Doric House Museum Gallery

Today's world is an exciting place. Technology such as Google maps, GPS driving directions, and cell phone navigator apps make it easier than ever to get from one place to another. Those readers who are not from the techno generation, however, may fondly remember the directional aid of our youth: maps.

Whether in a folded up pamphlet in the car glove box, or a fancy atlas or wall map at home, maps have served as supremely functional records for humans for a long time. Interestingly, maps often bridge the gap between the merely culturally functional into the world of cultural art. Historic maps today often fetch very high prices at antique auctions, and often are seen as art objects as much as historical records.

Please join us this summer as the HCHS releases a new exhibition in our gallery space in the Doric House. The exhibition is entitled "Hunterdon County, Mid-Nineteenth Century: A Map Exhibit," and will feature a selection of maps from the HCHS Archives. Hopefully these selections will educate, amuse, and illuminate the mapmaker's art for the viewer... even if they are no longer necessary to get you from one point in the county to another!



Map of Flemington Copper Mines, N.J., 1857, Hunterdon County Historical Society Collections.

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



We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist us in the Hiram Deats Memorial Library at the Society's headquarters at 114 Main Street. To name just a few activities, volunteers assist researchers with general historical questions and genealogical research, conduct house histories for home owners and assist the staff in various administrative tasks. Training is provided and volunteers are placed on a schedule based on their availability each month.

Volunteers are our most valuable resource. Anyone interested in learning more may contact the Administrator, Patricia Millen at patricia.hchs@embarqmail.com or the Librarian, Cindy Knight at hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com. To learn more about the Hunterdon County Historical Society please visit our website at www.hunterdonhistory.org.

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

Patricia Christie, Lebanon, NJ
Bernadette Traynor, Flemington
William Van Natta, Branchburg, NJ
Susan & Bruce Miller, Flemington
Carolyn Creed, Flemington
Tom Carpenter, Hampton, NJ
Jill Johnsen, Bensalem, PA

RESEARCH REQUESTS

\$25 per query: This includes two hours of researching our library and archive resources.

For forms and more info, go to:

<http://hunterdonhistory.org/hchs-research-policy>

THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF DELAWARE TOWNSHIP, PART 1 OF 2

by Marfy Goodspeed
www.goodspeedhistories.com

This article is about the men who, acting on what they considered the highest principles, came together to prevent black Americans from becoming citizens and members of society, at least in their neighborhood. Egbert T. Bush, respected schoolmaster and author, was a young boy during this time, and looking back on it wrote, "In those mad days of prejudice and passion, who, on either side of the controversy, was listening to reason?"

That seems very even-handed, but I think what Bush meant was that passions ran so high, that no one could sit down and reason together, despite the professed wishes of the Democratic Club of Delaware Township.

I want to thank the trustees of the Hunterdon County Historical Society for agreeing to publish this article, for recognizing the importance of looking at our history without blinders, for acknowledging what has happened in the past—the good and the bad—and learning from it.

Recently I discovered in the files of the Hunterdon County Historical Society a small booklet entitled "Constitution and By-Laws of the Democratic Club of Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, N. J., Adopted July 4, 1863." It was published at the office of the True American newspaper in Trenton.

What a find, I thought. But, as I started reading, my eyes widened. Statements in the resolutions showed that club members saw nothing wrong with slavery, and wanted to end the Civil War by making a compromise with the southern states. Perhaps I should not have been surprised. I knew that the Democratic Party was very strong in Hunterdon County ever since Andrew Jackson ran for president in 1824, and that Abraham Lincoln was not very popular here. I also knew that Locktown was known for its "Copperheadism." It is a subject I've been wanting to write about for some time. What held me back was a clear understanding of what New Jersey Democrats stood for. This booklet spells that out in no uncertain terms. If we judge these people by today's standards, we must call them racists. But in 1863 such a term did not even exist.¹ Is it fair to judge them by our standards?

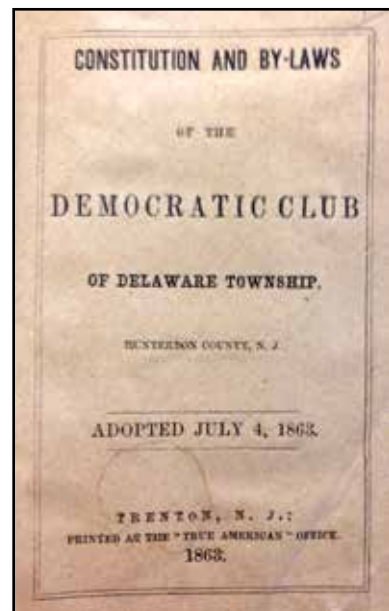
The booklet began with a preamble, which read in part:

Whereas, The sad history of our beloved country during the administration of Abraham Lincoln proves that the fallacious political dogmas of the so-called Republican party are entirely adverse to, and in direct violation of, the principles upon which the Federal Republic of the United States was established; . . .

Then followed the Constitution setting up the workings of the club—meetings, officers, etc.—the usual. There is nothing unusual about the By-Laws either, except perhaps for Article III, Section 1:

Any white male inhabitant of the township of Delaware, above the age of eighteen years, may become a member of this Club, by signing the Constitution, and paying the sum of ten cents into the Treasury, upon which he shall receive the badge of the Club;

¹ The word was first used in 1902 to describe prejudice against American Indians.



Pamphlet, Hunterdon County Historical Society, Delaware Township Vertical File

provided, that where an objection is urged against the applicant for membership, a vote shall be taken to decide the question.

A hint of things to come. The By-Laws were followed by this statement:

On motion of General Sergeant the Preamble and Resolutions adopted March 3d last were re-endorsed, and ordered to be attached to the Constitution and By-Laws as part of the platform of the Club.

"General Sergeant" was not a duplication of titles. John T. Sergeant of Sand Brook was General of the Hunterdon Brigade of militia and of the Delaware Guards.

The Preamble to the Resolutions, adopted on March 3, 1863, and "re-endorsed" on July 4th, read:

Whereas, the right peaceably to assemble to discuss the acts of public men, and to express our opinions in regard to their measures, is guaranteed to us by the first article to the Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, and believing that a failure to do so, in the present crisis of our country's history, would be criminal on our part;

And Whereas, we believe that the rapidly developing plot of Black Republican usurpation (as developed in the unconstitutional and revolutionary scheme of centralizing the powers of the government in the hands of a President who, by his arbitrary and tyrannical assumptions of authority, has already forfeited our confidence,) is a start[!]ing admonition to all true patriots that the liberties secured by our fathers are in danger . . .

"Black Republican" was a term used by Democrats to besmirch the newly-created Republican Party with the notion that they intended not only to free the slaves, but to allow unheard of civil liberties to black Americans, even to the extent of promoting intermarriage. Another derogatory term used by Democrats for the Republican Party was "the Abolition Party." Such an attitude would carry no weight today, but was a very effective argument back in 1863. Recall that on January 1, 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. For us today, it was a great moment in American history, but many of the Democrats of 1863 thought it was a disaster.

The preamble was followed by nine resolutions.

1. *Resolved, That while we will, as heretofore, give our cheerful aid and support to the Government of the United States in all its constitutional and legal acts, at the same time we enter our most solemn protest against those unconstitutional and destructive measures instituted by the present Administration, which, while they have divided the people of the North, have united all classes at the South; and believing that "resistance to tyrants is obedience to God," we will use all proper means which he has given us to oppose their execution.*

2. *Resolved, That among these unconstitutional acts we recognize: arrests of our citizens without legal process; the suspension of the writ [sic] of habeas corpus; the emancipation proclamation; the appropriation of the money belonging to the people of one State to pay for slaves emancipated in another; and last, though not least, that abominable and tyrannical conscription act recently passed by Congress, which places the life and liberty of every man, woman and child at the caprice of a set of contemptible pimps and spies, called provost marshals, and their deputies; and that we cannot permit our most sacred rights, as citizens of a sovereign State, to be thus trampled in the dust without an entire repudiation of our manhood.*

Here I must say they had a point. Some fundamental rights had been abridged by President Lincoln in response to the pressures of war, like suspension of habeas corpus. And they were probably right in stating that the North was divided while the South was united by not only the actions of President Lincoln, but also by his very election. In the 1860 Democratic Convention, the party was split on the issues of slavery and states' rights. Many (but certainly not all) Northern Democrats opposed expansion of slavery into the western states. Southern Democrats were united in demanding it.

Concerning "the appropriation of the money belonging to the people of one State to pay for slaves emancipated in another," President Lincoln had asked Congress to pass a law allowing for gradual and compensated emancipation in four border states. When slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia, the slaveholders were compensated, with federal tax dollars, of course.

Concerning those "contemptible pimps and spies, called provost marshals, and their deputies," these were officials created by "the Enrollment Act" of March 1863, also known as "The Civil War Military Draft Act." It required that every adult male citizen between the ages of 20 and 45 be enrolled for the draft. The provost marshals and their deputies were responsible for identifying these men and making sure they were enrolled.

3. *Resolved, That the present unhappy and sanguinary war (commenced ostensibly for the restoration of the Union, the support of the Constitution, and the maintenance of the integrity of the Government established under it) is manifestly a contest for the emancipation of the so-called "slave," and the equalization of the black with the white race, and in our opinion, ought to cease, and that negotiation should be entered into for the restoration of the Union upon such principles as would be alike honorable to all sections.*

That reference to the "so-called 'slave'" is odd. How

could a slave be so-called? A slave was a slave. But, the words "slave" and "slavery" never appear in the Constitution, even though there are several provisions concerning that subject. It apparently was an uncomfortable word to use, even for those who supported slavery.

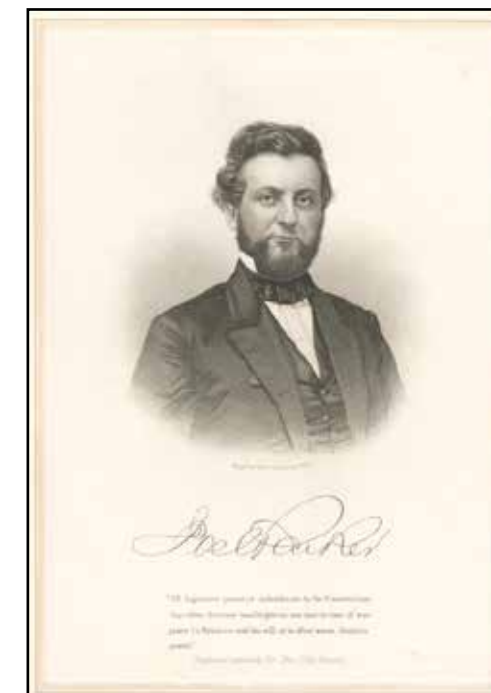
The real concern of these club members was "the equalization of the black with the white race." That being the case, how could there be any principles that "would be alike honorable to all sections"?

4. *Resolved, That to our gallant sons and brothers in the field we tender our hearty thanks for the brave manner in which they have performed their duties, and our sympathy for the sufferings they have endured, and that we will welcome their speedy return to our midst with heartfelt joy and gratitude.*

Here we have the traditional American attitude toward the men who wear their country's uniform. No matter what the purpose of the war they were sent to fight, admiration and gratitude for their service was the one thing New Jerseyans could agree on.

5. *Resolved, That the principles and views enunciated by our Governor, Joel Parker, in his inaugural address, have inspired us with confidence in our Chief Magistrate, and we hereby pledge him our continued and earnest support, so long as he adheres to the course therein marked out.*

Gov. Parker was a unifier of the Democratic Party. He won his election in 1862 by taking the middle road between the radicals known as Copperheads or Peace Democrats, and the regular or "War" Democrats. The radicals thought the South was entitled to secede, and therefore all attempts to stop it were unconstitutional. They claimed the North was entirely responsible for the war. Regular Democrats, including Gov. Parker, supported a legitimate war effort, but



Joel Parker, Emmet Collection, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, The New York Public Library

condemned 'unconstitutional' acts of government. They opposed secession as much as they opposed abolition. This was the larger group to which the Delaware Township Democrats seem to have belonged.

After his election Gov. Parker's 'middle road' involved supporting the call for Union troops and prosecution of the war, while at the same time opposing Lincoln's policies. His motto was "The Union as it was, the Constitution as it is." This policy explains why the Delaware Township Democrats hedged their endorsement of him.

6. Resolved, That we approve and endorse the Peace Resolutions now before our State Legislature, hoping that they may be "the beginning of the end," sought to be accomplished.

The "Peace Resolutions" were passed by the majority Democratic NJ Legislature and signed by Gov. Parker on March 24, 1863, calling on the Federal Government to appoint commissioners to negotiate with commissioners from the southern states for an end to the war, on the basis that the war should never have been started in the first place and that the Federal government had overstepped constitutional bounds by emancipating the slaves. Nothing came of these Resolutions.

7. Resolved, That the short, but brilliant, career of Hon. James W. Wall, in the Senate of the United States, has been alike honorable to himself, useful to his State, and satisfactory to his constituents, and that we call upon him to bide his time, assuring him that his name is held in warm remembrance by the friends of constitutional liberty, who will not fail, in due time, to reward him; that we fully endorse the nomination of Hon. William Wright, of Essex, for the United States Senate, in whose integrity and love of constitutional democracy we have the most implicit confidence.

James W. Wall was one of the most outspoken, hot-headed opponents of the war, publishing his views in newspapers and in speeches. U. S. Marshals arrested him in 1861 and kept him in prison for two weeks without pressing charges. They released him after he pledged allegiance to the Union, thereby creating a martyr to the cause of the Peace Democrats. In early 1863 when the legislature was considering the Peace Resolutions, Wall was elected to fill a vacant U. S. Senate seat. But in March 1863 he failed to be re-elected.

8. Resolved, That we hold abolitionism and secession to be rank political heresies—the last the offspring of the first,—and that while we abhor and detest the one for its pusillanimous attacks upon the principles of our government, we protest against and condemn the other for its equally seditious, though more open and manly course.

In other words, abolitionism brought about secession. How one could see abolitionism as a "pusillanimous attack" on the principles of the American government is hard to understand, unless one believes that by refusing to overturn slavery, the Framers were in fact endorsing it. And the idea that abolitionism was not "manly" seems preposterous, unless you believe that secessionists were willing to risk everything for their principles while abolitionists were not.

The last resolution gets to the crux of their fears.

9. Resolved, That we urge upon our representatives in the

State Legislature the importance of any measure that will prevent the influx of negroes into our State, and that we request the passage of a law to obviate such mischievous intention; and that we protest against the payment by our State of any portion of the appropriation for the emancipation of slaves, and that we desire such legislation as will protect us from all unconstitutional expenditure of our money.

Slavery was the most potent issue working in the favor of the Democratic Party. One of the most compelling reasons not to end slavery was to keep "negroes" in the south, away from northern communities. Democrats claimed that the cheap labor provided by newly freed slaves would destroy the labor market for white men in the North. The other fear was the threat of mixing the races. For white men who could not imagine black men living as their equals, this was a nightmare.

Ironically, there were 43 African-Americans living in Delaware Township in 1860. I cannot say if any of these people were still slaves—the 1860 census does not identify slaves. However, anyone under the age of 56 was free, since the Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery, passed in 1804, stated that all those born after that year would be freed on reaching maturity. None of the people identified as black were living with any of the officers of the Democratic Club.

There were six independent black families headed by Lorenzo Williams, Jeremiah Williams, Prime Lambert, Sanfred Farley, Peter Jackson and Charles Wilson. Two of Peter Jackson's children were living with other (white) families. Daniel Williams, age 70, and possibly related to Lorenzo and Jeremiah Williams, was living with Joseph G. Bowne, as was also Mary E. Stout, age 22. Clara Dickason age 57 and Westley Barber age 13 were living with Wm. Barber. Robt Waterhouse lived in the house of Ingham Waterhouse, Isaac Fox age 19 with Josiah Holcombe, and Mary E. Coal age 14 lived with John Runkle. Frank Conover, age 52, was living in the poor house run by Jacob Lake.

And now I must ask: Who were these people so devoted to the Democratic principles of 1863? Were they scoundrels and misfits? Not at all. They were pillars of the community, men who were widely respected. The initial officers of the club were listed on the first page of their booklet. The By-Laws required that there be one president and as many vice-presidents as there were school districts serving the township of Delaware. Here is the list of officers:

President, Joshua Primmer	J. M. Hoppock
Treasurer, Dr. I. S. Cramer	Issac Horne
Secretary, Dr. H. B. Nightingale	A. B. Rittenhouse
Vice-Presidents:	Gen. J. T. Sergeant
J. V. C. Barber	Rev. Henry F. Trout
David B. Boss, Esq.	Jos. Williamson
John M. Bowne	
Henry Crum	
John Fisher	
E. M. Heath	
Bateman Hockenbury	

Biographies of these individuals will be continued in the next issue of the *Hunterdon Historical Newsletter*.

FROM THE DESK OF DONALD CORNELIUS, HCHS MANUSCRIPT CURATOR

It is with great pleasure that I compose this column for the *spring* edition of our newsletter! After the winter we just experienced, spring is a concept that fills my mind with an anticipation that I could hardly have expected. Not all things about the winter were bad, however; the archival crew has been steaming ahead with several projects and we have released some interesting new collections.

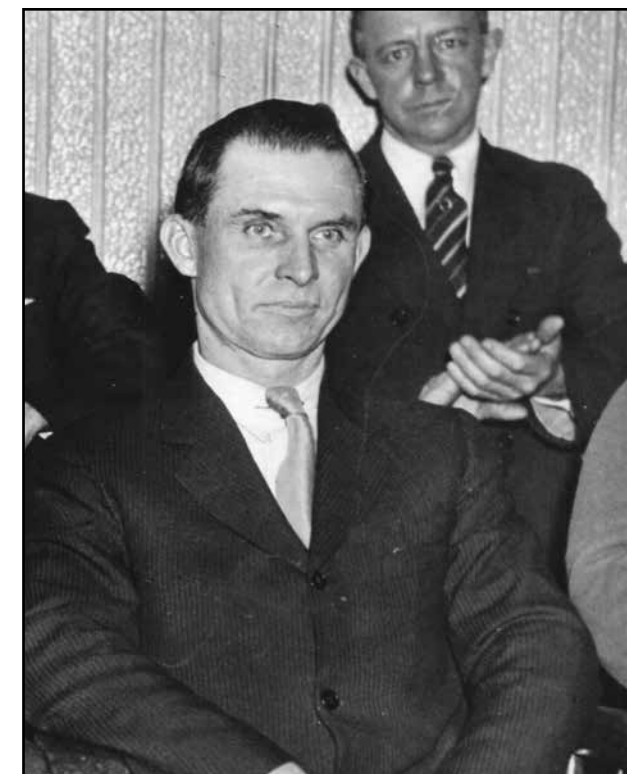
Back at the beginning of the winter we released Collection 139: Papers of the NJ Archaeological Society. As you may expect, this collection contains a small selection of records from the papers of the NJ Archaeology Society. The local sage Hiram E. Deats of Hunterdon County was a member of this society and these records come from a portion of the bequest of his papers. Of particular interest are the NJ Archaeology Society newsletters, membership data, and membership in the Eastern States Archaeological Federation. This collection would interest anyone researching the beginnings and evolution of archaeology in New Jersey. The Society would like to extend special thanks to Archival Volunteer Shoshanna Nimaroff for arranging and describing this collection.

In February, we released Collection 137: Hunterdon County Aerial Photographs. This collection is a group of aerial photographs imaged via airplane flyover of Hunterdon County. There are two recognizable series of aerial photographs; one for 1956 and one for 1963. There are also images from a third set of aerials for which the date is unknown. For the two dated series, there are master (key) overlay maps of the county which allow for individual identification of desired image locations. Unfortunately, none of the sets are complete. However, many of the photographs have been marked with notations that indicate property owners whose names are written on the verso of the images. This collection should be of interest to anyone desiring to use overhead imagery of Hunterdon County for the time periods indicated in the aerial surveys.

Overhead aerial photographs allow the viewer to get a detailed perspective of what Hunterdon County looked like in the specified years surveyed. Viewing comparable images from different time periods allows researchers to view changes in the county over time. By comparing and contrasting the aerial photos from 1956 versus 1963, there are many instances where evolutionary changes may be observed. The society extends special thanks to Archival Volunteer Dan Leechan for arranging and describing this collection.

Recently released is Collection 140: the Charles F. Snyder Papers. This collection contains correspondence, news articles, and personal records concerning Charles F. Snyder. Mr. Snyder was a farmer from Lebanon, NJ. Perhaps more importantly for our purpose is the fact that Mr. Snyder was also a member of the jury who decided the fate of Richard Bruno Hauptmann for the kidnapping of the son of aviator Charles Lindbergh.

The collection is composed of a series of correspondence and news clippings, presented in the order in which they



Charles F. Snyder, Juror No. 4, Hunterdon County Historical Society, Manuscript Collection 140.

were preserved by Mr. Snyder in a small scrapbook. In addition, there are a small number of personal records and ephemera of Mr. Snyder. This material illustrates the degree of national attention the trial received. Letters from the scrapbook include congratulatory praise, autograph requests, and even death threats. The society extends special thanks to archival volunteer Scott Preston for arranging and describing this collection.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention (probably not for the first time) how really exciting it can be sometimes to be an archivist. I am sure that readers will have noted elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter the discovery of Elizabeth Vosseller's scrapbooks chronicling the Byrd expedition. While I cannot claim the discovery of the items (Thank You Pat!), I have enjoyed the opportunity to carefully examine them. Readers of this newsletter are generally knowledgeable about Hunterdon history, and so know the story of Elizabeth Van Fleet Vosseller and her work with the Flemington Children's Choir School. It is fascinating to see yet another side of her in these meticulously documented scrapbooks that feature the Byrd expedition and its various members. I am very excited to begin the preservation, arrangement, and description of these priceless materials so that we can share them with our members and the world. Sometimes an archivist can become a little immune to the special nature of the things they work on; but then collections like this one come along and you are reminded of just how special it is to be able to hold history in your hands.

Images from the Past



Photograph, Hunterdon County Historical Society, Accession 2015.104



Hunterdon County
Historical Society
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08822