



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Vol. 39, NO. 1

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WINTER 2003

Where Have All The Farmers Gone? *Annual Meeting March 23, 2003, 2 p.m.*

They're going, and they've been going, steadily, over the last fifty years. Farmers are today an endangered breed here in Hunterdon. Agriculture was unquestionably the county's "bread and butter" from its first settlement over three hundred years ago. We now live on non-farm jobs, many of them outside our boundaries.

Hunterdon was famous throughout the colonies in the 1700s for its applejack whiskey. Flax was an important crop and so was sugar sorghum during the Civil War. Sheep were numerous here early on and peaches became king until wiped out by the San Jose scale in the 1890s. The size of dairy herds multiplied beginning in the 1920s. Poultry raising began growing exponentially about the same time and reigned supreme for some forty years. We had both the world's first artificial-insemination operation for cattle and the largest cooperative egg auction in the world. Today the chickens are gone altogether and you can count our remaining dairymen on your fingers. Crop farming does remain but much of that is on land owned by non-farmers and could be lost at any time. There has been some growth in the area of specialty crops; Christmas trees, pumpkins, and other farm market produce.

But that market is limited and the outlook for major farm survival remains dismal. Land is being preserved but nobody is preserving the farmers or the economy they need to survive.

The farmer's ability to control the prices he receives has always been his problem. Today's transport systems bring in products from areas with a cheaper cost of production. Worst of all is "how do you keep 'em down on the farm." Living in one of the highest income areas in the country, farmers' sons can earn twice or more as much off the farm, work only half as hard, and risk only half as much. Result; we have been and are losing our young farmers. Development is not the cause but it sure is the result. When a farmer can't earn enough to survive, he sells his farm.

On Sunday, 23 March, the film maker Tom Bleck of Lebanon Township will present his "Where Have All The Farmers Gone?." This film was produced by his firm, Paris Music and Video, Inc. with an assisting grant from the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Mr. Bleck has captured the homespun words of a few of our farmers in a poignant, low key manner you will not forget. Listen to them explain why they've gone. Meet with us at 2 p.m. on 23 March at the



The Flemington Auction Market fleet of trucks pictured here was used to pick up and deliver eggs sold at the market. The first cooperative auction in the United States, it was organized here in Hunterdon County in July 1930, held the first auction, in Flemington, in August of 1930, and existed for nearly 40 years. The former Empire Cut Glass building on Park Avenue was bought for a permanent auction market.

Flemington Woman's Club in the park behind the old Courthouse. Refreshments will follow. This story is a vital part of the real history of Hunterdon County.

2003 Calendar

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| March 23 | ANNUAL MEETING — 2 p.m.
Flemington Womens Club —
Tom Bleck
Where Have All The Farmers Gone? |
| May 10-17 | Historic Preservation Week |
| May 17-18 | Doric House open 1-4 p.m. |
| Aug. 20-24 | Hunterdon County Agricultural Fair
at the new fairgrounds at Ringoes
Visit the Society's exhibit |

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Roxanne K. Carkhuff, Editor

— **Library Hours** —

Thursday, 1-3, 7-9 p.m. and by appointment

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Have you paid your 2003 Dues?

Notices to pay 2003 dues were mailed during early January and a goodly number of our members have sent in their renewals. To those who have not, a reminder that **this is the last newsletter you will receive until dues are paid.** Take a minute to make out your check and send it in. If you have mislaid the renewal envelope you may see categories of membership and the mailing address in the "How To Join" coupon below. Your support is important to the Society!

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 _____

Membership Report

A warm welcome is extended to the people who have recently become members of the Society or upgraded to Life membership.

- Briteside Day Care Center, Flemington, NJ
- Lynn Burtis, Flemington, NJ#
- Carol A. Byer, Elk Grove, CA
- Roger N. Clark, Vista, CA
- Mr. and Mrs. David Cofield, New Monmouth, NJ
- Annette M. Eubank, Point Pleasant, PA
- Patricia J. Fisher-Olsen, Flemington, NJ
- Shirley E. Fitzgerald, Topock, AZ
- Marilyn J. Getty, California, MD
- Alfred & Gail Hahn, Freehold, NJ
- Nancy L. Heath, Greenwich, NJ
- Marilyn Rhyne Herr, Lebanon, NJ
- Susan Kay and Marion L. Henrie, Union, NJ
- Patricia A. Hill, St. Paris, OH#
- Scott Holmes, Ringoes, NJ*
- Thomas W. Johnston, Jr., Wallingford, PA
- Lora W. Jones, Annandale, NJ
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Jurgensen, Newville, PA#
- Kathleen E. Kaar-Isleib, Chester Brook, PA*
- Dorothy Abbott Kraemer, Roseville, CA
- Patricia Kerr, Flemington, NJ
- Kay H. Larsen, Easton, PA#
- Pat Lemoine, Metairie, LA
- Andrew W. Machamer, Lewisburg, PA
- Sharon E. Murray, Scotrun, PA
- Thelma Kline Miller, Three Bridges, NJ
- Joseph Van Syckel Martin, Jr., Hampton, NJ
- Mary A. Mettler, San Francisco, CA
- Peggy Lake Oswald, Mendham, NJ
- Phyllis W. Patton, Elizabethtown, PA
- Linda & John Peterson, Flemington, NJ*
- Marietta Pickell, Alameda, CA
- Mrs. Flora B. Price, New Columbia, PA
- Steve and Ruth Roll, Flemington, NJ#
- Jane S. Saums, Warren, NJ
- Lea & Sue Schultz, Charlottesville, VA
- John N. Sheets, Lambertville, NJ
- Diane J. Sheridan, Kent, WA
- Chris L. Skow, Huntington Valley, PA
- John V. Tobin, Trenton, NJ

LIFE

Mrs. Shirley V. Favier
Membership Chair

Contributing membership or upgrade

* Sustaining membership or upgrade

USS Hunterdon County (LST 838) (AGP838)

by John Kuhl

In the bird world there are graceful swans and then the more useful ugly ducklings. In our naval service there are sleek destroyer types and then their opposites, the LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank). Few would dispute the statement that LSTs are indeed amongst the ugly ducklings of the Navy. But they were more than useful and well over one thousand of them were built during World War II in two basic classes. And the Navy continued to build and use them subsequently. If you have ever seen any films of WWII amphibious operations you have seen these ungainly ships run right up onto the beach, swing open their bow doors and discharge heavy equipment, tanks, trucks, bulldozers, and so on, into the surf. Comforts and well-being on these beasts were few; their necessarily shallow, flat bottoms caused them to ride hard in any kind of wind or sea.

LST838 was launched in November of 1944 at the Ambridge, PA yard of the American Bridge Co. and commissioned a month later in New Orleans. As one of the second class of 50 feet, and drew a maximum draft of 14 feet. She was powered by twin diesels developing 1700 brake horsepower. This would push her along at 11 knots, which translates, to about 12.5 mph. This is incredibly slow for a combat ship and fully explains her adopted motto, *Festina Lente*. [See photo of ship's cloth patch.] Thanks to an accommodating lady in the reference department of our county library, this was translated for stumbling Latin ex-scholar, to read *Make Haste Slowly*, which is a beautifully ironic twist on the facts. Though she weighed about 1653 tons empty, she could displace 4080 tons when fully loaded with fuel, supplies, and a cargo approaching 2100 tons. The 838 carried a crew of some 13 officers and 106 enlisted men during WWII. This would fluctuate as equipment changed and increase by 20 or more as her later Viet Nam roles expanded in complexity.

She set out immediately into the Pacific and sailed from Guam on 9 March, 1945 bound for Saipan, then put into the Okinawa area on 1 April carrying a Seabee battalion and their equipment for the beachhead on D-Day there. That same day a Jap kamikaze crashed into and sunk a companion LST. The 838 turned to and picked up 79 survivors. Just two weeks later she was firing to repel eight enemy planes when a ninth slipped in from the shore side and strafed her, wounding 3 men. A few moments later 5 bombs hit close aboard wounding 6 more of her crew. She got some revenge with the later shooting down of an attacking Jap plane. After that last operation at Okinawa she finished the war in her dual function as a transport, returning to San Francisco just before Christmas 1945 with 545 Army troops coming home from Guam. No longer needed, the ship was put in mothballs the following year at Portland, Oregon. There she sat for almost 20 years until the growing war in Viet Nam developed a new need and she was one of four WWII LSTs, or "T"s, as they were known by their crews, to be put back in service. The four would serve together in Viet Nam.

The Navy had a long-standing rule for selecting ships; names. Battleships were named after states, Cruisers after cities, Aircraft Carriers after battles, and so on. By the time they got down to the humble LSTs, they were using counties. Avail



HCHS Collections

The USS Hunterdon

able records are unclear. At some point but not until late in her mothball stage or during her decommissioning, she was officially dubbed "U.S.S. Hunterdon County." Things like this just didn't happen unless someone pushed for it. The county is indebted to some long-lost governmental official or person of clout of some king. Anyway, the ship was pulled from mothballs in late 1965 and refitted at the Bethlehem Steel shipyard in San Francisco. The deckhouse was expanded for new communications equipment and a larger crew. With Viet Nam in mind, air conditioning was installed and all machinery overhauled. Lastly, she was dressed up by being sandblasted and repainted. On 10 September in 1966 she was decommissioned there in a ceremony in which Hunterdon was represented by former county resident, Mrs. Jill Peale Rogers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James O. Peale of Mountainville. Mrs. Peale has been on the staff of the *Democrat* when navy officials asked for a Hunterdon representative. Mrs. Peale suggested her daughter, then living in California. At the ceremony a new decommissioning pennant was run up and the old one, which had flown during her WWII actions, given to Mrs. Rogers and her family as a gift to the county. It was decided then in 1966 that our Hunterdon County Historical Society would be the proper

(Continued on Page 906)

USS Hunterdon County (Continued from 905)

repository for this relic and it remains one of our proud possessions today. The program for that day included a description of a county that we fondly remember and mourn for now as development overtakes us. "Hunterdon County is a small, primarily agricultural county dominated by meadows and beautiful rolling wooded hills. The area is a sportsman's paradise with facilities for everything from hunting and fishing to automobile racing and skydiving. Complimenting its beautiful outdoor life are the county's many industries." It goes on to say the county "played a big part [in the Revolution] by supplying munitions." While Hunterdon is "well known for its hospitality, it has grown and added industry" which "has failed to diminish the beauty which still characterizes its landscape."

The USS Hunterdon County headed for Vietnam in January of 1967 with at least one county resident aboard, Marine corporal William Klein of rural Flemington. On duty on 11 May off the Bassac River southwest of Saigon, her radar picked up an enemy ammunition resupply boat. Using their 40mm guns to rake it, they were satisfied to see the boat erupt in spectacular explosions as its cargo ignited. Besides this fire support function, the ship's Viet Nam role had her carrying two armed helicopters and a riverboat unit of 10 patrol boats. It was the ship's job to totally support with both supplies and her guns, these riverboats, which had very rough missions and the highest naval casualty rates of that war. This caused the Hunterdon to be redesignated as AGP838 to reflect that new responsibility.

The Hunterdon remained in Viet Nam into 1971 on seven

consecutive tours of duty. It saw continuous service when for months she would be constantly underway with the men standing tedious long hours at battle stations especially when transiting rivers or canals. She carried out her assigned tasks serving as a floating communications center and offering gunfire support to ground forces when called on. She and her other three LST mates were instrumental in checking the flow by water of enemy supplies to local resurgent forces. In May of 1970 the Hunterdon became the first major US Navy unit to cross into Cambodia in support Operation Tran Hung Dao XI, the Cambodian incursion. For all these activities and her nearly 6,000 accident-free helicopter landings on her flight deck in Viet Nam, she was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and the Navy Unit Commendation. Three of these four LST/AGPs would stand on duty at any one time, allowing the fourth, after deducting transit time, less than 10 to 12 weeks a year to visit repair stations at Subic Bay in the Philippines and catch a few days R&R (rest and relaxation) in visiting liberty ports the likes of Hong Cong.

The ship's US Navy career ended on 1 July 1971 when she was leased to Malaysia, at which point deck logs were no longer kept and she disappears into the fog of history. She was finally sold outright to that country in 1974 and permanently stricken from the Navy list. Curators at the Ship's History Unit of the Naval Historical Center at the Washington Navy Yard were very helpful in supplying information for this article but could provide no clue as to her subsequent fate. With meaningful service, though, in two major wars, this ugly oddball ship and the men who sailed her provided a fitting legacy to honor her name, Hunterdon County.



The USS Hunterdon emblem, original in HCHS Collection.

Rounsavell Family History Book

Anyone interested in the name **Rounsaville, Rounsavall, Ronsaville, Rounsavill, Rounsifer, Rancifer, Ransavor** may want a copy of *Richard Rounsavell and His Descendants Volume II* by Mark S. Rounsavell and Brian E Rounsavill. The book spans eleven generations of Rounsavell family history on the 1,225+ pages and follows the family in America from its origins in Hunterdon County and Rowan County, North Carolina, with more than 250 photographs, special sections on the family in the Civil War, referencing the name in every US census from 1820-1920. The 7" x 10" laminated hard cover book contains a full name index of every person mentioned in the book. Price is \$60. per book prepaid. Questions and requests for information may be directed to Mark Rounsavall, 1949 Juneway Terrace, Fayetteville, AK 72703, (479) 521-5188, or Brian Rounsavill, 173 Hartford Lane, Newtown, PA 18940, (215) 579-2726. E-mail addresses: mrounsavall@crq.org or brouns@princeton.edu.

To order, send \$60 check for each book ordered, payable to: Rounsavell Book Account, to Mark Rounsavall at 1949 Juneway Terrace, Fayetteville, AR 72703 and provide your name, mailing and shipping addresses, evening phone number and e-mail address with your check.

Srope Scrapbooks Closed to Photocopying

Married

STOUP—KENSEY.—In Lambertville, March 28, 1870, by Rev. A. D. Willifer, Mr. J. Lyman Stout to Miss Louisa W. Kensey.

This neatly trimmed newspaper clipping which came unglued from a page in a Srope scrapbook and was recently found on the floor under the Society's photocopy machine, has prompted closing the Srope scrapbooks to photocopying. Not the first time something of this nature was found after photocopying, the ravages of time and use are taking a toll on these scrapbooks, which originally were discarded account books on whose pages the clippings were pasted. Increasingly popular as a resource, the act of photocopying interesting pages is stressing these oversized books to the point of destruction. Therefore, until the Society can afford to purchase an overhead photocopier, to preserve the books and the information assembled therein, beginning 1 February making photocopies from them is suspended. The books are still available for careful consultation, and patrons may make notes and photograph interesting articles with a digital camera. Thus we preserve the information while making it available to researchers.

Lest anyone wonder what the Srope scrapbooks are, let us explain the what and who. William Trimmer Srope, from Frenchtown, was a founding member of the Hunterdon County Historical Society. At his death in July 1906, so his obituary reads, "he left some thirty large scrap books containing voluminous clippings from his town and county newspapers, so constituting, perhaps, the largest and most complete local history and record — town and county — extant. He was much interested in local history ... freely furnishing them [newspaper publishers] the happenings of his section."

In one of his own scrapbooks, we found some biographical information about him, in a clipping headed, "Wm. T. Srope ... one of Frenchtown's oldest and most respected citizens. He was born in Morris County within fifty yards of the Hunterdon County line. In 1863 he came to Frenchtown and for over thirty years has been engaged in the Insurance business here. He has been a Justice of the Peace and Master of Chancery since 1874, and has held many public offices, among which may be mentioned Town Clerk of Kingwood Township, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders and member of the County Democratic Executive."

The *Hunterdon County Democrat* under date 16 October 1906, reads, "It was reported through all the newspapers published in Hunterdon county that the late William T. Srope left, by will, his forty volumes of scrap books, relative to events of local and county history, to the Hunterdon County Historical Society. This report now appears to not have been founded on facts. These books are now advertised at public sale by the widow. It is to be hoped that someone will purchase the books, who will donate them to the Hunterdon County Historical Soci-

ety, as all who knew Mr. Srope and of his interests in the Society will feel but little doubt that the idea that they would be cared for and preserved by that Society. They are to be sold on October 25 at Frenchtown."

In the same newspaper, under date 30 October 1906, "The Hunterdon County Historical Society was the purchaser of the Wm. T. Srope scrap books, sold by Mr. Srope's widow last Thursday at Frenchtown. They brought fifteen dollars." Interestingly, the attribution filed with the scrapbooks, actually 58 in number, acknowledges that they were a gift to the Society from Alex. B. Allen and H.E. Deats, so these gentlemen likely offered the winning bid, paid the cost, and made the donation. Now some 97 years later the scrapbooks are still of interest to the public!

Mr. Srope was Justice of the Peace for many years, handling business matters for the people of Frenchtown and settling estates of deceased neighbors. He was highly esteemed for his honesty and the thoroughness of his work.

In a March 1972 letter to Irene L. Shrope, Frank E. Burd, Society 2nd vice president wrote, "He [Srope] was an inveterate clipper from the county newspapers. These clippings were pasted into old ledgers and other discarded account books until he had accumulated some thirty odd volumes which became a gold mine of information about by-gone days. They were generally referred to as "Squire Srope's scrapbooks" and over the passing years since the Society acquired them the bindings have become in rather bad shape so that they need to be handled very carefully." The Society recognizes it's responsibility to preserve these tomes and, therefore, they are now restricted from photocopying.

Roxanne K. Carkhuff
Librarian

Bowers/Codington 1892 Wedding

A bridal souvenir book belonging to Hattie C. Bowers, who married Charles C. Codington at Annandale, New Jersey on 23 June 1892, has come to the Society. It came from Shelley R. Cardiel of Kirkland, WA and the Historical Society welcomes descendants' contact.

The wedding took place at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob F. Bowers, in Annandale and Rev. A. McWilliams, performed the ceremony. The groom was from Plainfield. Witnesses for the couple were Lewis B. Codington and Lillian J. Bowers.

Annandale at the time of the wedding was a flourishing village of about 600 inhabitants in Clinton Township, on the main line of the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

Roxanne K. Carkhuff

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.

Fannie B. Abbott Foundation records, clippings, photographs, detailing the activities of the Hunterdon County PTA, *circa* 1930s. Donated by Wilda Holcombe, Ringoes, NJ.

One issue of the *Daily News*, Saturday, 4 April 1936, with front page headline "Bruno Dead," announcing the execution of Bruno Hauptmann. Donated by Arthur D. Ritter, Erwinna, PA.

Last will and testament of Hiram Deats admitted to probate by Hunterdon County Surrogate Charles Alpaugh on 5 December 1887. Donated by Mrs. George Deats, Berkeley Heights, NJ.

Draft *Cultural Resources Survey Review** from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the following projects:

NJDOT# 1021509 Case Boulevard/Route 202 Intersection Improvements, Raritan Township

NJDOT# 1020502 US Route 179 bridge over Alexauken Creek, East and West Amwell Townships

NJDOT# 6412300 Sanatorium Road Bridge over Spruce Run, Borough of Glen Gardner

Notices From New Jersey Newspapers, 1791-1795, Records of New Jersey Volume III, compiled by Thomas B. Wilson and Dorothy Agans Stratford, 2002. Donated by Thomas B. Wilson, Lambertville, NJ.

Original documents and photocopies:

- 1) deed from Thomas Mechling and wife, Priscilla, to Peter Mechling;
- 2) mortgage from Joseph E. Wagner and wife, (Carrie Van Fleet) to John D. Creagar;
- 3) bond from Joseph E. Wagner to John D. Creagar;
- 4) Last Will and Testament of John Wagoner with codicil;
- 5) inventory and appraisal of personal papers of Levina [Mechling] Wagoner;
- 6) final account of Joseph E. Wagner, administrator of (mother) Lavina Wagner estate;
- 7) bond of John Mitchel to John Cramer;
- 8) photographs of Abram Brokaw Van Fleet and Mary Ann Hoffman Van Fleet, parents of "Carrie" Van Fleet Wagner;
- 9) Family Record of Wagner Family copied from the Wagner family Bible by Carrie Van Fleet Wagner;
- 10) copy of family pages from the Wagner/Van Fleet family Bible;
- 11) copy of "notes on the Life of Mr. Joseph Exton Wagner, written by his wife, Mrs. Caroline Van Fleet Wagner" transcribed

* Under Section 106 of the Federal Historic Preservation Act, the Federal Agency, in these cases the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is required to notify parties who may have an interest in regional history of pending transportation projects in which significant cultural resources may be affected. Review and comment on the draft cultural resource surveys is sought.

12) "Descendants of Peter Mechling," "Descendants of John Wagner," computer generated by donor.

Six pieces of flow blue ceramics, three plates, including a Lobelia plate, one cup, saucer, and a teapot, originally owned by Mary Ann Hoffman Van Fleet [Mrs. Abraham Brokaw Van Fleet]. Donated by Mrs. Marcella Harrer Congdon, Islesboro, Maine.

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.

CREGAR: Seek info re Peter Cregar, b. 18 Feb 1794 in Annandale, NJ to John Cregar, Jr. ADD: Mereda Metz, 1330 Ala Moana Blvd., Apt. 607, Honolulu, HI 96814-4201.

ANDREWS, CARR, MARSEILLES/MARSELLIS/MERSELIUS/MARCELLUS: Searching for info on Henry, s/o John Marsellis of Hunt Co who d. 1784. Henry was in War of 1812 from NJ, wife's maiden name was Carr. They had a dau Susan, b. ca. 1800. Family of French origin. Susan m. Christian Andrews of PA in 1823 and they had a son Henry in 1824. Couple eventually moved to OH. ADD: Kay Gurney, 6170-103 Harbour Pointe, Columbus, OH 43231.

CAMP BUCK: Looking for info, old photos of Camp Buck which was a Boy Scout Camp for George Washington Council from 1938-1974. In Franklin Twp. overlooking the South Branch of the Raritan River, it was the site of Hunterdon Arrowhead District camporees. ADD: Doug Kiovisky, Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822 [e-mail: dkiovisky@co.hunterdon.nj.us]

BRYAN, FRENCH, HILDEBRAND, MYERS, ROBERTS: Seek anc/o Abraham Bryan & Nancy/Anny Roberts. Res Lebanon Twp. Hunt Co. ca. 1793-1843. Their chil: John, Parmer, Samuel. Nancy d. ca. 1812; 2nd wife Barbara Hildebrand, chil: Abraham Jr., Robards, Jacob, Frederick. Daus in Abraham's will: Mary, Charlotte, Margaret & Marinda. Also seek par/o Cornelius Myers who m. Hannah French 27 Jan 1810. Their dau Elizabeth m. Parmer Bryan (above); res. Locktown, Hunt Co. early 800s. ADD: Pat Shamy, 122 Clinton St., Lambertville, NJ 08530 [email: petepat@snip.net]

DAVIS, YOUNG: Mary Ann Young of Amwell Twp., b. 31 Aug 1805, and Isaac Davis, b. *circa* 1802 NY, were m. at Neshanic Sta. 20 Nov. 1829 by Rev. Gabriel Ludlow. Does anyone have info on Young or Davis fams 1800-1830s or earlier? Is Mary Ann related to Peter Young fam of Amwell Twp.? ADD: Marilyn Getty, 23050 Rocky Way, California, MD 20619 [email: bcgetty@tqci.net]

County Administration Building

Roxanne K. Carkhuff

The building on Main Street in Flemington, now undergoing renovation, was built for County offices on the site of the former George Alexander house. The metal outline map of the county has long been a distinctive fixture on the front brick wall.

You could give directions using it – “That office is in the County Administration Building. You know, that building with the county outlined in metal on the front.” At the 1962 dedication photographs show the map was in place on the wall. It was removed in preparation for renovation and is destined, perhaps, for the County Library new addition.

The new County Administration Building, dedicated in June

1962 was designed by W. Winthrop Jones, A.I.A. When the design was presented to the Board of Freeholders, two panels labeled “Esthetics” and “Function” were prepared. The windowless front wall was purposely designed to present a solid wall to protect county offices from street noises and public gaze. It was on this wall that the outline map was applied and unique and attractive it was! The esthetics of the edifice - simple, reserved, contemporary to it’s day, contrasted with the other buildings — court house and hall of records.

The map, an identifying feature of the building, and county government, outlined in small, white lights during the Christmas seasons, will be missed!

ESTHETICS:

NEW OFFICE BUILDING - HUNTERDON, CO.



DIGNIFIED
MONUMENTAL

SIMPLE

FUNCTIONS:

NEW OFFICE BUILDING - FRONT WALL



THE SOLID WALL WILL PROTECT
THE COUNTY OFFICES FROM
STREET NOISES & PUBLIC GAZE

SCREEN



SET BACK SO THAT IT WILL
NOT COMPETE WITH PRESENT
BUILDINGS... TO PROVIDE SPACE
FOR TREES & PLANTING.

RESERVED



THE FRONT MAY BE USED AS
A DIRECTORY TO THE COUNTY
OFFICES AND BUILDINGS...

SIGN



TRUTHFULLY DESIGNED FOR
TODAY WITH TODAY'S STYLE
& MATERIALS- AS WERE THE
OTHER BUILDINGS IN THEIR DAY

CONTEMPORARY



A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE
MAY BE APPLIED.....

MEMORIAL



NO CONFLICT WITH
OLDER BUILDINGS..
NO NEED TO WONDER
"WHICH ONE IS OLD?"

CONTRASTING



IT MAY BE A BACKGROUND FOR
FOUNTAINS AND SCULPTURE..
..OR FOR SPECIAL (CHRISTMAS etc)
DISPLAYS.

ART

W. WINTHROP JONES A. I. A.
Architect

W. WINTHROP JONES A. I.
Architect

J. R. Supton



Images from the Past

Flemington's Main Street during the Hauptmann Trial



The trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann for kidnapping and killing the young Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., in March 1932, commenced in the Hunterdon County Court House on Wednesday, January 3, 1935. Pictured above was how Main Street looked during much of the six-week trial. The picture appears to have been taken from the Rea Building, north of Boomfield Avenue.

The first "Trial of the Century" so to speak, attended by media, political and entertainment celebrities, was described by some residents as a media circus. All the major newspapers and magazines sent reporters to Flemington to cover the trial. By the end of the first day of trial ten jurors were selected. The panel of eight men and four women were: Elmer Smith, Mrs. Ethel Stockton, Charles Snyder, Mrs. Verna Snyder, Mrs. Rosie Pill, Robert Cravatt, Phillip Hockenbury, George Voorhees, Mrs. May Brelsford, Liscom Case, Howard Biggs, and Charles Walton, Jr. The panel was sequestered at the Union Hotel during the trial as were some members of the media. Others boarded with local families.