



HUNTERDON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.hunterdonhistory.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 13, 2016 2 pm

*Spring Membership
Meeting and Lecture*

Open to the public! See lead article, this page, for details.

May 21, 2016 11 am

Quilt Turning and Tea

Join quilt historian and AQS certified appraiser Dana Balsamo for an insider's look at the Society's quilt collection. \$25 per person; \$20 for HCHS members. Details of Tea (additional charge) at Doric House Museum to follow.

June 4, 2016

Stroll Through Flemington

The Doric House Museum and other sites will be open to visitors in self-guided fashion. Meet at the County Courthouse. \$30

June 25, 2016 11 am - 1 pm

*Steam Boat Splash History Tour
of the Delaware River*

Special for our members! Two-hour history tour. See page 1225 for details.

Society Library Hours

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

March 12, 26

April 9, 23

May 14, 28

SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND LECTURE MARCH 13

"The Earth Beneath Us: the Geology of Hunterdon County"

Free and open to the public!

Join Mr. John Allen for an afternoon lecture on Sunday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m. at the Flemington Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street in Flemington. Mr. Allen will explore the relationships between Hunterdon County's ancient geological past and its modern demographics and economic history.

The earth beneath us in Hunterdon County contains iron ore that once fueled the forges during the American Revolution, and in the 19th century, carbonate rocks fed the numerous lime kilns that sprang up in the northern part of the County. In the southern reaches of the County, the presence of tantalizing traces of copper ore led to a spate of hopeful investment opportunities in the late 1800s. The County also has rocks best known for their architectural use as "brownstone" (New Jersey's official State rock) as well as "trap rock"--used by the State for roadways, riprap, railroads and garden landscaping.

Mr. Allen earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and a master's from Rutgers University, both in geology. After 34 years as a petroleum geologist, and living on three continents, he retired in 2013. He fills his time researching denizens of the area's cemeteries, reading historical literature, and studying the impact of New Jersey's geological history on the development of the Garden State.

The talk will last about 45 minutes, followed by questions; refreshments will be served.



Mr. John Allen

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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LIBRARY HOURS

Thursday, Noon to 4 p.m.
 2nd and 4th Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 and by appointment
 TELEPHONE: 908-782-1091

WEBSITE: www.hunterdonhistory.org
 EMAIL: hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com
 US ISSN-0018-7850

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Patricia Millen, Executive Director
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 Cindy Knight, Librarian

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

Stacey Askew, Clinton, NJ
 David Blackwell, Princeton, NJ
 Nancy Hunt, High Bridge, NJ
 JoBetty Johnstone, Pennington, NJ
 Marian & Michael Pione, Brooklyn, NY
 Holly Plut, Stanhope, NJ
 Harlene Rosenberg, Hillsborough, NJ
 April Staller, Huntersville, NC
 Rhonda Witwer, Clinton, NJ

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Scott Berk, Milford, NJ

RESEARCH REQUESTS

\$25 per query for two hours of research in our library and archival resources.

See website for forms and more info.

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.

Bodine, Erma. One piece of ephemera commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Flemington Cut Glass Co., 1978.

Clinton Township Historical Commission, c/o Frank White. One volume; Oaths of Office of Township Committee officials, constables, magistrates, and other elected and appointed officials of Clinton Township, 1931-1948.

Corcoran, Jim and Betty, from the estate of Laura Apgar. Ten volumes court transcriptions, State of the Case, The State of New Jersey vs. Bruno Hauptmann, February 1935.

Garcia, Bonnie Sukovich. George Gardner side chair, 1871.

Grow, Judy. One scrapbook, compiler unknown, from Middlebush, NJ, 1898-1950.

Hackettstown Historical Society, c/o Ray Lemasters. One photograph, church anniversary, 1930; records of Lloyd C. LaRue, of Pittstown, NJ, 1926-1956; 1 partial day book, John C. LaRue, Cooks Cross Roads School, 1881-1893; and 3 farmer's pocket ledgers, ca. 1951.

Hendley, Jean. Fringed ribbon, Fraternal Order of Rockawah Tribe #177 of Califon, NJ. Pictured below.

Jones, Henry Z., Jr. One volume, annotated: Rev. T.F. Chambers personal copy of *The First Century of Hunterdon County, New Jersey* by E. Vosseller.

Kelley, Gaylord. The Breeze Year Book, Hampton High School, Hampton, NJ, four volumes: 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931.

Knight, Helen P. A collection of 33 letters from Peter Haward to his "Dear Brother" and "Dear Father," 1800-1854.

Koblish, Martha. One box of mixed material relating to the Mathews family including correspondence, photographs, ephemera, and children's clothing.

Rice, Beth. Side chair, library desk and children's toys for education collections.

Southold Historical Society. Framed oil portrait of General Paul Henri Mallet Prevost, ca. 1825. See photo, back page.

Stewart, Lois K. Two periodicals, *Stangl/Fulper Times* of 2003 and a schedule of shows for the St. John Terrells' Music Circus, Lambertville, 1956.

Thompson, Diane O. Two items; a poster and a program, *Raritan Township Bicentennial, 1976*.

Tietjen, Bill. Two items; 1 copy of *The Kingwood Record* and a physician's ledger and call book, Mary W. Prall, 1/3/1889, from C.W. Larison.

Yivo Institute for Jewish Research. One road map of Hunterdon County, 1941; and 3 postcards of Hunterdon County landmarks.

This interesting artifact donated by Jean Hendley is a fringed ribbon of the Improved Order of Red Men, a fraternal organization founded in the 19th century. The ribbon is in pristine condition with its original envelope. A niece of Mr. George Cecil Hoffman (1924-1950), the ribbon's owner, mailed it to the Society after uncovering it in a box in a family barn in North Carolina!



SPECIAL FOR OUR MEMBERS

STEAM BOAT SPLASH HISTORY TOUR OF THE DELAWARE RIVER

JUNE 25, 2016 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

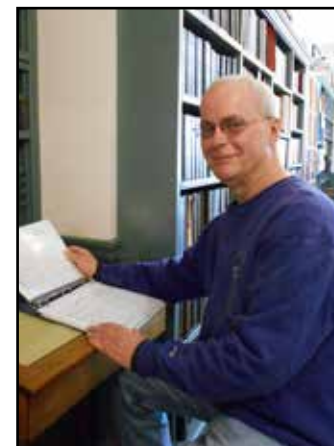


Join historians and your steam boat Captain for a two-hour history tour of the Delaware River exploring the history of Lambertville and the D&R canal system. Board in Lambertville and learn about the River's role in the settlement of the area and the Revolutionary War - including the famous 1776 crossing by Washington that marks its the 240th anniversary this year.

Cost: \$25 for members; \$30 non-members, for guests 12 and older; beverages included. Bring your own lunch or dine in Lambertville/New Hope on your own after the tour. Reserve your spot today by calling (908) 782-1091. Confirmation and instructions will be sent when payment is received.

GUIDE TO HCHS MICROFILM COLLECTION NOW ON SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

Library volunteer Vincent Mack recently completed the laborious task of verifying and revising our guide to the materials we have on microfilm. A PDF version of the guide will soon be available through our website. The guide lists the contents of our microfilm collection by subject and by drawer number. Thank you, Vincent, for the many hours you diligently worked on this project!



Vincent Mack, HCHS volunteer

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
- Address
- Phone number
- Email address
- Would you like to 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

THANKS TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FOR YEAR-END DONATIONS

Society members have reason to be proud. We have the only privately-owned climate controlled, state-of-the art archive building in Hunterdon. The 1845 Doric House museum is a historic beauty. Our research library services are used across the U.S.; our website is accessed around the globe.

Ever increasing costs to maintain these facilities and services prompted the Finance Committee to request year-end support. At press time, the 28 members and friends listed here had contributed \$18,450. Thank you all! We need \$6,550 more to meet our \$25,000 goal. No donation is too small; all are tax deductible and are much appreciated.

MaryAnne Adams
 Victoria R. Allen
 Janice Armstrong
 Sherry Baer
 Marilyn and Ken Cummings
 Jacqueline Curro
 Martin Everitt
 Charles Fisher
 Bill and Anna Hartman
 Shirley Hooper
 Margaret Hylan
 Deborah Hoskins
 Maurice and Lora Jones
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John and Sandy Matsen
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 Lora Olsen
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 William Reading
 David Riley
 Henrietta Siodlowski
 Stephanie Stevens
 Richard Stothoff
 Anne Moreau Thomas
 Juli Wilson

Edward C. Trimmer: Clerking for Thatcher Trimmer Jr.

An Exercise in Family Relationships

By David J. Riley of New Brunswick, NJ; no relation to the Trimmer family

In 1883 when he was 26 years of age, Edward C. Trimmer worked in the corner store in the village of Quakertown, NJ for Thatcher Trimmer Jr., the ninth owner of the enterprise that first opened in 1844¹ and operated until 2007. Edward's diary, a 1961 donation to Rutgers University by Charles A. Philhower, contains notes about his work and personal activities². Nineteenth century diarists wrote about friends and associates, but rarely about relationships. Here are excerpts of Edward's entries, with his personal spelling and punctuation.

Monday, January 22, 1883

I am going down to Oak Grove to get the horse shod – Thatcher went to Flemington and from there is going to Trenton NJ – store finds me the remainder of the day.

Tuesday, February 13, 1883

Go to Flemington after some coal for Thatcher T – go in the sled but the sleighing is not very good.... Store finds me at night – I recved 2 valentines

Tuesday, February 20, 1883

....Wm Langer had his sale. Stephen D. Snyder left for Kansas good luck to him

Saturday, February 24, 1883

....I am in the store all day. Same foolish conversations every day, very tiresome – just at present it is politics.

Whether Edward was related to Thatcher was not stated but their shared surname implies kinship. Who was their common ancestor? Edward's diary provided the starting point but genealogical research revealed the answer.

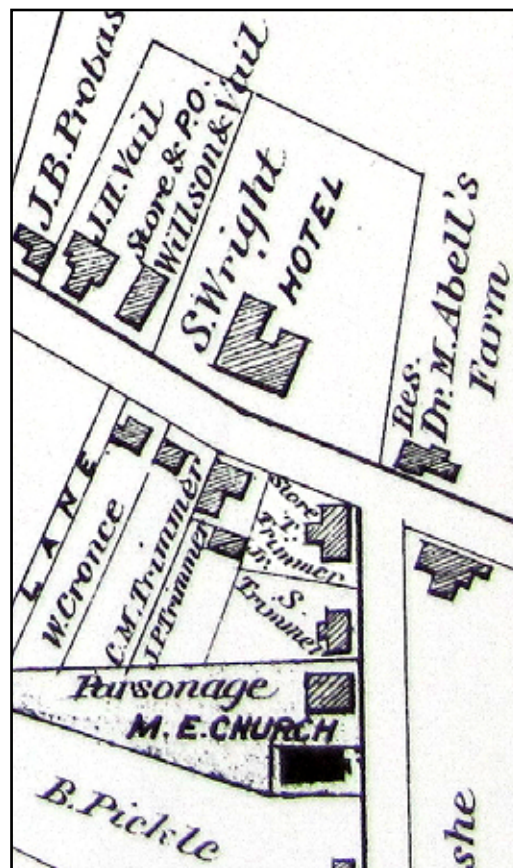
EDWARD C. TRIMMER

Born on 10 February 1857, Edward lived with his widowed grandmother Deborah (Pegg) Trimmer in 1880³. In 1817 Deborah had wed Samuel Trimmer⁴, son of John H. Trimmer and Martha Thatcher⁵. Samuel died on 29 March 1880. Among his heirs was grandson Edward Trimmer, son of Joseph Trimmer⁶. Joseph, son of "S. Trimmer" and born about 1819, married Sarah Tenbroeck⁷. Joseph died on 5 September 1857, leaving children Samuel, born 4 September 1853, and Edward C., born 10 February 1857⁸. Joseph's executors sold land in Quakertown that Samuel purchased⁹. Edward, who died on 6 December 1929, named his mother, Sarah H. Van Doren, in his will¹⁰.

THATCHER TRIMMER JR.

Thatcher Trimmer Jr. lived near Edward. In 1880, his dwelling was enumerated just above Dorothy and Edward Trimmer's household¹¹. The proximity agrees with the location of Samuel Trimmer's home in 1873¹² (see map). Thatcher's parents were Francis and Maria/Mariah Trimmer¹³. Thatcher lived from 1831 to before December 1900¹⁴.

Thatcher was 26 years older than Edward, suggesting one generation between them. "Junior" in the early 1800s distinguished older and younger men of the same name¹⁵. The older man was probably Thatcher Jr.'s uncle, Andrew Thatcher Trimmer, son of John H. Trimmer and Martha Thatcher¹⁶. No sons of this Andrew Thatcher Trimmer were named Thatcher¹⁷.



Map of Quakertown, NJ from Beers, *Atlas of Hunterdon County*, 1873 showing T. Trimmer Jr.'s corner store and other Trimmer properties.

JOHN H. TRIMMER

John H. Trimmer, born in 1760-70, died intestate on 17 March 1833¹⁸. Proceeds from selling his land paid his debts, and his widow, Mary, relinquished dower rights¹⁹. John, also called "Jackson," is a presumed son of Herbert Trimmer, the immigrant ancestor who died intestate in Kingwood Township by September 1810²⁰.

CONCLUSION

John H. "Jackson" Trimmer was the common ancestor of Edward C. Trimmer and Thatcher Trimmer Jr., first cousins once removed. Edward's diary provided scant evidence of family relationship. Correlation and analysis of original records facilitated identifying their common ancestor. This approach could be used to uncover other kinships in the important Trimmer family.

TRIMMER ENDNOTES:

- 1 Snell, James P. *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties*. Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1881. Page 435.
- 2 Edward C. Trimmer, "Diary [1883]," A: 1810, Manuscript Diaries and Journals Collection, Special Collections and University Archives, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 3 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County Deborah Trimmer.
- 4 Deats, Hiram E. *Marriage Records of Hunterdon County*. Lambertville, NJ: Hunterdon House, 1986. Page 293.
- 5 Samuel Trimmer, death certificate, New Jersey State Archives (NJSA), Trenton, NJ.
- 6 Petition Book 1: 150, Surrogate's Office, Flemington, NJ.
- 7 Marriage Book S: 22, NJSA.
- 8 Peter Van Brook Bible record. Genealogical Society of New Jersey, New Brunswick.
- 9 Deed Book 120: 787, Clerk's Office, Flemington, NJ.
- 10 Petition Book 11: 205 and Will Book 36: 84, Surrogate's Office, Flemington, NJ.

- 11 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, Thatcher Trimmer, Jr.
- 12 Beers, F.W. *Atlas of Hunterdon Co.* Flemington: Hunterdon County Historical Society, 1987. Page 46.
- 13 1860 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, Francis Trimmer.
- 14 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, Thatcher Trimmer, Jr.; Petition Book 2: 394, Surrogate's Office.
- 15 "Terms of Relationships," *Genealogy Forum* (<http://www.genealogyforum.rootsweb.com>).
- 16 Thatcher Trimmer, death certificate, NJSA.
- 17 Petition Book 5: 48, Surrogate's Office, Flemington, NJ.
- 18 1830 U.S. census, Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County, John Trimmer; Deed Book 57: 428, Clerk's Office.
- 19 Deed Book 57: 428.
- 20 Snell, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties*. Page 434; Hutchinson, Elmer T., ed., *Calendar of New Jersey Wills*. Trenton: MacCrellish & Quigley, 1946. Vol. 10, page 442.

Cemetery Committee Members Lead Ancestor Discovery Tours

Paul Kuehnert, his wife Judith, and son Evan of Hopewell, NJ recently joined Bob Leith of the HCHS Cemetery Committee for a visit to Moore Cemetery in Delaware Township to see the graves of Paul's ancestors. Paul and Evan are pictured here with the headstones of Paul's seventh great-grandparents, John and Christeen Acker Busemberg, on the left. The headstone for their daughter Elizabeth is on the right just behind Paul. Bob Leith noted that the daughter spelled her family name differently from her parents. In fact, within Hunterdon County some of the permutations of the family name are Bosenburg, Busenberger, Bossenbury, Bosenberry, and Busenbark.

New research by John Allen, another Cemetery Committee member, revealed the possibility of a Busemberger burial place on the Omick Preserve. This land was purchased in 1771

by Johannes Busenberger Sr., John Busemberg's father. A visit was then arranged for the family to this site with John.

Historic discovery comes in various ways. HCHS members were originally led to the colonial-era burial site on the Preserve by Moore Family descendants, Dick and Ricky Moore, who discovered it while hunting. The gravestones there are unlettered, but one may mark the grave of Paul's senior forefather, Johannes.

Kuehnert's interest in his ancestral burials was generated by "The Bosenbury and Taylor Graveyards," a web posting by Marfy Goodspeed on December 18, 2015. To learn more about the cemetery on the Mt. Airy to Sandy Ridge Road in Delaware Township, go to www.goodspeedhistories.com.

Members of the Cemetery Committee have created a large database on burial grounds in Hunterdon County and the people interred in them. They are happy to escort tours for people seeking their ancestors.



Paul and Evan Kuehnert

NEW COPPER REPLACES 1845 ROOF ON THE DORIC HOUSE



Sam Tippet and crew scraped off five layers of built-up roofing.

The Society was awarded a grant of \$43,100 from the Hunterdon County Historic Preservation Trust last fall to replace the roof on the Doric House. Tippet & Sons Roofing Co. LLC in Frenchtown was selected to do the work, which is being overseen by Trustee and Architect Christopher Pickell, whose office is just across the street.



Original materials uncovered after 170 years: rusty sections of tin roofing and pine gutter-sheathing boards.

There have been some patches over the years, but, surprisingly, the basic roof is the one applied 171 years ago. About five layers of old roofing have been removed, exposing the original 1845 roof, which was composed of

many small tinned steel plates. The original pine sheathing boards were found 98 percent intact and were left in place. Only a few spots of deteriorated wood were uncovered and replaced at downspout locations, right where one would expect to find some problems. These original sheathing boards and roofing have now been completely covered with a layer of plywood and a water and ice shield membrane, which is providing temporary waterproofing while the copper roof is built above it.

The no longer used north chimney was removed below the roofline, and the active eastern chimney rebuilt. The roof is shaped like a flattened pyramid, rising from a continuous gutter trough around the edges. Roofers worked first on placing new copper around the roof edge and then in the built-in Yankee gutter. They are now installing and soldering interlocking copper panels from the outer gutter pans up the slight slope to the central peak. Work is proceeding at a winter's pace, but should finish soon.



The crew installs interlocking copper pans above the continuous gutter. To finish, all seams will be soldered.

The project was approved by the New Jersey State Preservation Office and all work follows the Secretary of Interior's guidelines for historic preservation.

The new copper roof, which is expected to last 75 years, is an important milestone in the Society's stewardship of the Historic Register house. The project follows the structure's exterior and interior painting, the opening of the attic servants' quarters and the basement summer kitchen, the creation of an exhibition gallery with specialized LED lighting, insulation of the attic floor, a new furnace, restoration of the east side of the building and removal of a 1940s addition, and a complete rehabilitation of the research library.

THE LARGE FOUNDATION CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR SOCIETY

A long-time supporter, the Large Foundation awarded the Society a \$3,000 grant in support of our work. Past Large Foundation funds have helped further our programs and rehabilitate the Hiram E. Deats Memorial Library.

The Flemington-based private foundation was established in 1957. Its philanthropy is focused on education, health, and human services

FROM THE DESK OF DONALD CORNELIUS, HCHS MANUSCRIPT CURATOR

Winter and the New Year are often times of personal reflection and a chance to make resolutions to improve ourselves (hey, I remembered where my gym is!). And as it is for the Archivist, then so should it be for the Archives. After several years of making production (accession, cataloging, processing, and release of archival collections) our main goal, a period of reflection and self-assessment has crystallized our vision like the icicles that form outside our library window.

Our volunteer team has been very successful at production tasks as an archival program. This newsletter feature and periodic updates on our website and Facebook page have detailed items we have collected, collections we have arranged, and the quantity of new material we have made available for researchers. The number of collections available for research has doubled in the past eight years and our improved internal cataloging and inventory project has provided a more detailed look at our unprocessed holdings as well. All of this activity has made us able to produce more historical material than ever before. In the time since our last newsletter was published, we have released 5 new collections, provided web access and search capability to six older collections, and our volunteers have processed at least 30 more collections that need to have administrative data entry and then they, too, will be available as new collections.

But here is the big question: *Does anyone know about them?* Or does anyone know how to access and use them even if they do know about them? The statistical trend says that at least some people do. The only real measuring stick we have to determine how much use our archival holdings receive is the number of manuscripts that we pull for researchers. In 2014, two years ago, use of the archives jumped by 45%, which I believe directly corresponds to our web presence and Facebook page reboot that year. Use increased by another 15% in 2015.

Yet I remain concerned that this is not enough. I still have the feeling that the HCHS archives remain a largely unknown and untapped resource. To help remedy this situation, we

hosted a workshop in November of 2015 that dealt with actually using the resources of the HCHS archives: what our holdings are and how to access and use them. The workshop had space for 15 registrants; due to interest that expanded to 18 and we had to turn others away. The single largest comment I heard after the session was a version of "we had no idea there was so much in the Archives."

I find this particularly interesting because most of the attendees were members of the Society, including a Trustee and several people whom I would describe as both frequent and competent researchers at our library. If individuals such as these can honestly say they did not know about the extent



The November archival workshop taught by Manuscript Curator, Don Cornelius, filled the library with people interested in the Society's holdings and how to access them.

of our holdings, or precisely how to access them, then that is a clear indicator to me as the Manuscript Curator of the Society that we need to increase our efforts in this area.

Therefore, our archival resolution for the New Year at the HCHS is to find a way to increase the public's access to - and knowledge of - our collections. Starting the year off, fully half of our volunteers are already committed to working on a preservation project: enclosing all 1,600 volumes in our bound manuscript collection in acid free archival storage material.

This project is important and long overdue, but it will not take all year. Those volunteers will eventually be available for more access projects. Potential projects include creating a brochure that highlights the archival holdings of the HCHS and that can be widely distributed, increasing the amount of catalog records in our network, improving both in house and internet access to our catalog, creating new and better finding aids for existing collections and making them more accessible on our website, holding another workshop for more attendees to learn about the archives, and possibly even starting a blog about the archives and our collections.

Not one of these things is easy and all of them will take time away from the traditional processing of the Society's holdings. But that material is now mostly cataloged and is safely stored. It can wait a bit again while we take time to spread the word about what we have here in the HCHS Archives - and why you should know about it!

Spotlight on Collections



PORTRAIT OF FRENCHTOWN FOUNDER COMES HOME

Provenance is a word often used by historical societies and museums when it comes to cataloguing their collections. Often the provenance, or the history of an object as it finds its way to a logical repository, is as interesting as the object itself.

This oil portrait of General Paul Henri Mallet Prevost (1756-1833) is a recent gift to the Society. It ended up in the collections of the Southold Historical Society of Long Island, New York. What we know is that one of the descendants of General Henri Prevost settled in California and contacted the Southold Historical Society on an unrelated matter. A short time afterwards, the painting was shipped to them, unsolicited. They figured the donor determined that New York was close enough to New Jersey and a lot closer to Frenchtown than California! Thanks to a quick internet search, the curator of Southold contacted us and Henri Mallet Prevost traveled FedEx to our door.

The painting is most likely the only known image of General Prevost, considered the founder of Frenchtown. He escaped the French Revolution in 1793 and settled in New Jersey with his family. It was painted by an unknown artist, circa 1825, and we hope to have it restored, along with other important portraits in our collections.

