



# Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Vol. 37, NO. 4

Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

HOLIDAY 2001

## Reading-Large Status

The Society first announced an interest in purchasing the Reading-Large House in the Fall 2000 issue of its *Newsletter*, just over a year ago [36:3, pp. 849-850; 37:3, p 871]. Our dedication toward that goal remains steadfast.

The Society's rapidly expanding collection of Hunterdon County historical material has outgrown our present storage at the Doric House. We have spent the past year or better planning for the purchase and adaptation of the Reading-Large House across Main Street from the Society's present location. Crucial to our needs are a new archives building on the property and modification of the present rear law offices that will allow us space for our Library.

With our engineer, architect, and attorney, we prepared for an appearance before the Flemington Planning Board on 27 November. There has been a minor issue over parking space there but as our use will actually reduce parking needs, we

anticipated no major problem with that. But, that same day we received notice that the town engineer, using a differing standard, had disagreed with our calculation of total floor area to land area. The difference was enough to require a meaningful reduction in the floor area of our proposed archives building, a prospect with which we could not concur. The only alternative was to seek a variance from the Flemington Board of Adjustment. The earliest date possible — and even this is tentative — to appear before this board would be 16 January 2002. We regret this delay but see no other course of action at the Reading-Large House if we cannot build an ample storage space for present and future needs. We are prepared to purchase the property if and when we have this approval, and the trustees will keep the membership informed as events unfold.

*John Kuhl, Building Committee Chair*

## Patriotic Christmas Cards

"1942 World War II — yet little indication on Christmas cards, unless predominance of religious cards and churches were indications of need for divine help . . . to add cheer in a country at war."

"1943 War years with patriotic cards — one on rationing . . ."

"1944 . . . patriotic cards at war time . . . small, simple cards . . ."

We are blessed to have known Lorena Cole Vincent, who shared her historical knowledge and some of her treasures with us. She was a member of the Readington Reformed Church for more than 80 years and wrote the church history. Mrs. Vincent was also a Society member until she passed away in February 1998 at age 93.

Among her many attributes she was a saver and her Christmas card collection gathered through the years came to the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Not only do we have examples of cards for each year, she included with each year's bundle her comments, as witness above. It seemed appropriate to select some of her patriotic cards to exhibit this year and share with the membership via this "extra" Newsletter.

## It's a Stick-Up!

A complimentary handy 2002 stick-up calendar is enclosed with this extra edition of the Society's *Newsletter* for members to use.

Anyone who wishes to, may pay 2002 dues anytime prior to dues notices being mailed after the new year.



A patriotic card from Mrs. Vincent's 1944 grouping combining the red and green of Christmas in the holly and berries with the patriotic red, white and blue colors of the bell and stars.

**HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER**

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Published Winter, Spring, Fall, by the Hunterdon County Historical Society, 114 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822

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US ISSN-0018-7850

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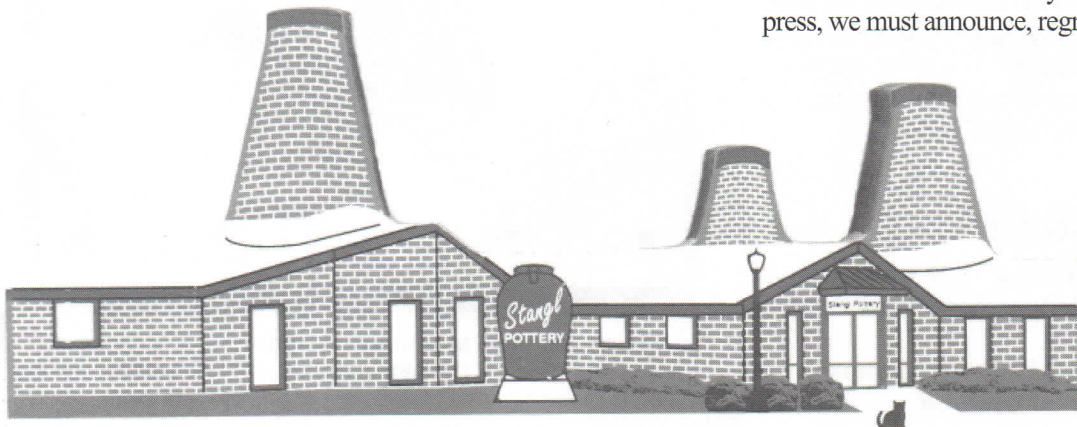
## Give History For Christmas

The following were received recently and are available from the Historical Society for Christmas gifts.

A photoreproduction of the *Raritan Township 1850 map* 24" x 36", suitable for framing, \$25 postpaid, mailed in a map tube. This interesting map with line illustrations of the Court House, Presbyterian and Baptist Churches, as well as the Presbyterian Church at Reaville, Union House and several buildings has been reproduced in original colors. Property owners' names are printed on the map, an asset for genealogical research.

*New Jersey's Sourland Mountain*, by T. J. Luce, published 2001 by the Sourland Planning Council, 162 pages, full name and subject index, maps, photographs, and illustrations. \$15 plus \$4 priority postage from the Society.

Stangl Pottery, Flemington, NJ, operating 1935-1978, a 2001 special edition depiction by "The Cat's Meow" for the Stangl/Fulper Collectors Club, \$22.95 plus \$5 postage.



*The Cat's Meow*: depiction of Stangl Pottery in Flemington: See details in "Give History For Christmas."



"This Red Cross Nurse is on parade but she has stopped right here, to hope you have a happy time on Christmas Day this year." Mrs. Vincent's sister, Charlotte Cole, sent her this card in 1943. Again, combining the traditional red and green of Christmas in the holly and berries with the patriotic colors of the flag.

## Amwell Skirmish Site *Not* Revisited

As 14 December, the 225th anniversary of the Amwell Skirmish nears, with plans in place for a rededication of Cornet Francis Geary's monument, the event is being canceled. The Homeowners Association at "Geary's Ridge" where the monument is located, near the site where Geary died, threaten police intervention if anyone trespasses on private property.

The British consulate and reenactment units were coming to this event, one in a series of commemorations planned for the days leading up to the Crossing on Christmas Day. Descendants of participants in the Skirmish were planning to gather here in Hunterdon County and attend the event. As we go to press, we must announce, regretfully, the event is canceled.