



# Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Vol. 37, NO. 2

Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

SPRING 2001

## Historic Quilt Days in Hunterdon May 19 and May 20

Visit the Doric House and other sites open on Saturday May 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday May 20, noon to 4 p.m. with an exhibition of quilts made in Hunterdon County in the 19th and 20th centuries. Curated by Veronica Mitchell as part of the Hunterdon County QuiltSearch, quilts will be hung in the historic Hunterdon County Court House and the Daughters of the American Revolution's Fleming Castle on Bonnell Street as well as the Doric House. Over 50 quilts will be displayed in the three locations, representing some of the quilts documented as part of Mrs. Mitchell's project which is expected to culminate in a publication describing each quilt she examined.

Quilts, of course, were utilitarian, for keeping our ancestors warm on cold winter nights, often in dwellings without central heat. That the earlier quiltmakers — using patches of fabrics, oftentimes left over from other sewing endeavors — created artful and attractive bedcoverings is a tribute to their taste, style and skill. The quilts, and the fabrics in each quilt, are historical artifacts, representing varied eras.

The Historical Society is indebted to those donors who, over the years, kindly gave a diversity of quilts. Fourteen quilts from the Historical Society's collection will be presented in the Doric House and Deats Memorial Library, augmented by eleven from Roxanne K. Carkhuff's collection, all stitched by her great, grandmother, Annie E. Kise [1864-1953].

The exhibition is open to the public. A donation of \$3 is suggested which will benefit local quilt, historic and preservation groups. It is funded in part by the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Some public parking is available in the County lot across from the Doric House on Main Street.



The pattern of the *circa* 1890 quilt above right is "Odd Fellows" from the Carkhuff Collection, to be shown at the Doric House. It was pieced and quilted by Annie Elizabeth [Everingham] Kise [1864-1953], pictured above, great-grandmother of Mrs. Carkhuff.



### 2001 Calendar

- May 2** 12th Annual Volunteer Luncheon at Van Syckle's Tavern
- May 5 & 6** Revolutionary encampment - Deer Path Park with authentic military companies, 1770s crafters and exhibitions by local historical societies and/or sites. Sat. May 5, 10-5 p.m., Sun. May 6 11-4 p.m. Call Cultural & Heritage office for info. (908) 788-1256
- May 12-19** Historic Preservation Week
- May 19-20** SPRING OPEN HOUSE - Historic Quilt Days In Hunterdon with quilt exhibits at at Doric House, Court House and Fleming House, curated by Veronica Mitchell, May 19 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. May 20, 12 noon - 4 pm
- November 18** FALL MEETING — program to be announced

## HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

© Copyright 2001

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

### PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Roxanne K. Carkhuff, Editor

#### — Library Hours —

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

TELEPHONE: 908 / 782-1091

US ISSN-0018-7850

### OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

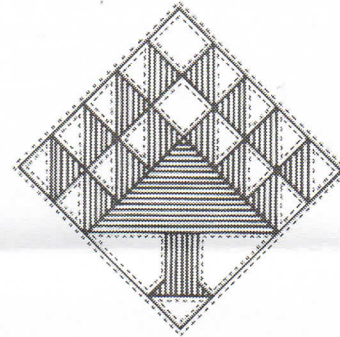
President .....	Richard H. Stothoff (2004)
Vice President .....	Harold O. Van Fleet (2002)
	Shirley V. Favier (2003)
Recording Secretary .....	John W. Kuhl (2002)
Corresponding Secretary .....	Roxanne K. Carkhuff (2004)
Treasurer .....	Helen S. LaRue (2003)
Mary Elizabeth Sheppard (2004)	Douglas D. Martin (2004)
Anne M. Thomas (2003)	J. Edward Stout (2002)
William H. Hartman (2003)	John F. Danziger (2002)

## Membership Report

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

Ellen F. Ayoub, Whitehouse Sta., NJ  
 Deborah Naylor Farhar, Okeene, OK LIFE  
 Patricia A. Hill, St. Paris, OH  
 George H. Holdren, Millville, PA  
 Mr. and Mrs. Albert R. Hosbach, Belvidere, NJ  
 John & Elizabeth Kinney, Lambertville, NJ  
 Joseph A. Manda II, Basking Ridge, NJ  
 Beth Rice, Annandale, NJ  
 Frank G. Roberts, Orange Park, FL  
 Wendy Sandford, Budd Lake, NJ

(Mrs.) Shirley V. Favier  
 Membership Chair

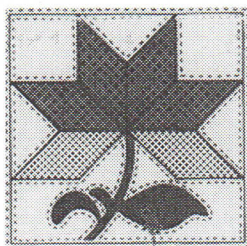


## NOTES AND QUERIES

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.

**BLACKWELL, LEIGH, TAYLOR:** Want info re two Samuel Leigh's and their spouses. Samuel I, b. 1745, s/o Ichabod Leigh, m. Amelia Blackwell, d. 1835. Their son, Samuel II, b. 1792, m. 1819 Mary Taylor, d. 1878. Also des info re anc/o Mary Taylor. ADD: Dorothy Streeter Pearsall, 320 First Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144.

**ARNWINE, OPDYKE/UPDYKE:** Seeking par, sibs/o John Arnwine, b. 1775 in Hunt Co., d. 4 Apr 1851 in Steuben Co. NY. Is he s/o John Arnwine, d. 1819, and wife Elizabeth Updyke [1738-1836]. ADD: Kathleen Oster, 8733 Dewdney Trunk Rd., Mission, 6Y2.



## Acquisitions

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

*Hunterdon County Democrat*, Oct.-Dec. 2000, one reel of microfilm. Donated by Hunterdon County Democrat, Catherine T. Langley, publisher, Flemington, NJ.

*I Remember: The Depression Years 1929-1941*, a collection of essays published by the Hunterdon County Office on Aging. Donated by the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, Flemington, NJ.

Three CD ROM disks, "Flemington Pictures," notes and script with illustrations for a tape, "My Town" by Elaine Hand. Donated posthumously by her family. [Elaine, a Society member who died suddenly in February 1999, had been engaged in a project to document Flemington with text and photographs.] Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hand, Flemington, NJ.

Original probated will of Hiram Deats who died 22 November 1887. Typescript list of Deats properties appraised for the estate of Hiram Edmund Deats, October 1963. Donated by Mrs. George K. Deats, Berkeley Heights, NJ.

## Amwell Skirmish Revisited

As July 4, 2001, the 225th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence nears commemorations will abound. The first, for Hunterdon County anyway, is the Revolutionary War encampment on May 5 and 6 [see Calendar and details on pages 859, 863 in this issue]. There will be other events recognizing our ancestors' struggles for independence during the War years. Hunterdon County's theme for the Bicentennial in 1976 was "Return to Hunterdon." The logo, familiar to many, was a stylized depiction of George Washington stepping from the Durham boat in December 1776, having crossed the Delaware River before that fateful December march to Trenton. Of course, he and his men were returning to Hunterdon County because the site was then in our County, as was Trenton. The County's boundaries south from the Assanpink Creek north to the Musconetcong River. The "Amwell Skirmish" also happened in Hunterdon County and resulted in the death of a British soldier, Cornet Francis Geary, on December 14, 1776 [Hunterdon Historical Newsletter, Volume 13, pp. 3-7, "That December Day Near Larison's Corner Cornet Francis Geary lost a baronetcy ... and his life," by Kathleen J. Schreiner, Winter 1977]. The 16th Light Dragoons was a crack cavalry unit in 1776 stationed at Penny Town under the command of Lt. Col. William Harcourt. An eyewitness account placed a party of eight men led by Cornet Francis Geary on the road between Penny Town [Pennington] and Flemington. American soldier John Schenk in his Revolutionary War pension application deposition given at Flemington in 1832, gives his account of the "skirmish." The British party, it was suspected, was on its way to Flemington where Col. Thomas Lowrey had a quantity of beef and pork for the Army in his storehouse. Schenk shared his information that the British unit was on the move to Flemington with his uncle, Garret Schenk and Captain John Schenk. When the unit was returning back to Penny Town eight neighbors — William Schenk, Esq., Garret Schenk, John Schenk, Jacob Schenk, Abraham Prall, William Van Syckle, and two other unidentified men "stationed themselves by the road side in the wood about five miles below Flemington, fired on the light horse as they passed and killed the officer." When Geary fell his horsemen fired on the local militia, "whirled out of the road and took a course across farms toward Somerset and the



The logo above was designed for the Hunterdon County Bicentennial by Cultural and Heritage Commission chair Walter J. Young, of the New York firm, Young, Goldman and Young.

cornet's horse followed them." Schenk and his neighbors stripped Geary's uniform off and buried him where he had fallen, near Matthais Housel's house. Some years after the Hunterdon County Historical Society was formed, a committee of the Society decided to investigate the story. On a Monday morning in May 1891 they opened the grave in the presence of A.L. Case, on whose land the grave was located, with Theodore Bellis, Dr. W.H. Bartles, J.L. Connet, Esq., Mr. and Mrs. Elias Vosseler, Jacob Servis, Henry F. Bodine, Miss Flora Case and John and Charles Case, William Lewis, Bloomfield Burd, Dr. George H. Larison, and E. M. Heath in attendance. They discovered, a few feet below the surface, some large bones and small buttons bearing the legend 16 QLD. The earth was sifted to discover a bullet but none was found. The remains were replaced and the grave closed. After correspondence with the Geary family in England the Historical Society arranged to have a stone placed on the grave. The stone, now in a development called "Geary's Ridge" has recently been reset. The Raritan Township Historic Commission is planning a rededication but has no date set as yet. Descendants of the participants in the Amwell Skirmish will be invited to attend. Let us know if you are a descendant of one of the militia men by calling the Historical Society [908-782-1091] or sending your name and address to us.

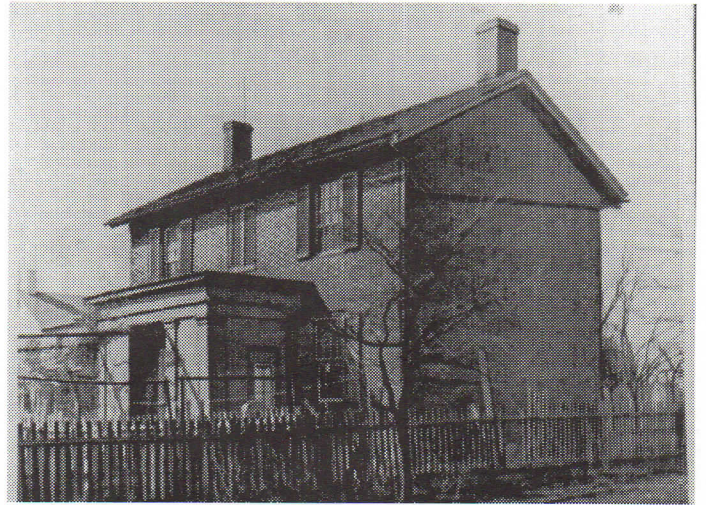


Geary's monument photographed soon after it was first put into place.

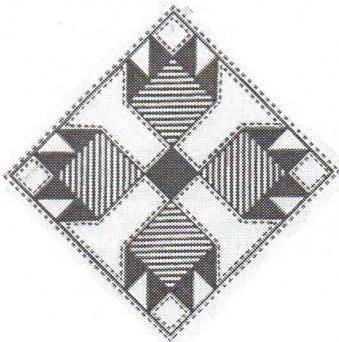
## “Camp Belvidere” Endangered

The once sturdy brick Academy, built in 1811, now stands off Church Street in Flemington behind a recently reconstructed office building. Its appearance today is neglected and it is feared the building is endangered. To apprise us of its history and, perhaps cause us to stop before any drastic irreversible measures are taken, let's touch on its history. The brick building was erected to serve as an academy, educating Flemington's youth in 1811 and served this purpose until Reading Academy replaced it in 1862. It was then slated for use as a private school and auditorium for public entertainment and meetings, such as the town band. In 1862 public buildings throughout Flemington were pressed into service to quarter arriving troops.

A company of the 31st Regiment, Civil War troops, moved in and rechristened it “Camp Belvidere.” William H. Warman, one of the soldiers of Co. I, wrote home to the editor of *The Belvidere Intelligencer*, “After being examined and sworn in on Saturday we marched to Camp Fair Oaks [near Flemington Fairgrounds] ... were transferred to ‘Camp Belvidere’ as it has been fitly appellation. Our camp consists of the Brick Academy and playgrounds, which situated in the S.E. part of the pleasant and healthy town of Flemington. We have spread our ticks filled with straw on the floor of the upper story; the desks and the seats being removed, it affords us very comfortable quarters. The lower school we use as an eating room, the writing desks being left, they serve the purposes of tables admirably; and the old playgrounds, which contain almost half a square acre, and which are enclosed by a fence, constitute our play and drill grounds. ... Many are the tokens of love they (the citizens of Flemington) have already manifested toward us. One instance, especially, I cannot refrain from noticing. On Wednesday P.M. the good Baptist clergyman, whose church is just across the street from the camp, presented us with a large tin pail full of excellent applesauce. The Dr. read an appropriate Psalm, gave a plain, applicable and pointed exposition of it, distributed some good selected tract to each soldier present, then dismissed us with a benediction, and we were marched back to camp all in good order...” Be mindful of the building's past — its part in local education and service to the military in the Civil War. It looks derelict now but perhaps it can be preserved, restored to its former appearance, and given a “new” continuing history.



The Academy above is an earlier view when the building was well-kept, and below as it appeared recently.



## Annual Meeting well attended

Over 75 people nearly filled the Flemington Womens Club to hear Civil War expert (and Society Trustee) John W. Kuhl expound on Hunterdon and the Civil War. It was an enjoyable, informative afternoon hearing Mr. Kuhl and viewing the Civil War artifacts he presented for exhibit.

Elected to the Board of Trustees for three year terms were Roxanne K. Carkhuff, Douglas D. Martin, Richard H. Stothoff, and Mary Elizabeth Sheppard. Attendees also enjoyed the refreshments provided by Trustees Stothoff and Thomas. Mrs. Thomas, retired food editor for the *Hunterdon County Democrat* has graciously shared one of the popular cookie recipes, Cinnamon Rollups, with us.

### Cinnamon Rollups

24 slices of firm white sandwich bread, crusts trimmed  
8 oz. cream cheese, softened  
Yolk from 1 large egg  
1 1/4 cups sugar (divided)  
1 tablespoon cinnamon  
1 stick unsalted butter, melted

1) Roll bread slices flat with rolling pin. Mix cream cheese, egg yolk and 1/4 cup sugar. Spread a scant tablespoon on each slice; roll up tightly.

2) Mix remaining sugar and cinnamon in a shallow bowl.

3) Brush rollups (including ends) with melted butter; roll in sugar mixture to coat. Place on a cookie sheet. Refrigerate or freeze at least 2 hours.

4) Heat oven to 400° F. Bake rollups on cookie sheet 9-12 minutes until bottoms are glazed and golden brown. Remove immediately to a wire rack to cool. Cut each diagonally into 3 pieces. Serve warm or cold.

Makes 72 pieces

## Revolutionary War encampment May 5 & 6

Experience life as it was 225 years ago! A military encampment with authentic Revolutionary War artillery pieces, Red and Blue coats, Tories, camp followers, etc. sponsored by the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, at Deer Path Park in Readington Township will be happening on May 5 and May 6.

Colonial crafters and exhibits by military groups and local historical societies are to be featured, as well as lectures throughout the campground on various aspects of equipment and military life. Period music is planned in the bandstand for both days. Parking, foot and drink will be available.

For information call (908) 788-1256.

Deer Path Park is located off Route 31 between Flemington and Clinton on West Woodchurch Road. Saturday May 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday May 6 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Member of the Jersey Line by Don Philhower. [From *Hunterdon's Role In The Revolution* published 22 July 1976 by the *Hunterdon County Democrat* on its 150th anniversary.]



## Family Associations

During 2000 the Society received Newsletters and/or announcements from several family associations with Hunterdon County connections which are appreciated. Forward information for future listings in this column to: Family Assoc., Hunterdon Historical Newsletter, 114 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822.

APGAR — Apgar Family Association, Inc. — Family Newsletter. The Annual Reunion is planned for 15 September 2001 at the Methodist Church in Whitehouse, NJ. For information contact George Apgar, 218 Kempsey Dr., New Brunswick, NJ 08902.

HOWELL — The Edward Howell Family Association Newsletter is \$10 annually to Jocelyn Markley, Treasurer, 615 "Q" SW, Ardmore, OK 73401. Genealogist David G. Faris, M.D., P.O. Box 58693, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

PARKE — "The Newsletter of the Parke Society" promoting fellowship, genealogical research and the preservation of Parke heritage is published. Information about membership

may be had from Mrs. Marjorie C. Isaac, 202 Meadowbrook Drive, Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

PRALL — The Prall Association annual dues \$12 to Treasurer Samuel H. Praul, 9776 Music St., Novelty, OH 44072-9682. A Newsletter is published quarterly, Richard D. Prall, Editor, 14104 Piedras Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

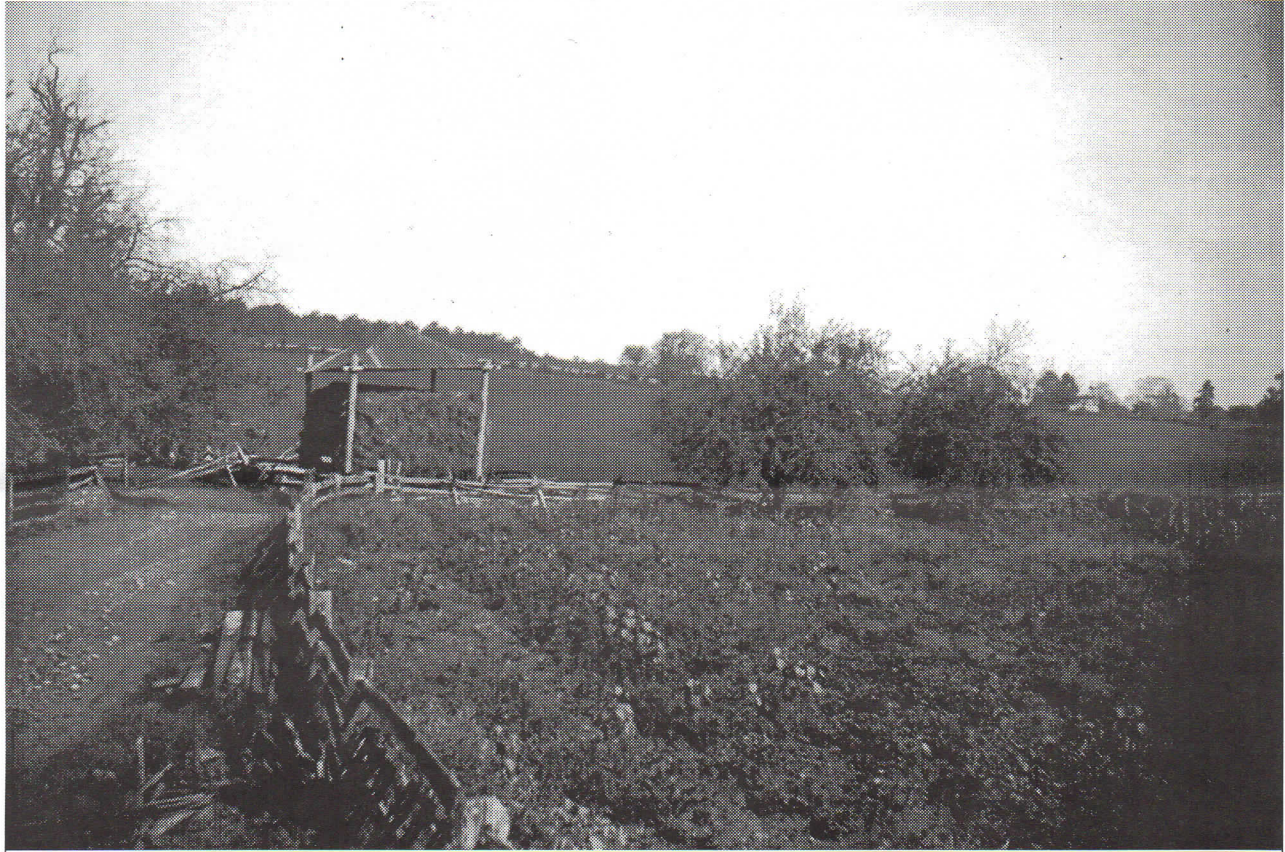
RUNKLE — "Runkle Family Association Newsletter" is published twice yearly. Reunion 5 May 2001 in Mt. Airy at Hazel and Raymond Runkle's farm. For directions call [609] 397-0977. Dues are \$20 and may be sent to Runkle Family Association, P.O. Box 14, Ringoes, NJ 08551.

SCHWACHAMER-DUFFORD — The Schwachamer-Dufford Genealogical Society publishes an annual bulletin and holds an annual reunion, in 2001 held beginning at 11:30 on 28 July at the Zion Lutheran Church Long Valley. Bring a box lunch. For information contact Jack Dufford, [908] 353-1751.



## *Images from the Past*

### **Campground of the Continental Army**



Divisions of the Continental Army under the command of Generals Stephen and Lincoln encamped for three days in July 1777 in Hunterdon County. The campground was in the vicinity of Sand Brook, in 1777 in Amwell Township, in the part now Delaware Township. In October 1901 when this photograph appeared in the *Democrat-Advertiser* with J.S. Hoppock's byline, he wrote, "People yet living among us remember many circumstances related by the generations now passed away, who in their youth saw and talked with the soldiers while they were camping at this place, giving a description of their wretched and forlorn condition, many being bare-footed and with scarcely enough clothing to cover their persons, with barely rations sufficient to save them from starvation; many of them sick, several dying in camp, their bodies being interred in an old nearby burial ground, probably the oldest place used for this purpose in our County, as the date on one of the stones is given as 1762 ..."

Mr. Hoppock further identified the location as Hiram W. Holcombe's farm. The *1873 Atlas of Hunterdon County* shows a G. N. Holcombe residing on a road, presently Britton Road in Delaware Township. In George N. Holcombe's household in the 1875 State census is Hiram "M." Holcombe. If this is the encampment location, possibly the farm passed through the family from George N. to son Hiram.

Agricultural buildings are fast disappearing from the Hunterdon landscape. Are there any movable roof hay barracks remaining? Note the one pictured here beside the road. It is doubtful if any survive in here today. Of simple construction consisting of four poles and a roof, it served as a place to store hay and keep it somewhat protected.