



# Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

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WINTER 2001

## Hunterdon and the Civil War Topic of Annual Meeting *Sunday 25 March - 2 p.m.*

Just 140 years ago next month Hunterdon was dragged against its will into the War Of Southern Rebellion. Singularly among the northern non-border states, New Jersey had a special trifold relationship with the states of the South, socially, politically, and economically. The people of Hunterdon were decidedly conservative in outlook, opposed the idea of abolition, and were second only to Somerset County in the number of slaves still owned. They had voted heavily Democratic against Lincoln and his party in 1860, would do so again in 1864. County citizens had firmly agreed with the opinion espoused just weeks before in the *Hunterdon County Democrat* by editor Adam Bellis. "If the Union cannot be preserved without shedding the blood of our brethren, it cannot be preserved at all." In other words, let the Union be dissolved before using force to prevent it.

Hunterdon never did appreciably change its political leanings but once the cannons fired on Fort Sumpter, the large majority of its people did come to render vigorous support for its sons called to maintain the Union. New Jersey troops performed impressively on the battlefields. Hunterdon's sons became members of almost every new Jersey battle unit. Four infantry regiments had particularly large local contingents and formed here on land adjacent to the Flemington Fairgrounds. These were the 30th, the 31st, the 35th and the 15th which went on to renown was one of the country's finest, suffering in the process one of the highest casualty rates in the entire army. The 3rd Militia, the 3rd Infantry, the 5th Infantry, and the 38th Infantry also enrolled large numbers of Hunterdon men. Flemington served as a temporary garrison. Rural Hunterdon supplied agricultural produce and horses for the army. County forests were tapped for the military needs of the Federal government. One soldier was wounded with a pistol out at the fairgrounds and another soldier was shot and killed on Main Street in Flemington. A Frenchtown citizen was arrested for disloyalty and hauled off to Capitol Prison in Washington, DC. An ex-Kingwood Township farm boy grown to manhood ruled New York City as Mayor during one of its worst horrors, the bloody draft riots of 1863.

Muster with us at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 25, at the Flemington Woman's Club in the park behind the Courthouse. Society Secretary John W. Kuhl will relate the story of Hunterdon in Civil War times with words, pictures, and relics.



Edwin Ulmer after amputation. Corp., Sgt., 1st Sgt. Co G 15th NJ. Lost left leg Cedar Creek. [Print copy USAFPI Kuhl 71-22]

Hear of the events and see the faces and places that marked this momentous time in Hunterdon history. This being the annual meeting of the Society, a short business meeting will precede the program. Refreshments will follow.



**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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**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.

**EBARTH/EVERITT, LANGAFELT/LANDEVELT:** Jacob Ebarth traditionally came from Germany to Hunt. Co. ca. 1755, served at Ft. Ticonderoga in the Fr. & Indian War, and m. Hannah Langafelt, said to be dau/o a clergyman. They mov to Sussex Co ca. 1761. He was a Doctor. I am seeking any info confirming them in Hunterdon, confirming the F&I War service or anything else before about 1765. Also any info re Hannah and/or her family. ADD: Martin Everitt, 6921 Oak St., Arvada, CO 80004-1455.

**RUNK:** Seeking portrait of John Runk [1791-1872] to illustrate biographical publication. Served as Hunterdon County Sheriff 1836-1838, Congressman 1845-1847, candidate for Governor of New Jersey 1850. ADD: Carter Litchfield, P. O. Box 906, Arlington, VA 22216. [e-mail: emb906@att.net]

**CLIFFORD:** Desire info re 18th century Cliffords particularly James Clifford and Charles, of Sussex Co, and assoc. fam/ Gordons and Whites. Possibly bro/o George and James Clifford of HuntCo. ADD: Hugh F.Clifford, 11522 77th Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 0M1 [email: ccliff@planet.eon.net]

**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 Str, 320 First Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144.



**Membership Report**

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

- William F. Abbott, Mobile, AL
- Betty W. Atkinson, Lebanon, NJ
- Bob Beatty, Clinton, NJ
- John E. Bolt, Clinton, NJ
- Richard Butterfoss, Pennington, NJ
- Susan Case, Rochester, NY
- Mary and Boyd Compton, New York, NY
- Colleen Nolan Conway, Sparta, NJ
- Frank A. Curcio, Annandale, NJ
- Brian D. Fischer Family, Flemington, NJ
- Richard B. Fisher, Olympia Fields, IL
- Ellen C. Foster, Goode, VA
- Mrs. Helen M. Fridblom, Lawrence, KS
- Madge [Hazlett] Johns, Albuquerque, NM
- Bob Mottes, Whitehouse Sta., NJ
- Loretta J. Pelaia, Peekskill, NY
- Joseph Roney, Clinton, NJ
- Ronald Schultzel, Dingmans Ferry, PA
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- Mary Elizabeth Sheppard, Lambertville, NJ
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LIFE

LIFE

*Mrs. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# John Lewis of Amwell Township

by Marfy Goodspeed

The people who first settled in Hunterdon County are easily admired for their courage and fortitude, their willingness to undergo real hardships in order to build a new life for themselves and their families. But other traits were found in some of these adventurous people, and those traits are not so admirable, like unscrupulousness, greed, unneighborliness and violent behavior.

Some of these traits could be found in the Lewises, John Sr. and Jr., who lived on a 208-acre plantation in Delaware Township. What records we have of them are intriguing. John Lewis Sr. first appears on August 20, 1716, as a "Tinker" of Bucks Co., Pennsylvania, when he purchased from Ralph Hunt of Maidenhead for £15 the rights to a 9.5-acre lot on the Assunpink bordering Enoch Andrews.<sup>1</sup>

In March 1722, John Lewis was convicted of the crime of cursing the King, probably not for any political reason, since any thoughts of revolution were still far off. Lewis pled guilty and was given fifteen lashes on the back and ordered to take the Oath of Allegiance or be "committed" to jail. This case lingered in the court until October 1726 when James Alexander, the Attorney General, ordered that a "Nolle Prosequito be entered."<sup>2</sup>

John Lewis was a Protestant who emigrated to New Jersey from Portugal. It was very unusual for an immigrant to the Colony of New Jersey to come from Portugal in the early eighteenth century; there were no significant groups of Portuguese settling in the state at that time.<sup>3</sup> On November 30, 1723 he was naturalized by the New Jersey Assembly and was identified as being "of Amwell."

On June 1, 1727, John Lewis, Tinker of Trenton and Ralph Hunt of Maidenhead sold the 9.5 acres in Trenton to Joseph Higbey for £100, a sizable profit, suggesting that Lewis had made improvements to the property.<sup>4</sup> The lot of Enoch Andrews was by this time owned by Albertus Ringos who eventually came to reside in Amwell Township. On July 3, 1727, John Lewis, Brazier of Trenton, leased from Isaac Hutchinson, Gentleman of Trenton, 804 acres in Amwell.<sup>5</sup> This was in the new tract of land called the Lotting Purchase, which consisted of about 150,000 acres in the middle of Hunterdon County. The first surveys of the area that later became known as Delaware Township were made in 1712, and at that time a 2,700-acre tract was surveyed to Benjamin Field. It was not until the 1720's that smaller parcels from this huge tract were conveyed, among them, a 208-acre tract sold by deeds of lease and release on June 2 and 3, 1727 by Benjamin Field, Yeoman of Bucks County, to John Lewis, Brazier of Trenton for £55.<sup>6</sup> The 208 acres had for its southern border County Route 604, with Sergeantsville at the center of this southern border. Of course, at the time, the road had not been surveyed and the village had not been settled.

Lewis seems to have lived in Amwell for a time and then moved back to Trenton. In 1752, John Lewis of Trenton, "late of Amwell . . . Brass founder," was described as "a person of avaricious and wicked principle and Disposition" in a case of usury in which Lewis loaned £9.10 to Sampson Howell to be

repaid the following April. The colorful language came from Mr. Howell's attorney, a somewhat biased view. Lewis was accused of "unlawfully and corruptly prevail[ing] upon the said Sampson Howell to enter into a bond or obligation to the said John Lewis in the penal sum of £21, conditioned on the payment of £ 10.10" before the first of the following April, when in fact, the amount loaned was only £9.10 as stated before. Then on the 26th of October, 1753 at Trenton, Lewis received from Sampson Howell £2.3 "for the Loan forbearance" to postpone final payment by six months. This exceeded the amount allowed for "forbearance" which was £7 per 100.<sup>7</sup> In August 1754, witnesses appeared to testify with Lewis present. They were Hugh Reily, Elizabeth Reily and Hannah Lott. The minutes of the Court of Common Pleas did not state who they testified for and there is no further mention of the case.<sup>8</sup>

The first mention of John Lewis as a physician seems to be in 1752 when he witnessed the will of John Thatcher of Kingwood.<sup>9</sup> One wonders about the state of medicine in New Jersey if a man who began his working life as a tinker and brazier or brass founder could so easily become a physician. There was certainly no competition from other doctors in Amwell at that time. By the end of his life, John Lewis and his wife Mary had settled on the Amwell tract. On November 16, 1758, John Lewis wrote his will, leaving his "home farm" in Amwell, and land in Trenton and Kingwood to his sons John and Jacob as joint tenants. The will was proved (recorded) on December 5, 1758. At the time he died, his children were still minors, which suggests that Lewis married rather late in life. If he was an adult when he bought land in 1716, then he was about 60 to 65 when he died. He left an estate valued at £515.17.8, which for the time and place was quite a respectable patrimony.

There is an intriguing story written by Jonathan M. Hoppock, a local historian whose articles were published in the Democrat Advertiser during the turn of the last century. He described an unseemly character named Ticnor Lewis who supposedly built a log house on the tract owned by Dr. John Lewis, sometime before the Revolution. He kept very much to himself except for periods when he would disappear altogether. When finally he left for good, his neighbors surmised that he had been an associate of Captain Kidd and had buried treasure near the old oak that stood near the log house that Ticnor Lewis lived in. For all their digging, and even the assistance of a wizard from Schooley's Mountain, no treasure was ever found. The story was told to Hoppock by Charlotte Gordon, "an aged maiden lady," the daughter of Othniel Gordon who owned land bordering the Lewis farm.<sup>10</sup>

Dr. John Lewis was a competent, if unscrupulous, man, able to invest and increase his wealth. His son John was unscrupulous like his father, but also violent and unable to increase his wealth at all. On November 22, 1769, a warrant was issued for the arrest of John Lewis, yeoman of Amwell, along with Adam Hall Jr. of Amwell, Peter Rittenhouse Jr., William Rittenhouse Jr., Aaron Wood of Kingwood, John Rounsavell, Wheel Wright

(continued next page)



### John Lewis of Amwell *(continued from page 853)*

of Amwell, and John Rice, a servant of George Opdycke's, on complaint of Thomas Minton, "one of the People called Quakers, of the Township of Tinnicum" in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The complaint was that on Friday, November 3, 1769, the accused "violently and riotously" assaulted and beat Thomas Minton and his father Richard at Richard Minton's house located on an island in the Delaware named "Cuttbitch Island. They were also accused of tying the Mintons up, terrifying Mrs. Richard Minton, and tearing down Richard Minton's house. They were held on their own recognizance, putting up various amounts as security. John Lewis put up £40. Cornelius Quick, yeoman of Kingwood, and John Ely were surety for the five who appeared in court, including Lewis. The two Rittenhouses (Peter Jr. and William Jr.) did not appear. Giving evidence "for the King" was Alexander McCaskey of Amwell, Innholder, and John Ely of Amwell, Mill Wright.<sup>11</sup>

This raises all sorts of questions. Presumably Cuttbitch Island was one of the several islands in the Delaware River off Tinnicum Township, but which one, and what is the meaning of the name? Were the Mintons attacked because they were Quakers or might they have been squatting on land that was wanted for a fishery? This event predated the Revolution, so it was not a matter of anti-loyalist fervor. The names of those who attacked the Mintons are surprising, representing some of the most important families in Amwell and Kingwood Townships. Alexander McCaskey ran the tavern at Howell's Ferry<sup>12</sup> and John Ely was running the mill on the Wickecheoke now known as the Prallsville Mill in Stockton.

The Rittenhouses, Peter and William, were probably brothers, the sons of William Rittenhouse and Catherine Howell. Adam Hall Jr. was probably the brother-in-law of Peter Rittenhouse, who married first Hannah Hall about 1750, and then about 1768 her sister Sarah Hall. Both Peter and William Rittenhouse lived in the vicinity of the Wickecheoke Creek and Locktown, quite a distance from the Delaware River. It is hard to imagine what their interest was with the Mintons. However, Peter Rittenhouse and his wife Sarah were buried in a Rittenhouse burial ground located on a hill overlooking Prallsville. Perhaps Peter Rittenhouse had more of an interest in the River than is known.

Five years previous to the attack on the Mintons, in 1764, probably after the death of his mother, John Lewis and his brother Jacob Lewis chose Andrew Crawford of Bethlehem as their guardian. Presumably Crawford was a friend of John Lewis Sr. or possibly related to Mary Lewis. In 1769, John Lewis Jr. began suing Andrew Crawford, but the Common Pleas Minutes are not clear about the nature of the dispute. In October 1770, they agreed to submit the matter to the judgment of John Rockhill Esq., Stacy Potts and Jeremiah King. A settlement was filed in August 1771.<sup>13</sup> These three gentlemen were Quakers and it was the Quaker way to settle disputes out of court, which suggests that Crawford may have also been a Quaker, although he does not appear in the minutes of the Kingwood Friends. John Lewis may have had a strong hostility to Quakers in general, as he was a member of the Anglican Church, which was traditionally out of sympathy with Quakers. On

May 28, 1769, John and his wife Elizabeth brought their daughter Elizabeth to Rev. William Frazer and baptised her in the Anglican church.<sup>14</sup> But if he were so hostile, why would he submit to the Quakers' judgment? Perhaps because he was in debt to Crawford, as well as to many others.

None of John Lewis' violent friends were on the list of people that he borrowed money from before absconding. In February 1771, Franklin Gordon sued to recover £24.3.11 and 3 farthings. Lewis' debts amounted to over £110 owed in varying amounts to the following: John Updike, John Bohanon, Simon Mires, Jacob Lewis [John's brother], Isaac Allen, Jacob Servos, Jacob Ant [Ent], John Godard, Franklin Gordon, Benjamin Tyson, Joseph Sergeant, John Hull, George Cronce, Samuel Strimple (?), John March, Daniel Pegg, Frederick Durdon (?), and Andrew Crawford.<sup>15</sup> Most of these men lived in the vicinity of Sergeantsville. When John Lewis failed to appear in court to answer Franklin Gordon's complaint, the court ordered that his property be sold to satisfy his creditors. On June 22, 1772, Asher Mott, Daniel Howell and Garret Lake, auditors appointed by the Court of Common Pleas of Hunterdon County, (and neighbors who were wise enough not to loan money to Lewis) on an attachment against the goods and chattels of John Lewis an absconding debtor, conveyed to Franklin Gordon, one moiety or full equal undivided half part of 208 acres in Amwell.<sup>16</sup> The other half was still in the hands of John Lewis' brother Jacob.

Andrew Crawford of Bethlehem died intestate, probably in December 1771. His estate was administered by John Crawford after the widow Eleanor renounced the burden; fellow bondsman was Daniel Dunham, also of Bethlehem. Crawford's estate amounted to £77.7.7, which was respectable, though not large. The abstract in New Jersey Archives made no mention of John or Jacob Lewis.

There was a tavern on the property that John Lewis once owned, a tavern that later became known as the Sergeantsville Hotel. Court records, estate records, tavern license applications and old deeds have failed to turn up any evidence that John Lewis Sr. or Jr. ran a tavern on their land in Amwell. Probably the Gordon family can take credit for starting up the tavern at about the time of the Revolution. But Jonathan M. Hoppock wrote that during the Colonial period, when a tax collector for His Majesty's government came to the inn at Skunktown (the old name for Sergeantsville) to collect the tax that all taverns and inns were obliged to pay, "the innkeeper lifted him from the premises on the toe of his boot." Unfortunately, the tradition does not tell us who the irritable tavernkeeper was, but if temperament is any clue, it might have been John Lewis Jr.<sup>17</sup>

In 1780, Jacob Lewis, the other son of John Lewis M.D., was taxed as a householder with 80 improved acres, 28 unimproved, 2 horses, 3 cattle and 1 hog. He had a son Benjamin who eventually acquired all the rights of the Lewis family remaining in the original 208 acres. Franklin Gordon had only purchased a moiety or one-half share. He did not have clear title, and this matter was not resolved until 1835, when Benjamin Lewis conveyed his rights in the several lots that had been created to the owners of those lots.

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Also taxed in January 1780 in Amwell Township was a John Lewis, taxed as a householder with 2 horses and 1 cow. His property was valued at only £3.5 but his tax was a daunting £24.3.6. He was not taxed in June of 1780, either because he had no property left to tax or because he had absconded again.

In 1794, a John Lewis of Hunterdon died intestate. Administration of his estate was granted to John Smith Kunst, weaver of Lebanon Township, and the fellow bondsman was Nicholas Stillwell, merchant of Readington. The inventory amounted to only £7.4.6.<sup>18</sup> This might have been the absconding debtor of Amwell Township.

1. Deeds of the West Jersey Proprietors filed at the Secretary of State's Office, Trenton (hereafter S/S), Vol. BBB p.356.

2. Common Pleas Minutes, BkII pp.31, 33,36,50,64,67,71,123 (hereafter CPM).

3. Peter O. Wacker, in his book *Land and People: A Cultural/Geography of Preindustrial New Jersey*, Rutgers University Press, 1975, makes no reference to any group of Portuguese immigrants to New Jersey.

4. S/S DD-184.

5. S/S-D-278. Neither John Lewis nor Isaac Hutchinson are included in D. Stanton Hammond's Maps of early Hunterdon land-owners.

6. S/S D-258, -259.

7. Hunterdon Co. Court Records, Indictments #2954. Referred to in CPM VI: 279, 304, 320, 331, 357, 366; VII: 9, 13, 22, 49, 81.

8. CPM VII: 81.

9. References to John Lewis in NJA Wills

1732 Mar 4, listed in account of John Severns of Trenton (merchant). 1741 Apr. 1, witnessed will of Isaac Robins of Hunterdon Co. 1745 Jun. 25, witnessed will of Henry Kitchen.

1748 Feb. 17, witnessed codicil of James Alexander of New York City.

1752 Nov. 17, Dr. John Lewis named in account of John Thatcher of Kingwood. 1756 Apr. 13, paid by estate of Wm. Earl of Springfield, Burlington Co. The following references must be to John Lewis Jr.

1761 Apr. 10, named in account of Stephen Pitcock of Amwell Twp. 1764 May 22, listed in account of Thomas Furman.

There was also a John Lewis of Elsenburgh, Salem County:

1708 Jan 6, witnessed will of Richard Darkin of Salem Co.

1709 Dec. 16, paid by the estate of Joseph Woodrooffe of Salem Co.

1712 Jun. 6, will of John Lewis of Salem, names wife Jeal and children, none of whom is named John.

A John Lewis of Manington, Salem Co., husbandman, whose children were under age, wrote his will on Feb. 15, 1743. Another John Lewis, shingle maker of Deptford Township, Gloucester County, wrote his will on May 11, 1744. He seems not to have had any family.

10. J. M. Hoppock, *Democrat Advertiser*; 3 August 1905. In keeping with his desire for anonymity, there is no listing in the minutes of the Hunterdon Co. Court of Common Pleas for a Ticnor Lewis.

11. Hunterdon Co. Court Records, Recognizances #2052.

12. Amwell Township Tavern License Applications, Vol.2, p.229 (1768) and p.230 (1770), Bureau of Archives and History, Trenton.

13. CPM XI: 312, 347, 404, 445, 452.

14. *The Pennsylvania Magazine* Vol.XII:230, "Rev. William Frazer's Three Parishes."

15. CPM, XI: 412, 458.

16. As described in Hunterdon Co. Deed 10-153.

17. J. M. Hoppock, "The Sergeantsville Hotel," *Democrat-Advertiser*, 30 Aug 1906.

18. NJA 1686J. In 1787, a Jacob Lewis of Burlington Co. died intestate. It is not known if this was the same or a different Jacob Lewis.



William H. Slater, Capt. Co G 15th NJ. Lost leg at Fredericksburg. [CDV NJA Addis, Wash. DC 17-16]

## 2001 Calendar

**March 21** ANNUAL MEETING — Hunterdon and the Civil War, John W. Kuhl, speaker 2 p.m. Flemington Womans Club, Park Ave.

**April 25** 12th Annual HCHS Volunteer Luncheon

**May 19-20** SPRING OPEN HOUSE — Historic Quilt Days In Hunterdon with quilt exhibits at the Doric House, Court House and Fleming House, curated by by Veronica Mitchell, May 19 10am – 4pm May 20 12 noon – 4pm

**November 18** FALL MEETING — program to be announced



## 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*, April-June, July-September 2000, two reels of microfilm. *Delaware Valley News*, January-December 1999. Donated by Hunterdon County Democrat, Catherine T. Langley, publisher, Flemington, NJ.

A brandy snifter of colored cut glass made by William Iorio circa 1960 for Violet Kisz Moore Kuhl of Flemington. Donated by John W. Kuhl, Pittstown, NJ.

A quilt, circa 1850, pieced by Ellen Boughner Smith [1827-1905], wife of Mahlon Smith who lived on Kuhl Farm Road, Raritan Township. Donated by Mrs. Lamina Hollendonner, Lawrenceville, NJ.

A facsimile copy of "Pittstown in 1891" a right-of-way map from Lehigh Valley Railroad Company Records, [MG 274], Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA. Donated by Carter Litchfield, Arlington, VA.

Program from "Vietnam Moving Wall Opening Ceremony September 30, 2000." Sixteen Hunterdon County men were killed in Vietnam:

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Gregory Thomas Buczinski | Van Dyke Manners       |
| Andrew Fedor             | Lindy R. Hall          |
| Barry Lee Runyon         | Frederick Y. Holjes    |
| Alfred Frank Lance, Jr.  | Charles Labaw Danberry |
| Michael Richard Baldwin  | Dale Harry Haver       |
| Fred Joseph Zyck         | Larry Pypniowski       |
| John Albert Hancock      | Robert Porter Sheppard |
| Edward C. Morrow         | Stephen Arthur Rusch   |

Program donated by Mary Elizabeth Sheppard, Lambertville, NJ.

Family Bible of Edwin Felmley and wife Phebe Ann Reger, married 8 December 1859, other Felmely family data and photocopies of documents; several group photographs; *The Tewksbury Times*, May-December 1999, January and June, August-2000; *The Black River Journal*, Volume 1, issue 1, May/June, issue 2, July/August 2000. Donated by Kimberly Judd, Whitehouse Sta., NJ.

Program of the Rededication Ceremony for the Hunterdon County Historic [1828] Courthouse, Flemington, New Jersey on October 16, 2000.

*The Reformed Church of South Branch: 150 Years of Ministry, 1850-2000*, published by the Church. Purchase.

Photocopy of 46 page typescript, "Major initial Report" dated 1 March 1932, concerning the kidnapping of Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr., and subsequent follow-up reports. Donated by Bob Perzel, Flemington, NJ.

*The Earl and Arrell Families from Ireland to North America*,

James S. Hannum, M. D., Baltimore, MD, 2000. It includes the surnames of Earl, Hunt, and Bonnell from Hunterdon County. Donated by the author, Olympia, WA.

Heirloom long cotton nightgown and a pair of cotton pantaloons, both formerly worn by Lydia (Jerolaman) Higgins [1832-1917], wife of Jonathan Higgins. Donated by granddaughter Mrs. C. Vail Zuill, Paget, Bermuda.

Scrapbook and clippings of "Old Ink" column relating happenings from the newspaper 150, 100, 75, 50, and 25 years ago and "Bygone Days" which appear in *Hunterdon County Democrat*. Donated by Thelma K. Miller, Three Bridges, NJ.

Account books, miscellaneous farm related records, circa 1930-1940s for Leslie Mike dairy farm/creamery which operated on North Main Street where Flemington Arms garden apartments is now located. Donated by his grandson, Dennis Bertland, Port Murray, NJ.



## Membership Renewals for 2001

Your continued support is important to the Society. Take a few minutes to write a check for 2001 renewal and mail it today.

## Reading-Large House Status

The Society is proceeding with plans to complete purchase of the Reading-Large House during the calendar year. Land survey has been completed and architect Tylman Moon will be working on plans for construction of a building with controlled environment for storage of manuscripts and artifacts and redefining space within the present law offices for use as a library.

It is anticipated to appoint a fund-raising committee in the near future.

## More Records ... II Overdue

It's coming, hopefully by March 1! Due to a technical complication we were unable to fill orders for *More Records Of Old Hunterdon County, Volume II* by the anticipated delivery date of 15 January. There has been resolution and production is now on pace for delivery by March 1. Upon receipt of the books, we will begin mailing them out.



## Family Record of Edwin and Phebe Ann Felmley

Among the Felmley family material recently donated by Mrs. Kimberley Judd, is a Bible with notations of Edwin Felmley family data. The Bible was published in 1851 by Lippincott, Grambo, & Co., Philadelphia, PA. On the inside flyleaf it is inscribed, "Mrs. Phebe Ann Felmley's Bible presented by her Grandmother." The record is transcribed below as it appears with original spelling and punctuation intact.

### Marriages

Edwin Felmley and Phebe Ann Reger Was Married December 8<sup>th</sup> 1859

### Births

Edwin Felmley Was born September 22<sup>st</sup>, 1839  
 Phebe Ann Reger Was born January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1839  
 Mary Emma Felmley Was born September 12<sup>th</sup> 1860  
 Anna Gertrude Felmley Was born November 13<sup>th</sup> 1861  
 Peter M. Felmley Was born November the 3, 1863  
 John R. Felmley Was born May the 27, 1866  
 Lillie Ada Felmley Was born February 17<sup>th</sup> 1868  
 Charles P. Felmley Was born February 21<sup>st</sup> 1870  
 Lana Bell Felmley born July 28, 1873  
 George Felmley was born June the 30 1876  
 Bertha Felmley was born July the 20 1878

### Deaths

Edwin Felmley Died Nov. 3rd 1905  
 Phebe Ann Felmley Died September 5<sup>th</sup> 1913  
 John B. Felmley Died April the 4 1867  
 P. M. Felmley died May 23, 1940  
 Anna G. Dalley died Jan. 13, 1942  
 Bertha Felmley Died 1940  
 Geo. Felmley died May 7, 1931  
 Lillie I. Felmley 1939  
 Charles I. Felmley July 1, 1945

A newspaper clipping affixed to a page in the bible is reproduced in part here for the information it imparts.

### A Golden Wedding Near ar New Germantown

Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Felmly were very agreeably surprised at their pleasant home near New Germantown on Sept. 14th inst., it being just 50 years since their wedding day. One son, two daughters, 11 of their 13 grandchildren, one great-grandchild and about two score of relatives, from Philadelphia, Newark, Somerville, Bedminster, Califon, Lebanon, &c. and a few of their many friends — including their pastor, the Rev. Mr. Krechting — had the pleasure of surprising the honored hosts with their presence.

Mrs. Logan, sister to Mrs. Felmly, and Mrs. Welsh, sister to Mr. Felmly, were the only persons present who attended their wedding fifty years ago. The visit was a very enjoyable one ... Mr. Felmly is a member of the Lutheran Church, has held many offices of trust in his town, is a firm believer in Democratic principles, a good farmer, and an upright man. He has cultivated the same farm since his marriage. Mrs. Felmly is the daughter of the late Zachariah Smith, Esq., of Peapack — a

full member of the famous Smith family, whose reunions are held on the old homestead where she was married. She is a lady loved and respected by all her acquaintances for her noble disposition and Christian Character. ... May the honored couple yet live long and happy here, and blessed forevermore.

— FRIEND"



Center block of the original applique quilt, 1847-1854, made by Elizabeth Reed Dilts, Croton area of Delaware Township, for her marriage to Johnson Gary. Entered in the Flemington Fair competition in 1983, it won "Best of Show" ribbon. Owned by her great-granddaughter. [Photograph courtesy of Hunterdon County QuiltSearch Project.]

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

An exhibition of quilts made in Hunterdon County in the 19th and 20th century will be presented on May 19th and 20th. Visitors are welcome at the historic Hunterdon County Court House, Doric House at the Hunterdon Historical Society, and Fleming Castle, home of the Colonel Lowry Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution on Saturday 19 May from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday May 20 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

The exhibition is curated by Veronica Mitchell as part of the Hunterdon County QuiltSearch Project and funded in part by the Hunterdon County Freeholders and the Cultural and Heritage Commission. Quilts for the exhibition have been selected from among the 310 documented by Mrs. Mitchell in the earlier phase of her project and during QUILTSEARCH Days in October and November 1997. For additional information call (908) 782-1091.





## *Images from the Past*

### Hill Top Inn — Gone



From the collections of the  
Hunterdon County Historical Society

Here is a *circa* 1940s photograph of Hill Top Restaurant, a restaurant which existed until the Fall of 2000 when it FELL, or rather was razed! The location of the restaurant is described in a 1942 advertisement as 1/2 mile south of Flemington on Route 30 (we know that as Route 31 today). Unlike today with a four-lane road, the photo shows it as only a two-lanes with no concrete divider. Through several ownership changes it retained it's name — Pfenninger's Hill Top Inn, Ground Round, McConkey's, and lastly Rattlesnake Grill, with building modifications along the way, too. The first annual Volunteers' Luncheon was held at the Hill Top in 1989.