



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Vol. 36, NO. 3

Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

FALL 2000

Viewing 19th Century Newspapers Using 21st Century Technology

Sunday, November 12, 2 p.m. at Flemington Womens Club

William H. Hartman, Speaker

Everyone, but especially historians and genealogists, will be fascinated to learn how William Hartman plans to give you access to information in the 19th century newspapers, starting with the *Hunterdon Gazette*, published from 1825 through 1866. After several methods were tried unsuccessfully, through trial and perseverance he's finally got it!

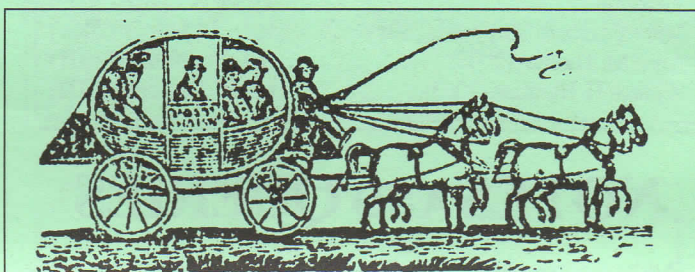
Wouldn't you like to know whether cousin Harry's death notice was in the *Hunterdon Gazette*? Or, Uncle Joe's property was advertised for sale in 1834? Or, Grandma Jones had a letter at the Post Office she didn't pick up? Well, he's found a way to give it all to you.

Join members and friends on Sunday afternoon, November 12, at the Womens Club at 2 p.m. and hear and see how Mr. Hartman is doing it.



Calendar 2000-2001

- October 16** Dedication of the restored
1828 Court House
- November 12** **FALL MEETING** Viewing 19th century newspapers using 21st century technology, William H. Hartman, speaker
Flemington Women's Club, 2 p.m.
- March 25** **ANNUAL MEETING** —
- April 25** 12th Annual HCHS Volunteer Luncheon
- May 19-20** **SPRING OPEN HOUSE** —
Quilt exhibit at Doric House and elsewhere to preview the new book by Veronica Mitchell documenting Hunterdon County quilts



New-York & Philadelphia Mail STAGE,

VIA

New Hope, Flemington, Somerville, Bound-
brook, Plainfield, Elizabethtown, &c.

PASSENGERS in this line will leave Philadelphia at 8 o'clock A. M. of Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, lodge at Centreville, and arrive in New-York at 2 P. M. of the succeeding days. Likewise, leave New-York at half past 10 A. M. of the days above named, stop at Centreville, and reach Philadelphia at 4 P. M. of Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.—Fare through \$3 50. Way passengers in proportion. All baggage at the risk of the owners.

Peter B. Lowe,
One of the Proprietors.

Dec. 27, 1826.

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Woodcut of a stagecoach for the "Swift Sure Line" running between New York and Philadelphia as it first appeared in the *Hunterdon Gazette and Farmer's Advertiser*, 27 December 1826. The newspaper was published at Flemington, New Jersey by Charles George Editor

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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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

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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.

METLER, WALQUIST: Des info re par/o John W. Metler, b. 1 Aug 1844. He served in 21st PA cavalry, enlisting 8 Feb 1865 and his military records note he had lived in Frenchtown, Hunt. Co. Removed at some point to Kansas. Where did he marry his wife Gertrude Walquist? ADD: Donald J. Van Houdenous, 15260 S. E. Bevington Ave., Milwaukie, OR 67267-3354.

DAYTON, GREEN, LAKE, LARUE, SWEENEY: Seeking info re ancestors/fam/o Andrew and Permelia Green of Hunt. Co. Their dau, Sarah Jane Green, b. 1845-55, m. Isaac LaRue in 1874 in Flemington. Also seeking info re Peter Sweeney who m. Rebecca Dayton in 1820. Their dau, Sarah m. Jacob Lake in 1843. ADD: Jim LaRue, 527 McDonald St., Garfield, NJ 07026 e-mail: popcarpet@aol.com

CASE/KAES, HERTER: Seeking proof for par/o John Case, b. 18 Nov 1778. Were they Peter Case/Kaes and his wife Ann Herter? ADD: Mary Cassel Case, 3517 Little York Rd., Dayton, OH 45414.

DRAKE, GOLDEN: Need help to verify Rev War service of Thomas Drake, a Lt. in 1st Hunterdon Militia, and Jacob Golden, a Private in 1st Regiment. Was Jacob Golden the same one who served at a teamster in Israel Burrow's Brigade? ADD: Sandra J. Paser, 5672 W. Chestnut Ave., Littleton, CO 80128.

Membership Report

A warm welcome is extended to these members who have recently joined the Hunterdon County Historical Society or upgraded to Life members.

Millard E. Anderson, Escondido, CA
Howard G. Applegate, Canutillo, TX
Dan Conner, Omaha, NE
Dian Cornell, Ashland, OR
Salvatore A. De Sapio, Frenchtown, NJ LIFE
Thea Dunkle, Budd Lake, NJ
Edward Grant, Atlantic Beach, FL
Nancy Harris, Newton, NJ
Paul Harris, Phoenix, AZ
Richard & Margaretta Houck, Flemington, NJ
Judy Henderson, Albemarle, NC
James McCarthy, Fairfax, VA
Mrs. Iris Farrow Skoog, Williamsville, NY
William B. Ten Eyck, Oakwood, OH
Mary Sloss Van Horn, Ringoes, NJ
Adam Wengren, Ringoes, NJ
Ms. Trina Young, Elma, WA

Correction: Dr. Gerald Farrow [not Parrow], Jamul, CA and Edward V. Grant, Atlantic Beach, FL [not PL] were among the new members welcomed last issue.

(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 _____

The New Jersey Militia

by John W. Kuhl

"Our militia law had become to a great extent distasteful to the people... Very few military companies existed and our arms were limited and mostly inferior to the improvements of the present day ..." despaired New Jersey Quartermaster-General Lewis Perrine in his 1861 year-end report as he looked back over the pre-Civil War period. His was a competent judgment right on the mark. The militia in the big cities of the state had maintained their organization over the years but perhaps because they were more of a social institution officered by the rich and privileged upper class of those urban areas. In rural areas like Hunterdon, where most were concerned with wresting a living from the land, the militia had been in a long, relentless decline since the 1820s. Except for a brief flurry during the War with Mexico, the citizens had become increasingly preoccupied with matters of personal gain and seemingly had little time or use for military matters. It hadn't always been that way. New Jersey had a formal militia tradition dating back to 1702 when it had first become a colony. Its citizen soldiers had been especially active in the Revolution and before that in the French and Indian War when they had suffered serious losses on three separate expeditions north towards Canada. But that, to the locals by the 1850s, had become ancient history.

Militia law changed from year to year but in the pre-Civil War period the force was typically composed automatically of "every free, able bodied, white male inhabitant who shall be of the age of 18 years and under the age of 45 years." A number of exceptions included pastors, ranking politicians, firemen, postmen, ferrymen, stage drivers, water pilots, active students, and the like. Based on Hunterdon's 1850 population, this would make eligible a total of over 5200 men in both segments of the militia, the inactive and the active. The inactive force was that vast majority who did little or nothing and just represented on paper a potential untrained reserve to be tapped as necessary. In the earlier years the entire militia roll had sometimes been called out to muster for general training days but that practice seems to have died out here by the 1850s and was not to be reinstated until the Civil War heated things up. The active force (our immediate concern here) was that small minority which volunteered to organize by company, get uniformed, and hold periodic drills. Their tangible incentive was a pittance-like wage and permanent exemption from militia service after seven to ten years or so. Those who volunteered were probably more driven by personal pride, the uniforms, and the relative excitement of drills or parades after trailing for endless days behind horses pulling a plow or dusty cultivator. Companies were organized by and around a local core group of those particularly inspired, usually the younger set amongst the more prominent and influential men of the community, those who might look for rank in that new unit. Initial meetings would elect the officers who then proceeded to requisition uniforms, weapons, and all the various other necessary equipment. These companies were required to meet periodically for drill and instruction as called by their captain, and to muster once a year at a higher level by

regiment, battalion, or brigade. They would often parade locally on holiday and patriotic occasions.

Most companies were infantry, which initially required little more in the way of equipment than a broomstick as a pretend musket, and a pasture for drill. But there were a few cavalry troops in the county and at least one horse artillery unit in the Mt. Pleasant area. A cavalry troop was the equivalent of an infantry company but was more difficult to organize since each member had to provide his own horse, surprisingly not then a universal possession even here in rural Hunterdon. A fast horse was then the equal of today's expensive sports car and many local men could not afford that luxury. However strong and durable they might be, draft and buggy horses were just not acceptable for the dash and elan expected of traditional cavalry.

The Hunterdon militia was organized by militia law as a brigade of four regiments, each regiment covering several townships and it in turn made up of a constantly changing number of companies, usually three to six. The typical company was localized in a town or portion of a township and was led by a Captain, a 1st Lieutenant and a 2nd Lieutenant and in some cases, a fourth officer termed an Ensign, or in the cavalry, a Coronet. These commissioned officers were assisted by a staff of up to four sergeants, four corporals, and several musicians who usually were drummers with an occasional fifer. The cavalry would additionally have a farrier, a saddler, and a bugler. Rank and file privates would number from 20 to 45, though the law called for at least 30. Some of these "active" companies far from earned their sobriquet, met infrequently, and never even bothered to turn in their required reports to state militia officers in Trenton. Even as late as the end of 1859 with the Civil War looming on the near horizon, less than eight Hunterdon companies got around to submitting their ordnance returns of arms and equipments inventoried. When the war did come it brought with it unbelievable organizational difficulties for these citizen soldiers. By war's end Hunterdon militia had exploded to total 40 reporting units (38 infantry & 2 cavalry) in the Hunterdon Brigade and 4 additional reporting cavalry troops in the State Cavalry Brigade. Worst of all, the local ranks were being constantly depleted by those departing for war, many of whom had been former main-stays in their home-town units. Their absences caused both temporary and permanent harm to their old companies.

Today's historical view may be a bit distorted by the fact that the northern half of the county is unfortunately not equally represented by surviving newspapers from that time. These papers were the principal medium of announcing drills and meetings, and of reporting them after the event. But that does not let the northern half of Hunterdon off the hook, for it was the southern region whose militia doings were far better organized and more often reported up the chain to Trenton. There is little question that more than any other locality, it was the city of Lambertville which largely maintained Hunterdon's militia tra-

(continued on page 844)

dition through the low period of the mid 1800s. As the 1850s waned, the two little hamlets of Sergeantsville and Baptistown also became improbable centers of active militia. Flemington did have its companies but the "county seaters" never quite rose to the levels of those other towns. Before closing out this short review of militia history, it might be of interest that only one state militia company, Company A of the National Guard of Trenton, was called up officially for the Civil War. Just four days after the firing on Fort Sumter, the governor had deemed it essential to protect the state arsenal and other selected sites in Trenton from interference or attack by Southern rebels or their sympathizers. While several companies in Hunterdon did enlist almost *en masse* into state (and with it, federal) service, they did so individually and were not called up as a unit.

With this brief understanding of the period's existing militia in mind, we will move on to the main subject of this article, flags. A military unit's flag is a symbol of identity and pride that anyone without a military background might find difficult to understand. It is especially so if the members of that unit are bound together by mutual exposure to war or some other near-equivalent peace-time experience. Bearing the Civil War colors was a post of honor that was marked by extreme casualty rates in a day that saw that bearer become a particular target of opposing forces. It is true the bearer got a promotion in rank and pay on top of the true respect of his peers. But that was little enough to compensate for the huge risk incurred. It took a brave and determined man to stand there in front of his regiment to mark its position in battle armed only with the flag he carried and whatever personal resolve he could muster.

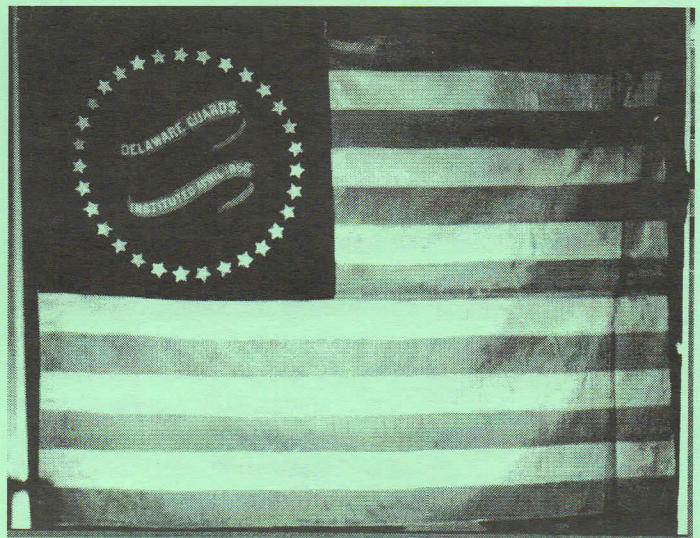
A recent cooperative effort between the New Jersey State Archives in Trenton and the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association has resulted in the scheduled October opening of a separate exhibit room in the new quarters of the Archives there that features a rotating display which will eventually showcase many of the 141 Civil War era flags in the collection of the State, along with related and interpretative material. Most are various flags carried by New Jersey units in the war, but a few are Confederate flags captured by state units and not returned after the war by the state like some, because their former units could not be determined. Working to assist in that effort has inspired this article.

Our Hunterdon County Historical Society is fortunate in having in its own collection three Civil War period flags, those of militia units within the county. Made of silk like the majority of the flags of the North, they had deteriorated over the years until being stabilized by restoration expert Jeff Jargosch and myself. All three are in better than average condition. One of the ironies of the war is that the South used cotton for many of their flags when the federal naval blockade inhibited imports of silk. These cotton flags have lasted better over the years while their silk counterparts are now mostly shredded and tattered. This attempt to develop the history of these three flags resulted in finding so much militia information from the middle of the 19th century, that it may hopefully be presented sometime in a larger, more comprehensive form than this allows and in a manner incorporating more of local, personal, and anecdotal interest.

All three flags are within seven or eight years of each other

in age but one of the two oldest is that of the Delaware Guards of Sergeantsville. They were one of the earliest Hunterdon units to form in that period when some were finally waking to the possibility of impending war or military action of some kind developing from the growing sectional animosity. In the *Hunterdon Democrat* of 1 August 1855 the local editor noted: "We learn that a military company is forming in Sergeantsville, in Delaware Township, to be called the Delaware Guards." This initial effort stumbled when their two senior officers could not or would not carry out their duties, and resigned. But by April of the following year, a newly commissioned slate headed by Captain John T. Sergeant, with George H. Larison as 2nd Lieutenant, took over. Within a month the same newspaper reported that the Guards had "procured a new and splendid uniform, and received State arms and equipments." The arms were not identified exactly but a year later the unit inventoried 20 flintlock muskets and 28 percussion muskets, which most probably had been old Model 1816 smoothbores converted from flint to the percussion ignition system. They also listed 28 sets of ordnance accoutrements and equipments for their 30 privates with a total membership of 46, counting officers, making them the largest reporting unit in the county that year. Both Captain Sergeant and Lieutenant Larison were able, efficient officers and were subsequently promoted on to higher ranks and responsibilities within the militia system. Their old unit remained preeminent in county militia circles until after the war when the militia was melded into the State Rifle Corps and finally the National Guard system as we know it today.

The attractive flag of the Delaware Guards shows 31 stars, which places it in the period between 4 July 1851 and 4 July 1858. The 20 May 1857 *Hunterdon Democrat* reported that it was to be presented to the unit on 30 May 1857 at a Ringoes parade with Hunterdon resident Major General Blane of the militia in attendance. The flag itself next shows up in an 1915 letter from society patron Hiram Deats addressed to local teacher and historian Egbert Bush in which Deats states that he would present the flag to the society after the completion of Mr. Bush's talk to the group on the subject.



1857 Flag of the Delaware Guards of Sergeantsville

(continued on page 847)

*Announcing***More Records of Old Hunterdon County Volume 2**

compiled by Phyllis B. D'Autrechy
published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

Contents**Surrogate's Office**

Estate Inventories, 1818–1825
Letters of Administration, 1818–1825
Wills, 1818–1825

County Clerk's Office

Bastardy Cases, 1761–1890

Non-public Records

Moses Baldwin, Tanner and Cordwainer
Daybooks and Account books, 1755–1800

258 pages plus full-name index — maps — illustrations
hard-bound
\$25.00

Pre-publication price — \$20.00 until January 15, 2000



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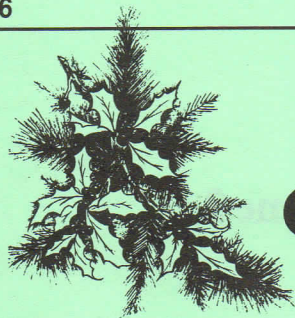
Please send me _____ copies of *More Records of Old Hunterdon County*, Volume II @ \$20.00 plus \$4.00 postage (pre-publication price until 15 January 2001) for which I enclose \$ _____

Name _____

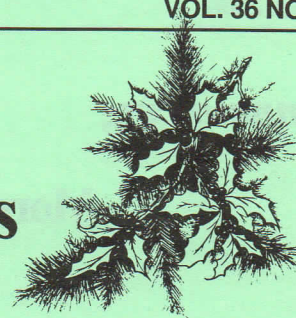
Address _____

Phone number _____

Check here if a gift certificate is desired. After 15 January 2001 price will be \$25.00 plus postage.



Give History for Christmas



Give a Christmas gift that keeps on giving! For the historians on your gift list the Historical Society offers some suggestions.

For mail orders, order by number and add \$2 for the first book, \$1 for each additional book to cover postage and packaging.

1. Beers, Comstock and Cline, 1873 *Atlas of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*. The *Atlas* is 13½" x 16", 77 pages with a hard cover and contains maps of fourteen townships and thirty-two towns existing in Hunterdon County in 1873, printed on acid-free paper. Reprinted 1987 by Hunterdon County Historical Society. \$40.00.

2. D'Autrechy, Phyllis B., *Hunterdon County New Jersey Fisheries 1819-1820*, 44 page soft cover booklet with maps, illustrations, and a full-name subject index, 1993. Gives the historical background on shad fishing and the names and locations of fisheries along the Delaware River within Hunterdon County. \$7.50.

3. *More Records of Old Hunterdon County Volume I*, compiled by Phyllis B. D'Autrechy, published by Hunterdon County Historical Society, 1998, 276 pages, full-name index, maps, illustrations, hard cover, \$25.00.

4. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *Hunterdon County New Jersey Militia, 1792*, an alphabetical listing of "free and able-bodied white male citizens between ... eighteen and forty-five" listed alphabetically by townships, 37 pages, published 1936, reprinted 1994, soft cover. \$12.00.

5. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *The Jerseyman; A Quarterly Magazine of Local History; Volume I No.3, 1891 — Volume II, No.4, 1905*, 376+ pages, unbound, with added Table of Contents compiled 1985 by Roxanne K. Carkhuff. \$100.

6. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *Marriage Records of Hunterdon County, New Jersey 1795-1875*, 348 pages, hard cover. Reprint, with additions and corrections, of 1918 edition. \$25.00.

7. "Flemington, New Jersey 1883," a bird's eye view of Flemington showing exterior details of buildings in 1883, black and white lithograph, 20" x 24" suitable for framing. \$10.00

8. *Hunterdon's Role In The Revolution*, published by Hunterdon County Democrat 22 July 1976 in honor of our nation's Bicentennial Year and the 150th Anniversary of the Hunterdon County Democrat, 88 pages, photographs, illustrations, maps, soft cover, \$3.00.

9. Myers, Kenneth V., *The Flemington Fair Story*, 1978, 95 pages, photographs, soft cover. \$5.00.

10. Myers, Kenneth, V., *Old Stones At Oak Summit*, Kingwood Presbyterian churchyard at Oak Summit, 1985, 20 pages, added index, soft cover, \$3.00.

11. Vail, Mary C., *History of Land Titles In The Vicinity of Quakertown, New Jersey*, 1915, 15 pages plus added index 1983 by Marfy Goodspeed. Soft cover, \$5.00.

12. Voorhees, Rev. Oscar M., *East and West Jersey Boundary Line Controversy*, 1906, 21 pages, soft cover. \$6.00

13. Wittwer, Norman C., *The Faithful and The Bold*, the story of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldwick, New Jersey, 14 August 1714, 1984, 49 pages, photographs, maps index, hard cover. \$10.00.

14. Snell, James P., compiler, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*, 1881, October 1995 facsimile reprint dedicated to Kenneth V. Myers, late president of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, 800+ pages, maps, illustrations, no index. \$80.00 plus \$10.00 postage.

15. Stout, J. Edward, *Facts and Fantasies of Franklin Township*, 448 pages, maps, photographs, illustrations, October 1995. \$20.00

New Publication

More Records of Old Hunterdon County, Volume II, compiled by Phyllis B. D'Autrechy and published by the Historical Society will be available in time for Christmas giving.

This hard-cover volume includes Inventories, Letters of Administrations, and wills abstracted from the Hunterdon County Surrogate's office; Bastardy records 1761-1890, from records in the County Clerk's custody; and account books of Moses Baldwin, 1766-1790, a Hopewell Township shoemaker.

Volume II contains 258 pages plus a full-name index and has maps and illustrations. Pre-publication price is \$20 plus postage of \$2. After 15 January 2001 the regular price will be \$25. For anyone wanting shipment by priority mail, add \$4.

It's A Stick Up!

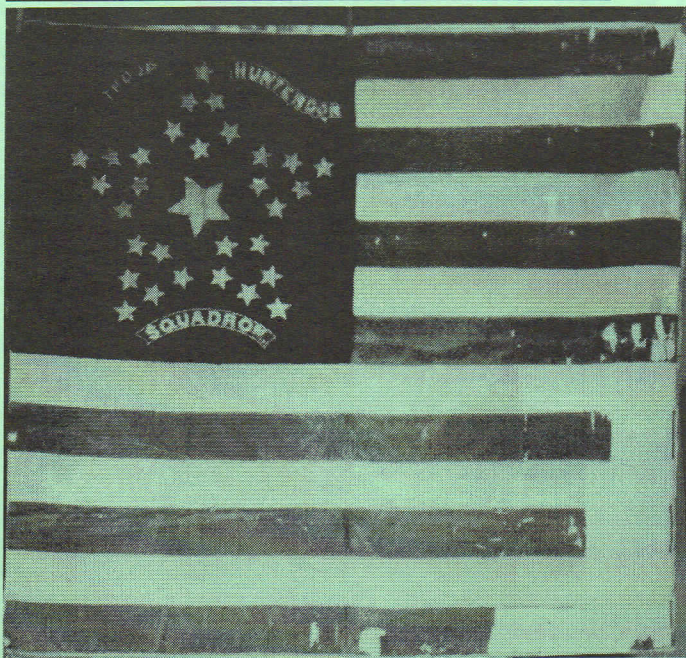
Either enclosed with this issue of the Society's *Newsletter*, if available, or soon to follow, is a complimentary handy 2001 stick-up calendar.

Formerly enclosed with dues notices which are mailed in January, the Trustees felt the calendar would be useful to have at the beginning of the new year.

Anyone who wishes may pay 2001 dues anytime before receiving the 2001 membership notice and the Society saves the expense of mailing notices to members already paid for 2001.

Richard H. Stothoff, President

The New Jersey Militia (continued from page 845)

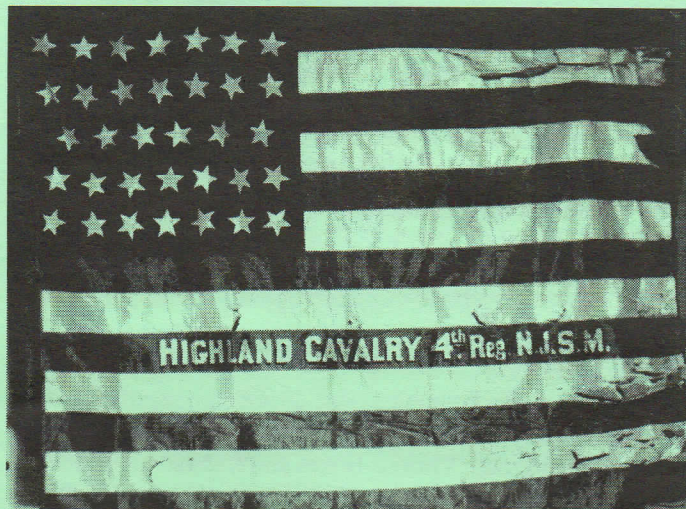


Flag of 2nd Troop of the Hunterdon Squadron of Cavalry. Stars would indicate it was acquired between 1851 and 1858.

The second flag is inscribed for the 2nd Troop, Hunterdon Squadron of Cavalry. One provision of the constantly changing militia law in this period brought the complication that some county cavalry units were brigaded on a state level separately from infantry and some other local horse units were assigned to the county infantry brigade. If nothing else this created confusion of units and their designations and that may figure here. The 31 stars on the field of this flag would date it (as the one above) between July 1851 and July 1858. The problem arises that this was a time frame when no unit of that number appears actively on the old records. There was an on-going 2nd Troop in the Amwell area from before 1820 up through 1842. Nothing further appears until 1859 when a troop of the same number became quite active under Captain William Eick (Eicke) in Baptistown environs which unit then numbered about 25 men armed with cavalry sabres but no firearms. As strange as this might sound today, some Union cavalry units first went to war armed only with sabres or lances. It was months before all even got pistols and well into 1862 before all received effective carbines. Eick's drill notices for his Baptistown troop persisted in local newspapers through at least the middle of 1863 and his unit was inventoried at the end of 1865 so this was another unit which held together well.

The editor of *The Hunterdon Gazette* in his 11 June 1862 issue reports that the ladies of East and West Amwell presented the 2nd Troop of the Hunterdon Squadron with a handsome silk flag on 6 June at Mt. Airy. It would not seem probable that the ladies would have given a flag almost four years out of date in a day when one could update it by simply sewing on two more stars nearly anywhere in the blue field. Because Eick's Baptistown troop was then in existence it seems certain that they were the recipient of this 1862 flag. And it seems equally certain that the 2nd Troop flag in our collection and pictured here is not the one of 1862. It does remain remotely

possible that Amwell's 2nd Troop from the 1840s could have somehow managed to retain their organization beneath the veil of history until sometime after July 1851 when they might have received this 2nd Troop flag now in evidence. Certainly the two organizations would not have existed concurrently. In the end, we do have the flag, but available information found will not yet define just which troop it represented. The subsequent history of this flag and how it got into our collection is an equal mys-



1862 Flag of the Highland Cavalry of the New Germantown (Oldwick) area.

tery. If one had to guess, it quite likely came via Mr. Deats who was wont to amass anything and everything historical, and much of whose Hunterdon and genealogical material came to our society in one way or another, mostly through the generosity of himself and his family.

The third flag is slightly later in date and shows 34 stars, placing it within the time frame of exactly two years commencing July 1861. As we see from the other two flags there was then no one stated way to display the stars but this flag has them in a form more familiar today. It bears the inscription of the Highland Cavalry, 4th Regiment, N.J.S.M. (New Jersey State Militia), which came from the Mountainville-New Germantown area [changed to Oldwick with the anti-German sentiments of WWI]. This area proved to be the one exception in general apathy toward military matters in the northern half of the county. State archives records would have it appear that this unit was organized in early 1861 by Captain Alvah Clark and Lieutenants John Vanderbeck and Jacob Van Doren. In March of 1862 the state issued them 40 cavalry sabers with belts and plates. "Spectator" reported in the 30 October 1861 *Hunterdon County Democrat* that a flag was presented to the company on Saturday 12 October at New Germantown and went on to describe the exact inscription that appears on the flag in our society collection and pictured here. The unit remained functioning within the separate state cavalry brigade until after the war when major change completely revised the system. There can be little doubt but that our flag was the one presented that day in Oldwick. As with number two, no record has yet been found of how this got into our collection but there is the same suspicion that somehow Mr. Deats

(continued on page 848)

The New Jersey Militia *(continued from page 847)*

may have been involved.

This then is the story, puzzles and all, of these three flags as far as this present research has taken it. Hopefully it will unfold further in the future and the society invites pertinent information. These flags were important symbols to those "active" militiamen of their time and should be equally so to us today, as we commemorate those citizens who took that one extra step out in front of their far more numerous and complacent contemporaries. And, many of them backed up their convictions by going on to serve, and some of them die, during Civil War service.

References

1. Contemporary Hunterdon County Newspapers 1825-1870; *DEMOCRAT, HUNTERDON DEMOCRAT, HUNTERDON COUNTY DEMOCRAT, HUNTERDON REPUBLICAN, & HUNTERDON GAZETTE*
2. New Jersey Quartermaster General & Adjutant General records 1842-1868
3. Encyclopedia Britannica (Background information)
4. New Jersey Archives, Dept. of Defense Records Groups, NJ Militia Subgroup, Various Boxes and Books
5. Militia Files in Archives of Hunterdon County Historical Society



Recruiting Poster of Sergeantsville's Delaware Guards in April of 1861 at beginning of the Civil War seeking members in the local militia unit. All four pictured items are from the collection of our society.

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.

"Building The Spruce Run Dam," text and slide presentation by John M. Barber, 1971. Photocopied sexton records from part of the Grandin cemetery, Clinton-Pittstown Rd. Donated by Kathryn Barber DeMott, Flemington, NJ.

Jersey Graveyard Gravestone Inscriptions Locators: Mercer County, by Edward J. Raser, 2000, published by Genealogical Society of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ. Donated by Roxanne K. Carkhuff, Ringoes, NJ.

Lambertville New Jersey Walton's Genealogy Book, by Brad Walton, June 2000. Donated by the compiler, Fairfax, VA.

From the collections of member Frank Ellsworth Burd [1890-1985]: *Jerseyman*, Volume 3, No.2, September 1895; *The Reading Echo*, Volume 1, Nos. 1-5, 1909, Volume 2, Nos. 1-5, 1910; miscellaneous unidentified photographs; miscellaneous correspondence addressed to Mr. E[gbert] T. Bush, circa 1891; wicker peach hamper inscribed with initials "E. T." Donated by Marjorie Burd Grover, Sergeantsville, NJ.

Report of Clinton Farms of State of Jersey, 1916, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1931. Donated by New Jersey State Archives, Trenton, NJ.

Selected photographs copied from Reading Academy and Flemington High School yearbooks, 1930s-1950s. Copied and donated by Henry Hornung, Whitehouse, NJ.

Miscellaneous items of correspondence to Robert Reardon & Son/John P. Reardon/Flemington Stone Works. Donated by William H. Hartman, Stockton, NJ.

Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: Family of Henry Samson, Volume 20, Part I, compiled by Robert Moody Sherman, FASG, and Ruth Wilder Sherman, FASG, edited by Robert S. Wakefield, FASG, published by General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2000. Donated by NJ Society of Mayflower Descendants, Mary Louise Bishop, Secretary, Wildwood, NJ.

Notes on the Groendyke and associated families compiled and donated by Edna McIntyre, Lebanon, NJ.



Future Home of HCHS? Reading-Large House

Thirty years ago our society purchased and moved into our present home, the Doric House. Before that time practically all our assembled collections had been stored in our former headquarters, one large room on the second floor of the town library. Since that time the society's principal goal, above all others, has been to collect, preserve, and catalogue those relics and documents relevant to Hunterdon County history. From Hiram Deats and his family before and after his death in 1963, we received the basis of our huge manuscript collection and other materials. We have steadily and persistently pursued this goal, adding some by purchase when necessary, and the rest by donation from generous individuals and groups who felt the need to preserve for posterity those materials they placed in our custody. *We have been successful beyond our imagination.* Ron Schultzel, our present archivist, works on nothing but handling of incoming manuscript materials and they seem to roll in as fast or faster than he can process them. The state has honored our efforts in this project and today our Hunterdon County collection is second to none.

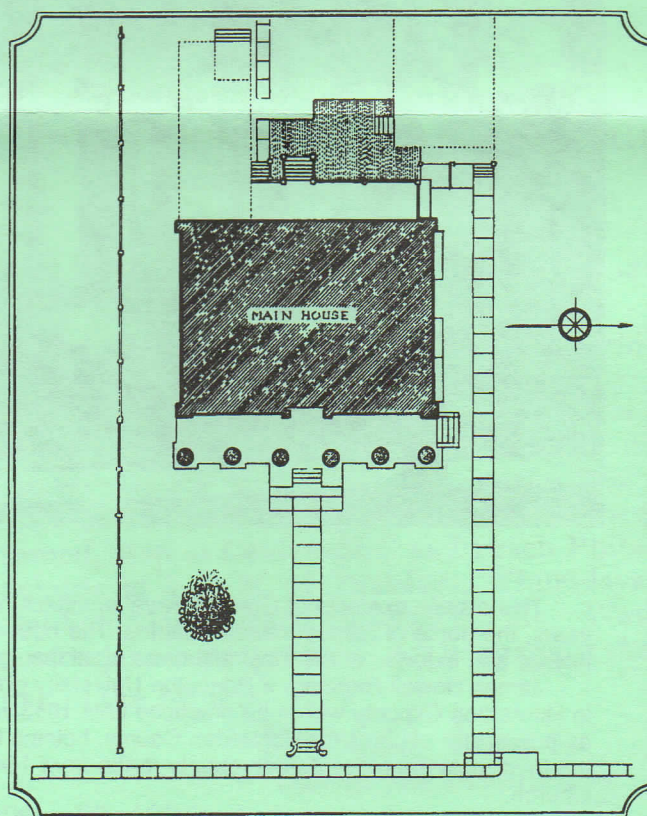
Those familiar with our facility at the Doric House know that we have two fireproof, climate controlled manuscript vaults in the lower level and three more rooms where such materials are stored. Our success can be measured by the fact that our collection has now grown to 150 per cent of our already considerable capacity and there is every expectation that it will continue to expand, perhaps even more rapidly. This problem has long been a concern of everyone in the society.

Recent events have made it likely that the Large-Reading property across Main St. may be available for sale to us in the near future. The architecture is similar to the Doric House and its historical importance perhaps even exceeds that of our present home. It is a prime location with the added benefit of the extra office spaces in the rear which currently house legal offices. And there is room for building expansion with ample parking for staff and visitors.

A society committee has been working most of this year on projecting our future space needs and adapting them to the Large-Reading House situation. First and foremost, we must build an archives storage facility that is secure, fireproof and climate-controlled. Before we could move in, we would have to renovate the present rear offices for our library use. Our longer range goal would be to restore the original house itself and use it as a museum for our large holding of local historic relics and mementos. Plans are nearly in place to allow an approach to town planning officials to determine if they will allow this projected use.

It should be no surprise that this will be a major financial undertaking. While we have been the past recipient of some very generous bequests and now have a fairly substantial treasury, we have a proportionately small annual cash income aside from the earnings of our investments. These earnings have kept us self-supporting for years but this cash reserve will be

badly depleted by the costs of this new and vital project. Aside from the capital gained by the sale of the Doric House once we have moved out, a major fund drive will be an absolute necessity if we are to accomplish this objective. It is simply not possible to further expand the Doric House and any other option will be as costly and certainly not as appropriate. The trustees see little choice but to move ahead with this proposed expansion. We will do our best to keep the membership informed of ongoing developments. Both your immediate input and ultimate financial support are sincerely invited. We will need ideas as well as dollars, and considerable sweat and effort by many down the road. The support of the membership allowed our purchase of the Doric House 30 years ago when that venture seemed equally daunting. It is just as essential again if we are to continue to serve the future historical needs of the county in our unique capacity.



PLOT PLAN

Plot plan of the Reading-Large House reproduced from first page of 22 pages of architectural drawings for *Historic American Building Survey*, NJ 396



Images from the Past

October 1903

The Reading - Large House



Historic American Building Survey. #NJ 396

This classic example of Greek Revival architecture, was built *circa* 1847 by Mahlon Fisher and was, for some years, the home of James Newell Reading. The house, with Ionic columns and other decorative features, both interior and exterior, is the most elaborate of all the structures designed and built by Mahlon Fisher in Flemington.

James Newell Reading, a Princeton University graduate class of 1829, studied law and was admitted to the bar in Hunterdon County where he practiced until 1853 when he removed to Morris, IL. He was commissioned in 1837 as prosecutor of pleas for Hunterdon County, holding the office until his removal from the state. He was a colonel in the third regiment of Hunterdon county militia from 1848 to 1852, and was a trustee of the Flemington Presbyterian Church.

The Hunterdon County Bank started business in 1854 in the basement rooms which had been the law offices of James N. Reading. The small vault is intact still.

After their removal to Illinois, James N. Reading and his wife sold the house to his brother, John G. Reading, Brother Reading shortly thereafter sold the property to John Newton Voorhees in 1856. Soon Voorhees and William Coter erected a building to house their law offices behind the house and established their practice there.

Finally, in 1900 George H. Large purchased the property, resided and had his offices there. He was joined by George K. and Edwin K. Large and succeeded by the partnership of Large, Scammell and Danziger. The law office here in Flemington was the legal address for large corporations doing business in New Jersey — starting with Standard Oil Co., Great Western Sugar Co., United Shoe Machinery Co., and Montana Power Co.