



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

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Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

FALL 1999

Fall Meeting on 7 November Commemorates Washington's Death

George Washington died on 14 December 1799. With his passing the people of the new United States of America commenced a state of national mourning. So beloved was Washington that to this day we find in every county and state roads, parks, schools, and towns named for our first President.

With the commemoration of his death the bicentennial of our country is brought to a conclusion. It was Washington who literally "invented" the presidency; with his passing the fledgling nation lost its "father figure" and set its boat adrift in the waters of Democracy.

To commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the death of George Washington your Historical Society has joined with the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission to present a very special program, *Impressions of George Washington Through the Eyes of the Artist* by the well-known art-historian, Dr. Barbara Mitnick on 7 November.

Dr. Mitnick, appointed by Governor Whitman to chair the Special Task Force on New Jersey History, is known throughout the state for her academic knowledge of the life and times of George Washington. She and her husband are owners of an extensive collection of original Washington memorabilia which includes papers, paintings, and books. Dr. Mitnick also serves as Vice Chair of the New Jersey Historic Trust and the Advocates for New Jersey History. As Vice Chair of the Commission to Preserve Ellis Island Dr. Mitnick uses her art-history background to the fullest. Currently she is curator for a traveling exhibit of Washington paintings.

Due to the wide appeal of this program, Merck & Co. of Whitehouse Station has generously allowed the use of the auditorium in their world headquarters located on County Road 523 (Oldwick Road) in Readington Township. We will convene at Merck at 2 p.m. Sunday, 7 November 1999. Refreshments will be supplied through the beneficence of our host, Merck Co.

Plan to attend this wonderful program while visiting one of the most spectacular office complexes in America. Anyone needing a ride to the meeting may call the Society at (908) 782-1091 and leave their name and telephone number.

Directions to Merck Inc.: From Flemington follow "Route 523 North to Route 212. Cross Route 22 to the west bound lane, proceed to the first light and turn right onto the Oldwick Road. Proceed about one mile to signs for the entrance to Merck, just beyond the overpass. Turn right into the facility and follow *Visitors* signs.



When Washington and his small army crossed the Delaware in 1776 enroute to Trenton, they were returning to Hunterdon County, which only 19 days before they had been forced to evacuate. The County then included Trenton, Hopewell and Maidenhead Townships, now in Mercer County. The pictorial and verbal theme, *Return Top Hunterdon* was the County's logo as it celebrated America's Bicentennial.

1999/2000 Calendar

Nov. 7

Fall Meeting — "The Image of George Washington: Mirror of American History" on the 200th anniversary of George Washington's death
Dr. Barbara J. Mitnick, speaker.
Co-sponsored by Cultural & Heritage Commission and Historical Society.
Merck Corporate headquarters, Route 523 north of Route 22 in Readington Township

Nov. 20

Library closed — Thanksgiving

March 26

Annual Meeting — 2 p.m. Flemington Womans Club

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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liv Newark NJ 1858. ADD: Alice C. McIlrath, 2525 Hillside La. SW, Rochester, MN 55905-1122; 507-289-7284. e-mail donald25@aol.com.

HART, THATCHER: Seeking par/o Daniel Hart, b. 16 Feb. 1790, d. 4 Oct 1860; wife Nancy Thatcher; Hunt. Co. NJ; bur Finesville; Hart homestead next to Windmill. ADD: Marge Laxson, 1040 38th Ave. Rochester, MN 55902-1122.

CLIFFORD: Des info re the Clifford fam of Hunterdon before George Clifford whose will is dated Bethlehem, 1757. ADD: Mary Ann Cottrell, 2333 Tumberly La., Fort Wayne, IN 46804-9354.

HUGHES: I am searching for info re Emma Sinclair Hughes, b. 1860 Cape May, NJ, d. 1956 Wash, DC. who is believed to have established a school in High Bridge Hunt. Co. NJ circa 1880s. She had relocated to Flat Rock, NC by 1891. ADD: Alexander Colvin, 1121 Druid Rd., #B-A1, Clearwater, FL 33756.

**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.

DALRYMPLE, DILTS: Seek info on William H. Dilts and Susan or Susannah Dalrymple, m. 27 Oct. 1821 by Rev. Bateman at Kingwood Bapt. Church, Hunt. Co. Chil: Elsi, George, Francis Ann, Henry and William. Family mov from Amwell Twp. to Montgomery Co. OH ca. 1834/37. Eliizabeth, w/o William H. Dilts d. 1840 Montgomery Co. OH. Was Susan or Elizabeth mother of the children? Des info on William H., Susan, and Elizabeth. ADD: Robert E. Dils, 27515 Ed. UB, Delores, CO 81323. e-mail: redils@frontier.net.

MYERS: Seeking par/grpar of Jonathan Myers, Hunt. Co. He was b. ca. 1726 NJ/Germany?, m. Mary Schooley ca 1750 NJ? Second wife Mary Eveland; date and place o/marr. unknown. Jonathan and Mary (Eveland) Myers d. Loudon Co. VA. ADD: Betty S. Ruby, 565 S. Swansboro, NC 28584. e-mail: rubygem@gibralter.net.

DAUGHADAY, HICE, PRICE: Seek info re par/o David Price, b. 1/1800 Hunt. Co. or Bucks Co. PA, d. 12/1882 Deer Creek Twp. Mercer Co. PA, and his bro Nathaniel, William and Nathan. Andrew was liv Lambertville NJ in 1840s. Julia Ann Hice, b. 1801, Hunt. Co. NJ, d. 1870 Deer Creek Twp. PA, 1/1838; bro Moses d. 1/28/1838 Easton; bro George A. owned two farms Springtown, NJ area, liv "old place" Water St., Easton, PA 1852; sis Caroline Hice Daughaday (Mrs. John)

Membership Report

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

Robert R. Agans, Manville, NJ	Contributing
Dick and Debbie Anderson, Lebanon, NJ	
Judith K. Arthur, Williamsville, NY	
Barbara Barnett, Browns Mills, NJ	
Lois E. Brennenan, Glen Gardner, NJ	
Jack W. Cullin, Hartford, CT	Contributing
James E. Davis, Apex, NC	
Dr. Mervin Dilts, Three Bridges, NJ	
Andrew Kiggins Flack, Centerville, DE	
Janet Foster, Glasford, IL	
Alice Quayle Gershman, N. Hollywood, CA	
William Hughes Hartman, Stockton, NJ	LIFE
Robert T. Haver, Hamilton, NJ	
Michael Heaney, Bernardsville, NJ	
Virginia D. Hook, Sergeantsville, NJ	
Kay H. Larsen, Easton, PA	
Margaret Laxson, Santa Cruz, CA	
David Martin, Hightstown, NJ	
Mark S. & Patricia J. Mount, Amherst, MA	
Gloria Nardecchia & Sandy Olah, Oro Valley, AZ	
Brian Murphy & Cindy Stone, Ringoes, NJ	
Rick Novak, Danville, CA	
Ginger Queen, Linthicum, Md	

Mrs. Shirley V. Favier
Membership Chairman

Setting the Record Straight: Gearhart or Carhart?

In early 1999 a commemorative marker was placed in the Flemington Presbyterian Cemetery at the gravesite of a Revolutionary War veteran. Said veteran was purported to be Captain Jacob Gearhart and some of his descendants disagree with that identification.

Captain Gearhart, while a resident of Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County, served in Captain Beavers' regiment in 1775 and throughout the Revolution with distinction. Thereafter, Captain Gearhart, with family in tow, removed about 1791 to Northumberland County, Pennsylvania where he spent the remainder of his life. The Northumberland County (PA) Historical Society verifies what some Gearhart descendants have steadfastly pointed out — that Jacob died in Northumberland County, PA on 14 March 1813 and was buried there in a Shamokin Township cemetery, the final resting place of other family members as well.

So then, what Revolutionary War veteran is buried in Flemington Presbyterian Cemetery, in the grave memorialized as that of Captain Jacob Gearhart?

Two secondary sources discuss Revolutionary War veteran and Flemington resident Thomas "Gearhart." James P. Snell in his *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey* [Philadelphia, PA, 1881] on page 327 relates that Thomas "Gearhart" was a Revolutionary War soldier shot through the knee and the musket ball, which had lodged behind the knee cap became visible under the skin. Doctors offered to cut it out but the "proud old soldier said, 'No, I got that ball in the Revolution and I mean to carry it as long as I live!' and he did, although it made him a cripple for life." Snell further relates that Thomas "Gearhart" lived where Andrew B. Rittenhouse, "lately deceased" resided and was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard beneath an unlettered slab. A story about Thomas "Gearhart" appears on page 69 in *Traditions of Hunterdon*, a series of unsigned articles initially appearing in the weekly newspaper, *Hunterdon Republican* from 30 December 1869 to 4 August 1870 and attributed in the 1957 printing to John W. Lequear. Here, too, in the original column the story is related about "Gearhart" getting shot in the knee, the shot staying with him until his death and being buried with him.

The Division of Archives and Records Management in the New Jersey Department of State is the repository for Revolutionary War records, including service records. The Archives' information about Thomas Carhart records that he was a Private in Captain Thomas Patterson's Company, saw service in 1776 at Ticonderoga, Mount Independence, and Elizabethtown Point, where he was wounded in the knee by a musket ball, on 21 July 1778, and taken prisoner in August 1778 and discharged in June 1779. His residence was recorded as Flemington, Hunterdon County New Jersey when an affidavit for a Revolutionary War pension was taken on 17 September 1821.

A primary source of evidence, the pension affidavit survives today, and is file S483 among the National Archives pension papers. On that document is the signature of "Thos Carhart."

Appearing in Hunterdon Court of Common Pleas before Judge James Ewing, on 17 September 1821, "... Thomas

Carhart an Invalid Pensioner, a person to me well known and worthy of credit who being duly sworn . . . saith that he is the same person who formerly belonged to Capt. Thomas Patterson's company in third New Jersey Regiment commanded by Col. Elias Dayton in the service of the United States," and that he was placed on the Pension Roll by an Act of Congress of 23 March 1792. He has been twice examined by Surgeons and the disability for which he was first granted a pension still continues. A notation on papers filed with the pension affidavit gives his death date as 19 February 1825 and his residence as Flemington, County of Hunterdon.

The grave memorialized in early 1999 is more likely that of Thomas Carhart, a Revolutionary War veteran and who was a resident of Flemington for some time prior to and at the time of his death. How secondary sources made the surname indiscretion from Carhart to Gearhart would be merely speculative.

* * *

1. In the Rittenhouse notebooks among the Society's collections, on the Andrew B. Rittenhouse page, is a notation in Hiram E. Deats' hand made in 1921. Mr. Rittenhouse kept a store at Baptistown and served as County Clerk 1865-1869, While in Flemington Mr. Rittenhouse, who died in 1872, lived in a stone house which stood on the site of the present [1921] 7 North Main Street.

— Roxanne K. Carkhuff



Thos Carhart's signature as it appeared in his pension application



2000 Calendar

Enclosed with this issue of the Society's *Newsletter* is a complimentary stick-up 2000 calendar. Begin the new year, using this handy calendar.

Anyone who wishes may pay 2000 dues before January. By doing so, the Society saves the preparation and postage for mailing dues notices to those members who have already paid 2000 and Membership Chair Shirley V. Favier will appreciate not having to prepare their notice.

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.

Facsimile reprint of *The Rev. William Schenck: His Ancestry and his Descendants* compiled by A.D. Schenck, Washington, DC, 1883. Donated by Arlene H. Smith, Peoria, IL.

Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: Family of John Alden, Volume 16, part 1, compiled by Esther Littleford Woodworth-Barnes, edited by Alicia Crane Williams, 1999; *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: Family of Richard Warren*, Volume 18, part 1, compiled by Robert S. Wakefield, F.A.S.G., 1999. Donated New Jersey Society of Mayflower Descendants, Phyllis Hansen, Secretary, Westfield, NJ.

The Van Campen Family of America: Ulster County Branch, Volume I, edited by D.A.D. Ogden, Jr., J.H. Van Campen, and R.A. Stowe, 1999, Seattle, WA. Donated by David Ayers Depue Ogden, Jr., Mercer Island, WA 98040.

William Henry Sheets 1817-93 and Mary De Mott 1814-86: Their Descendants, compiled by Catherine Sheets, 1999. Donated by the compiler, Oskaloosa, IA.

New Jersey Ancestral Lines of Perry Martin Streeter compiled by Perry Streeter, 1999 [see page 50 for Williamson Families of New Jersey]. Donated by the compiler, Canaiteo, NY.

Federal Census Index: New Jersey South 1860, Ronald Vern Jackson, editor, 19986 [reprint 1996]. Purchased by Society at a cost of \$258.30.

Copy of a photographic portrait of Maria Reading, wife of M. Joseph West [1797-1869]. Donated by Nancy West Mears, Sequim, WA.

Wills Warren County, New Jersey, Abstracts of Genealogical Content First Three Books 1825- . Wills: Warren County, N.J. Estates Filed at Sussex County, New Jersey, Courthouse at Newton, NJ. Index to Estates, abstracted by Richard M. Stevens, Greendell, NJ, 1996. This covers wills from 1817, which is the date of the last of the wills abstracted as part of the *New Jersey Archives* series, until 1825 when Warren County began its own records. Donated by Virginia A. Brown, Phillipsburg, NJ.

Three reels of microfilm: *Delaware Valley News*, January-December 1998; *Hunterdon County Democrat*, January-March, April-June 1999. Donated by Catherine T. Langley, publisher, Hunterdon County Democrat, Flemington, NJ.

Three pieces of correspondence to and from Janette Higgins c. 1914. Donated by Janette Higgins Zuill, Paget, Bermuda.

The Ancestry of Ann Hegeman Born C. 1744 And Wife of Jacob Deremer: Hegeman, Lequier, Vanderbeek, Cortelyou, Damen, Volckertszen, Rapalje, compiled by Fred Sisser III, 1998, and

The Ancestry of Elizabeth Bouman Born 1704 And Wife of Andries Johnson: Bouman, Lambertsen, Van Der Hoeven, Beekman, compiled by Fred Sisser III, 1998. Donated by Jacqueline Johnston, Westlake Village, CA.

Wooden chest, iron kettle on tripod legs, lady's secretary, photographs and other family memorabilia formerly from the Welsh family of Califon, NJ. Donated by Mrs. Josephine H. Miller, Milford, PA.

Stangl 9-inch rim plate, one of a kind, given to Jim C. Paul, general sales manager of Stangl by Rose Herbock, designer, 17 November 1967; Stangl 10-inch plate with color samples. Donated by Stangl/Fulper Collectors Club, Flemington, NJ.

An original design, 8' x 10; hooked rug portraying the village of Sergeantsville, Hunterdon County circa 1915, created in 1976 by Boletta Jurgensen Morris. Donated by Mrs. Morris, Southampton, PA.

The Stull Family: Julia Ann Stull [1814-1872] And Her Ancestors, with chapters of interest to descendants of Hunterdon families of Stull, Eveland, Kalshet, and Woolever, compiled by Wayne V. Jones, 1996. Donated by John R. McLane, Professor of History, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

Vintage clothing: a child's velvet jacket circa 1860, a white cotton pinafore 1930s, a child's white cotton (linen?) dress, two white cotton christening dresses, a black wood bodice, a black silk taffeta bodice, a black hat; newspaper clippings of Lindbergh memorabilia. Donated by Genny Rabe, Ringoes, NJ.



Boletta Morris views her hooked rug, a recent Society acquisition, portraying the village of Sergeantsville where she grew up.



Give History for Christmas



Give the historians on your Christmas gift list a book! It's a gift that continues to give each time it is used. The Historical Society offers Hunterdon County books, pamphlets, and prints for sale at the Society headquarters and by mail.

For mail orders, order by number and add \$2 for the first book and \$1.00 for each additional book to cover postage and packaging.

1. Beers, Comstock and Cline, 1873 *Atlas of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*. The *Atlas* is 13 1/2" 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. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

12. 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.

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

14. 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

15. 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.

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

New Publications

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, plus \$4.00 first class postage.



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 _____



Images from the Past

1899



HCHS Collection #PX 727

Case's Lumber Yard 1899

Snow may soon be falling as it had a hundred years ago in this photograph of Case's lumber yard on Broad Street in Flemington.

The business was established in 1858 by William P. Emery who was succeeded in 1888 by John Barton Case. The lumber yards covered over an acre and were connected by a switch with the main line of the Central Railroad of New Jersey. The tracks appear to be snow-covered in the above photograph with a train attempting to remove the snow as several "railside superintendents" look on. The enterprise was located off Broad Street and some of the buildings may still be identified, now housing other businesses and activities.