

Hunterdon Historical Record



HUNTERDON
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

hunterdonhistory.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

See our website for more details.

October 27, 7 pm

Learn about Hunterdon's State & National Register Historic Sites, how to complete an application, & ownership impacts.

Presented by NJ Historic Preservation Office staff.
114 Main Street, Flemington

November 3, 6:30 pm

Workshop on using the Society's many historical collections taught by archivist Don Cornelius. Register to attend at 114 Main Street, Flemington

November 15, 7 pm - Free

Architectural & Industrial History of 18th Century Clinton Township
County Library, Rt. 12
A Hunterdon 300 Program

Dec. 4, 5 pm

Flemington Holiday Parade
Main Street

Dec. 4, 10, 11, 1 to 5 pm

Doric House Holiday tours with decorations by Community Garden Club of Hunterdon and Hunterdon Hills Garden Club

Society Library Hours

Open 10-4 pm every Thursday
And 10-4 pm these Saturdays:

October 28

November 12, 26

December 10

2017: January 14, 28

February 9, 23

Fall membership meeting and lecture

Fulper/Stangl Pottery: A Colorful Glazing History

Two noted pottery experts are teaming together to present the lecture for the Society's annual fall meeting on Sunday, November 13, at 2:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street in Flemington. Jon Kornacki and Peter Meissner will detail the rise and decline of the Fulper and Stangl potteries in Flemington and the world renowned utilitarian and art pottery the companies created in Hunterdon County from 1857 until the twentieth century.

Messrs. Kornacki and Meissner are both long-time collectors and researchers of Fulper and Stangl pottery. Mr. Kornacki focuses his research on Fulper art pottery, most especially lamps, the subject of his latest comprehensive book. He also has work published in the *Journal of American Art Pottery Association*. He holds a PhD. from Wesleyan University.

Mr. Meissner is the country's leading authority on early Stangl art ware and has written dozens of articles for the Stangl/Fulper Collector's Club for which he has served both as president and vice-president. Mr. Meissner is retired from Morgan Stanley and lives in Three Bridges.

The talk will last about 50 minutes, followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited to attend.



Jon Kornacki, top, and
Stangl Porcelain Double Scarlet

Please Consider a Year-end Donation to HCHS

Several large donations from Society members in past decades made it possible to grow and extend our services. In this era of accelerating costs for the maintenance and upkeep of our buildings and grounds, and paying staff wages, utilities, insurance, and electronic equipment, consider this a call to current members to follow that lead and to think about including the Society in your financial plans. And please do consider a year-end donation to the Society. We need and appreciate your support.

New federal tax legislation makes permanent a provision that allows individuals age 70½ and older to transfer up to \$100,000 tax-free to a charity from a traditional or Roth individual retirement account (IRA). So that the transfer is not credited as income, it must be made directly from the IRA administrator to the charity. Such a transfer counts toward the donor's IRS-required annual minimum distribution. Although there is no federal tax on a charitable rollover, some states, including New Jersey, do tax them. Potential donors should consult their financial or legal advisers to determine how the regulation impacts them-- and their philanthropic actions.

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL RECORD

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Pamela Robinson, Librarian

Become a MemberDues payable annually
on the calendar year,
January to December

Student—\$5	Sustaining—\$100
Individual—\$20	Institutional—\$100 & up
Family—\$25	Life—\$500
Contributing—\$50	Patron—\$1000 & up

Please send us your name, address, phone number, email address, and tell us if you would like to volunteer in the library, the archives, or the museum. Mail the information with your check to:

Hunterdon County Historical Society
ATTN: Membership
114 Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822

Or join online with a credit card at:
www.hunterdonhistory.org/membership

Acquisitions

Artifacts and documents on the history of Hunterdon County and the families who resided here are welcome additions to the Society's Collections. Donations may not be available for research until they have been processed, a continuing activity. The Society thanks the donors for these recent acquisitions.

Alfano, Michael. 3 volumes of *The Transactions of the Rockefeller Family Association for the Five Years...* including 1905-1909, 1910-1914, & 1915-1925. Also, 1 Ledger: Central Railroad Company of NJ, Account of Sales of Tickets, 1870-1874. Volume partially used as a scrapbook, for news clippings of reports of the Poor Farm & Township Expenses of Raritan, 1866-1876. Allen, Ruth H., estate of. Historical documents of the Robbins family of Bloomsbury collected by Ella Marion Crissman Huff; diaries of Charles C. Robbins, 1874-1877; Doliver Family Bible; research & notes of Catherine Robbins Klett.

Anonymous. 7 Photographs of Flemington, NJ, ca. 1937-1939, with highly detailed notes on the reverse of the images.

Brown, James T. 1 collection of family papers including Buchanan, Frey, & Bowes families; Holland School Yearbook 1970; & photographs of the Frey family, ca. 1880-1900.

Downham, Mrs. John F. 14 photographs of teacher Katherine Pearsall (Leggett) & her school classes, Flemington School, ca. 1910-1918.

Fahey, John. Glass Ballot Box from Raritan Township.

Goetz, Elizabeth. Materials relating to High Bridge, NJ: a notebook of historic photographic processes with select local images, 1860-1935; 7 images of High Bridge School classes, 1903-1940; 6 yearbooks from High Bridge School, 1928-1940; 2 large oval portraits of unidentified children. Also included 2 "Don McNeil" books & a group of museum objects including pocket knives, combs, & Masonic medals.

Hauck, Joseph. Catalog; Bartram Farms Complete Holstein Dispersal, May 11-12, 1956 Annandale, NJ.

Hawkins, Greg. Glass cutting machine & tools from the Flemington Cut Glass Factory.

Hunterdon County Public Library. Lecture book & correspondence of James Bullock, ca. 1900; 1 small photographic album by Ms. Emma Van Fleet, 1937.

Kazanecki, Charles. A collection of 76 maps & surveys from municipalities throughout Hunterdon County, NJ, 1801-1985.

Newark Public Library, c/o Tom Ankner, Librarian. Correspondence to Linton Alles, Director of the Hunterdon Co. Freeholder Board, concerning damage to the Green Sergeant Covered Bridge, 1960.

Rauschert, Patricia L. A collection of images of members of the Huff & Higgins family of Ringoes & Lambertville. Also, Business Directory of Hunterdon & Somerset Cos., 1914; education hymnals; 3 scrapbooks of childhood images, flowers & fruits, & one by Philip Philhower.

Rural Awareness, Inc., c/o Trustee Lora Jones. 2 boxes of material for The Franklin Archives, including records of Odd Fellows Lockatong Lodge #114 (1964-2012) in Quakertown & records of the Rural Awareness Scholar Award Essay Competition (2007-2016).

Simonds, Raymond. 1 scrapbook, unknown creator, of Hunterdon County in the 1940's.

Stevens, Stephanie. *The Area Guide Book*, Historic Bucks & Hunterdon Counties, 1988-1989, 19th edition.

Stewart, Lois K. 4 photographs of the Kitchin family, ca. 1900-1910; brass bugle belonging to Donald B. Anderson of the Flemington Drum & Bugle Corps.

A Salute to Volunteers

VOLUNTEER STACEY ASKEW is originally from East Aurora, New York and is an online student for a post-museum and library services program. She was looking for hands-on experience when she “interviewed” the Society’s manuscript curator, Don Cornelius, about the Society’s collections. She soon developed an interest.

Since she began volunteering a year ago, Stacey has become invested in her volunteer work and finds completing projects highly motivating. Her first “solo” assignment in the archives was to arrange and describe The Franklin Township Archives—twelve boxes of material! In addition to seeing first-hand pieces of Hunterdon history, Stacey enjoys the staff and working with other like-minded volunteers. We wish her luck with her degree and hope she continues to assist us with the archival collections for years to come.



Stacey Askew



Archive and Library Volunteers’ Picnic

Reviews are in. Archive and Library volunteers gave four stars to the September thank-you picnic, catered by members Ruth and Randy Hoffman on the Archive grounds. Standing, from the left: Patti Christie, Rob Askew, Stacey Askew, Dick Stothoff, John Matsen, Don Cornelius, John Allen, Sandy Matsen behind Stephanie Stevens, John Kuhl, Debbie Jaeger, Pamela Robinson, Doug Robinson. Seated: Shoshanna Nimaroff, Pricilla Stothoff, Michael Gesner, Pat Piretti, Tom Piretti, Vincent Mack. Thank you all for what you do.

Research Requests by Mail or Phone

\$25 per query for two hours of research by our volunteers using library and archival resources. See website for forms and more information.

President Charles Fisher Reports

I HAVE THE PLEASURE of introducing **Pamela Robinson**, a Bridgewater resident and the Society’s new Librarian.

Pam has both Bachelor and Master’s degrees in Library Science from Rutgers University. Her career experience includes serving as a reference librarian in the East Brunswick Public Library, Piscataway’s J.F.K. Memorial Library, and library positions in the Bridgewater and the Somerset County public school system. Currently, she is the volunteer librarian for Somerset County Historical Society where she created collection policies for library and archival materials and worked on a Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference Disaster Relief Grant. She also is working on her certification for Genealogy Studies.

Please stop by and meet Pam. She is in on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and the Saturdays the library is open.



Pamela Robinson

What Pam Says

It’s been a busy few months. Everyone has been so welcoming; I am truly enjoying my time here. A majority of that time is spent working with patrons who come to do research and answering email research queries. We have a great group of library volunteers: Mike Alfano, Pam Bush, Mike and Janet Gesner, John Kuhl, Vincent Mack, Lynn Snodgrass-Pilla and Stephanie Stevens. They have been teaching me Hunterdon’s history and genealogy and the Society’s collections. We have a richness of resources: books, serial sets, microfilm, maps, and a tremendous archival collection to help patrons with their research. A special thanks is also due Pat Milten, our director, and our archivist, Don Cornelius, who are always ready to answer my myriad questions.

That being said, we always need more library volunteers to handle research requests, and to help index bibles; catalog, cover, repair, inventory and sell books; maintain the vertical file; and more. If you are a new or former volunteer, there is a place and a job for you at the library. We particularly need a research volunteer each second Saturday who has a good knowledge of Hunterdon, its history and families. Please contact me at info@hunterdonhistory.org if you are that person.

Thank you for the warm welcome. I look forward to meeting you when you come in to do research or to visit.

The Pittstown Union Sunday School: A Building “Suitable for Religious Edifice” ¹

By Lois Crane Williams

Few remember the Pittstown Union Sunday School – it has been 50-plus years since there were Sunday school classes in the building on Pittstown’s Race Street. I was a regular from the time I was a four-year-old through high school graduation in 1950.

I have the warmest of memories of Sunday school, and I can clearly recall later years of sitting with “my” group at one of the six tables in the large room – now it would be called an open classroom. Still, I can’t remember any lesson or anything we talked about. I’m sure we didn’t have a workbook or any student materials, but each week we had a good discussion.

Sunday school opened with a hymn and a few words and a prayer from the Superintendent, and closed with another hymn. We must have talked about a Bible verse or story, but I don’t recall that there were Bibles at any of the tables, and we didn’t memorize Bible verses, as many Sunday schools did. Certainly there were hymnals and a piano – I have good memories of lustily singing hymns.

Sunday school was held year ‘round – this was not a summers-off kind of place.

But I do remember the annual Sunday school picnics! I was in third grade, just before World War II, when my family went to the Sunday school picnic at Washington Crossing State Park, and we went again after the war. And I recall a couple of post-war Sunday school picnics at Butler’s Amusement Park on the Musconetcong River near Washington, NJ.

I recall one or two Christmas celebrations in the building’s upstairs auditorium before World War II. The high point was Santa Claus distributing candy canes to the good children of Pittstown. Wartime’s gas rationing brought an end to this tradition. I was also part of the Inter-Church Junior Choir – an offshoot of the famous Flemington Choir School – that practiced on a weekday evening at the Pittstown Union Sunday School.

Background – The Union Sunday School movement dates to the early 1800s, and originally provided religious instruction independent of churches.² In areas without schools, Sunday schools also taught children to read. As public schooling became available, Union Sunday schools continued serving areas where there were no nearby churches with Sunday schools.

A Union Sunday School is one serving families of several denominations as well as non-church families,³ and in Hunterdon County, I believe, the Pittstown Union Sun-

day School was uniquely non-denominational.⁴ “Even parents who did not regularly attend church themselves generally insisted that their children go to “Sunday school,” believing “regular Sunday school attendance was an essential component of childhood.”⁵

As described in the Pittstown Historic District document, “Pittstown has never had a house of worship, as churches representing three denominations were within



The Pittstown Union Sunday School building, now a private residence. Photo by Lois Williams, 2016.

three miles distance of it as early as the 1760s. In the 1870s, however, the Sunday School Union of the county apparently was prevailed upon to construct a building within the village on land obtained along Race Street, the residents desiring some form of religious service within walking distance, especially for children.”⁶

Hunterdon County was prosperous during and after the Civil War, and the decade following the end of the war was a high point in church building.⁷ Sometimes a Sunday school was established before a church, and one or another of the local denominations may have seen an opportunity to expand into Pittstown.

The Historic District document attributed impetus for the new building to “the Sunday School Union.” The American Sunday School Union headquartered in Philadelphia was a central bureau of information and provider of printed materials.

The Building – The Pittstown Union Sunday School was housed in the purpose-built “Pittstown Hall.” The Pittstown Hall Association was incorporated in 1875, with capital stock authorization of \$2,830 at \$10 a share.⁸ The incorporation document envisioned “a suitable building for Sabbath school religious services and all intellectual entertainments in the village of Pittstown, subject to control of a board of directors to be elected by stockholders.”

There were two-dozen stockholders. Hiram Deats purchased 35 shares, Samuel Little purchased 20 shares and donated the lot, another Little purchased 10 shares, and the remaining stockholders purchased one, two or three shares. The Treasurer reported \$2,644.70 “Received from all sources,” \$2,618.43 “Bills paid by the treasurer,” and \$23.73 “Remaining.”⁹

Stock purchasers were local men, most already affiliated with the long-established Cherryville Baptist Church (four miles distant) or the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Grandin (three miles distant), and in time would join ancestors buried in one of those cemeteries, Quakertown’s Locust Grove Cemetery, or the cemetery of the then-closed St. Thomas Episcopal Church (two miles distant). In the meantime, they wanted a closer Sunday school for their children and envisioned a community hall as appropriate to their prospering village.

The county newspaper announced the new building in 1875: “In the little village of Pittstown [people] have just erected a handsome and commodious structure to be used as a church for all denominations, as well as a hall for lectures and other social purposes.”¹⁰ The building as much as said, “A church is coming soon!”

As described by the Pittstown Historic District document, “Of impressive scale, the building (#13) stands apart from the general appearance of Pittstown for its use of brick and large Italianate windows arranged on the facade in a central grouping with an oculus above. Two-storied and gable-fronted, its upper story is about one and a half times higher than its ground story, and viewed by itself recalls a church edifice. Notably, the second floor has over-sized 12/12 sash windows, round-headed with curved cornices.”¹¹

“The tall, upper story contains an auditorium and stage. The building was used on Sunday afternoons for worship services, with ministers being invited to preach while Sunday school classes were being taught. At other times, the building was used for social activities.”¹² Be-

ginning in the 1860s, churches were sometimes built with a lower-floor Sunday school and a second floor sanctuary.¹³

End of the Sunday School – A small notebook among the Archives recorded the final meetings of the directors. In 1962, “Status of the Sunday School was discussed. Main problem now was teachers.” Again, in 1964, “The question of not enough teachers.” Pittstown’s Sunday school teachers of old had been teaching every Sunday year ‘round in an era before travel and vacations.

The Sunday School was closed in 1964 and the building apparently was unused until the group met again in 1973.

“The discussion was what to do and what could be done with the building. Lack of land for sewage, lack of land for parking.” The building was cleaned out and put on the market.¹⁴ A septic system was installed in 1985,¹⁵ and a business, “Hunt Engineering,” occupied the building when the Pittstown Historic District was formed in 1990;¹⁶ the document mentioned the “auditorium and stage (preserved but now used as an office).”¹⁷

The Pittstown Union Sunday School building has had a number of owners, and is now a residence, last changing hands in 2013, when it was advertised as a “Unique opportunity to own one of a kind built in 1891 as a Sunday school house. Property has been updated without losing any of its original character. First floor boasts 35x30 open space housing kitchen/dining/living quarters.” There is new plumbing, new wiring, new insulation, a new bathroom, and “new 20K custom windows.” Upstairs, with its 15-foot ceiling, the stage is still there, and the building is “Perfect for artist/potter/dance.”¹⁸

Race Street is no longer one of Pittstown’s major streets and the former Pittstown Union Sunday School is almost obscured by trees, so almost no one sees it. It is tastefully painted, with the upper level cream, the window trim and lower level bricks a warm brown, and a deep red on the front double doors and recessed side door. The up-sloping ground is terraced and nicely landscaped with a variety of annuals and well-maintained plantings.

The building is still a “handsome and commodious structure.” Only a bronze plaque next to the side door reminds us of earlier times – it honors five men “Who left Pittstown Union Sunday School to serve in the World War,” which we now know as World War I.¹⁹

Endnotes available online or in the Society’s library.

A Checklist of Achievements

The Society's achievements over the past months since the last newsletter was issued have been too quiet— and we want the members to know about them, so here's a brief listing. Much credit goes to our Executive Director, Patricia Millen, who has introduced many new groups interested in history to the Society and formulated new programs. Her mind and engaging personality, it appears, are always working.

- ◇ The Library served over 175 researchers on site and over 50 online and by mail; hosted 1 photo shoot; and has 40 volunteers.
- ◇ Library hours are now 10 am to 4 pm, the same as for Saturday openings, extending our service to 24 hours a month.
- ◇ A new rack card promoting the Society is out to other libraries and historical societies, and a new online catalog, both funded through a grant from The Astle-Alpaugh Family Foundation, is posted.
- ◇ Our summer intern worked on indexing Bible records.
- ◇ Archives released 5 new collections to the public, and added these to our collections: over 100 bound manuscripts, 4 digitized finding aids, over 200 digitized images, over 300 database catalog records, and put issues of the newsletter online back to 1999.
- ◇ Society members staffed a booth at the five-day 4-H Agriculture Fair.
- ◇ With the State Historic Preservation Office, hosted a workshop on how to complete applications to the State and National Register of Historic Places and the impacts and benefits of being listed.
- ◇ Hosted the annual meeting of the Archeological Society of New Jersey in our Native-American artifact-lined room at the Flemington Library and toured them through the Doric House and Deats Library.
- ◇ Hosted a monthly meeting of the DAR of Hunterdon with Manuscript Curator Don Cornelius as their speaker, introducing the members to our holdings.
- ◇ Junior Architects, a children's Saturday program designed to attract younger ages and their parents, is ready for presentation later this year.
- ◇ The Doric House was open for tours on two September Sundays, along with other Hunterdon museums.
- ◇ Work on grants from two resources was begun.
- ◇ Textiles in the Archives were reorganized.

Help the Society Save Money— And do Yourself a Favor

Sign up to get the newsletter by email and our Strategic Plan Survey, important for procuring grants. The emailed newsletter is in vivid color and more interesting. Only .03 percent of members get the digital issue now. If we could significantly reduce printing and mailing costs, we could save well over \$2,000 each year! Please email today to go paperless.

More Ways to Help — Our Wish List —

The Building and Grounds Committee works continuously to keep the 171-year-old Doric House and the Library and Archives in good condition. Much has been accomplished, but there is still a wish list. If you would like to contribute any of these items, we'll find a way to permanently acknowledge your support.

- ◇ Glass shelf in a Fulper-Stangl case, \$42 delivered
- ◇ New top for glass exhibition case on lower level, \$208 installed
- ◇ Plexiglas top for center library table, \$266 installed
- ◇ Computer in library for patron use, \$400
- ◇ 3 interior storm windows in furnace room, \$900
- ◇ Central air handling unit for basement, \$5,000
- ◇ 16 external storm windows at \$800 each: \$12,800 total; urgent need for one to preserve east window sash in Miss Bessie's parlor

We are sitting by the phone and checking the mail box. Please let us hear from you.

Membership Report

The Society warmly welcomes these new members.

William Happel, Pittstown, NJ
 Ramona Hillier-O'Hara, Frenchtown, NJ
 Claire Lutley, Flemington, NJ
 Jennifer Mechan, Frenchtown, NJ
 Mary Gail Menzel, Flemington, NJ
 Pamela Robinson, Bridgewater, NJ
 Wilmer Sibbitt, Albuquerque, NM

In Memorium - 2016

Charles Allen, West Bloomfield, MI
 David Cowdrick, Apollo Beach, FL
 Frank Curcio, Annandale, NJ
 Mervin Dilts, New York, NY
 Martin Everitt, Arvado, CO
 Denise Hilzer, Flemington, NJ
 Dereck Williamson, Ringoes, NJ

ARCHIVE BUILDINGS ARE SPECIAL SAYS CURATOR DON CORNELIUS

Inticipation of the fall member's meeting in November, I decided to use the column space this newsletter to answer a question that arose from several members at our last meeting. After the Treasurer's report was read, several members wished to know why adding the Archives Building to the Society's bottom line has driven up the Society's annual expenses so much.

At HCHS, we are very fortunate to have had trustees who recognized the need for our Society to have an archives building. We have been collecting archival materials for 131 years, and over that time, we have accumulated many historical records that need special care, handling, and space. The archival holdings at the Society total over 5,000 cubic feet of manuscripts. Between the two vaults in the Doric House, they can only store 800 cubic feet. The rest of that material had spread like a cancer throughout the Doric House, taking over areas that had originally been meant for display and education and creating deplorable and dangerous storage conditions. Fortunately the trustees realized that we needed not only more storage space, but also specialized storage space that would allow for future acquisition and growth in an environmentally-controlled manner.

Archives buildings are special. They are facilities that provide a proper environment for records and materials that require permanent protection for storage, upkeep, and preservation. Archives buildings are high-performance buildings whose systems must be designed to operate permanently at a very high level with zero tolerance for failure. The irreplaceable nature of the materials to be permanently stored and preserved in this type of building requires a constant moderation of the internal environment, an exacting approach to its design and construction, and extensive redundancy in its building systems. This building type must be designed to accommodate the loads of the materials to be stored; the sensitive environmental needs of different materials to be permanently stored and preserved; the functional efficiency, safety, security, and comfort of the operating personnel; and the protection of the archived materials from fire, water, and man-made threat.

Of course, the fact that archival buildings are special also makes them especially expensive to operate. The key system that makes a building archival is the environmental control. Permanent preservation storage requires a constant temperature between 65 and 70 degrees and a humidity level under 50 percent. This means that no matter the outside temperature, our twin air handling units must keep 225,000 cubic feet of air inside the building constantly between 65 and 70 degrees. Imagine the elec-

tric load this past summer! And, of course, the heat pumps will have to do the same thing in the winter. The cost of even small HVAC (High Volume Air Conditioning) is beyond the imagination of most home owners, yet it is a fact faced by our Treasurer every month of the year. And heating and cooling is not enough; the air has to be handled in high volumes at quick exchange rates, with a much higher performance filtration system than other buildings (to keep out external pollutants) and with the constant moderation of high performance humidity control units. These units need frequent cleaning and maintenance, with a regular changing of filters and disinfection protocols. The regular maintenance has to be handled by trained professionals and adds considerably to the expense of the building operation.

There are other special features in an archives building as well. The technological infrastructure (computer network) is what allows the curator and staff to conduct the necessary work of making the collections organized, preserved, and accessible. Our building has only been open seven years, and we have already had to go through a cycle of upgrade for our hardware and are due for another to our network system. The high density storage units and elevator in the building allow for space and movement efficiency but also incur ongoing costs in maintenance and inspections. Our building also has a series of sensors and alarms for fire, water, and intruders that need to be monitored 24/7, an expense that would prove well worth the investment if any of these were ever to occur. As a further protection for the collections, a pest monitoring program must be implemented and occasional treatments needed to keep harmful rodents and insects away from the highly susceptible paper manuscripts.

All of this protection for the Society's archives and other collections costs a great deal of money. But the rewards have been many. The increased room to breathe, move, and work has caused a rapid growth in the Society's ability to accept donations, catalog and process its historical material, and make ever more available to the public. The clean out of the Doric House has enabled a new life and a revitalization in the ability of our museum to interpret the past. If you come to the Society annual book sale, on October 15th, you can take the opportunity to see the archive building from the inside. I think you would agree that it is this special building that has given our Society a priceless leap forward in the ability to fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing Hunterdon County's past with the generations of tomorrow.

Spotlight on Collections: A Barrel of Spirits, Please

This 1778 note requesting a “barrel of spirits” (rum) was written by Continental Brigadier General Army Anthony Walton White to Deputy Quartermaster-General for New Jersey Moore Furman, Esq. Furman resided in Pittstown and stored Army supplies in his mill there. The 4th Light Dragoons fought on horseback in the battles of

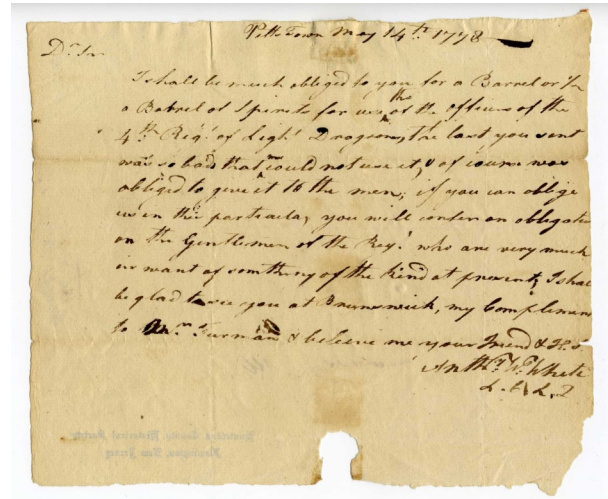
Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, and Whitemarsh. Their territory was west of the Hudson River, and East of the Susquehanna including most of New York, all of New Jersey and Delaware, and populated areas of Pennsylvania and eastern Maryland. In March 1778, they relocated to Trenton, New Jersey from Valley Forge.

Dr. Sir

Pittstown May 14th 1778

I shall be much obliged to you for a Barrel or 1/2 a Barrel of Spirits for use (the) of the officers of the 4th Reg't of Light Dragoons. The last you sent was so bad that (we) could not use it, &? of course near obliged to give it to the men; if you can oblige us in this particular you will confer an obligation on the gentlemen of the Reg't who are very much in want of something of the kind at present. I shall be glad to see you at Brunswick, my compliments to Mr. (?) Furman & believe me your friend & H. S (?)

Anthony W White
L. C / L. 2



Hunterdon's History
Sharing
Preserving
Collecting
Since 1885



Hunterdon County
Historical Society
114 Main Street
Flemington, NJ
08822

