

Hunterdon Historical Record



HUNTERDON
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

hunterdonhistory.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

See our website for more details.

May 21 - 2:00 pm

Historian Larry Kidder Presents
Hunterdon's First County Seat:
The Early History of Trenton
Hosted by
Hunterdon 300th
County Library, Rt. 12

June 14 - 7 pm

Flag Collector
Richard Pierce Presents
Famous Flags throughout
American History
Hosted by
Hunterdon 300th
County Library, Rt. 12

July 9 - 9 am - 1 pm

History Day at Hunterdon Land
Trust Farmers' Market
Talks, Tours, Homegrown food
HCHS will be there!
111 Mine Street, Dvoor Circle
Flemington

Sept. 23, 11 am - 1:30 pm

4th Annual Cemetery Seminar
Hunterdon County at War:
The Home Front
Flemington Presbyterian
Church, 114 Main St.

Society Library Hours

Open 10 am-4 pm on Thursdays
and these Saturdays:
June 10, 24
July 8, 22
August 12, 26
September 9, 23

Saturday, October 7

Join us for An Afternoon at the Archives



Have you ever wondered what goes on in the large red barn at 67 River Road in Raritan Township with the small sign outside that says, *Hunterdon County Historical Society, private*?

Ponder no more because the Society is opening the building for a special fundraising event on **Saturday, October 7 from 3:00-6:00 pm, rain or shine**. Join the professional staff and trustees of the Society for **An Afternoon at the Archives**.

The event features wine, light-fare and music followed by curator tours of the special collections housed in the Society's state-of-the-art archive building. Come and get a glimpse into what we do in our "barn" and the amazing collections gathered since the Society's inception in 1885. You'll see paintings, early clothing, quilts, rare maps, Civil War artifacts, toys, manuscripts and more!

Admission is **\$40 for members and \$50 for non-members, with half of each tax-deductible**. Watch our website for continuing updates on the event.

Please send in your check made payable to the Hunterdon County Historical Society by September 29 to let us know you are coming. To sign up for the first of the tours, call us at 908.782.1091. If your schedule only opens up after the 29th, simply show up October 7 for tickets at the door. Help us raise the funds to maintain our valuable collections and preserve Hunterdon County's heritage for the next 132 years.

The event is sponsored in part by Northfield Bank.



Grand Army of the Republic belt and buckle; the gift of Charles Angel GAR Post #20, Lambertville.

Nineteenth century portable apothecary's medicine chest; gift of Ron Schultzel, 2012.



HUNTERDON HISTORICAL RECORD

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2nd and 4th Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
and by appointment

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Become a MemberDues payable annually
on the calendar year,
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mation with your check to:Hunterdon County Historical Society
ATTN: Membership
114 Main Street
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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.

- Anderson, David. Glass carafe with floral and fern motifs engraved to the "Hon. John T. Bird, Flemington, NJ"
- Biddle, Dr. C. Miller. 1 book, *William and Sarah Biddle, 1633-1711: planting a seed of democracy in America* (2012).
- Brasher, John Lawrence. 1 book, *The Dog Head Sword of Succasunna: Forgotten Family Patriots and Loyalists in the Revolutionary War* (Brasher, 2016).
- Bunce, Kimberly. 1 oversized, panoramic, wall mounted black and white photograph of Round Valley that hung in the Ryland Inn of Whitehouse, NJ. n.d.
- Castagna, Robert M. Approximately 50 items (mainly awards and certificates) documenting Hunterdon County History from the collection of Kenneth Myers, past president of the Hunterdon County Historical Society.
- Dorris, Carl Eugene. 1 book, *A Dorris Family History: the life and times of William Dorris of Middlesex, New Jersey, 1715-1795* (Dorris, 2016).
- Farley, Patti J. 5 binders of postcards, bank notes, cancelled checks, and correspondence from Fisher's Store, Lebanon, NJ, ca. 1871-1924.
- Gesner, Michael and Janet. Two vol., *Johannes Creveling and his descendants, Part I, Generations 1-10; Part II, Generations 11-15* (Gesner, 2016).
- Hauck, Joseph. A pamphlet and a project record book concerning Jersey Cattle, herd management, and farm experience, 1946.
- Honachefsky, William E. *High Bridge*, Postcard Series (Honachefsky, 2016). Signed by author.
- Lanning, Gail. 5 photographs of John Van Ray, some of his family members, and his home on Park Avenue, Flemington, ca. 1940-1969.
- Lebanon Township Museum. 2 copies of *Lebanon Township 200 Years: an historical retrospect of Lebanon Township, New Jersey* published by the Lebanon Township Historical Society (1999).
- Lubinski, Jacqueline Wells. Photocopies of the following records from Bloomsbury Presbyterian Church, cemetery cards (mid-1800s to 2015); 9 Burial Transit Records (1993-2016). Cemetery Plot Map and Burials by Plot through Oct. 30, 2005; miscellaneous deeds and notes.
- Mathews, John. 6 yearbooks (Flemington High School Echo 1932, 1937, 1938(2), and 1939(2); 2 Commemorative Plates (55th Reunion, Flemington H.S., 1939-1994); and a group of pamphlets, booklets and programs from Flemington H.S. and Quakertown Fire Company.
- Quick, Stuart M. 1 book, *Behind the Reserve: the Quick family of Colchester, Essex County, Ontario, Canada 1601-1820* (Quick, 2016 revised edition).
- Snodgrass, Dianne. Fulper #7 stone water filter with lid.
- Stevens, Stephanie B. 1 book, *The Journey: origins of Jewish life in Hunterdon* (Stevens, 2016). Signed by author.
- Stewart, Lois. 1 oversized photograph, Lambertville High School Class Trip to Washington D.C. (in front of the Capitol) May, 1936.
- Stothoff, Richard. 2 school registers (Raritan Township, 1930-1931); 2 photographs (Central Railroad Station and Bonnell Street, Flemington, 1895); one diploma (Kathryn Dilts, Flemington H.S. 1929); and a collection of photographs, postcards, and other ephemera

Continued next page

A Salute to Volunteers



Debbie Julian

Our newest library volunteer, Debbie Julian, assists patrons with their research requests and also is reorganizing vertical and subject file folders containing miscellaneous materials, news clippings, and other ephemera. She says her work often turns up intriguing information.

Debbie, a Clinton Township resident, served as school librarian at Lebanon Borough School in Hunterdon County for 12 years. Prior to that, she worked in marketing research in the pharmaceutical and food industries. We are delighted to have her experienced help.

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.

Acquisitions continued

from the estate of Thelma Kline Miller, ca. 1880-2000, predominantly from the Three Bridges and surrounding areas.

Thomas, Howard. 1 book, *Relics, legends, and traditions of "Old Amwell"* (Glenn Hooper, [2016]). Signed by author.

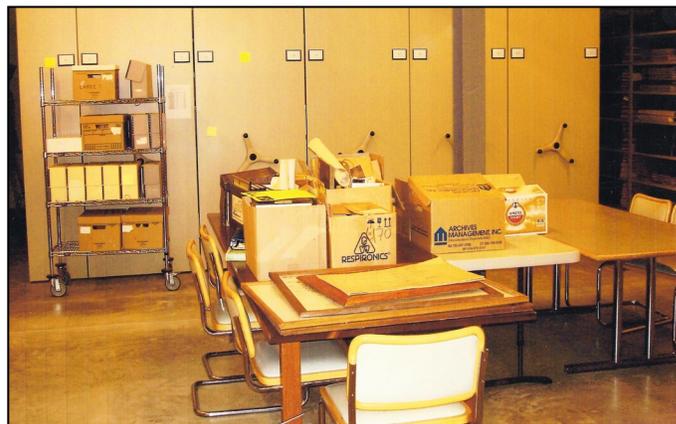
Thul, Jim. About 10 Morris Co., Somerset Co., and Union Co. local history books, most from the "Images of America" series; 1 booklet, *The Borough of Lebanon* published in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of

President Charles Fisher Reports \$5,000 Grant; Invites Everyone for FUN

The Society recently received a \$5,000 general operating support re-grant from the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, with funds from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State. The grant can be used to help pay for insurance, salaries or electric bills and we are grateful for the help.

But we are doing more than writing grant applications and having membership drives. We are hosting a curiosity-sating fundraising event at our archive building on Saturday, October 7 from 3:00-6:00 pm. The Society has grown rapidly in the last decade—so much so that we are not a small repository anymore. The archive-discovery event will showcase our intriguing collections and illustrate how we care for them in our climate-controlled storage facility. Come! Spend an afternoon with us. Share a glass of wine and tasty light fare, and enjoy the music of Guitarist Alan Rigoletto. Our professional staff will direct tours that will give you peeks into a variety of Hunterdon's historic treasures.

Imagine the historic treasures behind the manual rolling shelves that hold 3,000 linear feet of documents, photographs, books, newspapers and textiles in the Society's Archive Building. Come see a sampling of all of them for yourself.



the borough (1976); 1 booklet, *Numbering Your Genealogy: Sound and simple systems* (Curran, 1992). Gift in memory of Frederick and Louise Thul.

Verity, Joan. 2 scrapbooks (Hunterdon history through clippings, ca. 1980-2004 and Kerr's Chickeries, ca. 1930-1975); and 1 book "House histories, A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home."

Walsh, Lucy. 4 framed copies of photographs of Flemington street scenes.

Chief Tuccamirgan's Pipe Safe in Society's Archives

By David Harding

In the mid-1700s, Tuccamirgan, the chief of a local Native American village, presented his friend and neighbor, Johan Philip Case, with a pipe to symbolize their decades-long friendship. The pipe remained in the Case family for a number of years, getting handed down from generation to generation until it was given to the Society in 1925.

Ninety-two years later, that pipe was giving Patricia Millen a massive headache.

Millen had been hearing about the pipe periodically since first taking the job of Executive Director of the Society two years ago. On this fateful January day, talk of the pipe seemed to be on the lips of quite a few people as she fielded phone calls and an inquiry from a researcher about it. No particular reason, sometimes coincidence works that way.

But there was one problem: The pipe had not been seen in a couple of years. It's the rarest of occurrences for an organization with a massive collection of books, papers, artifacts, photographs and files – but it happens.

"I had such a headache when I went home that day because I couldn't stop thinking about it," Millen said. "I was getting obsessed about it."

The next day, Millen channeled her inner-Sherlock Holmes. A key clue was uncovered by librarian Pam Robinson when she discovered a vertical file with a letter and two newspaper articles from the 1920s about the pipe. The letter mentioned the pipe was actually a pipe bowl without a stem. Millen figured she had touched every box in the Hiram Deats collection multiple times, except for one box she had found in an upstairs cupboard labeled "Fish Spears Found in Salem County."

"I had handled the box when I was first hired, but set it aside because I wanted someone else to look at the spear points," she said. Millen rushed to the box, opened it, and unrolled a crumpled old newspaper. "I put my hands on it and said, 'Oh my gosh, this has to be the pipe bowl.'"

A Most Unusual Piece

The Tuccamirgan pipe is a particular form now known as a "Monitor" or platform pipe, a name coined by Native American researcher George A. West who said the pipe's shape reminded him of a Civil War ironclad. The base of the pipe bowl is three inches long and the bowl itself is three inches high, and is made



The Tuccamirgan pipe, believed to date around A.D. 410-1180, is a Monitor or platform pipe. Top: Three-inch high pipe bowl. Bottom: Three-inch long pipe base.

from soapstone or, more formally, steatite. These types of pipes are generally believed to date from the Middle Woodland period, roughly A.D. 410-1180.

"This means that the pipe would have been quite old by the time Tuccamirgan acquired it," said Dr. Richard Veit, who teaches anthropology and is chair of the History and Anthropology Department at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

The pipe's base bears a startling resemblance to a fish, but Dr. Veit thinks this might be accidental. "I believe the two holes were drilled through it, perhaps to suspend feathers. One broke the pipe – the mouth, and the other looks like an eye. The notches around the bowl are also unusual."

Dr. Veit said all this raises a number of interesting questions: Was it made more than a thousand years ago and then found and used in the historic period? Did people at different times try to improve the pipe by cutting the notches around the bowl and drilling the two holes through the far end? Was the pipe handed down for centuries among Native Americans before Chief Tuccamirgan presented it to Case?

His Blue Brother

Johan Philip Kaes, later Anglicized to Kase and then Case, (c.1680-1756) emigrated from the German Palatinate and arrived in the Flemington area around 1730. He purchased 374 acres of land from the sons of William Penn, settling along the Walnut Brook on what is now the Hunterdon Land Trust's Case-Dvoor Farmstead at the edge of Flemington.

Local tradition holds that Case erected a log cabin somewhere between the present bank barn and the brook with the help of the Delaware Indians. Historian

Elias Vosseller wrote in 1891: "A strong friendship sprang up between Mr. Case and [Chief Tuccamirgan]. The Chief called him his *blue brother*, the significance of which is not clear. They smoked the pipe of peace together and the bowl of that pipe, which the chief gave to Mr. Case, is now in the possession of John B. Case of Flemington, his great-grandson."

Tuccamirgan and his wife might also deserve credit for running the Flemington area's first baby-sitting service: According to Vosseller, the chief and his wife had no children but would frequently visit the Cases to borrow some of their kids and "take them to her wigwam and keep them all day."

Before dying in 1750, the chief asked to be buried in the Case family cemetery on what is now Bunnell Street. Supposedly, he said they had



William Van Atta, great-great-great-great-great grandson of Johan Philip Case, the original recipient of the pipe from Chief Tuccamirgan, visits with Society Executive Director Patricia Millen about the historic relic .

all lived together in peace and he wished to be buried together in peace. The Chief's grave was dug very deep, and he was buried in a sitting position with his war and hunting implements, Vosseller wrote.

While holding the pipe, William Van Atta said, "This is so cool -- I'm just beside myself."

On October 19, 1925, locals gathered in the Case family cemetery to dedicate the marble shaft created to honor Chief Tuccamirgan. According to the Hunterdon Republican account, "At 3 o'clock the Flemington Concert Band, escorting the Wickecheoke Tribe and Wickecheoke Council, Daughters of Pocahontas, both organizations in Indian regalia, marched to the ground where a large number of people had gathered." The Case family gave the Society the pipe around the time of the monument's dedication.

More than 90 years later, the pipe bowl was reunited with a Johan Philip Case descendant when William Van Atta visited the Hiram E. Deats Memorial Library. Van Atta's face beamed as he held the pipe that once belonged to his great-great-great-great grandfather.

The Society plans to display the pipe in the future.

The monument honoring the chief is etched on one face with, "In Memory of the Delaware Indian Chief Tuccamirgan 1750"; and on the other, "Erected by the Citizens of Flemington As a Tribute to this Friend of the White Man."



4th Annual Cemetery Seminar, Saturday Sept. 23

Hunterdon County at War: The Home Front

The **Fourth Annual Cemetery Seminar** will be on **Saturday, September 23** from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm at the Flemington Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street. Sponsored jointly by the Society and the 300th Committee, this year's subject, ***Hunterdon County at War: The Home Front***, will explore the question, ***What do you do with a dead soldier?*** The same question was asked by a character played by Jimmy Stewart in the 1965 movie, *Shenandoah*.

Burial practices for the war dead will be discussed from several points of view, including embalming methods and social customs, beginning with the Revolutionary War and continuing through the Civil War and World War I.

John Allen will open the program with a broad overview of past burial practices for war dead, tracing how America has evolved from "bury him where he falls" to

"bring him home at Federal expense so he can rest in American soil", citing specific examples of interments found at the graveyard to amplify his talk. John Kuhl will address the American Civil War customs as treatment of the dead evolved with embalming advances and changing sensitivities. Brian Armstrong will speak about WWI. Charles Fisher will talk about embalming and burials of war dead. Following a break for lunch, the session will end with tours of the Flemington Presbyterian Church graveyard where veterans of most of the nation's wars are buried.

To register, which is required for attendance, go to www.hunterdon300th.org.

A \$10 fee covers both speakers and lunch. The admission fee may be mailed to the Society at 114 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822, or paid at the door.

Plan TODAY to Preserve Hunterdon's History

Leaving a gift to the Hunterdon County Historical Society in your will or trust, by beneficiary designation, or another form of planned gift can make a lasting difference in preserving Hunterdon's history. For more information please contact our Executive Director Patricia Millen at 908-782-1091 or patricia.hchs@embarqmail.com.

Seeking Volume II, Parts 1 & 4 of the Apgar Family Genealogy

The Apgar Family Association published an extensive genealogy in the 1980s under the title *Johannes Peter Apgar and His Descendants*. Our library has Volume I, covering the first four generations and Volume II, Part 2, covering the lines of Johannes Adam and Catherine beginning with the fifth generation, and Part 3 (lines of Jacob and William). We lack Volume II, Part 1 (lines of Herbert, John Peter, and Heinrich), and Part 4 (lines of Peter, Frederick, and Conrad). Because of the significance of Apgars in Hunterdon County history, we are seeking donations of the parts we lack.

Our own immediate need for the books arises from a recently donated large collection of Apgar genealogical records that are now being processed. A large portion of the collection seems to be the working papers for the Conrad Apgar line of Volume II, Part 4. The books would be helpful in managing the archival arrangement of the collection.

Welcome, New Members!

The Society welcomes these new members.

Bruce and Parry Adams, Flemington, NJ
 Franklin Allen, Fenton, MI
 Teresa Anderson, Rockville, MD
 Patricia Bastianelli, Churchville, MD
 Susan Engelhardt, Flemington, NJ
 Deborah Galen, Lambertville, NJ
 Toni Gushue, Hillsborough, NJ
 David Heath, Pittsfield, MA
 Karen Jones, Philadelphia, PA
 Ronald Nielson, Severn, MD
 Karen Swart, Easton, PA
 James Thul, Flemington, NJ
 Pamela Watkinson, Flemington, NJ

In Memorium

Sharon Colquhoun, Yardville, PA
 William D. Farley, Seattle, WA

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CURATOR DON CORNELIUS REDISCOVERS PRICELESS DOCUMENTS

The HCHS Archives team is pleased to announce we received a \$6,000 preservation grant from the Society of Colonial Wars in New Jersey. The award is for treatment and conservation of documents discovered in August of 2016 while cataloging manuscripts from a library drawer. When we examined them, we realized at once they were important.

We discovered two related documents: Oaths of Abjuration and of Fealty from 1744-1758. Back then any person elected or appointed to public office had to swear (or affirm, if a Quaker) to those two oaths.

In the first, an Oath of Abjuration, a person signs/swears (or affirms) that he rejects the teachings and authority of the Catholic Church in Rome and the Pope. This is paraphrased; the actual oath is fascinating and highly detailed in its utter rejection of Catholicism. In the second, an Oath of Fealty, a person signs (or affirms) that he owes his allegiance to George II, King of England, and rejects the claims of the Pretender King James III or the authority of the Pope and Church in Rome.

Each official signed each document when taking office. The same documents were used for at least 14 years; additional sheets of parchment were sewn to the bottom of the last as more room was required. The result is a veritable list of “who’s who” in mid-18th century Hunterdon County, which at the time stretched from the Assunpink Creek in Trenton in the south to the border with Sussex in the north. The list is more extensive than one may think, including the signature of at least one Signer of the Declaration of Independence (John Hart) and many others who came to prominence during the Revolution or were fathers of those who did.

Unfortunately, the parchments do show some signs of age. There are areas where the writing has faded, or is covered with dirt, and at some time in the past a mouse must have gotten to them. Fortunately, the documents are almost mirrors of each other, with the same signatures in roughly the same places on each document, so what is damaged on one is usually intact on the other.

The question arose: How did the Society come to have these documents? The answer came from Society member and library volunteer Mike Alfano. After some research, Mike discovered a paper read before the Society

by Elias Vosseller on September 7, 1901, and published in *The Jerseyman*: “An Interesting Find of Two Parchments Relating to Early New Jersey.” (Vol. 7, No. 4, Page 31, 1901)

In his address, Mr. Vosseller relates his discovery of these documents in the office of the County Clerk, “dusty, faded, stained, torn and mouse-eaten.” Obviously impressed with their importance, he “obtained permission of the Clerk, A.R. Dilts, Esq., to take them out and make

copies of them. Afterwards I read to him these copies and then asked him to allow the originals to be placed in the archives of our Society for care and safe keeping. This request he granted.”

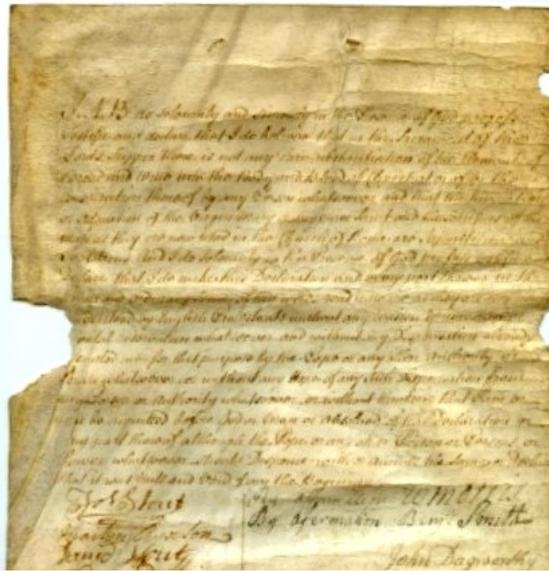
So, 115 years after Elias Vosseller discovered these amazing manuscripts in the Clerk’s office and had them transferred to our care, we have re-discovered them. The value of these documents, both as items that preserve cultural history and as artifacts in their own right, is priceless.

Immediately upon discovery HCHS volunteer Pamlyn Bush donated funds to the Society to cover the cost of a conservation report and treatment plan to be performed by the Conservation

Center for Art and Historic Artifacts. Before their delivery to CCAHA headquarters in Philadelphia, Society Trustee Bob Leith assisted in performing a careful digital scan of the oaths, which is pictured here.

It was our hope that a donor could be found to fund the cost of the preservation treatment for these fantastic pieces of history. Volunteer Mike Alfano also is a member of the Society of Colonial Wars in New Jersey and urged us to apply to them for a grant. They graciously awarded us the funds to conserve the valuable manuscripts. Funding priorities of the Society for Colonial Wars in New Jersey include the restoration and physical preservation of documents dating to the Colonial Period in New Jersey between 1607 and 1775. “The parchments were a perfect project,” says Glen Beebe, Grants Committee Chairman, “they show the political turmoil in New Jersey caused by the Jacobite uprising.”

Thanks to our volunteers and the Society of Colonial Wars in New Jersey, conservation of the parchments is under way. We look forward to presenting the documents to our membership when they are returned. Meanwhile, we can reassure Mr. Vosseller and Mr. Dilts that we have not proven unworthy of their trust.



Scanned detail of one of the 1744 documents.

Spotlight on Collections: Who is This Lovely Gypsy Girl?

It's Margaret Hinchman (1813-1901) who married William C. Bonnell (1804-1865) on June 9, 1836. William painted this portrait of his 27-year-old bride in 1840, in a style quite different from his other work, which was more somber and stoic. He began his career as a portrait painter in 1823, and is credited with some twenty oil-on-panel paintings. In 1825 he painted at least seven likenesses of Hunterdon residents; his last known work was completed in 1833.



on the other. He is not known to have painted other signs.

William was born in Clinton as the fourth child and second son of Colonel Clement du Mont and Rachel (Wolverton) Bonnell, and the grandson of Revolutionary War Colonel Abraham Bonnell, proprietor of the Bonnell Tavern, which still stands at the edge of Clinton. It was reported that William once called the Tavern "The Gypsy Girl". Could that name possibly be in honor of his lovely wife?

The Bonnells were members of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Grandin and are buried in the church graveyard.

The Society's collection includes three of his portraits and a tavern sign, said to be painted by him for the Perryville Inn, depicting Andrew Jackson on one side and an American flag



Hunterdon's History
Sharing
Preserving
Collecting
Since 1885

Hunterdon County
Historical Society
114 Main Street
Flemington, NJ
08822

