

Hunterdon Historical Record



HUNTERDON
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

hunterdonhistory.org

UPCOMING EVENT

FUNDRAISER!

*An Afternoon
at the Archives*

**Sat, Oct 7, 3-6 pm,
rain or shine.**

**Members \$40
non-members \$50**
(½ tax deductible)

Wine tasting, cheese, fruit and an up-close look at some of our collections: maps, old documents, toys, textiles, paintings, Native American and Civil War artifacts, and more — even oddities!

Etched collectible wine glass and preferred tour time for the first 50 to pre-register by calling 908.782.1091.

Tours start at
3:30, 4:15, 4:45, 5:15

**With thanks to our
Sponsors**

Northfield Bank
Mendham Garden Center
Printech
Rutgers Nursery
ShopRite of Hunterdon

Sunday, Nov 12, @ 2:00 pm—Open to the public

All About our Now Preserved Rare Parchments

Tessa Gadomski of the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) in Philadelphia will speak at our annual fall membership meeting Nov. 12, 2 pm at the Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street, Flemington. Ms. Gadomski is a Book and Paper Conservator at CCAHA where the Society’s rare Oaths of Allegiance parchments were conserved.

The two related documents, Oaths of Abjuration and Oaths of Fealty, date from 1744-1758 and show how the elected or appointed officials in the colony had to swear that they rejected the authority of the Catholic Church and swear their allegiance to King George II. They serve as a virtual “who’s who” of the county that once stretched into Trenton and include the signature of John Hart, a Declaration of Independence signer.

After a brief introduction on the documents’ history and the early period of New Jersey’s history as a British colony, Ms. Gadomski will discuss the conservation assessment for such projects and the science behind the processes to conserve both ink and parchment. Guests will learn the *behind the scenes work* done by conservators to examine and determine the best methods to preserve historical documents.

The conservation of the documents was funded by a generous grant from the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New Jersey who recognized the importance of these truly rare documents.

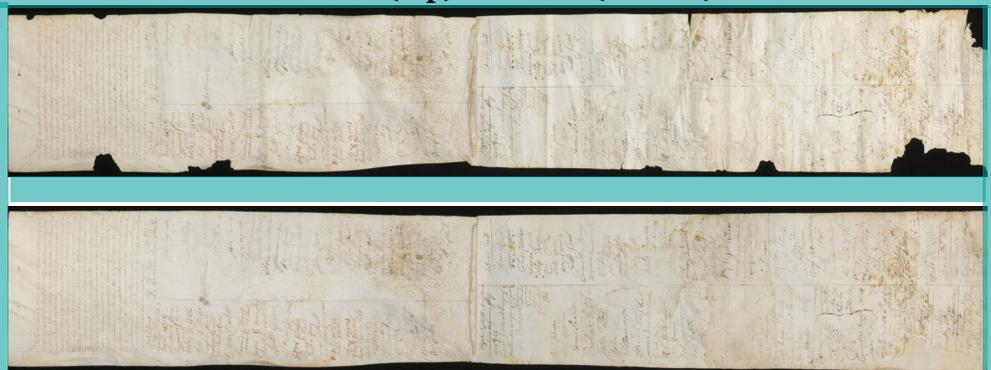
Ms. Gadomski has an MS in Art Conservation from Winterthur/University of Delaware (UD), a Certificate of Advanced Study in Preservation from Simmons College Graduate School of Library & Information Science, a BA in Art Conservation/Art History from UD, and has interned at the Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution Archives, and Harvard’s Weissman Preservation Center and was a Kress Fellow at Dartmouth College Library.

Her 50-minute talk will be followed by questions. Refreshments will be served.



Tessa Gadomski

Parchments before (top) and after (bottom) treatment.



HUNTERDON HISTORICAL RECORD

Copyright © 2017 - US ISSN-0018-7850

Published Winter, Spring, and Fall by the
Hunterdon County Historical Society
114 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822**EDITORIAL BOARD**Lora Jones, John Kuhl, Stephanie Stevens
Layout: Lora Jones**LIBRARY HOURS**Thursdays, 10 am to 4 pm
Last Saturday of month, 10 am to 4 pm
Second Wednesdays, 6 to 9 pm
Check web site to confirm evening hours.

TELEPHONE: 908-782-1091

WEBSITE: www.hunterdonhistory.orgEMAIL: hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com**OFFICERS & TRUSTEES***President:* Charles H. Fisher (2018)*Vice President:* Kenneth Cumming (2018)*Treasurer:* John W. Kuhl (2020)*Recording Secretary:* John Matsen (2019)

John F. Allen Jr. (2019)

Janice Armstrong (2020)

Steven P. Gruenberg, Esq. (2018)

David Harding (2018)

Lora W. Jones (2018)

Bob Leith (2020)

Christopher Pickell (2020)

Mary Ellen Soldavin (2019)

Stephanie Stevens (2020)

Richard H. Stothoff (2019)

Howard Thomas (2019)

STAFF

Patricia Millen, Executive Director

Don Cornelius, Manuscript Curator

Pamela Robinson, Librarian

Become a MemberDues payable annually
on the calendar year,
January to DecemberSeniors & Students—\$20 Business—\$150
Individual—\$30 Sustaining—\$200
Family—\$50 Life—\$500Please 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 infor-
mation 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.

Abegg, Edmund. Oil painting, late 19th century, of Hiram Deats in a gilded frame.Apgar, William. *Johannes Peter Apgard and his descendants*, 5 volume book set published by the Apgar Association. **Thank you for responding to our request!**

Bethlehem Presbyterian Church. 1 CD. Bethlehem Presbyterian Church (Pittstown, NJ) Records, 1769-1979. PDF files of Original Church Records held at the Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia.

Condit, Jotham Halsey and Ebenezer Condit. *Genealogical records of the Cunditt family descendants of John Cunditt, a native of Great Britain, who settled in Newark N.J. 1678 to 1885*. 1916 revision by the Condit Family Association.Fleming, Thomas J. *New Jersey: a history* (1977).

Gentry, Bob. 1 Set of 8 Blueprints; addition to High School Building for the Board of Education, Borough of Flemington, NJ. 11/18/1926.

Hampton, Bob and George Schember. *Walking in the footsteps of General Daniel Morgan* (2016).

Kipp, Gary and Janet. A collection of items from the Potter family of Mountainville; includes photographs of Meta, Floyd, and Arthur Potter; clothing of Arthur; marriage certificates, and a manuscript history of Mountainville; ca. 1920-1923.

Kyde, Marion M. *Delaware River Scenic Byway*. Images of American series (2014).Lee, Warren F. and Catherine T. *A Chronology of the Belvidere Railroad and the communities through which it operated* (1989).

Morris County Historical Society. 2 Items; tax notices, High Bridge and Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, NJ; 1889.

Weiss, Frederick Lewis. *The Colonial Clergy of the Middle Colonies: New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania 1628-1776* (1978).Zorn, Robert. *Cemetery John: the undiscovered mastermind of the Lindbergh kidnapping* (2012).***Welcome, New Members!*****Thank you for your interest in Hunterdon's History**

Life Member: Rosalyn Bellis, Alexandria, VA

Norman Butler, Australia

George and Kathy Cevera, Frenchtown NJ

Michael and Joan Garriazzo, Califon, NJ

Richard Higgins, Flemington, NJ

Carol Kinnaird, Hoover, Alabama

Antonio Jannuzzi, Asbury, NJ

David McMillan, West Windsor, NJ

Jim Murray, Bridgewater, NJ

William Van Natta, Branchburg, NJ

In Memorium

Dan Campanelli, Quakertown, NJ

A Salute to Volunteers



Intern Matt Dellaguzzo studies bead work on one of a pair of Plains Indian moccasins in the Society's Native American collection.

Met Mike Dellaguzzo, our summer volunteer intern from Seton Hall University. A Classical Studies graduate of the University of Puget Sound, Matt is currently pursuing a master's degree in Museum Professions with a focus on museum registration.

Matt is tackling the research and cataloging of one of our largest and most important collections, the Hiram E. Deats Native American artifacts. The majority of the collection, which numbers into the hundreds of pieces, is housed in display cases originally purchased by Mr. Deats and still in our former headquarters on the second floor of the Flemington Public Library. Deats appears to have begun collecting American Indian artifacts in the late 1880s.

Matt is strategizing his research to the unique artifacts in the collection before beginning to describe the hundreds of projectile points. Already Matt has found references to the collection in Deats' personal papers, his hand-written notes and in auction sale catalogs. The goal is to uncover the story of the collection as *curated* by Hiram Deats, as well as to determine the dates and uses of the artifacts and to identify their region of origin--from Hunterdon County, the U.S., and the world. The entire collection will eventually be added to the Society's online collection catalog for public research.

President Charles Fisher Remembers Dan Campanelli

The Society lost an extraordinarily knowledgeable, talented, and committed member with the passing of Dan Campanelli on May 24. Although Dan's amiable presence and generous nature will be missed, appreciation for his many contributions lives on.

Dan and Marty Campanelli joined the Society when they moved to Hunterdon County in 2005 and began using their many talents to further our mission in both large and small ways. Their grandest accomplishment was the seminal book on Hunterdon County needlework, which contributed greatly to that field. Most generously, they donated all proceeds from the book's sale to the Society. They then researched the women who taught the skill and served as co-curators and lecturers for Morven Museum and Gardens in Princeton for an exhibition of the best samplers found in New Jersey. They also restored samplers in our collection.

They helped reorganize the furnishings and paintings in the Doric House so it could be opened for tours, helped to mount the art and artifacts in the Stothoff Galleries, donated giclee prints of Dan's artwork to enhance other walls, did many touch-ups of furniture and frames, and scanned glass negatives for the Archives. And, always, they were a valuable and reliable source of information on a variety of historical subjects.

True to his nature, at his passing Dan requested donations to the Society in lieu of flowers, and we thank all of you who have remembered him that way. We are grateful to have had such a selfless member as Dan Campanelli.

We offer our continuing support to Marty and hope she will find comfort in applying her many talents to work with us to further our historical causes.

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.

TRIPLE AX MURDER SHOCKED HUNTERDON 100 YEARS AGO

By Rick Epstein for Hunterdon County Democrat/NJ.com

Exactly 100 years ago on June 7, a surly farm hand set fire to the Holland Township home of the Queen family and killed them with an ax.

The farmstead, including the house, barn and wagon house, burned to the ground, but it had been near where Route 519 turns west toward Milford from the Mount Pleasant-Little York Road.

In a 1980 interview with Delaware Valley News reporter Peter Zirnite, Mount Pleasant native Clarence Parker, on the occasion of his 100th birthday, recalled the tragedy.

Parker heard the church bells ringing at about 11 p.m., a signal that something bad had happened. His part-time work for the county sheriff gave him some official standing, and “when I heard that church bell, I got out of bed as if I was shot out of a cannon,” he recalled. There was a fire at the neighboring Queen farm. Parker didn't mention it, but the schoolmaster's son had also fired several shots into the air to help rouse the village.

When Parker arrived at the farm, he found two men standing outside the burning farmhouse “scared speechless.” They had found the bloody bodies of William and Emma Queen, ages 61 and 52, and their 24-year-old daughter Elizabeth, whose nightgown was on fire – either because she'd run through the burning house or because her body lay so close to the inferno.

Fearing the burning house would collapse on the bodies, the three men dragged them away from the flames. “Blood was all over our shoes and trousers. It was worst thing I ever had to do,” he recalled 63 years later. “It's something I'll never forget. Never.”

The June 13, 1917, issue of the Frenchtown Star tells the story:

A Lithuanian immigrant named Paul Maywoon (also known as Maywood and Maywoern) had been convicted of carrying a concealed weapon in Jersey City. John Queen, a former judge, arranged for Maywoon to be put on probation and hired by his ailing brother, William, to do farm work for him in Holland Township.

William Queen “did not like the man when he arrived from the city to go to work, but as he needed help badly, decided to try him for a few days. The man talked rather brokenly and grew sullen and morose as the days went by, frequently swearing even in the presence of the women folk, when he was ordered to do different tasks.”

The Crime

On the day of the murders, after Maywoon had been on the job for almost a month, “it is supposed that Mr. Queen either discharged him or reproached him for swearing and refusing to work, and that hatred grew in him until he... set the barn (and house) on fire. Mr. Queen, seeing the fire, rushed out – to be met and crushed down by the crazed brute, who had secured the axe from the wood pile to defend himself after firing the house.” Maywoon then killed the wife and daughter as they ran out of the burning building, and then ran off, gory ax still in hand.

The couple, still dressed, apparently hadn't gone to bed. But Elizabeth had been awakened either by the fire or by the sounds of murder in the dooryard. Before she fled the house, she had the presence of mind to grab her savings. Her pocketbook, containing \$400, was found with her body.

Just outside the house, with the flames providing illumination, “it was a ghastly sight, the innocent faces of these helpless ones, making the stoutest hearts quail and causing men as well as women to shed tears over a scene that seemed too terrible to be true. Far removed from help, they all three perished with only the sight of the fiendish work left to tell what had been enacted.”

Three horses perished in the burning barn. The Star had the cattle breaking loose and escaping, but the Hunterdon Republican's report had them dying with the horses.

The Manhunt

For four days, police and private detectives conducted a manhunt for Maywoon, who was described as age 28, 5-foot-4, 160 pounds, broad-shouldered and bow-legged, with black hair, dark complexion and a scar across his nose.

At 7 p.m. on Monday, June 11, two young men fishing near Finesville (a hamlet straddling the Musconetcong River between Holland and Pohatcong townships) “were startled by the sight of a man emerging from the woods bareheaded and carrying an axe.” The fashion-conscious Hunterdon Republican adds that “he was without a collar and cravat.”

Maywoon “started after them, brandishing the axe. They ran for help to a nearby house and all returned with guns and other weapons,” the Star

wrote. But the Republican reported that after the fishermen saw Maywood “skulking on the woods” in a swampy area associated with the river, they then “notified the Warren Paper Mills nearby, and employees of the plant surrounded the swamp.”

The posse found Maywood and chased him across the Musconetcong. The Republican says, “He had with him an axe with a broken handle, which he flourished, and with which he sought to keep the crowd from taking him. Before he was arrested, he was shot twice, once with a shot gun and once with a revolver. Neither shot was very serious.”

The Star credits Earle Andrews of Riegelsville with one of the shots, which hit Maywoon in the hip, adding, “The crowd then jumped in and took the fight out of him with fists and feet.”

The posse meanwhile was augmented by additional armed men, and when Hunterdon Deputy Sheriff Broderick arrived, “the man lay in the road with probably 250 excited persons all trying to hammer him at once.” Broderick and his companions “fought their way to the man, and for a little while were pushed and hammered around by the crowd in their endeavor to string (Maywoon) up,” the Star wrote.

He had “a bullet wound in his back, also peppered with gunshot inflicted by his captors,” according to the Republican. Maywoon was taken to the county jail in Flemington where many of the shotgun pellets were removed, according to the Star, which said he was “in critical condition from his wounds and hunger.”

Maywoon told authorities that he had been fired on June 7 and then left the farm at 6 p.m. He said he knew nothing about any murders, the Star reported.

The Milford Leader wrote, “Caught red-handed, looking more like a human vulture than a man – after a four-day lease of his worthless life – Paul Maywoern is behind the bars, and the good people of this and surrounding communities are resting easier.”

The funeral of the Queen family was held at the Alexandria First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant, attended by a crowd estimated variously at 1,000 or 1,500. The family was buried in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, which is just across the road from the church.

The Queens were all natives of the Milford area. Mrs. Queen's maiden name was Beckman. Elizabeth was a graduate of Phillipsburg High School and Trenton Normal School, now known as The College of New Jersey. She had been teaching



Queen family gravestones. Photo by Rick Epstein for *Hunterdon County Democrat/NJ.com*.

school in the Mount Joy area of Holland Township, and had been engaged to a Mr. Bellis.

Trial and Punishment

In July Maywoon was tried for the murder of William Queen. In case of an acquittal, the state would be able to try Maywoon for the murders of the women. The trial took place in the old county courthouse in Flemington with Judge Thomas Trenchard presiding. The venue and the judge would receive worldwide attention in 1935 during the trial of Bruno Hauptmann, kidnapper of Charles Lindbergh Jr.

The Republican reports that during the trial “Maywoon maintained an indifferent or stolid demeanor for the most part, except that now and then he would break out into a laugh for which there seemed to be no reason.” The mirth is a mystery, but his unresponsiveness may have been a result of his poor grasp of the English language.

Maywoon was found guilty and, just 68 days after the crime, was executed on Aug. 14 in Trenton, according to the Republican. The Star wrote, “With the electrocution of Paul Maywoon for the murder of the Wm. Queen family at Mt. Pleasant, there passes into history the final act of one of the worst tragedies ever enacted in the County of Hunterdon.”

The crime that once horrified Hunterdon County has been largely forgotten. But casual visitors to the Mount Pleasant Cemetery might wonder about the identical date of death engraved on three headstones in the Queen family plot.

GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE – IN COLOR – AND SAVE US POSTAGE COSTS.

Hunterdon Revolutionary War Sword Prompts Book

In a series of three lectures scheduled for Hunterdon and Morris counties in October, long-time Society member John Lawrence Brasher, PhD, will relate stories of Hunterdon Rebels and Loyalists that he discovered while researching the history of his heirloom Revolutionary War relic--a 1775 silver hilted dog head sword, the rarest of Revolutionary War swords made in Hunterdon County. He entitles the talk, *A Hunterdon Silver Dog Head Sword and the Civil War within the American Revolution*.

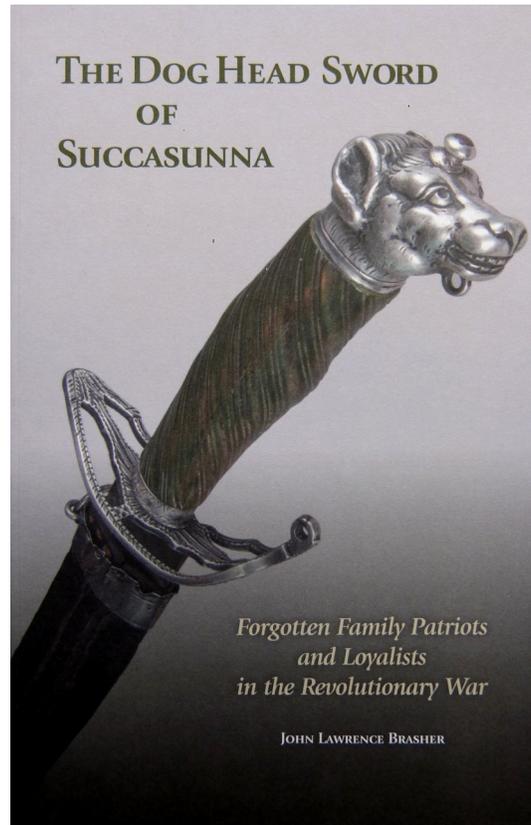
Dr. Brasher, a native of Morristown and the Denson N. Franklin Professor of Religion at Birmingham-Southern College, a private liberal arts institution in Alabama, started his quest in the Society's Hiram Deats Research Library in 1976. Since then, a long and sometimes surprising trail has led him to publish a book entitled *The Dog Head Sword of Succasunna: Forgotten Family Patriots and Loyalists in the Revolutionary War*. Larry's research points to the sword's connections to silversmiths in Trenton, Scotch-Irish animosities toward England, and the Loyalist raid on the Jones

Tavern in Lebanon Township (now Clinton).

He reports there may be a link to Rebel Captain James Moore who stormed the college's Nassau Hall during the Battle of Princeton in 1777. His research also uncovered shifting Rebel-Loyalist commitments within local families and the civil animosities that divided Hunterdon residents in Revolutionary times.

Larry's speaking schedule starts with the Hunterdon County 300th Committee at the North Branch County Library in Clinton, Saturday, Oct. 21, at 2:00 pm. He speaks on Sunday, Oct. 22, at 2 pm, at Washington's Headquarters in Morristown and on Oct. 23, at 7:30 pm to the Roxbury Historical Society at the Succasunna Presbyterian Church. His presentation will intrigue anyone interested in the Revolution or who has a family artifact from the Revolutionary War and wonders how it relates to the history of its time.

His 101-page book is available for purchase in our Library and at each talk, where he will sign copies. Cost of the book is \$19; if mailing is required, shipping adds \$4.



History Books Make Great Gifts. We Have a Lot of Them.

Uniquely interesting books, maps, posters, and photographs about the history of Hunterdon County are for sale in the Deats Library and on our website at www.hunterdonhistory.org. Look through our list to find the perfect gift for a friend, or for yourself.

To order books, maps, or posters online, go to

our web page, click on the *About* tab, then click on *Store* and scroll through the list. Orders will be shipped to your home; costs are detailed online. To find historical photographs, click on *Online Catalog* and then on the type research you prefer. Copies of photos may be purchased (with permission for use).

A Gift From Your Estate Will Help 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.

Curator Don Cornelius Details New Collections

Just so our members know, the Oaths of Abjuration and Fealty that will be featured at our "Afternoon at the Archives" event in October are not the only things that our program has been working on. Since this space was last used as a report to our members, the HCHS Archives team has released quite a few new archival collections. Here is a quick look at a few of the new additions to the growing number of collections available to our members and to the general public.

Collection 135: The Kenneth V. Myers Papers (1800-1995)

Ken Myers was a Hunterdon County Freeholder and longtime member and President of the HCHS. This collection consists largely of correspondence, notes, clippings, and informational material collected by Myers during his lifetime. Of particular interest is the campaign literature for Myers' Freeholder race; correspondence, reports and other documentation regarding the establishment of the Hunterdon County Communications System; and the early years of the Hunterdon Medical Center. This collection will be of interest to anyone researching Hunterdon County during the 1960s and 70s.

Collection 142: The J. Edward Stout Papers (1774-1993)

This collection has a number of records and volumes accumulated by J. Edward Stout (1923-2001), longtime Historian of Franklin Township, Hunterdon County. Parts of the collection include records of the Franklin Telephone Company, court battles between the Franklin Township Board of Education and I.O.O.F. Lackatong Lodge No. 114, and genealogical notes on the Leaver, Hampton, and Vail families.

Collection 149: Kingwood Presbyterian Church Cemetery Association (1924-1979)

This collection contains records from the Kingwood Presbyterian Church Cemetery Association, including two sets of minutes, foundational documents, corre-

spondence to and from Hiram E. Deats (a trustee and officer) and other board members; and other miscellaneous documents. The collection also includes four photographs. This collection will interest anyone researching the Kingwood Presbyterian Church, Kingwood Township history, or personalities that were members of the organization.

Collection 178: The Harold B. Everitt Papers (1900-1980)

This small collection contains 12 folders and is comprised of newspapers, periodicals, brochures, farm conservation plans, and photographs relating to the agricultural and civic activities of Harold B. Everitt, and the Everitt farm in Hunterdon County, NJ.

Collection 179: The Guy Bell Photographs (1882-1977)

This collection has photographs spanning three generations of the Bell-Stout family from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. The majority of the images are studio portraits and various other photographs that captured family life at the Bell family home located at 41 East Main Street, Flemington. The collection highlights

the town of Flemington, NJ as a central subject in the celebration of holiday parades and festivities at the turn of the century.

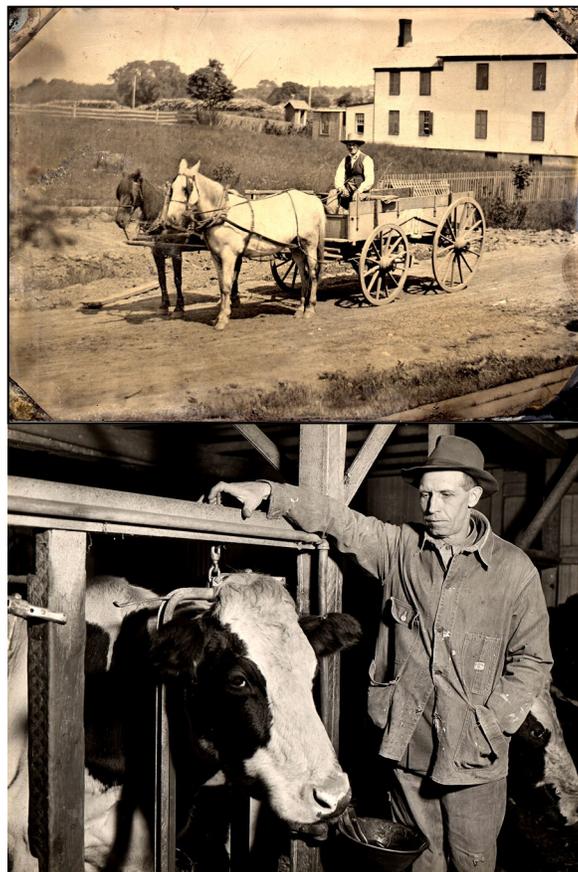
Collection 184: Hageman Family Collection (1850-1910)

A collection of deeds, account books and photographs documenting several generations of the Hageman family of Pleasant Run, Readington Township, NJ. There are also materials documenting the Thompson and Cole families, as well as the Pleasant Run School from the same vicinity.

Bound Manuscripts MSS1722-1732; Diaries of Edmund Abegg, 1945-ca.1955

There are ten diaries in the set, in roughly consecutive years, and they are interesting in that they illustrate the coming of age of a young man (Ed Abegg, the Grandson of Hiram E. Deats) in Hunterdon County in a highly transitional period in history.

Top: From the Hageman Family Collection, # 184.
Bottom: From the Harold B. Everitt Papers, # 178.



Spotlight on Collections: Hiram Deats Portraits

A portrait of Hiram Deats (1810-1887) was recently donated to the Society by his great-grandson, Edmund Abegg of Pennsylvania. The portrait has been passed down through the family without the artist's name and little other information. Much to the donor's surprise, an almost exact duplicate portrait exists in our collection, which also includes a portrait of Hiram's son Hiram Edmund (1870-1963) painted in 1901 by Harry Harrison in exchange for Mr. Deats' bicycle. Could Mr. Harrison also have painted the portraits of Hiram?

This photo from our Deats Collection shows one of the portraits of Hi-



ram watching over his son Hiram Edmund's office filled with items he collected. Hiram became Hunterdon's first millionaire with the patent and manufacture of a plow developed by his father John, a wheelwright. Hiram produced the plow as well as other agricultural equipment at his shop in Pittstown. His financial success allowed his son the wherewithal to pursue his passion for preserving local history, researching genealogy, and collecting a broad range of material that included stamps and many Native American artifacts. The bulk of The Hiram Edmund Deats Collection was the beginning of our Historical Society.

HCHS received an operating support re-grant from the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, with funds from the NJ Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.



Hunterdon's History
 Sharing
 Preserving
 Collecting
 Since 1885
 08822
 Flemington, NJ
 114 Main Street
 Historical Society
 Hunterdon County

