



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

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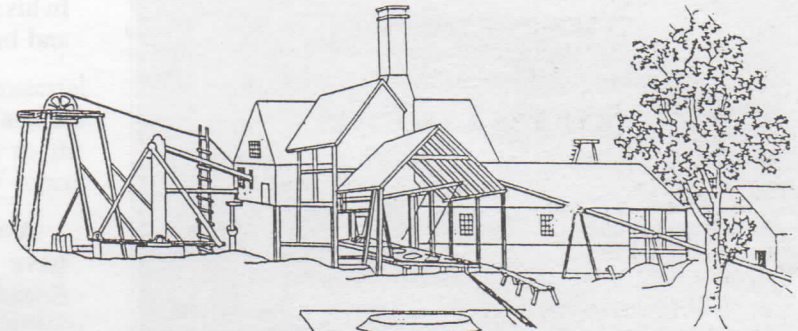
WINTER 1996

Flemington Copper Mine Topic of Annual Meeting Sunday March 23 – 2 P.M.

The Flemington Copper Mine, the Alleghany Copper Mine and Charles Bartles, a Hunterdon County stock promoter, will be discussed by speaker Mark Zdepski at the Annual Meeting of the Hunterdon County Historical Society. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 23 March at 2 p.m. in the Flemington Woman's Club and is open to the public.

Discovery of copper mineralization in Hunterdon County during the Pre-Revolutionary eighteenth century resulted in a local strain of "copper fever" one hundred years later. Charles Bartles, a Flemington attorney, was personally involved with the formation of at least two mining companies: the Flemington Copper Mine and the Alleghany Copper Mine in Warren County. The Flemington Copper Mine was located in an area formed by the properties of Hugh Capner, Van Sinderlin and the present Dvoor farm. It is the largest of several mines within a few miles of Flemington. These properties stimulated the formation of at least nine different companies; Elias Vosseller (1891) claimed that six of the companies had offerings of over 70,000 shares of stock with a purported value of \$1 million.

The initial workings of the Flemington Copper Mine appear to be honest efforts at producing a mineral product.



To the Stockholders of the Flemington Copper Company.

Figure 1

The illustration above is among the Capner Papers (manuscript group #0031, oversize folder 1187) in the Historical Society collections.

Reports written for the site indicate a number of shafts and tunnels underground. On the surface, a main building was used to process the ore but also included an engine house, crushing area, and giggering equipment. The engine house boasted a 210 horsepower horizontal steam engine. The complex also contained a carpenter's shop, laboratory, a blacksmith's shop, an office, storehouse, eight miners' houses and a large brick mansion. Figure 1, a line drawing from the Capner Papers at the Historical Society illustrates all of the elements of the ore processing circuit.

Charles Bartles also had an interest in a property referred to as the Alleghany Mine in Warren County. This property is better known as The Pahaquarry Mine. The Pahaquarry Mine is rumored to have been worked by the earliest Dutch settlers of New Jersey in the mid-1600's, who shipped the ore to Holland. No archeological evidence exists for this account. The mine was deserted by 1664; however, the "Pennsylvania Chronicle" of August 24-31, 1767 announced that among the items for public sale of Richard Reading's estate in Amwell Township, Hunterdon County was his entire share of a certain copper mine at Wallpack.

In 1847, the Alleghany Copper Mining Company was incorporated by Charles Bartles and others whose names also variously appear on the corporation papers of the several Flemington copper mining companies. Weiss and Weiss (1963), indicate that \$200,000 worth of capital stock was offered at \$20/share.

Documents in the Historical Society Collection show that Charles Bartles began underground mining activity at both the Flemington Mine and the Alleghany Mine. Bartles engaged the services of a Philadelphia mine examiner, Professor Montroeville Dickeson, to write glowing reports

1996 Calendar

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| March 24 | ANNUAL MEETING – Flemington Copper Mines – Speaker Mark Zdepski 2 p.m. Flemington Womans' Club |
| April 24 | 7th Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon |
| May 17-19 | Flemington Childrens' Choir Centennial |
| May 18 | Doric House, open 10-12, 5-7 p.m. Former home of Elizabeth Vosseller, Choir School founder. |
| June 7-9 | Flemington Victorian Days |
| June 8 | Doric House built 150 years ago in 1846. House open for tours Saturday 1-4 p.m. on its sesquicentennial |
| July 4 | INDEPENDENCE DAY – Library closed |

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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Flemington Copper Mine (Continued from page 728)

for both of his properties. These were used for promotional purposes. In his 1862 report for the Alleghany Copper Mining Company Property, Dickeson states that the Pahaquarry mine has mineral rights to 1000 acres, with 30 acres for surface operations. Fourteen mine openings, beginning with 2 open cuts, provided access to varying levels of the mine. Like his Hunterdon report, Dickeson also promotes the hidden potential of the mine: "The colossal proportions of the outcrop on this property, ... the positive evidence of copper ore wherever it was opened, are conclusive proof of value... My surprise was excited that so much wealth, rearing its index so plainly & boldly to the view, should have remained latent or neglected for so long."

The promotion of this mine was evidently a success because by 1868, the mine was owned by another company. It is quite likely that the work performed by Charles Bartles' mine development efforts obliterated any remnants of any Dutch workings.

In the presentation Mr. Zdepski will examine period illustrations of the copper mines relating them to the mining techniques of the day. The talk is illustrated with slides of the mine locations, historical surface and underground site plans and workings, explanations of mining methods and other historical references. This talk results from an earlier presentation prepared for the Society of Industrial Archeology on the 18th and 19th Century Copper Mining In New Jersey.

Mark Zdepski was raised in Hunterdon County and returned here in 1985 after an extended absence. He trained as a geologist at the University of Alaska and worked in the mining industry in Alaska, Montana and Nevada.

Returning to his home state of New Jersey in the 1980's, his career turned to environmental geology. He became interested in history during the performance of professional work, and extended it to a reading past-time. While performing mineral investigations that included knowledge of past uses of properties, he developed an interest in historic industrial practices. This talk puts four of Mark's interests together: geology, history, industry and a study of a home area. Mark lives in Delaware Township with his wife, Linda, and three children, Renee, Anna and Gregory. In his spare time, for unexplained reasons, he collects rocks and bricks.

Membership Report

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

Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Burroughs, Churchville, PA
Kevin Chambers, Flemington, NJ
John W. Donahue, Cincinnati, OH
Barbara Gellner, Flemington, NJ **LIFE**
Mark E. Holcomb, Tacoma, WA
Gerald & Priscilla Kreger, Hackettstown, NJ
Annette Power, Flemington, NJ
NSDAR Library, Washington, DC
Mrs. Kathleen Reiss, Wynnewood, PA
Kenneth Reese, Harrisburg, PA
Beverly Hixson Rowley, Spokane, WA
Chris and Peter Salvin, Lambertville, NJ
Richard E. Seibert, Stanton, NJ
Lisa K. Shelton, Lancaster, CA

Mrs. Shirley V. Favier
Membership Chair

HOW TO JOIN

Hunterdon County Historical Society
114 Main Street
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Please enroll me as a member of your Society

Annual	\$15.00 per year
Family	\$18.00 per year
Contributing	\$25.00 per year
Sustaining	\$50.00 per year
Institutional	\$50 and up per year
Life	\$250.00
Patron	\$1,000.00 or more
Student	\$3.00 per year (18 years of age or less)
Century Club	\$100.00

for which I enclose my remittance in the amount of \$ _____.

Name _____

Address _____

The Flemington Telegraph Company

by Ludwell Sibley

The early history of the large telegraph firms in the U.S., the Western Union Telegraph Co. and the Postal Telegraph Co., is fairly well documented [1,2]. However, there were a few small telegraph operations which are essentially unknown today. One of these is the Flemington Telegraph Company.

The Telegraph in Hunterdon County

In the late 1800s, telegraph service was available in virtually every town in North America. Because the service providers built their wire lines along railroads, and had agency agreements with the railroads, essentially any place with a railroad station had a telegraph office. In Hunterdon County, the two intercity telegraph carriers served the following points in 1894-95 [3, 4]:

Annandale (WU)
 Bloomsbury (WU)
 Byram (WU)
 Califon (WU)
 Flemington (P, WU)
 Flemington Junc. (P, WU)
 Flemington Peach Exchange
 (summer office) (P)
 Frenchtown (WU)
 German Valley (WU)
 Glen Gardner (WU)
 Hainesburg (WU)
 Hampton Junc. (WU)
 High Bridge (WU)
 Hunterdon Co. Fair Grounds (P)
 Jutland (WU)
 Lambertville (P, WU)
 Lambertville Depot (WU)
 Landsdown (WU)
 Lebanon (WU)
 Liberty Park (P)
 Milford (WU)
 Naughtright (WU)
 Neshanic (WU)
 North Branch (WU)
 Pattenburg (WU)
 Pittstown (Landsdown) (WU)
 Raven Rock (WU)
 Ringoes (P)
 Sergentville [sic] (P)
 Stockton (P)
 Three Bridges (WU)
 Valley (WU)
 West Portal (WU)
 White House [sic] (P, WU)

The public at this point was highly "telegraph conscious"; in the business world, it was an everyday matter to send or receive a message. Telegraph operators, who had mastered the intricacies of the Morse code of "dots and

dashes," received the prestige of quasi-professionals. Telegraphy as a hobby had a glamour of its own.

Physical Equipment

An operator sent messages with a Morse key, which opened and closed the current on the line to the next station. He or she (women operators were numerous) received with a sounder, which produced clicks representing the wireline Morse code. Electrical power for the line came from a battery comprising several glass jars of about two-quart size. Each jar contained a "crowfoot" zinc electrode and a similar copper electrode, and was filled with a two-part solution of copper sulfate ("blue vitriol") and zinc sulfate. The line wire was usually of iron, held on green glass insulators to prevent "escape" of the current. The wire was supported by trees, poles or buildings as convenient.

The Flemington Telegraph Company

It is remarkable that Flemington had its own "telegraph company." Unlike Western Union and Postal, which were public utilities, this was an unincorporated association for the convenience of individual members, mainly business leaders of the day. It provided, in effect, a "party line" reaching all users' premises. Pressing the telegraph key at any station operated the sounders at all stations, with no possibility of privacy. On the other hand, a member visiting any station could call another member who happened to be at any another station. The system had both social and business uses; for example, the freight agent at any of the three railroad depots could immediately advise a member of the arrival of a shipment.

Records of this company in the collection of the Hunterdon County Historical Society comprise a minutes book recording the 1891-96 meetings of the company's Board of Control, a list of subscribers, several bills for supplies and repairs, and a few applications for membership. This material is enough to give a fair picture of the company's operations.

The company was apparently formed quite early, with a dozen or so participants. This is based on a bill dated July 15, 1886 by which insurance agent C.L. Fell was assessed one-thirteenth of the cost of a purchase of wire, hardware, and battery supplies. The first Board meeting covered by the available minutes is that of May 6, 1891.

The known officers of the company are as follows. G.M. Thornton acted as treasurer in 1887. Elected to two-year terms in mid-1891 were John L. Connet, president; A.H. Rittenhouse, vice president; C.L. Fell, secretary and treasurer; A.C. Hulsizer, superintendent of construction; and G.M. Thornton, superintendent of supplies. They were re-elected in mid-1893. Other Board members in these same elections were James A. Kline and Charles Webster. Rittenhouse was also appointed teller in early 1896.

There is a charming informality to the notes of meetings. There is no discussion of legal matters like rights of way

or agreements for joint use of poles with other companies. Perhaps with an eye to a proposed village ordinance that was adopted at midyear, Hulsizer was appointed in February 1896 to "be sure the poles are painted." The system was built, and apparently disappeared, before the 1898 village ordinance regulating placement and use of poles in the streets. Some of the notes record those present in terms of their telegraph-operator "sines" or signature letters: the 1891 meeting was attended by "NY" (Connet), "CF" (Fell), "WX" (Hulsizer), "GK" (Kline), and so on.

The notes refer to the existence of a constitution and bylaws, but these have not appeared. There are also no property records or line maps, but there may have been none – such details may have existed only in the mind of the company's repairman.

As with other telegraph companies, maintenance of orderly operating practices was an ongoing concern. In the 1891 board meeting, Secretary Fell was appointed a committee-of-one to "see that the line is kept in working condition and not used improperly." The next year, the June 15 meeting adopted a set of ten rules, reproduced below. These were in the spirit of the operating regulations of the Western Union [5], but far shorter than WU's 100 rules.

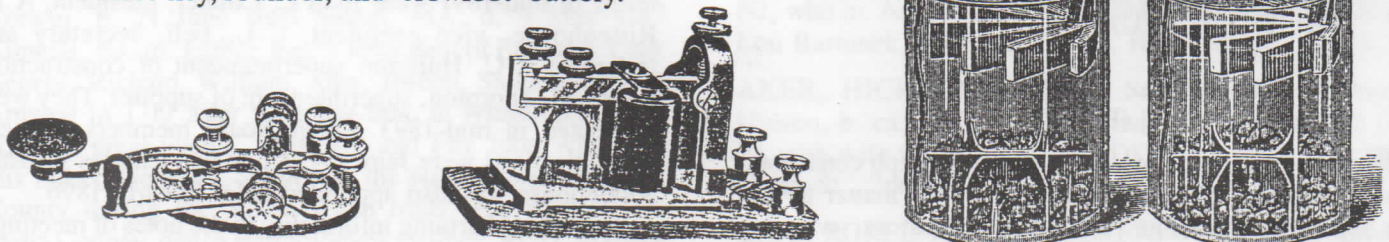
There was also a need to regulate connection of various two-point private telegraph wires to the main line. In 1892, Thornton, as attorney for user George Probasco, was warned that the latter's wire was to be disconnected unless Probasco applied for membership. Thornton got approval in 1893 to connect "the loop running from P.L. Nevius' store to [his] house" to the Company's line "with a 20-ohm relay." In 1894, Earl T. Connet was ordered to disconnect his personal line from the Company system.

It appears that individual members, on having their applications for membership approved, financed the extension of the line to their premises and provided the instruments. Since the electrical resistance of an added sounder reduces the current flowing through the line, each new member was advised to add a battery to make up for the loss: "Please be prepared to put two (2) cells of battery on line but the instrument must not be connected without first consulting the Superintendent of Construction" [6].

RULES

1. Owners are responsible for the use of their instruments and must see that their local battery is kept in good condition and the inside wires are properly arranged and not changed without the consent of the Superintendent of Construction.
2. No person not a member of the Company must use the instrument without permission from the owner or operator in charge.
3. An operator should not call another more than five times without making his individual or office call; and when through using the wire, the individual signature should always be made.
4. The wire should never be grounded excepting when the line is open or when testing.
5. When an operator has business which he thinks of more importance than a conversation that is being carried on, he should make the figure 9 twice and sign his individual call, and, as soon as possible the wire should be returned to those who were interrupted. Care should be taken to ascertain the nature of what is being said before breaking.
6. Two members writing to each other for practice should give way at once to any other member wishing to use the wire for more important business. Members wishing to practice should provide a local battery and cut their instruments out during this time.
7. Foreign wires should never be attached to the wires of the company, except for the accommodation of members and should be disconnected as soon as possible after being used, and the end not in use must be grounded.
8. All offices should be open at all times for inspection by the officers of the Company or to anyone appointed for this purpose.
9. Any violation of these rules should be reported at once, to one of the officers of the Company and the members violating any of these rules shall be fined 25 cents for each such offence.
10. These rules shall be printed and a copy posted in a conspicuous place near each instrument.

Typical telegraph equipment as would have been found at stations of the Flemington Telegraph Co.:
Morse key, sounder, and "crowfoot" battery.



The Flemington Telegraph Company

Subscribers and Their Call Signs

From an undated, typed list ca. late 1893, with the last six entries inked in. "Notes" column added. "Sig." apparently refers to the signature letter(s) used by the individual in response to a call. For example, the responder to a call to the C.R.R. depot ("FG") might identify as "M."

Subscriber	House	Office	Notes
A.C. Hulsizer	UM	WX	Attorney. Member through at least 5-96.
Mrs. Hulsizer	H		
Miss Carrie Hill	CR or C		Member at least 11-93 to 5-96.
P.R.R. Depot		2	
M. Schenck at P.R.R.		"sig" M	Member at least 5-95 to 5-96.
George Bloomer at P.R.R.		"sig" GR	
C.R.R. Depot		FG	
O.M. LaRue at C.R.R.		"sig" OS	Applied 11-6-93; approved 12-11-93.
Joe Boss at C.R.R. (crossed out)		"sig" B	
Miss Nellie Bellis		B	Applied 4-25-93; approved 12-11-93.
Frank Warne		FM	House on New St. (now Park Ave.) approved 6-92; member through at least 5-96.
Postal Office or Kline's Store		MO	
Jas. A. Kline at MO		GK	Member through at least 5-96.
Chas. Alwater at MO		GC	App. 10-27-93, house on Court St.; ins. agent; member through at least 5-96.
J.C. Sunderlin		S	Member at least 6-93 to 5-96.
Miss Sunderlin		MS	Photographer
J.S. Connet		NY	(John L.), member through at least 5-96.
C.L. Fell		CF	(C. Lloyd), insurance agent and Reading's partner.
A.H. Rittenhouse		QG	Station moved from store to Hunterdon County National Bank, 3-95.
Mrs. Rittenhouse		KD	
B.H. Berkaw at Bank		F	Had two stations through 3-96, then one.
Chas. Webster		DG	
Earl Connet		CN	(Earl T.), member at least 4-95 to 2-96.
Geo. Webster		YU	Approved 6-16-92; 2 stations; member through at least 5-96.
Mrs. Webster	SJ		
Flem. Jct. L. V.R.R.	JU		
J.C. Thompson at JU		SN	
Asa B. Reading		AR ("sig." R)	
H.E. Deats	ED		House, Flem. Jct., approved 6-27-92.
George R. Probasco	P		House, 1.5 mi. E of Flem., applied 6-2-92; miller.
Mrs. Probasco	BP		
Home Visitor		HO	
Alwater's House	CH		
Klines	KN ("sig" K)		
Gilhuly's house	BS		(S.B.), on Broad St.; approved 3-25-95.
Gilhuly's sig		SG	
Academy		DY	Sponsored by Gilhuly.

Adders

Olive A. Kline, at her father's house, Bonnell and New Sts., applied 3-18-94; at office of The Visitor Publishing Co.

B. Rittenhouse, approved 2-15-96.

Mame B. Stockton, approved 12-11-93 "to place an instrument in the Ladies room of my father's restaurant."

The Flemington Telegraph Company

Asa B. Reading – Bills for Maintenance and Repair

Original spelling retained

- n.d. For fixing batteries, \$0.50 (billed 6-24-92)
- n.d. For fixing batteries, 0.25 (billed 6-24-92)
- n.d. For fixing brake and changing line, 0.50 (billed 6-24-92)
- n.d. Changing wire from Deats House to the top of Brick House, 0.50 (billed 9-6-92)
- n.d. For putting in a rubber covered wire around the corner of store 25 feet and for taking out a cross with telephone line down in front of Court Hotel, 0.25 (billed 9-6-92)
- 3-17-93 For fixing brake in line near Keshaw's & Chamberlands milk [mill], 0.50
- 5-2-93 For fixing brake in same place, 1.00
- 7-9-95 Looking over battery at Probascoes, 0.50
- 7-9-95 Removing escape on Humphreys Hotel, 0.50
- 9-2-95 For cleaning batteries at Probascoes, 1.00
- 9-25-95 For lowering wires running to Gilhooley's house on account of Electric lite wires, 0.50
- 10-19-95 For putting wires back on Rey building caused by painting, 0.75
- 12-16-95 For changing wire from old poles to new ones on Probascoes line, 0.50
- 12-30-95 For taking out cross with telephone line and fixing broken wire in NY [Connet] office, 0.75
- 1-17-96 For taking out cross in loop running to L.G. B. & F. M. [Warne?] offices, 0.50
- 2-2-96 For looking after grounded wire/found ground in YH house caused by lightning burning line plate to ground plate and same trouble in LG house/was out all the forenoon/hard to find on account of batteries being in between grounds, 0.75
- 2-11-96 For taking cross out of loop to Bellis House, 0.50
- 2-15-96 For looking up escape/found it in NY [Connet] office/no instrument on and plug out of switch, 0.50
- 2-22-96 For looking up open wire/after looking some time found it in JA office/plugs placed wrong in switchboard – that runs to local batteries, 0.25
- 3-3-96 For taking out cross between C.R.R. Telephone line and No. 1 Telegraph line at the C.R.R. Station across tracks, 0.50
- 3-9-96 For tracing open line/found it in the Acadney School house/open key, 0.50
- 3-18-96 For half day work fixing broken wires/it was broken in 2 places/one at Henglers new house and was all pulled down from opera house to Union Hotel, 1.25
- 3-27-96 For looking up open line/found it at the Acadney School/open key/wen closed line OK, 0.50
- 3-27-96 For carfare from Flemington Jct. to Flemington and return, 0.10
- 4-18-96 For fixing broken line caused by building moving and looking up open key/closed while looking for it, 0.75
- 4-22-96 For looking up open line/found wire out of Switch board in Flemington Junction Office/put it in line OK, 0.50
- 5-7-96 Found key open at the Acadny School, 0.50
- 5-26-96 Line crossed with Kline's dead line/two crosses, 0.50
- 6-13-96 Found key open at Home Visitor Office, 0.50
- 7-8-96 Line crossed with C.R.R. line, 0.50
- 7-28-96 Cross with Lambertsville Telephone Line, 0.50
- 7-29-96 Fixing up line between Ju[nction?] and P[robasco?]/half day/tree down and pole down, 1.25
- 8-6-96 For clearing trouble caused by Electric light wires and 3 crosses/one with Kline's dead wire/one with the Hoppews [?] dead telephone wire/one in Gilhooley's loop/Half day work, 1.25
- 8-7-96 For putting Blue stone in Batteries, 0.75
- 8-7-96 For Taking Cross out with Fire alarm, 0.50
- 8-10-96 For taking Batteries to Probascoes and setting them up and looking up a bad Joint in line between DG [Webster?] house and Printing Office. I rewound all the joints and line worked OK/and paid Mr. Bellis 25 Cents for taking batteries to Probascoes/with in all it took me one day work, 2.50
- 8-10-96 For cordage on batteries, 0.25
- 8-14-96 For taking out cross in Bellis Warrens & JG, 0.25
- 9-14-96 For taking out cross and pulling wires tight in Gilhooley's Loop, 0.50
- 9-28-96 For fixing broken wire in front of Lake's, 0.50
- 9-27-96 For putting wire on poles and fixing line so it would not lay against Culbert where it goes under C.R.R. on Probascoes line/half day work/line was off of poles and trees from Chamberlands mills to C.R.R. I was a half day getting up and fixing Culbert, 1.25

Operators

Becoming a skilled Morse telegrapher is not a trivial matter. We must assume that the typical user of the Flemington system used the telegraphic equivalent of hunt-and-peck typing. The attention paid to sending practice and conversational use of the line in the Rules suggests that much of the operating was casual and slow.

Finances

Members paid an application fee of \$1, followed by a rate of 10 cents per month. (One dollar at the time was worth about \$16 in present-day money.) In times of financial deficiency, they were assessed: 50 cents each in 1891 and 1892. The company apparently was self-sustaining, but without much margin – a treasurer's report of April 1893 was:

Dues Rec. to date	\$20.10	
Other Receipts	14.87	
Total		34.97
Total Disbursements		17.14
Cash in Hand		17.83
Dues etc. Unpaid		7.70
Total Resources		\$25.53

A year later the treasury was down to \$14.46; in mid-1895, it had sunk to \$9.19.

Members who caused circuit failure could be fined 25 cents. Company officers were not immune to this prosecution. Known fines were:

- J.L. Connet, Feb. 22, 1896, reason unspecified.
- S.B. Gilhuly, March 9, 1896, reason unspecified.
- A.C. Hulsizer, April 6, 1895, key open at house.
- A.C. Hulsizer, Aug. 12, 1895, water off battery in office.
- J.A. Kline, Feb. 15, 1894, line grounded without reason.
- A.H. Rittenhouse, Feb. 15, 1896, water off battery.

The company paid for regular battery maintenance (new "coppers" and "zincs" and fresh "vitriol"). Operating supplies typically came from the firm of Fell and Reading ("Electrical Supplies of Every Description Furnished – All Kinds of Electrical Work Given Prompt Attention"). A bill from April 31, 1896 for \$12.03 covered "45 zincs @ .24, 6 coppers @ .07, 4 glass jars @ .20."

Quality of Service

The use of batteries distributed throughout the system rather than centralized was "rough justice" in terms of spreading the cost, but unwise service-wise. It meant that individual batteries would wear out at random, an invitation to circuit failure.

There is evidence that the line grew too big to be reliable, particularly after being extended 1½ miles to the Probasco property from Flemington Junction. Asa B. Reading, later organizer of the principal telephone company in town, was the main troubleshooter-maintainer. A number of his service bills have survived, especially for 1896. They suggest that the system failed about every ten days.

In a series loop like this, outage will result from any break in the wire, any battery becoming dry, or any key left open. (Between March and May 1896, there were three cases of the key being left open at the Reading Academy, perhaps from students playing.) Trouble also came with

any "cross" of the wire with other lines – power, fire-alarm, private-line and railroad telegraph, and telephone – which were becoming numerous. At one time or another, the telegraph line became crossed with all of these. This is no surprise, given the casual construction standards of the time.

The End

The company began not long before the Bell telephone patents expired in 1894. That expiration brought a great expansion of non-Bell telephone companies in Hunterdon County and elsewhere. Success of the independent companies led to the withdrawal of the tiny (10-station) Bell exchange from Flemington.

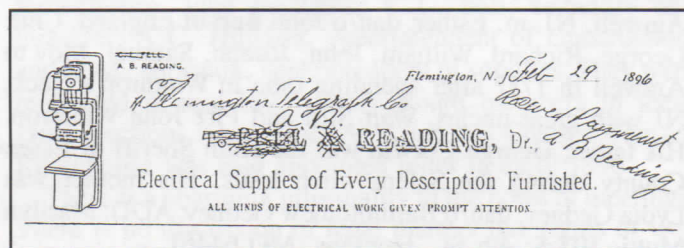
The available records do not cover the demise of the firm. An undated fragment of Board notes refers to "moved... to confer with the town and telephone co. & estimate the cost of rebuilding the line – carried." This may have been at the time of the first village ordinance (1898) regulating pole lines. An undated newspaper clipping cited in Dereck Williamson's 1959 history of telephone service in Flemington [7] refers to reuse of a section of the line "after the Flemington Telegraph Company went to pieces." Many earlier telegraph subscribers (Deats, Fell, Probasco) are listed as new telephone users in 1898. Given the ease of use and privacy of the telephone, and considering the rapid growth of the Asa Reading Telephone Company during 1898, it would be fair to place the end of the telegraph system about then.

Appreciation

To Roxanne Carkhuff of the Hunterdon County Historical Society for research ideas and material.

References

1. R.L. Thompson, *Wiring a Continent – The History of the Telegraph Industry in the United States 1832-1866* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1947; reprinted by Arno Press, 1972).
2. A.F. Harlow, *Old Wires and New Waves – The History of the Telegraph, Telephone, and Wireless* (New York: D. Appleton-Century, 1936).
3. Western Union Telegraph Co., *Tariff and Rules*, No. 27, July 1895, pp. 168-174.
4. Postal Telegraph Co., *List of Offices of the Postal Telegraph Cable Co.*, June 1894, pp. 46-47.
5. As [3], pp. 323-348.
6. Letter, C.L. Fell to C.S. Alvater, Oct. 10, 1893; likewise to O.M. LaRue and M.B. Stockton, Dec. 11, 1893; to W.V. Ramsey, April 20, 1894; and to S.B. Gilhuly, March 26, 1895.
7. D. Williamson, "From Hand-Crank to Dial" (pamphlet, Flemington, NJ: D.H. Moreau, 1960), p.4.



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.

HOUSEWORTH, WARFORD: Need to identify par/o Wilson Warford, b. 1836 Bridgeton PA, m. 1866 at Upper Black Eddy Lucinda Houseworth b. 1846 Upper Black Eddy. Mov to WI before 1870. Did Wilson Warford live with another fam in Hunterdon 1845-1850? He does not appear in 1850 US census for either Bucks or Hunterdon with a Warford fam. ADD: Stu Warford, 128 Columbia Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360.

ROSE, SMITH: Searching for info re 5th gr grandfather David Rose b. ca. 1721, poss NJ. Who was his wife? What State did he go to after leaving NJ? David's son Jesse Rose, b. 1760 poss VA, m. Susan Smith, had 4 sons, 4 daus. Jesse came to Columbiana Co. OH and d. July 1852. ADD: Ann E. Hilles, 191 W. Bayton St., Alliance, OH 44604601-9402.

DRAKE, FOX, FOY, WOOLVERTON: Seeking info re Mary Drake b. ca. 1745; Samuel Foy, b. ca. 1751; Mary Fox, b. ca. 1702; Charles Woolverton b. 1741/1742. All liv Hunt. Co. before 1800. Need par, desc, sibs, etc. of these persons. ADD: Joyce Franke, 4607 W. Rovey Ave., Glendale, AZ 85301-5323.

ENT/ENDT/END, MOORE/MORE: Seek info re John Ent who arriv Amwell 1709 (p. 11, A History of East Amwell 1700-1800] orig source? Ent descendants? Relation to Valentine End/Ent and wife Susanna Moore/More of Hunt. Co. and Theobald Ent of Germantown PA. Burial site? ADD: Beverlee Felkner, 386 Old Mill Dr., Langhorne, PA 19047-1544.

HICKSON/HIXON/HIXSON, KITCHEN: Des corres with anyone researching Hickson/Hixon/Hixson and Kitchen surnames in NJ. ADD: Beverly Hixson Rowley, W. 5224 Rosewood, Spokane, WA 99208.

SKILLMAN: Seeking identify of par/o Lavina Skillman, b. 6 Sep 1820 Hunt. Co. NJ, who m. John Watson Scarborough, s/o Enos Dean Scarborough and Meribah Jackson Scarborough 29 Apr 1840. ADD: DeWitt S. Shelton, 201 Parkview Dr., Bloomington, IA 52537.

BURT, CORWIN, GEDNEY: Seek info re Bartholomew Corwin, b. 21 June 1693 Salem, MA, d. 9 May 1747 Amwell, NJ, m. Esther, dau/o John Burt of England. Chil: George, Richard, William, John, Joseph, Samuel. Mov to Amwell in 1717 after spending time in Winthrop's Neck, NJ with great uncles, Wait Still and Fitz John Winthrop. His father, George Corwin was the High Sheriff of Essex County during the Salem witch trials. His mother was Lydia Gedney, dau/o Bartholomew Gedney. ADD: Marilyn Mutti, 107 S. 4th St., Hopkins, MO 64461.

STERLING: Want info on desc/o Major James Sterling of Burlington NJ. In 1913 Sarah Sterling of Philadelphia PA sent Edward Booker Sterling of Trenton, NJ a large amount of genealogical info on her branch of the Sterling family along with pictures which was to be incorporated in a new book E.B. Sterling was to publish. It included family histories from Illinois, Kansas, Texas, and Pennsylvania. I would like to determine the location of any of this information on the Sterling families. ADD: John S. Stinson, 1617 Bowie, Amarillo, TX 79102.

COWELL: Seeking info re sons & grandsons/o Christian Cowell who d. Amwell Twp. Hunt. Co. His will was written 9 May 1767, proved 23 May 1767. Sons John, Chris(topher?), Mortice (Tice?/Matthias?), and Coonrad are mentioned in will. May also have had sons named George and Ralph. ADD: Russell S. Cowell, 3012 Whittaker Island Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185.

CASTNER, CROTZLEY, DALRYMPLE, STARKER, ROBBINS, WEAVER: Seek info par, anc/o Sara Janet (Janette) Crotzley m. Peter Castner 13 Mar 1830. Seek par, anc/o William B. Weaver b. 22 Apr 1830, m. Sarah Starker, b. 7 Jan 1838. Seek par/o Jane Robbins, b. 18 Aug 1822, m. Daniel Dalrymple 8 Feb 1845, d. 19 Apr 1913. ADD: Tim Rue, Rt. 4, Box 4180, Bangor, PA 18013.

CAWOOD/CAYWOOD, VAIL: Searching for Vail, espec. Abigail who m. Benjamin Cawood (Caywood) about 1750. Benjamin's grandmother Ruth Adams Cawood was midwife for Martha FitzRandolph Vail when her son Isaac was born in 1728 at Woodbridge. ADD: Evelyn Wyant, 1660 W. Mardee Rd., Jackson, MI 49203.

HERRON/HERRIN: Seek info on par, anc/o Gershom Herron b. 6 May 1752, Hopewell Twp. Hunt. Co.; m. Hannah Brinum (?), and d. 17 June 1839 Northumberland Co. PA. Their chil incl Susan b. 16 Aug 1776 and Sarah b. 14 Feb 1784, both b. Hunt. Co. ADD: John Donahue, 9521 Heather Ct., Cincinnati, OH 45242.

SERVIS/SARVIS/SERVICE/SERVOS: Wish to exch into on this group of related (?) families living in northern NJ, southern NY, and eastern PA in 1600s and 1700s. ADD: Charles M. Mallette, 1830 Eagle Falls Drive, Houston, TX 77077.

BODINE/CAMPBELL/CASE/EVERITT: Seek par/o Christopher Campbell, b. 4 July 1757 Somerset Co. and wife Martha Everitt, b. 25 Dec 1759 who m. 26 July 1783 Lebanon, NJ. Both d. Northumberland Co. PA, he 17 July 1837, she 17 Jan 1845. Seek par/o Ann Bodine b. Dec 1778 NJ, who m. Adam Case 8 Aug 1795 Hunt. Co. ADD: Mary Lou Bartunek, 7 Bonnie Ct. S., Homossa, FL 34446.

AKER, HICKSON/HIXSON: Seeking info re Joseph Hixson, b. ca. 1757, who later mov to Westmoreland Co. PA with wife Catharine Aker. ADD: Kenneth Reese, 1801 Green St., 2nd floor, Harrisburg PA 17102.

BRAY, ROREBACK, VAN DEREN: Will corres/w anyone researching these families. Seek any info on a George

Roreback, "of the Raritan Section," who married Maria (Shutts) Van Duehren after May 1751. Add: Marcie Van Deren, 825, Helena Flats Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901-6658.

ALPAUGH, SWAZEY: Seek anc/o Emeling Swazey, b. 1853, m. Peter Alpaugh, b. 1849. Peter s/o John Alpaugh, b. 3 Nov 1801 in Clinton, NJ, bur in New Stone, Grandin, NJ. ADD: Mary Jo Suydam Willis, Box 114, Fairview, IL 61432.

ACQUISITIONS

Artifacts, manuscripts, Family Bibles, and other material representative of the history of Hunterdon County and the families who reside here are welcome additions to the Historical Society's collections. To the donors of recent acquisitions the Society expresses its appreciation.

The following selections from the library of Albert L. Stokes, donated by his widow, Mrs. Dorothy Stokes, Princeton, NJ. *Year Book of The Holland Society of New York 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1903, 1904, 1907. Guide to Genealogical and Biographical Sources for New York City (Manhattan) 1783-1898*, by Rosalie Fellows Bailey, 1954. *Index to 1830 Census Somerset County, N.J. A Guide to Genealogical Resources in New Jersey* by Anna L. Rudner, published 1983 by the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of New Jersey. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, by Val D. Greenwood, published 1973 by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD. *New Jersey Colonial Civil List 1667-July 4, 1776* published 1985 by the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of New Jersey. *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy* edited by Arlene Eakle & Johni Cerny, published 1984 by Ancestry Publishing Co., Salt Lake City, UT. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* published 1982 by the National Archives Trust Fund Board, Washington, DC. *Guide to Genealogical Sources At the Pennsylvania State Archives* by Robert M. Dructor, published 1980 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA. *Survey of American Church Records Volume 1, Major Denominations before 1880*, by E. Kay Kirkham, published 1971 by Keith W. Watkins and Sons, Inc., Providence, UT. *Guide to Local Church Records in the Archives of the Reformed Church in America and to Genealogical Resources in the Gardner Sage Library, New Brunswick Theological Seminary*, edited by Russell L. Gasero, published 1979, New Brunswick, NJ. *Guide to Microform Holdings in the David Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, PA* compiled 1983 by David J. Fowler.

Stangl Pottery Double Redstarts and a copy of *Stangl and Pennsbury Birds: An Identification and Price Guide* by Mike Schneider, published 1994 by Schiffer Publishing, Ltd., Atglen, PA. Donated by Stangl Collectors Club, Robert Perzel, President, Flemington, NJ.

Family Group Sheets and other associated material on the family of Philip Yawger, including "The Yawger Family," chapter XI in *The Indian and the Pioneer* by Rose N. Yawger, published 1893. Donated by Janis Pahnke, Chicago, IL.

Descendants of Jacob Cowell (1790-1878), Johannes Willerich (Wildrick) (1707-1793), Jacob W. Angle (1757-1843) by Russell S. Cowell, 1995. Donated by the compiler, Williamsburg, VA.

Two reels of microfilm, *Hunterdon County Democrat*, April-June 1995, July-September 1995. Donated by Hunterdon County Democrat, Flemington, NJ.

One copy of *Facts and Fantasies of Franklin, Including the 1850 Census as an Appendix*, compiled, written and autographed by J.E. Stout. Donated by the Franklin Twp. 1845 Committee, Pittstown, NJ.

The Times of Tewksbury, November/December 1995. Donated by Marion and Helen Waldron, Oldwick, NJ.

Clinton Township Newsletter, January-December 1995, Fred Keesing, Editor. Donated by Keesing Publications, Lebanon, NJ.

A Jay Family History: Beginning with Thomas Jay (1610-1678) Through The Lineage of Joshua Jay (1782-1841) by Arlene Jay Robb and Dale Willard Robb. Donated by the authors, Urbana, IL.

Photocopies of family record pages from the Family Bible of Emma Praster Budd [b. 1834] and loose pages found within the Bible. Copied and donated by Marilyn L. Miller, Millsboro, DE.



HOLLIS SEGUR BURKE

The Society and the county lost a true friend with the death of Hollis Burke this past November. A lifelong reporter, veteran of the Korean War, and Peace Corps worker in Turkey, Mr. Burke started in 1957 with the *Courier-News* of Plainfield and headed that paper's Hunterdon Bureau in the 1960's. For the past few years he had provided local news for the *Express-Times* of Easton.

Hollis had long been a frequent contributor to our society of items he thought we could use, most recently a group of post cards. He could always be relied on for coverage of society events and other history-related news. But it is his experience and unique feel for the news pulse of the Hunterdon area that will be most missed. Future generations of old newspaper readers and researchers will be the poorer for his passing.

John W. Kuhl



Images from the Past

A picture is worth a thousand words.



Hunterdon County Historical Society Collection

**Senior Class of Flemington Children's Choirs
whose graduation took place Friday evening, May 16, 1924**

The Class of 1924 pictured leaving the Flemington Public Library, Maple Avenue exit: Mary Biddle (front row third from right), James Corcoran, Catherine Cronce, Helen Eurs, Ida Huber, Jack Landis, Martha Mathews, Clair McLain, Lorena Niece, Anna Quick, Louise Seber, Helene Slattery, Donald Sutphin (second row far left), Arthur Skinner and Frank P. Weiler (on the right in the doorway).

The 1995-1996 season marks the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Flemington Children's Choir School. Plans are under way for a commemorative graduation ceremony on May 18, with alumni and junior choirs of the five participating churches. A festive weekend is planned with tours of the Choir studio and Co-founder Elizabeth Vosseller's home in the Doric House, luncheon, exhibits, ceremony and reception.

Please contact Shirley Favier (908-782-5339) or Douglas Niece (908-782-6243) or write Mr. Niece at 38 Sand Hill Road, Flemington, NJ 08822 for specific details or to participate in the events.

