



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

VOL. 31, NO. 3

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FALL 1995

Norman Landis: A Centennial Remembrance

Fall Meeting November 19 at 2 pm

Flemington Presbyterian Church

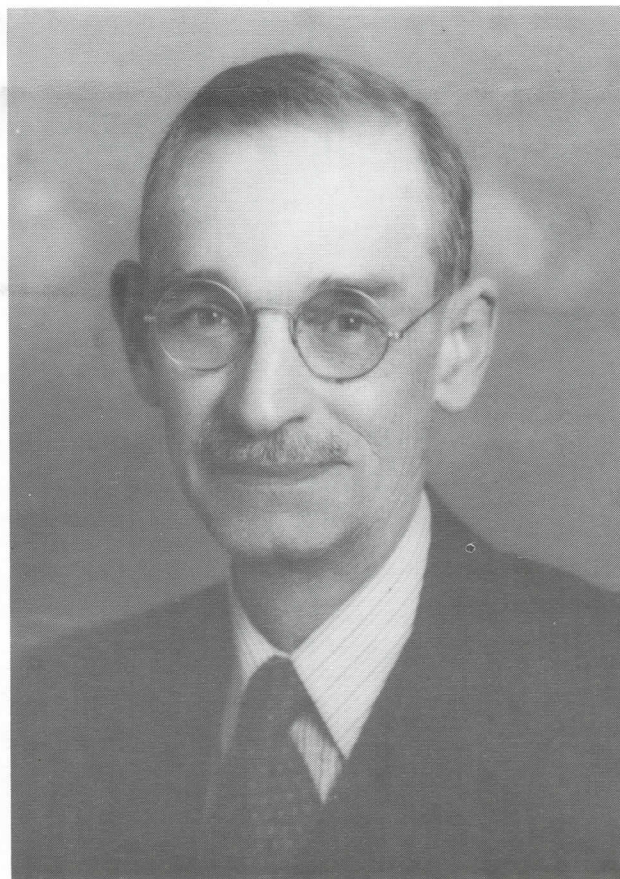
Next year, 1996, marks the centennial of the arrival of Norman Landis to Flemington. He was the Organist/Choirmaster of The Flemington Presbyterian Church in Flemington for sixty years (1896-1956). In addition, he operated an insurance company, played for the graduation ceremonies of the Flemington Children's Choir, and faithfully served his church and community. Active as a composer throughout his life, Mr. Landis's musical output includes approximately 150 organ and choral compositions.

At the Historical Society's Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 19, J. Jay Smith, the church's present Director of Music/Organist, will present a lecture/demonstration of the history of Norman Landis's life and discuss the musical style of his compositions. In addition, the church's Chancel Choir will sing two of Mr. Landis's anthems and several of his organ compositions will be performed. The program will give the community a glimpse into the musical world in Flemington during the first half of this century.

The Presbyterian Church, built in 1883, has an interesting history. One notable feature of the building is its stained-glass windows which include works by the major

glass designers among them, Louis C. Tiffany. Glenn Hooper, Society and Church member, has conducted a study of them and will present a brief history of these commemorative windows.

Everyone is cordially invited to the Flemington Presbyterian Church on Sunday, 19 November at 2 p.m. for a pleasant and informative afternoon. Refreshments will be served following the meeting. At that time members will have an opportunity to observe the music, newspaper clippings and memorabilia from Norman Landis's tenure at the Church.



NORMAN LANDIS
1873 - 1956

1995-1996 Calendar

November 19 FALL MEETING— *Norman Landis: A Centennial Remembrance*
by J. Jay Smith, 2 p.m. at
Flemington Presbyterian Church

November 23 Thanksgiving – Library closed

March 24 ANNUAL MEETING

**April 24 7th Annual Volunteer
Recognition Luncheon**

**May 17-18 Flemington Children's Choir
Centennial**

May 18 Doric House open 10-12, 5-7 p.m.

June 7-9 Flemington Victorian Days
June 8 Doric House Birthday Party,
built 1846 150 years old in 1996
House open for tours
Saturday 1-4 p.m.

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Roxanne K. Carkhuff, Editor

Phyllis D'Autrechy

- Library Hours -

Thursday, 1-3, 7-9 p.m. and by appointment

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KENNETH VOORHEES MYERS 1914-1995

WHEREAS, Kenneth Voorhees Myers who was born 11 June 1914 in Quakertown, Hunterdon County, to Winfield Scott Myers and Frances Cronce Myers, died 30 August 1995, and

WHEREAS, he touched countless lives throughout his active life and will be sadly missed by his family, friends, acquaintances and associates and fondly remembered, especially for his enthusiasm, sense of humor, fiscal frugality, and rhetoric, and

WHEREAS, his service to the Hunterdon County Historical Society over the past forty years has been important to its growth and stability, and included taking an active part in the revitalization of the Society by becoming a member at its 70th Annual Meeting, 6 November 1954, where he was elected Treasurer, serving in that office for twenty years, and

WHEREAS, he was elected President of the Board of Trustees of the Hunterdon County Historical Society in 1974 and continued in that office until his death, and,

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Treasurer the Historical Society mounted a fund raising campaign to purchase, restore and furnish the present Society headquarters, the Doric House, and library, and,

WHEREAS, under his leadership as President the Historical Society has expanded its services to the community, opening the library and museum to public access for tours and research, and promoting the knowledge of local history which was of great interest to him, and

WHEREAS, he advocated the establishment of the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum on the Delaware Township farm which the Historical Society had received in 1968 from Milo and Rachel Jimison, which museum initially operated as a Committee of the Society and ultimately became a separate organization to which the Society donated the property, and where he spent countless hours as Trustee, Treasurer, and Curator guiding his vision to its present success and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Myers has provided a legacy for present and future historians with his dedication to Hunterdon County's history on an almost daily basis in his every-day life, speeches, and writings,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Hunterdon County Historical Society extends heartfelt sympathy to the family of Kenneth V. Myers, his widow Nanette Hunt Myers and daughters Frances O'Brien, Lucinda Rouse, and Olivia Robinson with the hope that the memories of his good deeds will diminish the pain of his death, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this memorial be made a part of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, 5 September 1995, and a copy forwarded to Mrs. Myers.



Hunterdon County Democrat

Kenneth V. Myers at the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum Annual Meeting in June 1994. He was receiving congratulations as the Museum's new administration building was being dedicated to Mr. Myers.

John W. Kuhl, Recording Secretary
Adopted 5 September 1995

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.

Two notebooks, "Ancestry and Family Record of Freeman Leigh, Fairmount, N.J." compiled by Mr. Leigh 1913-14.

Freeman Leigh's notes and a composition book containing "Genealogical Record of the Descendants of Joseph Leigh by H.W. Kline, copied from Amelia Blackwell's Bible now in Henry Cline's possession at Clinton, N.J. All data copied by Ada K. Buck, Oct. 1913."

An account book designated "George Henry's Book" on the cover, recording in several hands transactions covering the years 1841-1882. Donated by Robert Carty, Rockville, MD in memory of his late wife Virginia Augusta Henry who died in 1976. Her parents were George Henry and Laura Fisher, whose grandmother, Catharine Leigh married John Henry.

The Family of Caleb and Rachel Barrett of New Jersey and Northumberland County, Pennsylvania including Rachel's Cooper and Hoppock Ancestors of Bucks County, Pennsylvania and Hunterdon County, New Jersey, compiled by Susan M. Sanders, 1992. Donated by the compiler, Plainwell, MI.

Five-drawer map case, 4½ feet x 3½ feet for storage of oversize documents in the Society's collection. Donated by Samuel Stothoff, Flemington, NJ.

The late Howard DeMott, Clinton, NJ, by his will, gave the Hunterdon County Historical Society whatever of his personal property would be suitable for display in keeping with the purposes of the Society. The following selected items will be marked "Donated by Howard and Gwendolyn De Mott of Clinton, New Jersey:" a child's oak desk, green glass candlestick lamp, wooden gavel, tin box with fishing tackle, violin with case, 2 gallon glass butter churn, two linen tablecloths with hand-crocheted trimming, two cut-out fruit/flower prints, horse blanket pins, Hunterdon County Soil Survey book, farmer's pocket ledger from Frenchtown area, quilt top, agricultural pamphlets, box of hand-made nails, arrowheads, gardening books, miter saw, 6' and 12' folding rules, whet stone, candlestick, wash bench, water bottle and stopper, one-gallon ceramic jug, two flower containers possibly Fulper, egg scale, mousetraps, shoe stretchers, 1 qt. and 2 qt. glass canning jars, captain's chair, ax head, chicken feeder, hanging scale, carpet beater, chimney hole cover, small sledge hammer, block and fall, small trivet, advertising items from local businesses: Sheffield milk pencil, Clinton House cigar box, Karrow wooden coat hanger, Fox Brothers Lumber Company notebook and yardstick, First Clinton National Bank envelopes, DeMott business card, and a Borden ½ pint milk bottle.

Photographic portrait of Norman Landis. Donated by Douglas Niece, Flemington, NJ.

The Times of Tewksbury, May/June, July/August 1995, a bimonthly newsletter published to keep Tewksbury Township residents informed of local activities. Donated by the Misses Marion and Helen Waldron, Oldwick, NJ.

Hunterdon County Democrat, microfilm, January-March 1995. Photographs from 1/9-7/9/1992 *Hunterdon County Democrat* and *Hunterdon Observer*. Donated by Hunterdon County Democrat, Flemington, NJ

Geologic Atlas of the United States, Trenton Folio, 1909. Donated by LeRoy Duckworth, Jr., Lakehurst, NJ.

The Reading Echo, Senior Issue, 1914, 1915, 1916. Two stock certificates issued to A.J. Kline, one for two shares Barley Sheaf Creamery Association [1904] and the other for 12 shares of Dairymen's League Incorporated [1918]. Donated by Aaron Kline, Flemington, NJ.

Photograph of Elizabeth Post, born 1831, and her husband, Thomas Peter Hoff, who were married 22 June 1850. She is wearing a dress she made circa 1849 identical in style to a silk striped dress donated to the Society with the photograph. Wedding portrait of Elizabeth D. Rockafellow and Harry Disborough, and 3 January 1906 newspaper announcement of their marriage. Donated by Fred Sisser III, Bridgewater, NJ.

Photograph of 1936 Flemington High School play, "Growing Pains." Program for the 16 May 1937 presentation of the New Jersey Chamber Symphony Orchestra sponsored by the Hunterdon County Symphony Association. Program of the 7th Annual Pet Show 16 March 1947 presented by the Pet Club. Donated by Miss Emma Marion Mike, New York, NY.

The Tiger Families of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, compiled by Joseph Robert Tiger, Jr., 1995. Donated by the compiler, Trenton, NJ.

Notes regarding branches of the Polhemus, Schenk-Skillman, Van Dyke, Crusier, and Longstreet families compiled by Ida G. (Mrs. Alfred P.) Bellis. Photographic portraits of Dora Skillman (Mrs. J. Anderson Frazer) and her daughter Anna Frazer, Anna Cornelia Van Dyke Skillman, second wife of Abraham V.A. Skillman and mother of Dora (Skillman) Frazer, Rev. Joseph S. Estabroek, Mrs. Catherine Esterbrook, unidentified daughter of Joseph and Catherine Estabroek. Assorted snapshots of tombstones. Donated by Jane Bellis Duffy, Tuckerton, NJ.

A New Jersey Anthology compiled and edited by Maxine N. Lurie, published in 1994 by the New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ. Donated by the publisher.

The Howells of New Jersey, Virginia, Ohio and Points West, by Richard E. Wallace, Robert W. Cameron and Carmen J. Finley, published 1994 by Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie, MD. Donated by Richard Wallace, Overland Park, KS.

Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: Volume Eight, Family of Degory Priest, edited by Robert S. Wakefield, F.A.S.G., compiled by Mrs. Charles Delmar Townsend, Robert W. Wakefield, and Margaret Harris Stover, published 1994 by The General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, MA. *Mayflower Families in Progress: Francis Eaton ...and His Descendants for Four Generations*, compiled by Lee Douglas van Antwerp, MD, CG, revised by Robert S. Wakefield FASG, published by The General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Donated by The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New Jersey, Mrs. Phyllis Hansen, Secretary, Westfield, NJ.

Membership Directory of Rotary Club, Flemington, NJ 1963, 1967. Pamphlet *Our Life with Bemis: Employee, Fellow-Worker, Neighbor* published 1957 for Bemis Bro. Bag Co. by Democrat Press, Flemington, NJ. *Famous Facts about Eggs* from Mr. FAMOUS, edited by Clayton H. Stains, general manager, published 1964 by Board of Directors of the Flemington Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Association. Program of Rotary International Golden Anniversary, meeting of the Hunterdon County Rotary Clubs 22 February 1955. Donated by Anne M. Thomas, Flemington, NJ.

Historically Speaking: 1742-1917 The 175th Anniversary of Taylor-Wharton Iron & Steel Company. Donated by Dorothy L. Walters, Belvidere, NJ.

Data on the Service-Servis-Serviss-Servoss Families copied from material obtained from Montgomery County, New York Museum at Fonda, New York and compiled by B.J. Service. Donated by Arleen K. Smith, Peoria, IL.

A collection of 58 pocket diaries kept by James Pyatt Risler [-1946] which he started in 1876 and which conclude with his death in 1946. They were formerly in the possession of daughter Hulda Risler Suydam, then his grand-daughter Catharyn Suydam Gilmore, who took them to Australia in 1956. The diaries came to the donor in 1995 after Mrs. Gilmore's death, for donation to the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Donated by Clark B. Risler, Cary, NC.

WANTED:

Someone interested in the history of textiles and clothing to share a learning experience with two volunteers, Lynn Burtis and Evelyn McGreivey, who have some experience but are also learning.

Hunterdon County Historical Society has a modest textile collection of clothing and linens heretofore uninventoried. The job involves establishing a date for each piece with research. The goal is to inventory the collection, evaluate and stabilize each article and to determine what is in the collection which would be appropriate to exhibit in June 1996 at the Doric House's 150th birthday and other future exhibits.

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 _____

Membership Report

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

Frederick A. Alles, Westminster, MD
Jeffery A. Baker, Flemington, NJ
Judith Biebesheimer, Alexandria, VA
Eleanor L. Burd, Califon, NJ
Sandy and Carol Clark, Glen Gardner, NJ
Deborah Naylor Farhar, Longwood, FL
Marcia V. Crosby Ferguson, Covina, CA
Pamelyn P. Ferguson, Milford, NJ
Mary Louise Fournier, Vashon Island, WA
Joyce E. Franke, Glendale, AZ
Kenneth P. Johnson, Stockton, NJ
Gerald and Priscilla Kreger, Hackettstown, NJ
Ronald D. Lambert, Kitchener, ON
A. Keith McGee, Willingboro, NJ
Barbara Higgins Meyer, Norridgewock, ME
Mrs. John McGreivey, Flemington, NJ
Marilyn Mutti, Hopkins, MO
NSDAR Library, Washington, DC
Douglas H. Niece, Flemington, NJ
Doris A. Palmer, Newark, NJ
Ann Power, Flemington, NJ
Judy A. Reed, Flemington, NJ
Brian E. Rounsavill, Newtown, PA
Allan B. Sinclair, Flanders, NJ
Allen W. Sinclair, Zirconia, NC
Bruce D. Sinclair, Cliffwood Beach, NJ
Mary B. Sutphin, Monroe, NY
Joan C. Verity, St. Louis, MO

(Mrs.) Shirley V. Favier
Membership Chair

The Sergeantsville Hotel

by Marfy Goodspeed

[Adapted August 1995 from a longer article on file at the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Ms. Goodspeed is Delaware Township Historian.]



The Sergeantsville Hotel, circa 1910

Courtesy of Paul Kurzenberger

The Sergeantsville Hotel was once a landmark on the road from Stockton to Flemington, a popular rest stop for through-travelers and a popular meeting place for people who lived in Delaware Township. Today it is still a popular meeting place, because it is now the Township's municipal building, an attractive stone building at the northeast corner of the intersection of County Routes 523 and 604. The Township's Historic Sites Survey dated the building to about 1830,¹ but there is reason to think that at least part of the structure is considerably older. It was probably built about 1780 when the property (51½ acres) was acquired by Agesilaus Gordon from his brother Franklin Gordon. Unfortunately, this deed was not recorded and the transaction is known only because it is mentioned in a later deed.²

Ten years earlier, about 1770, Agesilaus Gordon married Mary Opdycke, the daughter of John Opdycke and Margaret Green of Headquarters in Delaware Township. John Opdycke was passionately committed to the cause of the Revolution, but Opdycke family tradition has it that Agesilaus Gordon was a Tory sympathizer whose daughter often was sent to take messages to nearby British troops.³

In the 1790's, the tavern was run sometimes by Gordon's son-in-law, Godfrey Rockafellar, who was born in 1769 to John Rockafellar and Margaret Kitchen. About 1790, Godfrey Rockafellar married Anne, the daughter of Agesilaus Gordon and Mary Opdycke. Capt. Godfrey Rockafellar applied for a tavern license in 1794⁴ and again in 1795.⁵

In 1796, a tavern license application was made by Agesilaus Gordon, "in the house lately kept by Godfrey Rockafellar," and again in 1797 and 1801.⁶ The tavern was being run in 1802 by John Barcroft, whose application stated "having lately moved to the tavern house lately occupied by Agesilaus Gordon. . ."⁷ By 1803, John Barcroft had moved on and the tavern keeper was Cornelius Lake, who applied to run the tavern at Skunktown lately kept by John Barcroft.⁸

In 1804, Agesilaus Gordon was back, applying for a tavern license for the house where he was living,⁹ but later that year, on September 11, 1804, Agesilaus Gordon of Amwell and his wife Mary sold to Godfrey Rockefeller of Bethlehem 51½ acres for 42,400.¹⁰ This deed gives a lengthy recital, back to 1772, but it does not say whether

there was a tavern on the property. However, the sum of \$3,400 is quite large for the amount of land and indicates substantial improvements had been made.

Godfrey Rockafellar mortgaged the property, "containing by extension" 51½ acres, to Agesilaus Gordon.¹¹ This mortgage was later assigned to John Gordon. In 1805, Godfrey Rockafellar applied for a tavern license. His application stated that he "had purchased the tavern known by the name of Skoonkton in Amwell on the road from Flemington to Howell's Ferry [County Route 523] and also from Price's Tavern to Painters ferry" [County Route 604]. He also applied in 1806.¹²

The American economy following the War of 1812 was in a shambles, and anyone who accepted credit for purchases, as all tavern owners had to, would be especially vulnerable. Godfrey Rockafellar was no exception. He was obliged to mortgage the tavern lot to George Holcombe, merchant of New Brunswick, for \$1,200 on April 4, 1814.¹³ But things got much worse; Godfrey Rockafellar died later that same year.

In 1812, a James Larew got a license to operate the Boarshead Tavern, located on County Route 579 near Boarshead Road, and in 1816, the Skunktown Tavern "where he lives."¹⁴ He may have been the James Larew who applied for a peddler's license in 1811, his bondsman being Godfrey Rockafellow and his father being Moses Larew.¹⁵ Or he may have been the Revolutionary War veteran who was a relative of Anne Gordon Rockafellar and the son of Isaac A. Larew and Jerusha Hyde.

In 1817, Othniel Lake, son of Thomas and Catherine Lake who were neighbors of Franklin Gordon, applied for a license to operate a tavern in the house "where he now dwells" in Skunktown, where, according to the application, James Larew had kept a tavern for many years. Lake applied again for a license in 1818.¹⁶ In 1821, William Rake applied for a license "in the village of Skunktown in Amwell where he has kept a public house for many years past."¹⁷ J.M. Hoppock wrote that the tavern was a favorite stopping off place for drovers herding cattle or sheep and teamsters driving wagons with timber to the Delaware River for rafting down to Philadelphia.¹⁸ There were sheds, a livery stable and a large barn on the lot to accommodate visitors' horses and buggies.

The widow of Godfrey Rockafellar, Anne Gordon, must have survived her husband by about ten years, for the estate was not disposed of until 1824. At that time, the heirs were sued by John Gordon to recover the unpaid mortgage that Rockafellar had given when he first bought the tavern. The court agreed with Gordon and the property was sold at public vendue on February 4, 1824 at the house of Neal Hart to John Gordon himself who bid \$1,200 for the 51½ acres.¹⁹

Neal Hart had a tavern of his own in Flemington, as well as many other properties, and was probably not running the tavern in Sergeantsville in 1824.²⁰ But Neal Hart did come into possession of the tavern lot sometime before 1835. While the tavern was owned by Neal Hart, it was hired out to William Kugler and in 1829 to Neal Hart's son, James W. Hart.²¹ Henry Wagner took over as

tenant tavernkeeper sometime in the 1830's²² and was running the tavern on April 9, 1838, when the first meeting of the newly created Delaware Township was held "at the house of Henry Wagner."²³ All subsequent township meetings have been held in that building.

Neal Hart died on September 4, 1837 at the age of 59.²⁴ The tavern lot was put up for sale "at the house of Henry Wagner in Sergeantsville" and on December 28, 1838, and the property was purchased by one John Parker of Raritan for \$2,001.²⁵ John Parker, moved from Raritan to Delaware Township, but he did not keep the tavern for long. On April 6, 1840, he and wife Mary sold the tavern lot of 27.26 acres to Isaiah H. Moore, also of Delaware, for \$2,300.²⁶ Minutes for the Town Meeting of April 13, 1840 and April 12, 1841 show that the meeting was held at the house of Isaiah Moore, innkeeper of Sergeantsville.²⁷ But Moore was also uninclined to keep the tavern. He sold it in 1842 to David Rake, who exchanged land with him.²⁸ David Rake was the son of Jacob Rake and Hannah Thatcher, and a nephew of William Rake. The town meeting of April 11, 1842 was held "at the house of David Rake."

That same year, on November 11, David Rake and his wife Ura of Delaware Township sold the tavern lot of 27.26 acres to George W. Gaddis for \$2,400.²⁹ But the town meetings of 1843 and 1844 were held "at the house of Henry Wagner." In 1845, Gaddis was the innkeeper, and continued to be until 1850. The Cornell Map of 1851 shows Gaddis in possession of the tavern, called the "Gaddis Hotel," but by then Gaddis had already sold it. In 1850, he and his wife Lavinia sold the tavern lot to John Smith of Sergeantsville for \$2,000.³⁰ At this time Sergeantsville was developing with the help of George Gaddis who had subdivided one acre for the tavern and sold off lots from the remaining 26.26 acres. And more speculation was to follow.

From 1851 to 1856 there were five owners: 1851, John Sergeant;³¹ 1852, Samuel Stevenson;³² 1853, Charles Tyson;³³ 1855, Henry Everitt;³⁴ 1856, Robert E. Holcomb.³⁵ In 1850, the Town Meeting was held "at the house of John Smith." In 1851 the innkeeper was Theophilous Titus; 1852-3, Charles S. Tyson; and 1854-1862, Robert E. Holcombe. Holcombe sold the tavern on March 9, 1865. His buyer was James W. Hawk.³⁶ The next year, on July 4, 1866, James W. Hawk sold the tavern to Charles S. Baldwin.³⁷ On April 2, 1867, Charles S. (or F.) Baldwin sold it to Jeremiah Trout.³⁸

On March 30, 1872, Jeremiah H. Trout and his wife Sarah (Dougherty) of Sergeantsville sold the tavern lot, reduced by this time to only three-quarters of an acre, to Jacob K. Wilson for \$600, subject to the payment of "five certain mortgages."³⁹ The day before he bought the tavern, Jacob K. Wilson applied for a tavern license.⁴⁰ The minutes for 1863-1871 do not indicate at whose "house" the township meetings were taking place, but in 1872, they identify it as the house of Jacob K. Wilson. The county freeholders met in the hotel on September 16, 1872 to make plans for a covered bridge over the Wickecheoke Creek.⁴ Jacob Wilson could not carry his load of debt, so the tavern lot was sold on September 7, 1879 to George

T. Arnwine.⁴² But Jacob K. Wilson continued to run the tavern, and applied for a tavern license every year from 1872 to 1887.⁴³

In 1886, George T. Arnwine sold the tavern to John L. Jones of Flemington for \$2,400,⁴⁴ and bought it back the same year for the same amount.⁴⁵ In 1890, John T. Ent applied for a tavern license in Delaware Township. His application was signed by Jacob K. Wilson, George T. Arnwine, and Robert Holcombe, among others.⁴⁶ George T. Arnwine died on July 26, 1892. The next year his estate sold the tavern for \$4,000 to Jacob K. Wilson, then living in Alexandria.⁴⁷ The following year, Wilson's tavern applications resumed.⁴⁸

Jacob Kirkpatrick Wilson was the one who ran the tavern/hotel for the longest period of time. He was born in Rocktown in 1848 to Israel ("Squire") Wilson and fought in the Civil War with the 38th Regiment, NJ Volunteers. His first wife was Gertrude Ent and his second wife was Rose Holcombe. Wilson reserved a room in his hotel for the Township and the school board to hold its meetings in. He was elected Clerk in the 1890's, which was a great convenience for the Township. In 1908, he was a losing candidate for sheriff. He was well thought of, but Prohibition put him out of business.⁴⁹ This was a crisis for the township, for the hotel had become an institution. The solution was provided through the exertions of Frank and Mattie Eppele. Frank Eppele was a very successful Trenton businessman but he and his wife were living at the Poulson Homestead in Headquarters, which Mattie had inherited from her father, George L. Poulson. The Eppeles were always very generous and supportive to the local churches and schools, and Mattie Eppele's grandfather was none other than George W. Gaddis. The Eppeles convinced the Sergeantsville Methodist Church to purchase the hotel for the community. A local fund raising drive made it possible, and on March 31, 1920, the Sergeantsville Hotel was sold to the Methodist Church for \$4,000.⁵⁰

The hotel was transformed into a Community House, with first floor meeting rooms and an auditorium with a stage on the second floor, plus an addition to house a custodian. The Church held its dinners there. The Board of Education met there as well as the township committee, and residents of the eastern half of the township voted there. The second floor auditorium was rented out for political rallies, Grange events, county lodge meetings, school graduations, local talent shows, church summer school, and other uses.⁵¹

Eventually, township government reached a sufficient level to enable the town fathers to purchase the building on March 20, 1948.⁵² The Township originally used the upper level as an auditorium, the first floor as a meeting room and the ground level as a garage. The long porch that wrapped around the south and west side was removed as well as the large barn. Only part of the carriage shed remains.

In 1974, restoration of the upper floor was undertaken. The original stucco was removed at that time. In 1980, restoration of the lower floor was completed and the building dedicated. Even though the interior of this

interesting old building has been adapted to serve the purposes of 20th century municipal government, it remains true to its origins as a central meeting place for the people of Delaware Township.

Sources

1. Delaware Twp. Historic Sites Survey #1007-SV50. Cultural & Heritage Commission #SR-19
2. Hunterdon Co. Deed 10-153.
3. Charles Wilson Opdycke, *The Opdycke Genealogy*, New York: 1889 p.218.
4. Hunterdon Co. Tavern Licenses, p.319.
5. Hunterdon Co. Tavern Licenses, p.320.
6. Amwell Township Tavern License Applications, Vol. 2 page 172, 173, Bureau of Archives, Trenton.
7. Hunterdon Co. Tavern License Applications, Box 1800-1806, folder 1802.
8. Hunterdon Co. Tavern License Applications, Box 1800-1806, folder 1803.
9. Hunterdon Co. Tavern License Applications, Box 1800-1806, folder 1804. John and Joseph Sergeant also applied for a tavern license in 1804, stating that there was a necessity for a tavern in the house where they lived. It seems unlikely that they would have been living in Sergeantsville if there was already a functioning tavern there, but then where were they living? The application only says it was in Amwell.
10. Deed 10-153. [No metes and bounds given in the deed.]
11. Hunterdon Co. Mortgage Vol. 3 p. 276.
12. Hunterdon Co. Tavern License Applications, Box 1800-1806, folders 1805 and 1806.
13. Hunterdon Co. Mortgage Vol. 5 p. 461; also referred to in Deed 37-293.
14. Hunterdon Co. Tavern License Applications, #1304.
15. Hunterdon Co. Peddler's License No. 60, County Clerk's Office.
16. Tavern license on file at the Bureau of Archives and History, State Library, Trenton. Lake was referred to as "Innkeeper of Skunktown" in deed 30-350. See also Phyllis D'Autrechy, "Who Was Othniel Lake," *Hunterdon Historical Newsletter* Vol. 16, No. 2 p. 311.
17. Hunterdon Co. Tavern License Applications, #1293.
18. Jonathan M. Hoppock, "The Sergeantsville Hotel," *Democrat-Advertiser*, 30 Aug 1906.
19. Deed 37-293.
20. Neal Hart appears not to be related to the Hart family of Hopewell. A search of the Deats Genealogical Files and of genealogies at the Hunterdon Co. Historical Society failed to turn up an information on him. As Phyllis D'Autrechy observed, "Neal Hart is an enigma."
21. H.C. Tavern Licenses #1324.
22. Henry Wagner, 1792-1866, is buried in the cemetery of the Sergeantsville Methodist Church.
23. James P. Snell, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties*, Philadelphia; 1881, p. 373. The Clerk's minutes of the original meeting of Delaware Township was obviously available to James P. Snell when he wrote his *History of Hunterdon County*, but the whereabouts of those minutes is no longer known. However, some of the early records of the township are filed at the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office; among them are election returns for Congress, Council & Assembly, Sheriff and Coroners for 1838 and 1839, and minutes of the annual town meetings beginning with 1840.
24. *Hunterdon Gazette*, September 6, 1837.

25. Deed 73-244.
26. Deed 73-247.
27. Minutes on file at the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office.
28. David Rake conveyed 43+ acres near Brookville to Isaiah Moore for \$2,200 in deed 77-446. The deed from Moore to Rake was not recorded.
29. Deed 78-430.
30. Deed 96-512.
31. Deed 100-153.
32. Deed 102-223.
33. Deed 104-637.
34. Deed 111-126.
35. Deed 113-451.
36. Deed 134-170.
37. Deed 135-309.
38. Deed 137-169.
39. Deed 150-394.
40. H.C. Tavern licenses #11.
41. Minutes of the Board of Freeholders, Hunterdon Co. Clerk's Office.
42. Deed 186-600.
43. Hunterdon Co. Tavern licenses #'s 134, 208, 231, 275, 287, 325, 349, 391, 401, 443, 477, 493, 542, 555, 596.
44. Deed 212-187.
45. Deed 212-190. John L. Jones was the son of Asa Jones, at one time a shopkeeper in Croton and man of property. John L. Jones lived in Flemington in a brick house on Main Street at the intersection with Capner Street.
46. H.C. Tavern Licenses, #670.
47. Deed 235-610.
48. There are applications on file from Wilson for 1894-1899, #'s 798, 836, 882, 889, 927, 979.
49. Jacob Wilson died on May 16, 1927. The biographical information was found in the Frank Burd Obituaries, Hunterdon County Historical Society.
50. Deed 334-120; also Charles Jurgensen, "The Delaware Township Municipal Building," article written in 1993 but not published.
51. Clint Wilson, "History of the Sergeantsville Township Hall," Lambertville Beacon, c. 1973.
52. Deed 471-235. The deed states that the price was \$1.00 "and other valuable consideration." In a one-page history of the Township Hall, Alice Sample wrote that the true cost was \$13,500. "Township Hall - Sergeantsville," n.d., Delaware Twp. History Cabinet.



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.

SMITH/STEWART: Seek info on par,anc/o Joseph Smith, b. 7 Feb 1809, Hunt. Co. and his wife Eleanor Stewart, b. 9 Aug 1811. Smith was county freeholder and d. 1886, may be youngest son of John Smith. Eleanor d. 1885, was dau/o Charles Stewart and Elizabeth Green. Joseph and

Eleanor Smith's chil: Anna Wilson, William 1834-44, Mary Eleanor 1835-53, Richard 1837-1925, Jesse, 1839-1925, Martha J. Hammar, b. 1840, Asa 1842-1909, Charles 1843-1931, Harriet Laurie b. 1846, Henry 1847-1912, Amelia Kerr 1849-1895, James 1851-1924, Sarah E. Wilson b. 1853, and Emma C. Johnson b. 1855. ADD: Ray Kentz, 4025 Vista St., Philadelphia, PA 19136.

HART, LANE, WIKOFF: Seeking info re Sarah Wikoff who m. Mr. _____ Lane c1787. Sarah, b. 3 Sep 1771, dau/o Sarah Hart and Jacob Wikoff, m. c1761 Hopewell, grdau/o John Hart, Signer. Jacob and Sarah Wikoff are presumed bur. in Young's Burial Ground, Wertsville, Hunterdon Co. Sarah b. 16 Oct. 1741, d. c1800. What was Mr. Lane's given name? Need marriage and/or dates of death for Sarah and Jacob Wikoff and for Sarah and _____ Lane. ADD: Mrs. Helen D. Woodman, 207 Balsam Rd., Henderson, NC 28792.

CLIFFORD, GORDON, OLLIPHANT: Researching par/o Charles Clifford, b. 10 Nov 1730, m. 4 Mar 1757 Jane Gordon, dau/o Thomas Gordon and Margaret Oliphant. Any info re these families would be appreciated. Charles Clifford is a Patriot in DAR records. ADD: Mary Lou Fournier, P. O. Box 856, Vashon Is., WA 98070.

PEER: Seeking info re fam/par/o Daniel Peer, b. c1788, liv Tewksbury Twp. Hunt. Co.; wife Ann_____. I believe my ancestor Morris Peer who m. Clarissa Collver of Morris Co. was their son. Looking for par/o Daniel, death date, etc. or any other info. Would like to corres with others researching Peer. Add: Brian J. Ensley, P. O. Box 17, Davidsville, PA 15928.

JONES: Seeking info Pascommuck CT Massacre 13 May 1704. French and Indians killed Benoni Jones and 2 chil, Ebenezer & Jonathan; kidnaped wife Hester; left son Benjamin scalped, but survived. ADD: Albert D. Hart, 2232 Deer Creek C.C. Blvd., Deerfield Beach, FL 33442.

HOUSEL(LL), MOORE: Seeking info re Theodore Housell, b. Amwell Twp. 18 July 1816, m. Mary Moore 31 August 1837. Sons Cornelius, James, Henry, John, dau Julia Ann. Welcome any info on family and par/o Theodore and Mary. They mov to New Brunswick circa 1856. ADD: Lawrence C. Housell, 15900 Gifford Lane, Springhill, FL 34610.

FULLER, ROSE: Searching for par/o Daniel Fuller, b. 19 Feb 1790 West Jersey, d. 29 Aug 1884 Knox Co. OH; m. Margaret Rose 29 Sept. 1814 Knox Co. OH. She was b. 3 July 1795 West Jersey, d. 7 Aug 1767 Knox Co. OH. Chil: John, Elizabeth, David, Hannah, Ruth, Job, Sarah A., Maria, Merian. ADD: Betty E. Needs, 436 W. 3rd St., Rialto, CA 92376.



Give History for Christmas

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

For mail orders, order by number and add \$2.00 for the first book and \$1.00 for each additional book to cover postage and packaging.

1. Beers, Comstock and Cline, *1873 Atlas of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*. The Atlas is 13½"x 16", 77 pages with a hard cover and contains maps of fourteen townships and and thirty-two towns existing in Hunterdon County in 1873, printed on acid-free paper. Reprinted 1987 by Hunterdon County Historical Society. \$40.00

2. D'Autrechy, Phyllis B., *Hunterdon County New Jersey Fisheries 1819-1820*, 44 page soft cover booklet with maps, illustrations, and a full-name/subject index, 1993. Gives the historical background on shad fishing and the names and locations of fisheries along the Delaware River within Hunterdon County. \$7.50

3. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *Hunterdon County New Jersey Militia, 1792*, an alphabetical listing of "free and able-bodied white male citizens between ...eighteen and forty-five" listed alphabetically by township, 37 pages, published 1936, reprinted 1994, soft cover. \$12.00

4. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *The Jerseyman: A Quarterly Magazine of Local History*, Volume 1, No. 3, 1891 – Volume 11, No. 4, 1905, 376+ pages, unbound, with added Table of Contents compiled 1985 by Roxanne K. Carkhuff. \$100.

5. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *Marriage Records of Hunterdon County, New Jersey 1795-1875*, 348 pages, hard cover. Reprint, with additions and corrections, of 1918 edition. \$25.00

6. East Amwell Bicentennial Committee, *A History of East Amwell, 1700-1800*, 2nd edition 1979 by Hunterdon County Historical Society, 282 pages, maps, photographs, recipes, index. \$18.50

7. "Flemington, New Jersey 1883," a bird's-eye view of Flemington showing exterior details of buildings in 1883, black and white lithograph, 20" x 24" suitable for framing. \$10.00

8. *Hunterdon's Role In The Revolution*, published by Hunterdon County Democrat 22 July 1976 in honor of our nation's Bicentennial Year and the 150th Anniversary of the Hunterdon County Democrat, 88 pages, photographs, illustrations, maps, soft cover. \$3.00

9. Myers, Kenneth V., *The Flemington Fair Story*, 1978, 95 pages, photographs, soft cover. \$5.00

10. Myers, Kenneth V., *Old Stones At Oak Summit*, Kingwood Presbyterian churchyard at Oak Summit, 1985, 20 pages, added index, soft cover. \$3.00

11. Schmidt, Hubert G., *Slavery and Attitudes on Slavery In Hunterdon County New Jersey*, published 1944, 33 pages, soft cover. \$5.00

12. Vail, Mary C., *History of Land Titles In The Vicinity of Quakertown, New Jersey, 1915*, 15 pages plus added index 1983 by Marfy Goodspeed. Soft cover. \$5.00

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

14. Wittwer, Norman C., *The Faithful and The Bold, the story of the first service of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldwick New Jersey, 14 August 1714, 1984*, 49 pages, photographs, maps, index, hard cover. \$10.00

New Books and Reprints

15. Snell, James P., compiler, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, 1881*, October 1995 facsimile reprint dedicated to Kenneth V. Myers, late president of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, 800+ pages, maps, illustrations, no index. \$75.00

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

Other Publications

For a list of publications available from Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, send a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) to the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, County Administration Building, Flemington, NJ 08822.

Stout Appointed Trustee

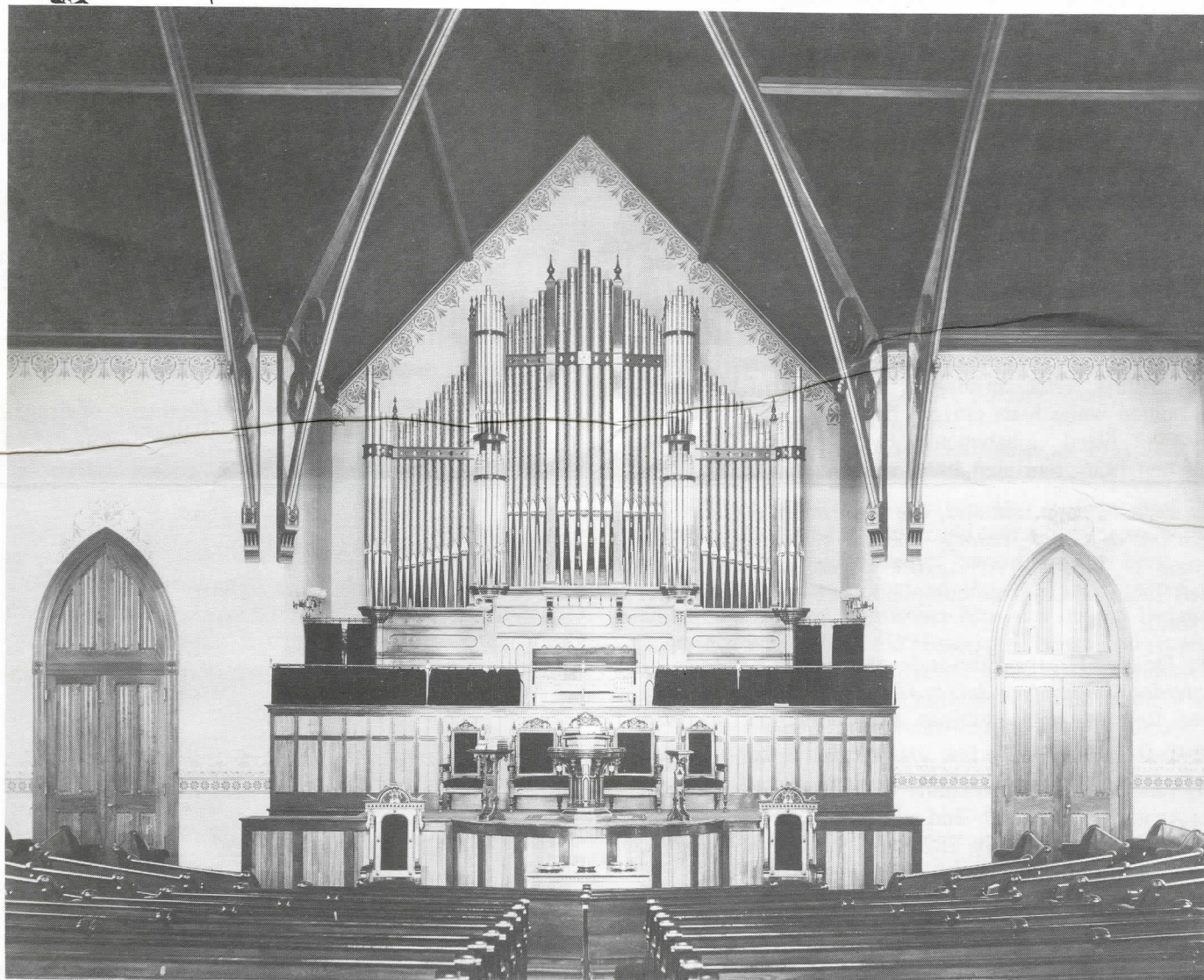
J. Edward Stout has been appointed to the Board of Trustees by Society President Richard Stothoff to fill the unexpired term of the late Kenneth V. Myers. Ed is Franklin Township Historian and the author of the forthcoming book *Facts and Fantasies of Franklin* which celebrates Franklin's 150th anniversary. He also was a major contributor to Franklin Township's publication celebrating the New Jersey Tercentenary in 1964.

A life-long resident of Franklin Township, he retired as Pittstown postmaster after 35 years and has been active in his community. He, as Ken Myers was, is a Trustee of the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum which manages the farm formerly held by our Historical Society. He is also a member of the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, of which he was Chairman for three years, 1982-1984.



Images from the Past

A picture is worth a thousand words.



HCHS collection, PX # 027

Interior of Flemington Presbyterian Church

Norman Landis, a native of Carlisle, PA, became Church organist-choir master in March 1896. The above photograph predates 1908 as during 1908-1909 remodeling of the choir loft and redecorating of the interior were accomplished with a bequest from Dr. W.H. Bartles. In 1913 an organ designed by Mr. Landis was built and installed.

