



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

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WINTER 1995

Battle of Jutland Topic of Annual Meeting *Flemington Woman's Club Sunday ~~November 20~~ at 2.p.m.* *MARCH 26*

With the demolition of the old Hunterdon County jail threatened more attention than ever has focused on our county's judicial and penal history. The Hauptmann-Lingbergh trial is legend. Another trial in Flemington just a few years previous rocked the state yet is virtually unremembered today. A few days before Christmas in 1926 a spurious complaint to the S.P.C.A. arising apparently from personal jealousies and disputes, precipitated a deadly shoot-out that became known as the Jutland Massacre and threatened the dissolution of the newly-formed State Police. Our State Police have long since justly earned a reputation as one of the more professional forces of its kind but the Battle of Jutland was an ugly black mark on its early record.

Siblings Beatrice, James, and Timothy Meany worked the family farm near today's Union Township Municipal Building at Jutland. The Meanys were known in the neighborhood as thrifty but different enough that the *Democrat* would commend: "While Timothy Meany is considered a trifle eccentric by neighbors and Miss Beatrice was generally recognized as being not of normal mind, James is said to be perfectly normal." The stubbornness of the Meanys and the rank unprofessionalism exhibited by the police resulted in State Police firing first and eventually ringing the house to hurl clouds of tear gas and hundreds of bullets into it. The *Democrat* reported 48 bullet holes in just one window. When the dust had settled Beatrice laid unattended in the cold and mortally wounded. Both Meany men were hauled off to Somerset Hospital for several weeks of recuperation, James from a bullet in the knee and Timothy from a severe physical beating by police, some of it after the fact. With the Meanys off the scene some police engaged in some creative evidence management. Several cops were charged with stealing almost \$3000 from the Meanys who didn't believe in banks. And, police did nothing to control the mobs of spectators who through the next few days stripped the Meany house of valuables.

The public outcry against police, the subsequent legal actions, and the conflicting forces and emotions in this tragedy make an engrossing tale that New Jersey historian Joseph Bilby will relate in his own unique style that attends the personal side of the pages of history. Mr. Bilby received his B.A. and M.A. in history from Seton Hall, has lectured widely, and is a contributing editor and columnist for a number of publications. His recent history of the 15th N.J. Civil War Regiment has sold out its first edition and he is currently at work on two other books.

Come and hear the Jutland story at our Annual Meeting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 26, 1995 at the Flemington Womans' Club in the park behind the old jail.



HCHS Collections, PX 84-056

Timothy Meany, George K. Large, attorney for the Meanys, and James Meany

1995 Calendar

- March 26** ANNUAL MEETING –
The Battle of Jutland by Joseph Bilby,
Flemington Woman's Club 2. p.m.
- April 19** Sixth Annual Volunteer
Recognition Luncheon
- June 8-11** Flemington Victorian Days
- June 25** SPRING MEETING
- November 19** FALL MEETING

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

Published Fall, Winter, Spring, by the Hunterdon County Historical Society, 114 Main St., Flemington, N.J. 08822

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- Library Hours -

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

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Bradford Press Retires

The occasion of completing an issue of the *Hunterdon Historical Newsletter* has always produced a sense of satisfaction, marking the culmination of several months work, through planning, typesetting, proof reading, selection of illustrations, layout, and page proofs to the printed *Newsletter* in hand. A good bit of that satisfaction is working with pleasant people. The delivery of the previous issue (30:3) was a bittersweet occasion; it marked the end of an era — Howard and Dee Greenwald, operating as Bradford Press, had announced their retirement as of 30 November 1994. While in the planning phase of the FALL issue, Howard had dropped his "bombshell" that it would be his last issue!

And it was a bombshell! They had been there, even before I began my association with the *Newsletter* back at Volume 9. They were much more than "our" printer — having patience to work first with Bert Sorby through myriad changes in each issue of the *Newsletter* copy and content to produce interesting issues. After Bert they inherited me as the next liaison, with little know-how for putting together a newsletter. They are to be commended for their perseverance, cooperation, kindnesses, and humor, all of which, and more, has been appreciated.

It has been a wholly pleasant experience to work with Howard and Dee. Their shop was located on Whiskey Lane in Delaware Township on one of the few dirt roads left in the area. It was a beautiful ride there any time of the year — trees in their seasonal adornment, wildlife, and at the end of the driveway a visit with friends. Bradford Press has slipped into history and I wish Howard and Dee a long and pleasurable retirement.

— Roxanne K. Carkhuff

Rittenhouse Family Tour Guide

The progenitors of the Hunterdon County branch of the Rittenhouse family were William³ Rittenhouse (1695-1767), and his wife Catherine Howell (-1778) who were the parents of nine children; five sons (Moses, Peter, William Isaac and Lot) and four daughters (Priscilla, Susannah, Anne and Hannah) per William's will, written 27 August 1761.

In 1734 William purchased nearly one thousand acres in the vicinity of Rosemont and built a stone house. In the gable he placed a stone marked W.C.R./737 — his own initials combined with those of his wife and the year the house was built. Presumably their family burying ground was on the Rittenhouse homestead property. William and Catherine are buried nearby in private family graveyard, their graves marked with small, short, plain field stones etched with their initials: W.R. and C.R.

An illustrated tour guide to some sites and activities of the Rittenhouse Family in Hunterdon County has been proposed and a draft produced. Volunteers are needed to assist with the project. Dr. Carl N. Shuster, Jr., managing editor of the Rittenhouse Family Association Newsletter will be coordinating the tour guide project.

The objective is to discover and describe existing and former geographical sites and structures associated with the first three generations of the family in the area (generations 3 through 5 in America) roughly during the years from 1734-1860. In doing so, it is hoped that the names and activities of these early citizens will be more clearly identifiable. The result should be a representative partial history of the area.

The end product will be a series of road maps with tour stops and observation points. Once people, places and structures have been identified, then a series of maps can be delineated. Even if the places and structures are not available on a tour basis (i.e. destroyed or in private hands and thus closed to visitation) they will be described. When possible, the oldest available illustrations, as well as more recent ones, will be used to show the way they were. References to source material will be included:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| land/deeds, etc. | wills, estates |
| buildings | maps |
| cemetery | illustrations (photographs and drawings) |

Anyone wishing to learn more about the project and/or participate in the gathering of information should contact Dr. Carl N. Schuster, Jr., 3733 - 25th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-5011, telephone (703) 528-3807.

Library Hours Changed

Beginning 1 October 1994 the Hiram E. Deats Memorial Library is open Thursdays 1-3 and 7-9 p.m. and by appointment. Saturday hours have been discontinued.

Hunterdon County and Woman's Suffrage 75th Anniversary

It's hard to believe that the first women in the United States to vote were those of New Jersey whose State constitution of 1776 conferred the franchise on 'all inhabitants worth \$250.' In 1790 the election law confirmed women's right to suffrage but unfortunately in 1807 the Legislature illegally deprived them of it."¹ Another 60 years would pass before a short-lived State society for woman's suffrage was organized.² Finally in 1890 a new State Association was formed and the first public meeting held at Orange, 4 March 1893.³ In 1904, a special effort was made to bring the question of woman's suffrage before other organizations such as the Federation of Woman's Clubs, the W.C.T.U., the Epworth League, and the Grange.⁴

Bills for woman's suffrage were yearly brought before the New Jersey Legislature but unsuccessfully. In 1917 another bill for Presidential suffrage was put before unfavorable committees by the presiding officers of both houses who were strongly opposed to the issue. Pressure was brought and the bill removed from committee in March. There was a demand for a roll call vote of the Senate but the speaker paid no attention. "Pandemonium reigned, members shouting and banging their desks" until finally the speaker declared a recess and fled the room.⁵

Finally the year 1920 arrived. On February 2nd, the New Jersey Senate passed the Suffrage Resolution by a vote of 18 to 2. Hunterdon Senator Martens didn't vote. Then, despite last ditch efforts to bury the amendment, a vote was finally taken in the Assembly. After a long all night session, the New Jersey Assembly, in the early hours of the morning of February 10, 1920, ratified the equal franchise amendment to the federal constitution by a vote of 34 to 24. Assemblyman Agans of Hunterdon County voted "yes." New Jersey was the 29th state to grant its endorsement. Only the approval of 7 more states was now required!

"After the cheers of the suffragist over their victory had ceased, Mrs. Robert Patterson Finley of Camden County, known among her fellow workers as 'The Betsy Ross of Suffrage,' threaded a needle with a golden cord and sewed upon a great flag a golden star that added New Jersey to the states in which the ratification resolution (had) won a victory."⁶ The ladies of Hunterdon County, under the leadership of Ms. Frances H. Eageman, chairman of the Hunterdon County Suffrage organization, had taken a great interest in having New Jersey ratify the nineteenth amendment. Over 2,200 women of the county had petitioned the members of the Legislature to vote for the ratification.⁷

The day after the ratifying vote, the Flemington Woman's Club held its regular meeting. The program was in charge of the Legislative Committee chaired by Mrs. Clarence O.

Johnson. The speaker was the Hon. David H. Agans, Assemblyman. "Having just come from the Legislature where the amendment on Suffrage was ratified, he congratulated the ladies on the success thus far of the Suffrage movement. Mr. Agans had been a firm supporter of Woman's Suffrage always, and without telling tales out of school he admitted that it was not without difficulty that its ratification by New Jersey was accomplished. He urged the women to prepare for the coming privilege by studying up constitutional questions and measures that might come before them for decision by means of the vote."⁸

On August 26th, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the Amendment and the last required to make the 19th Amendment a part of the United States Constitution. Was it only 75 years ago?

— Phyllis B. D'Autrechy

SOURCES

1. Ida Husted Harper, editor. *The History of Woman Suffrage*. Volume VI, 1900-1920. National American Woman Suffrage Association, p. 412.
2. *Ibid*, p. 412.
3. *Ibid*, p. 412.
4. *Ibid*, p. 414.
5. *Ibid*, p. 432.
6. *Democrat Advertiser*. Issue of 12 Feb. 1920, p. 1, col. 1.
7. *Ibid*.
8. *Democrat Advertiser*. Issue of 19 Feb. 1920, p. 1, col. 5.

Form of Bequest

(This form is recommended for use in making a bequest of real property, in a Will or otherwise, naming your society as beneficiary.)

ITEM: I bequeath the sum of \$_____ to the Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington, NJ

ITEM: I bequeath to the Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington, NJ, without restrictions, title to and full possession of historical materials and objects, (real estate, account books, diaries, family Bibles, documents, papers, photographs, programs, newspapers, clippings, books, records) etc.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

NOTES AND QUERIES

Address correspondence to Genealogical Committee. Listings 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.

DIXON: Researching par, dates/o William Dixon, mov from VA to Mason Co. KY in 1799, then to Brown Co. OH by 1825. Ch: Nancy, Hannah, Elizabeth, John, Amos, Josiah, Thomas, James, Harrison, William. Will exch Dixon data. ADD: Albert D. Hart, 2232 Deer Creek C. C. Blvd., Deerfield Beach, FL 33442.

BESSON, HUMMER: Need to identify par/o Elizabeth Hummer who m. Agesilaus Besson 19 Oct 1815. Rev. Charles Bartolette, Flemington Baptist minister recorded they were "both of Amwell." She d. prob. bet 30 Mar 1839 when she and Agesilaus sold land in Amwell Twp., and 27 Sept 1839 when he alone sold property to their son, Asa, with whom Agesilaus and dau Margaret resided at the taking of the 1850 census. ADD: Betsy Taylor, 777-79 San Antonio Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303.

BETTS, PAXSON, SIMCOCK, WEBSTER: Seek info, date of untimely death of Jacob Paxson, b. 2-10-1737 Raritan, s/o Reuben and Alice (Simcock) Paxson. Jacob's widow, Mary (Webster) Paxson rcf Kingwood MM to Buckingham MM 1-2-1779, m 2) William Betts Buckingham MM 12-12-1781. ADD: Ruth Cartmell, 314 Littletown Quarter, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

FELVER/FELVERT, HELDEBRAND, POTTER, SUTTON: Seek info on all Felvers or Felverts, Mary Sutton who m. Moses Felver 5/5/1827, Mary Potter who m. George Felvert 10/17/1802, and Catharina Heldebrand who m. George Felvert Jr. 11/18/1777. Also George Felvert b. 1698, d. 1/2/1788 near Spruce Run. ADD: James Felver, 104 St. Pierre's Way, Apollo Beach, FL 33572.

BURGESS, HOOVER, SIMS, WIGGINS: Felix Hoover mov to PA about 1790, said to have married in NJ. Son Michael m. Arsenith Burgess about 1838. Son John b. 15 July 1782, d. 29 March 1866 Luzerne Co. PA, m. Sarah Sims. Dau Hannah m. Silas Wiggins, mov with family from PA to NY. Any info appreciated. ADD: Inez M. Berg, PO Box 537, Wheatland, CA 95692.

GODOWN, ROBBINS, ROUNSAVILL: Evans Godown d. 1790, m. 2nd Abigail Robbins, 3rd Rachel Stout Rounsavill; had 11 children beginning with John, b. 1749. Need name of 1st wife and parents. ADD: Donna B. Evans, 3 Papps Dr., Hamilton, NJ 08620-1307.

APGAR, HUMPHREY: Seeking info & par/o Lewis Humphrey, [1809-1892] born & died Hunt. Co.; m. Elizabeth Apgar and had six sons. ADD: George Ireland, 1260 35th Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32960. (407-569-5932)

FISHER: Seek anc/o Joseph Fisher, b. ca 1787 NJ, & wife Rachel ——— bpl NJ, d. ca 1821 NJ; par/o Peter Fisher b. 11/16/1816 Somerset Co NJ. ADD: Carl C. Wilson, 2915 Via Milano #101, Corona, CA 91719.

CHAMBERLAIN, HANN: Seeking info re Cornelius Augustus Hann, b. 1827, d. 4/17/1888; m. Sarah K. Chamberlain in 1851; his son, Louis was my great-grandfather. Also seek info re his ancestry. ADD: William A. Schipp, 9720 Roosevelt Way N. E., #405, Seattle, WA 98115.

BOSS, BOSENBURY, HOWELL, QUICK, SNOOK, STILWELL: Seek info re siblings (especially sisters and their daus.) of Elizabeth Bosenbury [1774-alive 1850] who m. 1800 Augustine Stilwell. Elizabeth (Bosenbury) Stilwell's sisters were: Rebecca Bosenbury, wife of Joseph Howell, Mary Bosenbury who m. 1807 Daniel Snook, Anna Bosenbury wife of Peter Boss, Charity Bosenbury wife of William Quick, and Sarah Bosenbury, ADD: Roxanne K. Carkhuff, P. O. Box 334, Ringoes, NJ 08551.

GREENE, MERCER, MILLER: Searching for par/o Sarah Greene, b. ca. 1782 NJ, m. before 1805 to Job Mercer, b. ca. 1780 in PA. Chil: Israel b. 6/6/1806, Hiram b. 1/21/1810, James b. 1812, John b. 1815 m. Rhoda Ann Miller, and Reason b. 1816. ADD: Sandra "Jae" Atkins, 5512 Nithsdale Dr., Salisbury, MD 21801.



Mexican War Veteran Dies

"The only survivor of the Mexican War from Hunterdon county, Gordon Valentine, died at the home of his niece in Brooklyn, N. Y., last week. Until recently he had made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Welch near Whitehouse. The deceased was ninety-four years old and a month ago when leaving to take up his home in the city was apparently in good health. He enlisted at Clinton for the Mexican war in 1846, under Captain Joseph A. Yard, of Trenton. He fought at Matamoras and Fort Brown besides taking part in a number of skirmishes. The burial took place at Stony Brook, N. Y.

[The above death notice was copied from a newspaper dated 2 May 1912.]

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 Ancestor Hunt: A Chronicle of Middle Americans in the 18th and 19th Centuries, by Althia Hunt Woods Kelly, Torrington, CT., 1985. Donated by Fred Sisser III, Bridgewater, NJ.

Family Bible of John B. Van Doren (1824-1871) and his wife, Catharine K. Van Syckle (1831-1875) published in 1852 by Silas Andrus and Son. Donated by Roberta Housel, Flemington, NJ.

Collection of miscellaneous newspaper clippings concerning Hunterdon County, Three Bridges area, Flemington, etc. Donated by Mrs. Thelma K. Miller, Three Bridges, NJ.

Manual of the Legislature of New Jersey, 1979, 1980. Donated by Jacqueline Holcombe, Ringoes, NJ who set type for both editions which were printed by the Democrat Press, Flemington, NJ.

Minute Book of the Hill Family Reunion, 1951-1990, by descendants of Jacob Rutsen Schenck Hill (1832-1897) and his wife Margaret Case (1837-1916), daughter of Jacob and Anna (Larch) Case.

School Register, 1895-96, from School #2 East Amwell Township, Cora B. Hoffman teacher. Donated by Mr. and Mrs. George Hart, Pennington, NJ.

Quakertown, N.J. day book, 1902-1903, from Willis Vail's store. Donated by Judy Holub, Bloomsbury, NJ.

Stout-Young Family Papers consisting of family correspondence, photograph albums, newspaper clippings, Family Bible of Nathan Stout and his wife Mary Ann Fisher. Donated by Mrs. Mathews Simpson, Lakewood, NJ, granddaughter of Augusta Young Stout.

Album with photographs of the family of Judiah Higgins [1799-1890] and his wife Charity Fisher [1803-188-]. Donated by Charity Craig, Flemington, NJ.

Richard Rounsavell and His Descendants (1678-1994), by Brian Elliott Rounsavill, 1994. Donated by the author, Newtown, PA.

Manuscript journal, 1891-1896, containing the minutes of the yearly and special meetings of the Flemington Telegraph Company, concerning election of members, assessments, organization and rules. Also 46 letters (many on attractive letterhead), bills, and receipts relating to the company's management. Purchased for \$115 from Carmen D. Valentino, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Philadelphia, PA. Donations to offset the cost of this purchase are most welcome.

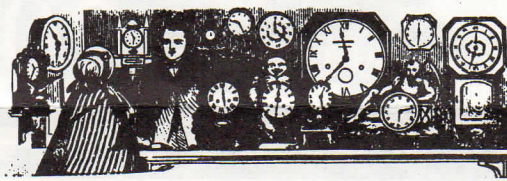
Facsimile of "A Petition Opposing A Jetport in Hunterdon County" containing signatures of more than 7000 individuals of voting age expressing their opposition to a Port of New York Authority Jetport in Hunterdon County. Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Greenwald, Flemington, NJ.

Gleaners' Bric-a-Brac, No. 11, Flemington Presbyterian Church, 1889. Donated by Edward V. Hill, Flemington, NJ.

Photocopies of documents pertaining to an 1886 legal proceeding between a railroad company and a Flemington resident to prevent the closing of a road near the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad station in 1886. Donated by Robert Perzel, Flemington, NJ.

"Notes from the [Delaware] Township Historian," Marfy Goodspeed, from the Township Newsletter, Sept. 1992, March 1993, Sept. 1993, Winter (January) 1994, Sept. 1994, March 1995. Donated by Ms. Goodspeed, Flemington, NJ.

Memorabilia from the 24 October 1994 ceremony honoring Dr. Virginia Apgar with the issue a 20-cent postage stamp. Donated by Mary Apgar, Middlesex, NJ.



Daylight Savings Time

When Assemblyman David H. Agans spoke to the Flemington Woman's Club about the successful vote on the Woman's Suffrage Amendment, he also spoke to them about "other topics of interest" including the Vital Statistics bill and the Daylight Saving bill.

The *Democrat Advertiser* of 15 April 1920 brought us up to date on the confusion caused by the new time keeping method:

Time Change Upsets Town

Residents of Flemington are of the opinion that Shakespeare was prophesying the spring of 1920 when he wrote the line, "The time is out of joint." With the influence of New York on the one side and Philadelphia on the other, part of the town works, sleeps and goes to school by daylight saving and the others by the good old-fashioned way. Central time and P.R.R. time won't jibe, the housewives get five or six meals a day and even the chickens are uncertain as to when to expect their regular meals. Some men carry two watches and some men are trying to quit by the new time and go to work by the old. Unless some adjustment is made the ministers will have to exercise their utmost endeavors to curb the spread of profanity, and it is suspected that the good ladies are even thinking naughty words. *Lambertville Beacon*, April 8.

— Phyllis B. D'Autrechy

Apgar Stamp Issued by US Postal Service



Ceremonies were held in Westfield New Jersey and Dallas Texas on 24 October 1994 to pay tribute to Dr. Virginia Apgar with a 20-cent United States Postal stamp issued in her honor. Dr. Apgar, who died in 1974 at the age of 65, was noted for her achievements in obstetric anesthesia on newborn babies.

Dr. Apgar was born in 1909 in Westfield, a descendant of the Hunterdon County family of Johannes Peter Apgar through his son Conrad. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College in 1929, she received her medical degree from Columbia and was the first woman selected for a full professorship at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. She moved into the then relatively new field of anesthesiology, developing a test to measure the health of newborns. Dr. Apgar has "touched" virtually every baby born in the past 35 years with her Apgar Scale, a test given every baby at one minute and again at five minutes after birth that can alert doctors and nurses of a deteriorating condition that might otherwise go unnoticed. She developed the Apgar Scale in the early 50s, using the letters of her name for five checks on newborns: appearance, pulse, grimace (reflexes), activity (muscles) and respiration.

[Memorabilia pertinent to the Virginia Apgar stamp ceremony has been donated to the Hunterdon County Historical Society by Mary Apgar, Middlesex, NJ.]

Membership Report

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

James R. Buchanan, Howell, NJ
 Patricia Burton, Mercerville, NJ
 George Ireland, Vero Beach, FL
 James J. Konz, Fairfax Station, VA
 H. Douglas Pinkerton, Belvidere, NJ
 Eugene M. Reading, Silver Spring, MD
 William J. Schipp, Seattle, WA
 Karen, Bob & Steven Sheridan, Hampton, NJ
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Smith, Rockport, TX
 Betsy Taylor, Palo Alto, CA
 R. A. Wallander, West Palm Beach, FL

Shirley V. Favier
 Membership Secretary



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 _____



Rounsavell Genealogy Published

Richard Rounsavell and His Descendants 1678-1994 has been published by Society member Brian Elliott Rounsavill, a hardbound volume on acid-free paper, over 200 pages including photographs that chronicle the history of the Rounsavells in America from the first immigrant to the present. The family name is a well-known one in the early history of Hunterdon County.

The book may be purchased from Brian E. Rounsavill, 255 David Lane, Newtown, PA for \$30 postpaid (H) (215) 579-2716, (O) (609) 737-1902.

“...in sight of the turnpike”

Wanderlust, the lure of greener pastures — whatever the call — some have always followed their dreams of finding a better life in a new place. Two who answered the call of the Lake Region of New York State were Richard Primmer and his wife, Lydia, from Hopewell Township (now Mercer County). Their letter to Lydia's mother, Mary (Shinn) Bunn, allows us a rare glimpse into their joys and cares.

Prior to the winter of 1816/1817, Richard and Lydia had settled in the town of Ulysses, Cayuga County later Tompkins County. They were “in sight of the turnpike” and could “stand in (their) door and see the Jersey wagon(s) travel on the turnpike — five or six of a day.” It must have been comforting to hear “from Jersey almost every day.”

By October 1817, Richard had traveled “about looking (for) a place to by (sic).” He'd been to the Genessee River and “Sodes Bay” but concluded that he'd stay with his first choice. He could “settel . . . someware not far from Harlow's Corner where he would about Jesper Laning three miles south of the corner.” Richard observed that this was “a fine town on the account of water and mills and factory . . . a fine country of land . . . filling up very fast, land is rising, the crops in Canada is all cut off by now.” He expected the profit from the grain to be high . . . “wheat being ten shillings a bushel.” Richard despaired that his “crops of corn is cut off with the frost” but rejoiced that he had “good crops of wheat and buckwheat, potatoes and turnips.”

Letters were often delivered by men traveling back and forth from New Jersey, such as Mr. Titus, Mr. Gray, Daniel Richey, Enoch Vankirk, and Mr. Bake. One of the visitors was Edmund Roberts who spent two nights with them sharing the gossip.

Between harvest and planting times seemed to be the most logical time for visiting family and friends in Pennington. Once Richard returned from New Jersey in mid May 1818. He left Flemington on a Tuesday morning about 8 o'clock and felt that he and his companions “had a vary good journey” in getting home. They only “lost a half days travel in the wilderness” traveling two days by foot path “where there was not anything (of service) to be had for man nor beast.” They got to the Shamung (River) on Friday night about seven o'clock. The next morning Joseph Hunt's horse “fell about twenty feet down the bank into the river.” They got him out safely and crossed over to Tioga Point where they stayed all night on Saturday night. Richard arrived home “about candel light” on Sunday and “found all (his) family well.”

In the same letter he commented that they'd had “a very backward Spring” with several snows and one about “nee” deep. The trees were just beginning to look green in late May with the apple trees just “aputing out in leaf.” The farmers were just beginning to plow. Richard sounded his discouragement in his comment, “We have got but about three months to do all our work.” In general, he said the spring had been “vary wet and cold.” They had “work to git our cretars threw” the winter. Hay was “vary hard to

be got.” The “ould settler in the place never saw such a time.” The hope for the promise of a new season appeared to be voiced in noting that he had new stock born . . . “five lambs out of eight” and four pigs.

The state of the family's health was always of prime concern in the letters. Richard worried in the fall of 1818 that Joshua and Fanny had been very sick with the fever and barely able to walk. Lydia had “not been well about two weeks, but had not been confined to her bed. Several of the letters mentioned Typhoid Fever and dysentery. Mrs. Fidler, probably from Titusville, was getting better and finally able to walk a bit commented Lydia who said she'd seen such hard time that she thought she'd have to give up her plans to make the trip to her mother's.

The tone and words of the letters begin to reveal that Richard and Lydia were becoming disillusioned with their choice of home. The harvest of 1819 was not as they'd hoped. The wheat and corn were good but the grass “light.” It had never been so dry since they'd been there. The buckwheat and potatoes would be “light” also. The summer of 1820 added to their worries. First there had been a great drought but since Richard had returned from Jersey they'd had “a considerable of rane (sic).” Hail had done “a grate deel of dammage. It cut off holl wheat fields . . . brok in a grate deal of glass” in Ithaca. Even the yearly spring trip from Jersey appeared more difficult. Richard wrote that he experienced “a hard walk of it. (His) back got “vary sore” and his feet “got vary much blistered.”

In August 1820, the proceeds from the crops were not good. There was no money going for wheat which had dropped to three shillings in trade. Richard felt “it (was) very tuff times.” The grasshoppers had “et up whole oat fields and meadows.” Hay was likely to be very scarce.

In January 1821 Jonathan B. Primmer, Richard and Lydia's son, told his grandmother, “We've had a very long tedious winter.” He complained that he “should like this country better if the winters was not so long . . . this is a very hard country to live in.” There was no way to get money “without going away to a far distance to work or trade and there is great many things that we cannot get here without money.” Richard had “not got one cent of money” since he'd gotten home from Jersey. Lydia thought that if he “must go so far to work that the family had better all come.”

Apparently this was the decision that was reached — they'd all come home to New Jersey. Johathan's letter was the last saved from the Lakes Country. Richard and Lydia settled outside of Pennington where they lived out their days. Richard died 13 Aug. 1855, aged 77 years and 4 months, 24 years longer than his son, Jonathan. On 28 Nov. 1872, Lydia died and was buried beside her husband in the Old Methodist Cemetery, west of Pennington.

— *Phyllis D'Autrechy*

Bunn Papers
Hunterdon County Historical Society



Images from the Past

A picture is worth a thousand words.

This image was selected from the photograph collection of the Society to initiate a regular feature in future issues of the *Hunterdon Historical Newsletter*.



Norman C. Wittwer Collection, II [PX# 1201]

Students pose on the porch of Barnet Academy in Oldwick, Tewksbury Township *circa* 1912. We are indebted to Society members Marion C. and Helen E. Waldron of Oldwick for identifying the persons pictured above.

Front row L-R: George Melick, —?— Sickles, Floyd Burrell, Marguerite Sherman, Laura Murphy, Evelyn Kinkel, Elizabeth Swick, Malcolm Skillman. The three children standing between rows one and two are Liela Burrell, —?— Sickles, Edna Sutton. Second row: Rudolph Herman, —?— Herman, Lauren Felmley, William Vroom, Grace Eick, John Eick, Charles Kindell, John Alpaugh. Third row: J. Runkle Fisher, Charles Conner, Thomas Murphy, Russell Moke, Leah Sutton, Helen Hildebrant, Leanore Vroom, Laura Opdyke. Fourth Row: Howard Murphy, John Melick, James Melick, Anna Gano, Bessie Connor, teacher Roderick B. Thaw standing behind Helen E. Waldron, Florence Swick, Lida Murphy, Ida Conner and Marion C. Waldron.

Newsletter Index For Sale

The new index to the *Hunterdon Historical Newsletter* covering Volumes 26 through 30 has been compiled by Phyllis B. D'Autrechy. It may be ordered by mail or picked up at the Society headquarters during Library hours, Thursdays 1-3, 7-9 p.m. for \$5 plus \$1 postage.