

# Hunterdon Historical Record



## HUNTERDON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[hunterdonhistory.org](http://hunterdonhistory.org)

### UPCOMING EVENT

See our website for more details.

**April 19, 6:30 pm**

Join Don Cornelius, HCHS Manuscript Curator, at the Deats Memorial Library for a spring workshop: *Using the Manuscript Collections of the Historical Society.*

The workshop will help both advanced and beginning researchers better understand the wealth of resources available at the Society.

No fee for members, but pre-registration is required as space is limited.

Call 908-782-1091 or e-mail [hunterdonhistorypatricia@gmail.com](mailto:hunterdonhistorypatricia@gmail.com).

### New Research Hours for the H. E. Deats Research Library

**Every Thursday** 10-4 pm  
**Fourth Friday** each month  
12-4 pm

**Friday mornings**  
by appointment only.

**Fourth Saturday** each  
month 10-4 pm

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Web site is  
[www.hunterdonhistory.org](http://www.hunterdonhistory.org)

Open to the public

## A Cradle of the National Pastime: New Jersey Base Ball 1855-1880

**BASEBALL HISTORIAN** and author John Zinn is the guest speaker at the Society's spring meeting on Sunday, March 11 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting and lecture will be held at the Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street in Flemington.

Since 2010, John Zinn has been an independent historian with special interest in the history of baseball. He is the author of three books about the Brooklyn Dodgers including the first full-length biography of Dodger owner Charles Ebbets, scheduled to be published in the spring of 2018. Mr. Zinn is serving as the guest curator for an exhibit on early New Jersey baseball history at the Morven Museum in Princeton, opening in June of 2018. He also is writing the companion book to the exhibit.



Baseball Historian John Zinn

The afternoon lecture will begin with the early days of organized baseball describing New Jersey's important role during the antebellum period. After looking at baseball during the Civil War, the focus will shift to the post war years in New Jersey. The nineteenth century baseball game and how it differs from the modern version will be discussed along with a look at the *Flemington Neshanock*, one of Hunterdon County's first baseball teams. In his spare time, Mr. Zinn is the score keeper for the Neshanock vintage baseball team.

A resident of Verona, New Jersey, Mr. Zinn holds BA and MBA degrees from Rutgers University and is a Vietnam veteran. He is the chairman of the board of the New Jersey Historical Society and chaired New Jersey's committee on the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

The talk will last about 50 minutes, followed by questions; refreshments will be served.

Flemington's Neshanock Vintage Baseball Club, organized July 1866, reconstituted, 2001.



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Please send us your name, address, phone number, email address, and tell us if you would like to volunteer in the library, the archives, or the museum. Mail the information with your check to:

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114 Main Street  
Flemington, NJ 08822**Or join online with a credit card at**  
[www.hunterdonhistory.org/membership](http://www.hunterdonhistory.org/membership)**Acquisitions**

Historical Hunterdon artifacts and documents about families who resided here are welcome additions to the Society's Collections and we thank all donors.

Abegg, Ed. 2 photographic images: the infield & gazebo at a Flemington Speedway race, ca. 1930-1940; & **Frank P. Brown & family, Nov. 1896. (see photo).**

Appello, Deborah. A folder of records on Voorhees Melick, of Lebanon, NJ, including 3 diaries, letters, photographs, &amp; postcards, 1877-1969.

*Archaeology of Warren & Hunterdon Counties : Bulletin 18, Report of the Dept. of Conservation & Development, State of New Jersey /* Max Schrabisch (1917). HCHS Purchase.Armstrong, Janice. *The Papers of William Livingston, Volume 2: July 1777-December 1778 /* edited by Carl E. Prince (1979).Bush, Pamelyn. *I Remember, Volume II: 1941-1960 /* Hunterdon County (N.J.) Division of Senior Services (2004).

Curcio, Carole. Two blue and gold painted railroad signs from the Annandale Railroad Station.

*First Presbyterian Church, Pennington, N.J.: 225th anniversary, 1709-1934 /* HCHS Purchase.*Hacklebarney & Voorhees State Parks (NJ)* (Images of America) / by Peter Osborne (2004). HCHS Purchase.Hauck, Joe. *The Industrial Directory of New Jersey: cities, towns and villages having a population of one hundred and over, /* compiled and published by the Bureau of Statistics of New Jersey (1909).*Historic notes on Fairmount, New Jersey /* by Freeman Leigh; edited by Jim Hamilton (1982, reprint). HCHS Purchase.

Housel, Roberta. A family photograph album &amp; loose photographs of the Housel Family of Pleasant Run, ca. 1880-1960.

Hunterdon County Regional High School. 1 group of records from the library vertical files, including pamphlets, romance maps, &amp; the student published "Exploring Hunterdon's Heritage" series. ca. 1952-1985.

Koblish, Martha. A large donation of materials including booklets &amp; pamphlets for the Deats Library; scrapbooks, family photographs, &amp; news clippings of Alice E. Mathews, Melissa Hoff Mathews, &amp; their related families; a photograph of the Harmony School; the pew plan from the Quakertown United Methodist Church; a tile from Fleming Castle; two christening dresses, a full length kimono with matching shorter kimono, two antique pocketbooks, an antique curling iron, and commemorative plate from Flemington Grammar School. ca. 1899-1976.

McKaughan, Molly. *A History of Colonel Joseph Beavers (2nd Regt. N.J. Militia), 1728-1816: of Hunterdon County, New Jersey /* compiled by Harold A. Sonn (1948).Myers, Carol. *Remembering our Military of WWII /* compiled by Carol Myers [2017].

New Brunswick Free Public Library. An account ledger of Jonathon B. Hopewell for corn trades in the Flemington area. 1876-1885.

*New Jersey Biographical and Genealogical Notes /* William Nelson (1916). HCHS Purchase.*Pennsylvania German Church Records, Vol. III /* Genealogical Publishing Co. (1983). HCHS Purchase.*Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women /* The Women's Project of New Jersey, Inc. (1990). HCHS Purchase.

Phelps, Walter. The Mary A. Bodine Bible, with records and inserts concerning the Bodine and Higgins families, last owned by Grace A. Gerard, d. 1938.

*Prallsville Mills & Stockton* (Images of America) / by Keith Strunk (2008). HCHS Purchase.

Quick, Jeff. A collection of records, manuscripts &amp; ledgers from the Lockatong Lodge No. 114, International Order of Odd Fellows. 1822-1986.

Quimby, Eric. 4 matchbook collector albums, from Atlantic City, NJ, the shore region and LBI, and NJ regional restaurants including Hunterdon County. ca. 1950-2010.

Continued next page



## ACQUISITIONS CONTINUED...

- Riley, David Joseph. *Nathan Terriberly (1815-86) of Hunterdon County, New Jersey: his descendants & allied & associated families* / by David Joseph Riley
- Rosenberg, Harlene. A souvenir yearbook & a DVD publication celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Hunterdon Central High School. 2006.
- Sands, Robert W., Jr. 2 books. *Hour of gold, hour of lead: diaries & letters of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, 1929-1932*; *Locked rooms & open doors: diaries & letters of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, 1933-1935*.
- Sciarello, Kathy. *Early life & traditions of Holland, N.J. 1903-1907: a collection of newspaper articles, historical information and pictures* / compiled by Kathleen Phillips Sciarello for the Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission (2017).
- Simonds, Raymond. 3 Flemington High School yearbooks. The Echo - 1943, 1944 and 1947.
- Smith, Beverly (Regent). 2 Boxes of records of Colonel Lowrey's "Fleming Castle" Chapter Library, including an E. Ramsey account book 1900-1903; correspondence; research & reference material notes; publications; pamphlets; postcards; news clippings; greeting cards; periodicals; 1813 Milford Account Ledger; photographs; framed photographs; & portraits. ca. 1813-2000.
- Soldavin, Mary Ellen. A booklet, "Lambertville, New Jersey, 1849-1999." (2000).
- Stewart, Lois. 2 road maps of Hunterdon County, 1966 and 1989.
- Stewart, Lois. Wedding gown of Jane Florence Carver & photo of the wedding in Flemington, 1947, to Harold Kitchin; WW II dog tags of Harold Kitchin.
- Stothoff, Richard H. The Echo 1945, Flemington High School Yearbook.
- The American Revolution in New Jersey: where battlefront meets home front* / edited by James J. Gigantino II (2015). HCHS Purchase.
- The Lehigh Valley Railroad across New Jersey* / Ralph A. Heiss (2009). HCHS Purchase.
- Thee & Me: a beginner's guide to early Quaker records* / by Lisa Parry Arnold (2014). HCHS Purchase.
- Thompson, Ken and Debbie. 2 large photographs: stables in rear of the Old County Hotel (n.d.); & Addressing Homecoming WWI Veterans, 8/30/1919.
- Uniforms of the American Revolution in color* / John Mollo, illustrated by Malcolm McGregor (1975). HCHS Purchase.
- Wayne County Historical Society of Ohio. 4 Original Deeds, including an Indenture deed of Daniel Bray to Job Emmons dated 1787-JUN-01; Indenture deed of John Woolverton to Isaac Rittenhouse dated 1799-OCT-11; 1811 New Jersey Deed of Partition between Samuel, John B., & William Rittenhouse; & 1824 New Jersey Mortgage Deed of Samuel Rittenhouse to David Johnes.
- Waynesboro Heritage Foundation Inc. 2 postcards of the Raggedy Ann Antique Doll & Toy Museum, Flemington, NJ [n.d.]
- Zdepski, J. Mark. 3 microfilm reels. USGS various New Jersey state, county, municipal & coastal maps & atlases including 18th & 19th century maps; county atlases; shoreline manuscript maps; NJ/NY boundary maps; topographic maps; & NOAA Nautical Charts.



The Frank Brown Family.

## President Charles Fisher Honors the Memory of Roxanne Carkhuff

### Lingering sadness at the loss

last August of Roxanne Carkhuff, our former Executive Director, remains with members of the Society and prompts this additional recognition of her service.

Roxanne was a pillar of this organization for several years, devoting herself to serving the public at the Deats Research Library and the Doric House Museum. Whether responding to a historical or genealogical question, she was an unflappable, helpful, and fierce guardian of Hunterdon County's historical legacy. If Roxanne did not know the answer, she usually advised the client how to access the proper source. It was always a pleasure to interact with her and tap into her great knowledge of all things Hunterdon.

Roxanne was especially interested in genealogy and served for several years as newsletter editor for the New Jersey Genealogical Society.

She was a graduate of Rider College, a former administrative assistant for Stony Brook Watershed Association of Pennington, NJ, and a member of the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead.

Our thoughts and support continue to go to her husband, George, and her daughter, Colleen Conrad, who request memorial contributions be made in Roxanne's name to the Society.

### Welcome, New Members!

#### Thank you for your interest in Hunterdon's History

Sheila Borders, Santa Clara, CA  
Eva Collins, Rochester Hills, MI  
Jane Cowley, Milford, NJ  
Carole Curcio, Clinton, NJ  
Sharon Flannery, Clinton  
Peter Goodell Flemington, NJ  
Michael Hill, Flemington, NJ  
Roberta Housel, Bloomsbury, NJ  
Marjorie Jones, Philadelphia, PA  
Gloria Kendall, Flemington, NJ  
Peter and Linda Mahler, Newton, NJ  
Denise Race, Kennewick, WA

#### In Memorium

Glenn Hooper, Flemington, NJ  
Edna McIntyre, Lebanon, NJ  
Lewis Sanders, Lebanon, NJ

### An Unique Point of History

## Volendam Windmill Museum in Holland Township

By David Harding

**W**hen Poul Jorgensen married May Folk in 1964, he no doubt was happy to move on-to her roughly 100-acre farm.

You see, Poul always wanted to be a farmer. But when he told May this, she wasn't particularly thrilled.

Perhaps her memory flashed back to when she moved into the historic farm house in 1937 with her first husband, Stanley Folk, and found chickens clucking around the upstairs bedroom. Or maybe she recalled all the long hours of farming and felt that 65-year-old newlyweds should find a less demanding pursuit.

So Poul told her he wanted to build a windmill. May said, "OK. How hard can that be?"

She had no idea what she was getting herself into.

**BUT, FIRST THINGS FIRST.** Poul's idea to build what would eventually become the Volendam Windmill Museum stretched far beyond the fact that he lived someplace synonymous with windmills: Holland Township.

Poul was born in Copenhagen, Denmark. Food

was scarce for families there during the First World War, but the Jorgensen family lived down the street from a windmill. Whenever the miller had extra grain, he would hang a flag outside the windmill. All the neighborhood children would rush over to sweep the floors, gathering flour to dump into a bag they could shoulder home so their mothers could bake bread.

"He had an affinity for windmills; they really meant a lot to him," said Randy Brown, May's great nephew who now lives on the family farm with his wife Kathy.

Poul was particularly suited for the challenge of constructing a windmill. After retiring from the Royal Navy in the 1940s, where he mastered seven languages and eventually became a ship's engineer, he immigrated to the United States, working as a master model maker, a master machinist and a tool-and-die maker. He was also an inventor, and held several patents.

Poul and May traveled twice to Europe in the early 1960s, studying windmills in five countries: Denmark, Holland, France, Spain and Italy. They returned home with a suitcase full of plans, sketch-

Even in this photo taken years after Poul Jorgensen's death and the wrath of super storm Sandy damaged the sails, his skill and passion in creating the windmill demands respect.





es and notations. They started building in 1965. For the next two years, they worked nights, weekends and vacations constructing the windmill.

"He did almost all of the engineering and about 95 percent of the construction," Randy noted. If Poul didn't have the exact tool he needed, he made it.

To propel the sails, Poul journeyed to the Philadelphia Naval Yard and purchased a propeller shaft from a destroyer that was being dismantled, said his great nephew Charlie T. Brown, III.

When Poul couldn't find a lumber yard that sold the oak beams he needed, he took to driving around the New Jersey and Pennsylvania countryside searching for stands of oak. Upon finding one, he would seek out the owner and purchase the trees. He'd hire a sawyer to fell the trees and take them to a saw mill to be cut under his supervision.

"It's truly a marvel to see what they were able to accomplish with some ingenuity," Charles T. Brown Jr. said in a 1986 *Courier-News* article. "These two people moved one-ton millstones to the third floor by themselves. They never hollered for help. They just did it."

The tower or smock mill is 60 feet high and 35 feet wide at the base. It is composed of 30 tons of steel, 15,000 bricks and 4,800 cement blocks. Its sails are 68-feet long from tip to tip. In theory, the sails would catch the wind and generate the 15 to 22 horsepower to turn the 200-year-old millstone and grind corn into meal.

The sails ran really well —perhaps too well. "The problem was, once he got it to start, it was hard to stop," Randy said. "They had to throw a rope around the gears at the top and would wind it down like a top to get it to stop."

**THE VOLENDAM WINDMILL**—named after a fishing village north of Amsterdam—became a museum and education center upon opening in 1967. Poul and May would often greet visitors in Dutch outfits, offering tours of the windmill and showing off antique farm tools like a corn sheller that dates back to the Revolutionary War and a dog treadle. As the dog trotted uphill on the treadle, the arm moved a shaft up and down in the keg making butter; a pulley in the front of the treadle drove another shaft that went to a drum with a rotating shaft and paddles down in the keg. This contraption functioned as a washing machine.

"There is one thing which all of us have that we can give away and still have," Jorgensen liked to say, "and that is our experience. I have always thought about giving my experience away to younger people."



Current owners of the windmill are Jorgensen relatives, from the left, Charlie Brown III, Kathy Brown, and Randy Brown.

The windmill quickly became a popular attraction, drawing up to 8,000 visitors in 1972, including students from Trenton State College studying engineering, and 90 area school teachers.

Poul lost his battle with cancer in 1983. May kept the windmill open for several years with the help of her nephew, Charles T. Brown Jr., who began operating a Christmas tree farm on the property in the late 1980s.

May kept her late husband's dream alive until she too passed away in April 1993.

*A couple of closing notes: The Christmas tree farm remains in the Brown family, and is now run by Randy and Charlie Brown III. In 2017, the Hunterdon Land Trust preserved the 127-acre tree farm, however, the windmill was not part of the preservation. The windmill has been closed since the late 1990s, and its sails suffered storm damage from Hurricane Sandy.*

## Website Visitors Growing Monthly

**SINCE THE LAUNCH** of the HCHS online collection catalog and refurbished web site, generously funded by a grant from The Astle-Alpaugh Family Foundation, the Society's web visitation has grown by over 30 percent. In 2017, web visitors grew to over 60,000 annually—not bad for a county historical society.

As one might imagine, most visitors are from the United States searching Hunterdon County surnames, county history, collection records, and photos. But we have our followers too, who have found us from Israel, the Ukraine, Romania, France, and the UK, rounding off the most often visited locals. Surely some hits are unintentional, but many people have found us because of our valuable information and genealogy searches that have traced their family roots to Hunterdon County.

# The Doric House Restaurant

By David Harding

**THESE DAYS**, visitors entering the Hunterdon County Historical Society's Doric House are greeted with the sounds of rustling papers, and discussions, sometimes lively, of family histories or early life in the county.

But if you had walked into this beautiful historic building 70 years ago, your ears would have heard something quite different: clinking of silverware on fine china, cheerful chatter of diners settling in for a meal, shouts of "Order's up!" or waitresses reciting the day's specials.

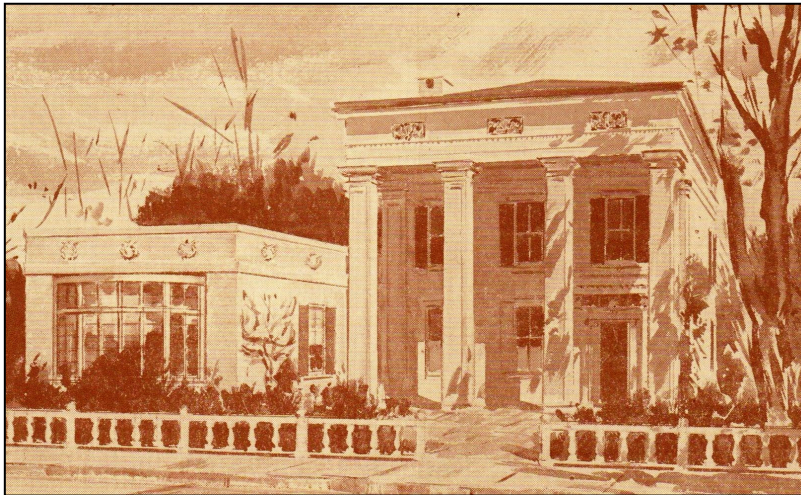
That's because for nine years the Doric House was the site of perhaps Flemington's most elegant restaurant.

It took more than a year of planning and construction before the Doric House Restaurant opened its doors on January 8, 1947. Patrons stepped from the flagstone patio front porch into a tiny vestibule that flared into a spacious lobby with deep pink walls and the still-existing black marble fireplace and mantle. Beyond the lobby, two elegant dining rooms seated 100 guests. Leather upholstered chairs were brought out from New York City's Plaza Hotel; the mahogany-topped tables once graced the Italian luxury liner *Conte di Savoia*.

The restaurant served classic American fare: macaroni and cheese, lamb pot pie, New England clam chowder, fish cakes and fried cornmeal mush. Opening night offered a complete dinner with a main course choice of fried chicken or prime rib for \$2.50.

**Owner Lucy Huston Aalholm** had already logged countless hours in the food services industries by the time she arrived in Flemington. She honed her talents as the only woman serving in Siberia at the close of World War I, managing a YMCA canteen that fed 2,000 to 3,000 American servicemen daily. She later ran several dining establishments, including Greenwich Village's notable Penguin Restaurant in the 1920s. In November 1931, she married architect Arthur "Olly" Aalholm.

The Aalholms gained national attention when syndicated columnist and friend Inez Robb shared the story of Lucy's desire for a lap dog. Arthur bought her one, but also brought home a Great Pyrenees. (Picture a cross between a Shetland pony and a St. Bernard.) It wasn't long before one Pyrenees became two. Ask longtime Flemington residents today about Arthur Aalholm and the first



Artist Seton Shanley's watercolor rendition of the Doric House Restaurant in *Ford Times* magazine of August 1952, accompanied by this description: "In a lovely old home with Grecian columns, this restaurant is at 114 Main Street in Flemington. It is open every day from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The full-page article also featured the recipe below.

memory conjured up is often of him walking down Main Street with his giant white dogs.

Betty Tolischus Ruppell waitressed at the Doric House Restaurant and still remembers when Arthur lunched at the restaurant with the dogs by his side. She says, "Mrs. Aalholm wasn't pleased." One suspects that is an understatement.

**Perhaps the restaurant's most famous patron** was former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who lunched there on October 8, 1952 before addressing the Flemington Woman's Club on "Better World

Understanding and Ways to Achieve It."

The restaurant eventually hit upon hard times. Lucy said the restaurant's inability to obtain a liquor license crippled her business, and she shuttered it on New Year's Eve 1955. A year later she sold the building to the United Methodist Church.

## Endnotes:

Not long after the restaurant closed its doors, Lucy headed west. She filed for divorce in 1957 before settling in Pasadena, California. Just prior to her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, she died in Los Angeles on February 8, 1978. Arthur stayed in Flemington, leaving his imprimatur on buildings throughout Hunterdon County. You can still see his architectural talents when you visit the Flemington Public Library's addition or the Voorhees State Forest Observatory. He passed away in his Main Street home on June 21, 1975 at the age of 89.

## French Herb Salad Dressing

2 tablespoons sugar  
2 teaspoons salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1/8 teaspoon dry mustard  
1 teaspoon sweet paprika  
1 teaspoon dill  
1 teaspoon tarragon  
1 teaspoon fennel

1 teaspoon anise  
1/3 cup tarragon malt vinegar  
1 pint olive oil  
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce  
Dash of Tabasco  
1 lemon, juice  
1 clove garlic or 1 onion, whole

Mix herbs, sugar, salt and pepper well with vinegar. Then add olive oil and beat thoroughly. Add remaining ingredients. Keep cool, but not too cold. Shake before serving.



## Curator Don Cornelius Revels in Richness of Donations

**THE COLD AND SNOW OF WINTER** make the Manuscript Curator long for the carefree days of summer! Warm breezes, growing gardens, and an absolutely huge load of historical donations! If you haven't yet, please look at the very large number of acknowledgments for donations of historical items to the Society this past summer and fall. All donations that meet our collecting mission are welcome at any time, be they one item or ten boxes. But we did have a remarkably rich quantity and quality of donations this year.

The ones that stick out to me, of course, are those destined for the archives. The ledgers and records of the Lockatong Lodge are very important. They simultaneously document an important organization in the history of Quakertown and Franklin Township, but also provide a genealogical interest as well. The four deeds donated to us from the Wayne County Historical Society of Ohio are also interesting; they ended up in Ohio when members of the Rittenhouse family "went west" to the Ohio territory and have now "come home." And I always appreciate when members and others donate historical photographs to the Society, like the family album of the Housel family, or the fascinating image of the address to homecoming World War One soldiers in Flemington – almost 100 years ago.

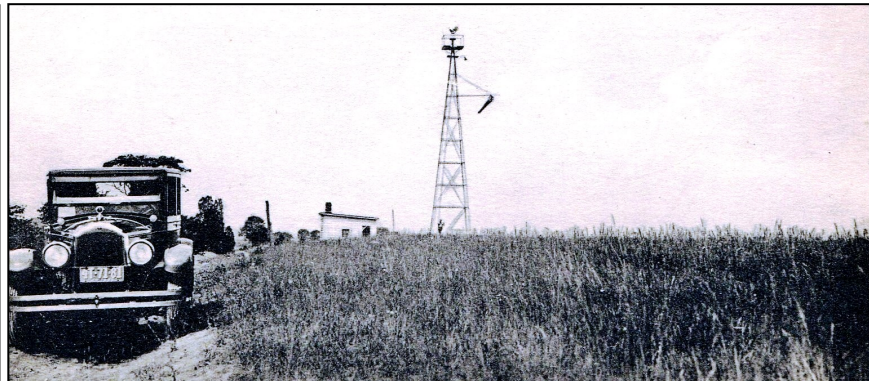
The problem, if you can call it that, is that once materials are donated, they have to be processed, arranged and described before they can be made available to our membership and public. But we have had a fairly good summer and fall with that business as well. The number of things we processed the past few months is too many to list in this space, but I'll comment on a few of them.

**Collection 194: The Robbins Family Papers (1766-2007).** This collection contains records from the estate of a descendant of the Robbins family of Bloomsbury, New Jersey. Collection highlights include Robbins family historical documents dating to the late eighteenth century, personal diaries of Charles C. Robins, and extensive genealogical research by Ruth Allen, Charles Allen, and Catherine Robbins Klett. The collection in-

cludes 255 folders in 7 boxes. There is a considerable selection of original Robbins family documents, including deeds, wills, correspondence, and affidavits, reaching back to 1766. Combined with the genealogical notes of two family researchers, and an internal index, this collection should help anyone researching this branch of the family Robbins. Something that makes this collection even more compelling to me is the fact that it documents a Bloomsbury family. Our Society's collections on south and mid-county genealogy and history is strong, but if we have any holes to fill, I would like to see some more material come in from municipalities in the north and west.

**Collection 151: American Red Cross Papers II (1917-1969),** contains documents and items related to the Hunterdon Chapter, which was formed on March 9, 1917 at a meeting of concerned citizens in the County Court House. The Red Cross turned 100 years old last year, and was the subject of an archival collection released in October. The majority of items in this collection are from the First World War era, although there is a collection of registration cards naming residents who volunteered for Red Cross duty in WW II as well. The collection would interest anyone researching the Hunterdon Red Cross, the home front of WWI and WWII, and Hunterdon County history. Those of a more genealogical bent may be interested in the names on the membership and sign up lists, many of which are from the Pittstown, Quakertown, and surrounding areas.

**Bound Manuscript Collection.** Finally, I can report that we made 60 (!) new records available to our researchers and the general public, some never-before released material. The trove includes ledgers and account books from Dr. John Grandin, Alstyne Dilts, Andrew Bray Rittenhouse, Pearson Mathews, and J.W. Wilson. There also are school records from Tewksbury schools, 1892-1932; the Wertsville General Store 1865-1896; High Bridge Bank minutes from 1900-1915; Stockton Lyceum Records; Locust Grove Cemetery Records; Flemington Telegraph Company records, and much, much, more! And the best news is we are adding more all the time, courtesy of the dedicated archives volunteer team.



(l to r) William V.O. Housel, n.d.; Landing field for U.S. mail planes, Whitehouse, n.d.; John McPherson in Germany, WWII.  
Donors: Housel Family; Doborah Appello, and Martha Kobish.

## Spotlight on Collections: The Blizzard Men of '88

From March 11-14, 1888, an unforgettable snowstorm paralyzed the East Coast from the Chesapeake Bay to Maine and the Atlantic provinces of Canada. New Jersey and the surrounding area saw 40-plus inches of snow with drifts of 30 to 40 feet. Mail was not delivered for almost a week. Hundreds of people were trapped for days in their homes and many died. It was the worst storm anyone could remember.

In 1929, as a way to keep alive the memory of this once-in-a-lifetime event, the Blizzard Men of '88 was founded to host a yearly dinner on the storm's anniversary. Survivors met to share stories and reminisce about the event. Female members were admitted in 1933—but the organization's name was not changed.

On the Blizzard Men's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebra-

tion in 1938, *The New York Times* wrote, "When they file into the Hotel Pennsylvania ballroom for their annual luncheon, these veterans of the great two-story-high snowdrifts are to be entertained by, of all things, a mechanical snow storm."



Our photo shows 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary attendees at the Hotel Statler, March 12, 1949, including seven from Hunterdon Co. Samuel Stothoff is third from left at the head table. Others are at left, second table from bottom, clockwise: Mrs. Al Muller (flowered dress), Alphonse Muller, Florence Crowl (later Stothoff), (unidentified man), Grace Stothoff, Nedwill Sutphin, George Dean.

In 1969, 81 years after the memorable storm, the last of the group's leaders died, and the Blizzard Men of '88 stopped meeting.

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



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

