

Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Volume 48
No. 1
Winter 2012



Hunterdon County Historical Society

www.hunterdonhistory.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Now thru July 2, 2012 - Exhibit

"Gone for a Soldier:

Jerseymen in the Civil War"

Features many HCHS items
Macculloch Hall Hist. Museum
Morristown

Now thru July 3, 2012 - Exhibit

"Wish You Were Here"

A postcard history of Clinton
The Red Mill, Clinton

Mar 10 - Lecture and Luncheon

"The Kuhl Family..."

by Michael Gesner
see page 1127

Mar 18 - HCHS General Meeting

**"The Samplers of
Hunterdon County"**

by Dan and Marty Campanelli
Flemington Presbyterian Church

Revolutionary War Lecture Series

Mar 6 - "...Letters from Solitude"
by Donald Sherblom

Apr 3 - "Those Who Chose Not
to Fight"

by Dan and Marty Campanelli

May 1 - "The Cow Chase:

Anthony Wayne..."

by Todd Braistad
The Red Mill, Clinton

Apr 1 - Lecture

"Hand-Painted Floor Cloths"
by Nancy Leary

Bouman Stickney Farmstead

May 12 - History Fair

**"Spirit of the Jerseys
State History Fair"**

Washington Crossing State Park

THE SAMPLERS OF HUNTERDON COUNTY SUBJECT FOR SPRING MEETING, MARCH 18TH

Dan and Marty Campanelli, researchers and collectors of schoolgirl needlework, will speak on Needlework Samplers of Hunterdon County at the Society's spring meeting, Sunday, March 18 at 2pm. The public is invited to attend the PowerPoint presentation at no charge at the Flemington Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street in Flemington. Refreshments will be served.

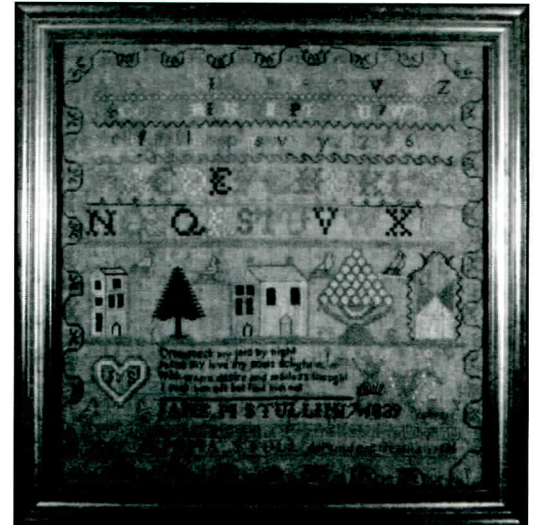
A "sampler discovery period" will follow the Campanelli's talk. Guests are asked to bring their antique needlework, or a photo of it, for an enjoyable discussion.

This program developed because of the overwhelming response to the Campanelli's 2009 talk on the four needlework samplers in the Society's collection. One of them, by Elizabeth Runyan of Ringoes, prompted the Campanellis to turn their focus to Hunterdon samplers stitched from the late 1700s to about 1850.

They have identified several creative instructresses who taught embroidery to teenage girls here in the early to mid-1800s, and found that each "school" was unique and varied. The Campanellis will discuss the motifs and designs that now identify samplers as originating in Hunterdon, and how these motifs migrated to the county.



They have given names to specific groups of these regional samplers that put Hunterdon County "on the map" in the world of scholarly needlework research. Identified Hunterdon stitchers lived in Alexandria, East Amwell, Franklin, Kingwood, Readington and Union Townships, and in Prallsville and Lambertville. The Campanellis' research



17 year-old Jane Stull of Mount Pleasant, Alexandria Twp., stitched this beautiful, colorful and graphic needlework sampler in 1839 as a memorial to her younger sister Jemima who died three years earlier.

details the lives of the teenage girls, where they learned needlework, who they married, and what happened to them later in life.

Hunterdon needlework is not found in great quantities, unlike in Burlington or Salem Counties where they have been researched and published for years. The discovery of these beautiful Hunterdon examples, and the stories of their makers, is a new and exciting field of research. Fruits of it will eventually become a published book by the Campanellis for the Society. Seeking more "finds" for the book, the Campanellis ask that anyone with Hunterdon needlework contact them through the Society, as some former Hunterdon residents now in Texas did in 2009.

The Campanellis recently had articles published in national magazines relating to the material uncovered about samplers and silk embroideries from their own collection. Their most recent cover article, released in February, is in the Winter 2012 issue of *American Ancestors* (a publication of the New England Historic Genealogical Society), about their research that uncovered a new line of descendants eligible for the Mayflower Society.

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

Copyright © 2011

Hunterdon County Historical Society
Published Winter, Spring and Fall by the Society
114 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822

Terry A. McNealy, Editor
Beth Rice, Graphic Design

Library Hours

Thursday, Noon to 4 p.m.
2nd and 4th Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
and by appointment

TELEPHONE: 908-782-1091

WEBSITE: www.hunterdonhistory.orgEMAIL: hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com

US ISSN-0018-7850

OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President: Richard H. Stothoff (2013)

Vice President: Charles H. Fisher (2012)

Recording Secretary: John Matsen (2013)

Corresponding Secretary: MaryAnne Adams (2013)

Treasurer: John W. Kuhl (2014)

Lora W. Jones (2012)

Edna Pedrick (2012)

Donald F. Scholl (2012)

Mary Ellen Soldavin (2013)

Howard Thomas (2013)

Janice Armstrong (2014)

Stephanie Stevens (2014)

Harold O. Van Fleet (2014)

William Young (2014)

Acquisitions

Materials representative of the history of Hunterdon County and the families who resided here are welcome additions to the Society's collections. Large collections may not be available for research until they have been processed. To the donors of recent acquisitions, the Society expresses its sincere appreciation.

Cherryville Mountainview Cemetery, 1850-2011, record of burials compiled by Bill McCrea. Gift of Bill McCrea.

Casterline, Greg, *Colonial Tribulations: The Survival story of William Casterline and his comrades of the New Jersey Blues Regiment, French and Indian War, 1755-1757* (2007). Gift of Geoffrey Raike.

"Gone for a Soldier": Jerseymen in the Civil War (exhibit catalog, Macculloch Hall Historical Museum, 2011), including objects lent by HCHS. Gift of John Kuhl.

Hawke, George, *Trial by Fury: The Hauptmann Trial* (thesis, Princeton University, 1951, reprinted 2012). Gift of George Hawke.

Kitchen Robert D., *The Kitchen Book: Some of the information obtained from a 28-year investigation of the Kitchin/Kitchen family in America* (2011). Gift of Robert D. Kitchen.

Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: v. 18, part 2, 2d ed.: Family of Richard Warren (2011), and *Philippe De Lanoy or Philip Delano of the "Fortune" 1621*, compiled by Muriel Curtis Cushing (2011). Gift of New Jersey Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Mount Airy Dairy Club, records, scrapbooks and photographs, ca. 1923-2011. Gift of Mount Airy Dairy Club.

Reade/Read/Reed family research, compiled by Mildred Covert, two loose-leaf binders. Gift of Marilyn Miller.

Sheet music: *Columbia Gem of the Ocean*, by David T. Shaw (1843) and *8 Dollars a Day*, by Jesse Hutchinson Jr. (1848); also letter of George Opdyke, Dec. 1, 1874, to H.V. Poor Esq. (Opdyke was a native of Hunterdon County and served as mayor of New York City, 1862-1863. Gift of Ron & Carol Haglund.

Stangl ware double candlestick, #3043. Gift of Anne M. Thomas.

Stout, J.E., *The History of the Religious Society of Friends, Quakertown Monthly Meeting, updated by Dan & Marty Campanelli* (2011). Gift of the Campanellis.

Williams Tall Case Clock Inherited by the Society, 2011, documentation compiled by Fred Sisser III. Gift of Fred Sisser III.

Membership Report

A warm welcome is extended to those members who have recently joined the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

Reported by Harold O. Van Fleet, Membership Chair

Ingrid DiGregorio, Ringoes, NJ
Barbara J. and John P. Hencheck,
Lambertville, NJ
Nora Lambert, Flemington, NJ
John S. Prall, Landsdale, PA
Charles H. Riddle, Annandale, NJ
Sherry Smith, Warrington, PA

**SAVE THE DATE - JUNE 3**

Holcombe House, Hunterdon's oldest, was built in 1711 and is shown here in the early 1900s. To see it now after restoration and rehabilitation, come for *A Colonial Caper* at its grand opening, Sunday, June 3, 3-6pm. Tickets at \$50 include entertainment and the tastiest Colonial fare and potables (ever try metheglin?), plus entry into all buildings at Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum, 1605 Rt. 29, just north of Lambertville.



IMAGINATIVE HOLIDAY DECORATIONS at the Society's 1845 Doric House Museum drew over 300 visitors in five days. The parlor décor won first honors for the Community Garden Club of Whitehouse and the foyer and dining room décor garnered second honors for the Hunterdon Hills Garden Club of High Bridge. Shown following the award presentation by Society President Dick Stothoff (far right) are Community Club decorating committee co-chairs (from the left) Barbara Stawicki and Debi DeLorenzo and Hunterdon Hills committee chair, Chris Endris. Both clubs are planning new themes and decorations for the State and National Register Greek Revival house this December. Doric House is open for tours by appointment through the Society at 908 782-1091.

"The Kuhl Family of Hunterdon County, New Jersey"

Sponsored by the Warren County Historical Society

Saturday Luncheon, March 10, 2012

Meeting at 11:30 am, Luncheon at Noon,

Program to follow at the Warrenside Tavern,

511 Rt 173, Bloomsbury, NJ

\$20 per person (includes tax & tip)

Soup or Salad, Entree (choice of Corned Beef and Cabbage, Southern Fried Chicken or Baked Haddock), Beverage and Dessert

Reservations are required and must be made by March 3, 2012. Make check to the Warren County Historical Society and mail to P.O. Box 313, Belvidere, NJ 07823. Please include your address and telephone number. For further information, call Beverly Ciceran, Treasurer, at 908 478-4188. Michael Gesner (library assistant at both the Hunterdon & Warren County Historical Societies) will speak about the upcoming book: "The Kuhl Family of Hunterdon County, New Jersey." Authored by John W. Kuhl and Michael Gesner, this genealogy was fifty years in the making. It traces two brothers,

HOW TO JOIN

Hunterdon County Historical Society
114 Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822

Please enroll me as a member of your Society.

Annual	\$20 per year
Family	\$25 per year
Contributing	\$50 per year
Sustaining	\$100 per year
Institutional	\$100 and up per year
Life	\$400
Patron	\$1000 or more
Student	\$5 per year (up to 18 yrs old)

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

ph # _____

email _____

I want to volunteer! ☐ Yes

Do You Have a Favorite Family Recipe?

The Historical Society of Delaware Township is creating a cookbook to help celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the much contested split from Amwell. We are searching for old and new recipes from the community to be published in the cookbook. Please send along any information about your recipe, whether it's a family tradition, an old recipe that was handwritten which you still use, easy or fun to make, or one that is just delicious! Stories, photos, or drawings about your recipe should accompany your entry. If you would like to submit a recipe please send it to vstodart@yahoo.com. The cookbook will be for sale later this year.

Paul & Christian Kuhl, through their descendants, both male and female, down to the present day. In Warren County, the Kuhl name evolved into Cool; they were early settlers in Knowlton Township. The genealogy is in the final stages of pre-production with a proposed release date of June 21, 2012. Michael will bring along his laptop computer and database of over 385,000 names. He will gladly do free look-ups for people in search of information and family connections.

THE TAYLOR MAUSOLEUM - A LAMBERTVILLE-MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY MYSTERY

(Part 2 of 2)

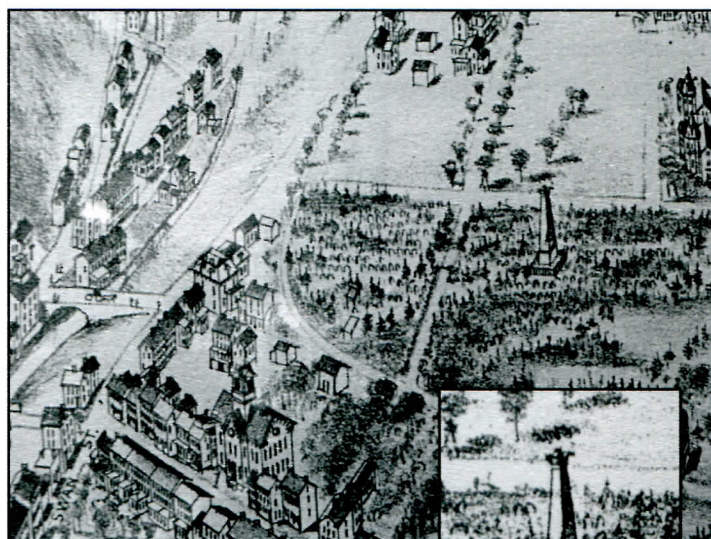
BY PAT SHAMY

How did the Soldier's Monument get moved from the Mt. Hope Cemetery to the current place in the park on York Street? This tidbit of information will be news to Lambertville citizens. Newspaper reports speculated that the monument was being exposed to the elements on the cemetery hill since the brass eagle on top of the monument had fallen off in 1898 due to rust on its supports. Or perhaps someone needed the spot for a burial. Was this why?

No, it was Bryan H. Taylor who thought that the monument with its iron fence around it would be enough space for him to properly build himself a mausoleum. On July 9, 1900, a meeting was held in the office of the treasurer of the Mt. Hope Cemetery Association. The Managers met to discuss a few matters and the last one reported was that Bryan Taylor "wished to purchase two tiers of lot in the range of R and S from Alley way numbers 189 to 190 to the road upon condition that the Soldier's Monument be removed from the Cemetery. It was moved and carried that the Cemetery sell lots for \$300 and that they allow him in payment toward the expense of removal a sum not to exceed \$120 and as much less as he will arrange for."

The Lambertville Record, October 10, 1900 gave an account about "MONUMENT DAY" - to celebrate the Soldier's Monument's move to downtown Lambertville. It stated "the morning trains on the Belvidere and Flemington Divisions brought many carloads of people, while wagons and carriages came in by the dozens and filled the hotel yards. It is estimated that from three to four thousand visitors were present during the day."

It further explained that "the day was set apart to rededicate the Soldier's Monument which had been erected (at) the Mount Hope Cemetery in 1870 but which had been somewhat damaged by the elements and by the breaking of a large bronze eagle that crowned the shaft. The monument had been removed a few weeks ago from the cemetery to the lot on



Above Left: Detail from a Lambertville print showing where the Civil War Soldier's Monument was located on Mt. Hope Cemetery (from "View of Lambertville, N.J.," published by O.H. Bailey & Co., 1883).

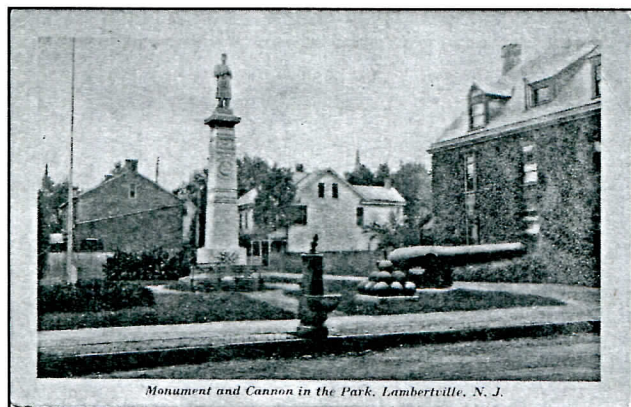
Inset: Closer look at the Civil War Soldier's Monument with eagle on top and its surrounding iron fence which was later given to the First Ward School on South Main Street.

York Street, owned by the city, where it had been erected and the granite statue of a soldier 'at rest' was placed on top of the shaft." (There had originally been a brief idea to relocate the monument at Bridge and Franklin Streets.) "The structure stands twenty-five feet in height and weighs 28,000 pounds. The main shaft is built of pure Italian marble, while the cap and statue are carved from granite quarried from the State of New Hampshire." (This is actually incorrect since Frank Palmer Price, from Trenton, NJ, modeled for the statue of the soldier. The original statue is part of the Mercer County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Cadwalader Park in Trenton, NJ. Price served two tours during the Spanish-American War in the Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps. Many molds were made of him and sold around the country to towns for memorial parks as well as in Lambertville.)

The newspaper account continued, that first there was a parade in the morning "in which the military, Grand Army, firemen and patriotic societies took part." At 2 PM, the "ceremonies began at the monument on York Street." While the "choir sang 'America,' the daughter of the late Col. A. W. Angel, unveiled the statue upon the monument amidst the applause of the people." There were many speakers and the honored guests had been entertained at lunch that day.

After his mausoleum was built, Taylor maintained a busy life as a traveling salesman for the Lambertville Rubber Company. The *Trenton Evening Times* listed several Taylor social items under the "Lambertville" heading. There were mentions of the times the Taylors spent at the Warford House in Frenchtown, visits to Philadelphia, and Bryan H. Taylor's return from his four-month absence traveling through his territory in New York State. He also held various positions such as on the

(cont'd page 1129)



New home of the Soldier's Monument at the park on York Street after 1900. (Postcard with permission of owner, Jeff McVey)

(Taylor Mausoleum cont'd from page 1128)

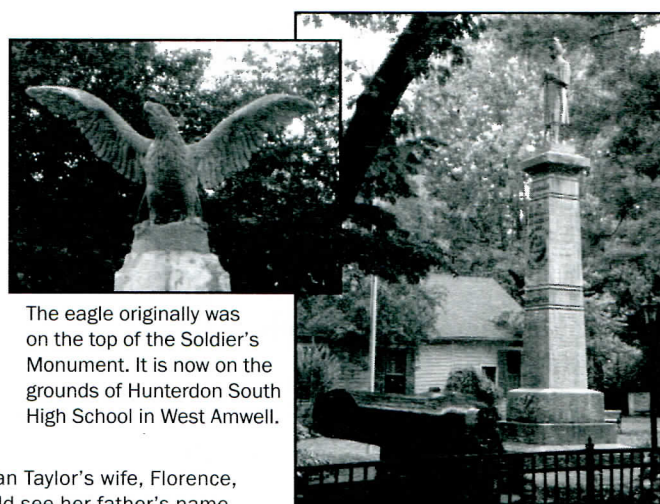
annual banquet committee for the "Q" Club in the National Bank Building Club rooms on Bridge and Union Streets, being elected to the Board of Directors of the Amwell National Bank and as a member of the Lambertville Business League in 1914.

By 1908, Bryan H. Taylor's son, Bryan A. Taylor, also was working with his father as a traveling salesman for the Lambertville Rubber Company. On May 15, 1915, a newspaper article appeared in the *Trenton Evening Times* that announced a surprise wedding had taken place. Bryan A. Taylor had wed a young lady in Utica, New York. The announcement reported that his "many friends in this city were surprised to learn that he had been married, his bride being Miss Genevieve Cassidy." It was an even greater surprise to read in the same newspaper, only seven months later, that Bryan A. Taylor, 33 years old, had died on Dec. 31, 1915 while on a business trip. He was a traveling agent for Hood Rubber Company of Boston working in Wyalusing, Pa., when his cold of two weeks turned into pneumonia. He left his new wife a widow in their home in Syracuse, NY. A service was held at his parent's home at 116 North Union Street, Lambertville and was followed by interment in Mt. Hope Cemetery in the family mausoleum.

After his son's death, Bryan Taylor continued his civic responsibilities that also included being one of the Managers of the Mt. Hope Cemetery Association since 1901 while he continued working for the Lambertville Rubber Company as a salesman in 1920.

On August 25, 1927, Bryan H. Taylor passed away at age 73. His obituary stated he died in St. Francis Hospital in Trenton following a lengthy illness. He had been head salesman for the Lambertville Rubber Company for many years but had been retired from active business for some time. He was prominently identified with the Masonic fraternity and a director in the Amwell Bank and the Mt. Hope Cemetery Association. Taylor was buried near his son in the mausoleum that he built. The obituary made no mention of his wife, Florence, surviving him although she lived until September 20, 1935, dying at the age of 70 and also was buried in the Taylor Mausoleum.

When Bryan Hough Taylor's 1924 will was probated in 1927, there were detailed directions for the care of his



The eagle originally was on the top of the Soldier's Monument. It is now on the grounds of Hunterdon South High School in West Amwell.

Bryan Taylor's wife, Florence, could see her father's name, Samuel C. Ashbrook, a war correspondent, listed first in alphabetical order on the side of the monument. Located in Mary Sheridan Park, it is still the site for Memorial Day ceremonies to honor all soldiers.

mausoleum and funds were left to the Mt. Hope Cemetery for its enactment. He left to his executors the responsibility for the care and management of his estate for the benefit of his wife, Florence. Nothing was left to his daughter-in-law, as he stated, "for reasons best known to myself." His son's widow was living with her mother and siblings in the 1920 census and working as a bookkeeper in a bank in Syracuse.

Another endowment also was made in Taylor's will for the First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville to buy land next to the church and to erect a chapel to be known as Ashbrook-Taylor Memorial Chapel. He suggested the purchase of this land next to the church, as it became available, for the proposed chapel. Again, he left very specific details on how the chapel was to be built contained in over four pages. The chapel was to be completed after his wife's death. (The notes and three architectural drawings are mentioned online in the collection of The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania by Edmund Beaman Gilchrist, Architect (1885-1953).)

An internet search revealed the "Historical Sketch of First Presbyterian Church, Lambertville, NJ." The following mention was about the Taylors: "1946 was a significant year because that was the date the purchase of the Westminster House. The purchase was made possible through a bequest of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Taylor. The house was formerly the A.L. Pierson home at 31 N. Bridge Street and was acquired along with the store beside it at 33 N. Union Street for \$9,500. These two buildings were connected as a row house. The dividing wall was removed and the two were united as one building. Originally, the first floor was the church parlor, a large meeting room, three Sunday School rooms and the church office. There have been numerous renovations since that time. Presently, the church office, the pastor's office, a meeting room, a Sunday School room and a kitchen are all on the first floor. Sunday School rooms occupy the rest of the building."

The funds that would enable all of these expensive endeavors was found in Bryan H. Taylor's inventory after his death in 1927. His worth totaled \$93,592.26. The contents listed in three-and-a-half pages and are impressive. Most

(cont'd page 1131)



The interior of the Taylor Mausoleum is made of rich stonework with three of the eight vaults holding the last of the Taylor family. It seems to sit on the original base of the Soldier's Monument. On the floor is a red painted Masonic symbol of which Bryan H. Taylor was a prominent member.

Childhood in days gone by...

BY STEPHANIE B. STEVENS

Children in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were expected to approximate the appearance and behavioral standards of adults. To that end they were dressed like miniature adults and, as soon as possible, expected to behave like their adult parents. Creeping and crawling were considered as expressions of our animalistic behavior, therefore the young baby was first swaddled with his arms and legs in a straight position. As he/she grew, the swaddling clothes were replaced with long petticoats that had padded stiffened stays - all meant to hold the baby upright. Doctors of the era discouraged crawling as a bad habit that, if not discouraged, would stay with the child forever! Devices such as stools made out of tree trunks or narrow wooden boxes kept the early American child upright. (They also served to keep little ones off of the cold, dirty floors and away from the dangerous fireplace). All of this was to strengthen the child's legs and hasten walking with the end result of hastening adult behavior.

The Colonial and Early American home was not "child proofed" but rather suited to adult living. Strict obedience was demanded as was self-reliance for the safety of the child. Physical punishment was meted out to what was considered the disobedient child as a means of training and discipline so that, it was thought, he/she would soon emulate mature conduct.

Moving into the nineteenth century a whole new parenting philosophy came to light. Swaddling of infants was given up for loose gowns that allowed the child freedom of movement. Children were no longer viewed as miniature adults but recognized as having the limitations that were part



of their developmental level. Play, heretofore discouraged, became viewed as part of the learning process of growing up. Children were thought of as having been products of the Garden of Eden where total innocence reigned. Interest in the special needs of children became widespread—behavior of young ones became a source of fascination. While physical punishment was allowable in Colonial/Early America, the nineteenth century mother was cautioned to instruct with loving words and example, for children were of an innocent nature and needed patient, loving guidance to mature into thoughtful, kind, polite members of society.

During the Victorian era the immense grief of losing a much loved innocent child was expressed in elaborate memorial stones. Common themes included a broken rose symbolizing the purity of childhood not yet in bloom; another, a sleeping child, or an angel carrying a child to a better life in heaven. Lambs, doves, and child figures, along with flower buds often adorned the memorial stone of a child.

Probably the most elaborately crafted memorial stone in New Jersey was that for little Isabel Bonnell daughter of Anna and Robert Bonnell of White House. Isabel died in 1891 at the tender age of 8 years, 2 months and 29 days. Her Father was a stone carver who expressed his immense sorrow the best way he could by making a truly unique memorial for his little girl. Hers is referred to as a "cradle grave" with the headboard being a four-sided monument topped with a statue of Isabel. Each side of the monument is carved with scenes of her life: Isabel holding a lamb, Isabel sleeping with an angel watching over her, a sleeping child on a Viking ship with an angel overhead, Isabel with her arm around a cross and anchor, a hand holding a rattle, a dove, an angel playing a harp, two little hands clasped, and a winged angel holding a banner that reads "remembered". The sides of the cradle are carved with little flowers while the footboard is topped with a fringed pillow on which there is a pair of her high-topped shoes, one standing and the other lying down. Truly, this is Victorian respect for childhood expressed at its highest level.

Next to little Isabel is the grave of her parents, forever keeping watch over their much beloved child.



"Cradle Grave" memorial stone of Isabel Bonnell, daughter of Anna and Robert Bonnell of White House.

FROM THE DESK OF DONALD CORNELIUS, HCHS MANUSCRIPT CURATOR

In the past several newsletters, I have been featuring some of the completed projects and quality work of our group of archival volunteers, and rightfully so. Without their help and assistance, we would not have been able to finish and release NINE newly available collections of archival manuscripts to the membership and public since the fall. Although I really enjoy featuring the work of our volunteers, this is simply too small a space to describe nine new collections; besides, lately every new collection released has been getting an announcement on our Facebook page! Check it out and let our volunteers know you appreciate their work by giving them a "like," won't you?

However, the work of the volunteers has begun to beg the question, namely, what exactly is it the Curator has been doing? Therefore, and purely in the spirit of explaining myself to the membership, I will explain what I have been doing the past 16 months, and what is now finished and ready for research: Manuscript Collection No. 88, the Papers of the Flemington Children's Choir School II.

As many long-time Hunterdon County residents know, the Flemington Children's Choir School was founded in 1895 by Elizabeth Van Fleet Vosseller and Elizabeth Hopewell. The primary purpose of the Choir School was to train the junior choirs of various Flemington churches, including the Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian, and they provided much of the funding for the school. The first graduation was held in 1907, and the school continued in operation until the last class graduated in 1958.

The Choir School was a vibrant and active participant in the Flemington community. The yearly graduation often featured as many as 200 Choristers and 150 members of the "Chorus of the Alumni." Many other concerts were held by the school, both inside and outside of formal church services. The school started caroling through the streets of Flemington on Christmas morning in 1909, and also participated in the town Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Although a Flemington institution,

the Choir School's impact was felt far beyond the town. Elizabeth Van Fleet Vosseller, through her work with the Choir, became a nationally known and respected figure in the world of Choir Schools. She was nationally recognized as an authority on the voice of young boys. Her books and other publications that illustrated her teaching and organization plans for junior choirs were considered foundational for religious musical programs and featured many examples used with the Flemington Choir School. She was often considered "the foster mother of all children's choirs in America," and the Choir School in Flemington enjoyed a brief national fame that was almost as bright as hers.

After the school closed in 1958, it was used for some time as a place of instruction for private music tutors. In 1980, the operation of the Choir School entered a period of renaissance. The Board of Trustees, which had been long dormant, was revived and reorganized; the Choir School Building was purchased by the County of Hunterdon and restored as a historical landmark; and the school began operating again as a center of cultural and musical appreciation.

Throughout the decade of the 1980's, and into the 1990's, the revived operation, mainly through the interest and efforts of concerned living alumni, provided a series of musical events and sponsored scholarships for local students. As the millennium turned, however, public interest in the school's operations waned again. In 2010 the Trustees dissolved and released the bulk of their remaining records to the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

The result of that donation is a mixture of records from both the older, original Flemington Children's Choir School (1895-1958) and the newer, revived version (1980-2000) that functioned as an extension of the original "Chorus of the Alumni." It contains a series of administrative and a series of operational records from both versions of the school. There is a series of various items of historic interest from the original version of the school and a small series (two folders) of multimedia

performances of the original choir.

What makes this collection truly fascinating, however, is a series of photographic images that capture many of the individuals that were involved with the school between 1895 and 1958. The bulk of the group includes graduation photographs, group posed portraits and individual portraits. An index is provided for almost 500 named individuals that appear in images in this collection. It is my sincere hope that our membership and other researchers will appreciate this collection for both its historical documentation of an important Flemington institution and for the genealogical value of some of the records and the photographs, in particular.

(Taylor cont'd from page 1129)

notable among his stocks were "Standard Oil, Tidewater Associated Oil Co., Lehigh Valley Coal Co., Pacific Oil Co., Penna. R. R. Co., Union Pacific R. R. Co., American Sugar Ref. Co., American Tel. & Tel. Co., Atchison, Topeka & S. Fe R'way Co., United N. J. R. R. & Canal Co., Norfolk & Western Ry Co., Union Pacific R. R. Co., Lehigh Coal & Nav. Co., and the Electric & Peoples Traction."

This inventory was made in 1927, and the stock's values were surely worth far less after the Crash in 1929. How Bryan Taylor's funds were used, what was left of them, still enabled the First Presbyterian Church to enlarge its facilities and the Taylor Mausoleum still stands firm in the Mt. Hope Cemetery 111 years later where these three Taylors were the last of their line.

Bryan Taylor, who was orphaned at age eight, received funds amounting to \$250 and \$500 at age 16 from the Judges of the Orphan's Court in County of Hunterdon in 1870, as the son of a soldier who died in the Civil War. He was helped along the way by mentors and made quite a success of himself by the end of his life, aside from the tragic loss of an only son dying too soon. I believe that I both unraveled a local mystery and also found a success story of a young man who ended up living in Lambertville in the years following the Civil War.

Images from the Past



Class of 1909. Flemington
Presbyterian Church. Posed
Group Portrait of Flemington
Children's Choir School 1909
Graduates.

Hunterdon County Historical Society. Photographic Collection Px6308.

Hunterdon County
Historical Society
114 Main Street
Flemington, NJ
08822

