

Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Volume 46
No. 3
Fall 2010



Hunterdon County Historical Society

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 12-21 Quilt Exhibition

"Stitches in Time:

Quilts of Our Past"

Bouman-Stickney Farmstead,
Stanton

includes many HCHS quilts

Nov 13 - "Native Peoples"

Presentation by Jim Wade

Washington Crossing State Park

Nov 14 - HCHS General Meeting

"Battles of Trenton"

by Richard Patterson

Flemington Presbyterian Church

Nov 15 - Slide Show

"A Tribute to NJ Veterans"

by Michael R. Horgan

The Red Mill, Clinton

Nov 17 - Evening Film Series

Delaware River Mill Society

Prallsville Mills, Stockton

Nov 20 - Oldtime Auction

Howell Living History Farm,

Lambertville

Nov 25 - HCHS Closed

for Thanksgiving

Nov 26 - 28 Dickens Days

Clinton

Dec 5 - Open House

HCHS Doric House

Dec 18 - Lecture

"The Christmas Night Crossing"

by Clay Craighead

Washington Crossing State Park

Dec 25 - HCHS Closed

for Christmas

Society's Fall General Meeting, November 14, 2010

Richard Patterson Speaks on "Battles of Trenton"

Richard Patterson, Executive Director of the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton, speaks on "Battles of Trenton" at the Society's Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 14th at the Flemington Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street, at 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend and refreshments will be served.

Mr. Patterson, a popular and witty speaker, is a recognized expert on the American Revolution, in particular on the military campaigns of the Battles of Trenton, Princeton and Saratoga. The BBC, History Channel, Discovery Channel and New Jersey Network (PBS) have all consulted with him for a number of productions about the American Revolution.

Using maps, portraits, and other visual aids during his address, he will

examine the events that led up to General George Washington's first great victory of the Revolutionary War on December 25, 1776, one of the more famous battles in US history. His presentation will include the plans for attack, the combatants, the strategies, and the outcome, as well as the human side of the war.

For 16 years, Mr. Patterson has directed the Old Barracks, a National Historic Landmark built in 1758-60 and the only survivor of five such structures erected in New Jersey at that time. Under his guidance, the Museum has grown to attract over 30,000 visitors annually, particularly for battle re-enactments. In

2001, its 225th anniversary celebration alone attracted national attention and drew some 1,000 living historians from across North America and Europe, as well as 20,000 spectators.

Mr. Patterson earned both Masters

and Bachelor of Arts Degrees in American History from the State University of New York at Albany, and Hunter College of the City University of New York, respectively. He draws on 35 years' experience in historical scholarship through service at Van Cortlandt Manor, Croton-on-Hudson, NY; Sully Plantation, Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax, VA; The Conference House, Staten Island, NY; Staten Island Historical Society Richmond Town Restoration, Staten Island,



Richard Patterson, Executive Director of the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton

NY; Saratoga National Historical Park, Stillwater, N Y; Federal Hall National Memorial, New York, NY; and American Museum of Immigration, Liberty Island, New York, NY.

He is a Past Commander of the Brigade of the American Revolution, an international volunteer organization of some 2,000 living historians, craftspeople, musicians, and military and civilian re-enactors from America, Canada and Europe. As evidence of his multi-faceted approach to history, he produced, arranged and performed an album of 18th century Anglo-American folk music, *The Good Old Colony Days*, which featured vocalist Linda Russell.

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and by appointment

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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.

Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Maps of Flemington, May 1880; July 1885; Jan. 1896. Gift of Alice Petree, Vienna, VA.
Movie posters (2) from Hunterdon County theaters, ca. 1946-47. Gift of Barbara Tucker Hand, Lake Wales, FL, brought in by Karen Hand Wolzanski.
Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Map of Flemington, 1921, updated 1938; other insurance maps, ca. 1947-1952; Flemington. Children's Choir School programs, 1940-1945, and other publications. Gift of Doug Rockafellow.
Architectural drawings of the Reading-Large House, Flemington made by the Historical American Buildings Survey, 1937, 22 sheets; architectural drawings (blueprints), New Archives Buildings for the Hunterdon County Historical Society, by Tylman R. Moon (2006). Gift of Richard Stothoff.
CD: Williamson Data Files. Gift of Richard Williamson, Tucson, AZ. *Cowells of Knowlton*, by Russell S. Cowell. Gift of author.
Creveling Family History and Genealogy, 2d ed., by Louis G. Creveling. Gift of author.
Dalrymple family Bible record (photocopies). Gift of Margaret Rowland, Bethlehem, PA.
Fargo family Bible and other books. Gift of the estate of Marion, Margerie and Edith Fargo.
Hand-crocheted textile with eagle design and Liberty Bell made by Hilda Kohl of Raritan Township. Gift of Russ Lamendola.
Hunterdon County Democrat, Audit Reports, 1939-1990, and other records. Gift of Anne Moreau Thomas.

The Natural Areas System: A Planning Update 1978; 12 photographs of Mountain Farm and related materials. Gift of Douglas Kiofsky.
Parent, Keith, The Everitt Family of Hunterdon County (2010); Elliott, Mary Gene. The Family of Richard Mills Everitt of Georgia (1979); loose-leaf binders. Gift of Keith Parent.

(cont'd page 1091)

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

Elizabeth Bernhard, Ringoes, NJ, *Life Member*
Lynn Burtis, Flemington, NJ
Judith R. Bushnell, Princeton, NJ
Joan Miller Case, Philadelphia, PA
Gail Connor, Durham, NC
Deborah A. Dawson, Three Bridges, NJ
Lisa Gawkowski, Whitehouse Station, NJ
Michelle R. Gill, Bloomsbury, NJ
Margot J. Hilson, Milford, NJ
Deborah Hoskins, Ringoes, NJ
David W. Johnston, Flemington, NJ
Ray Jones, Frenchtown, NJ
Laura Kardos, Mechanicsburg, PA

Margaret F. MacQueen, Lansdale, PA
Gayle Maher, High Bridge, NJ
Patricia and Andrew W. Makuch, Flemington, NJ
Pat Benthin and Jim McDonough, Hampton, NJ
Leslie C. Moore, Flemington, NJ
Frances Powell, Jacksonville, FL
William Race, Belvidere, NJ
David T. Ralston, Stockton, NJ
Evelyn M. Sherry Sakiey, Mercerville, NJ
Bette and Donald M. Scandrol, Milford, NJ
Karol L. Vella, Newnan, GA
Robert A. Wurst, Spring City, PA

Archives Building Campaign Donors
The following gifts have been received since the last Newsletter was published, and are gratefully acknowledged.

Trustee's Club, \$1000-\$4999
Janet A. Alpert
Ed Large, Art and Cathie Wetstein,
In memory of Pat Strouse
Benefactors, \$500-\$999
Lois K. Stewart
Patrons, \$100-\$499
Margaret Gritzmacher,
In memory of Pat Strouse
F. Paul Cook and Susan Harrell,
In memory of our cousin Patrick D. Strouse
Richard Stothoff,
In memory of Patrick Strouse
Supporters, up to \$99
James Deloge,
In memory of Pat Strouse
A. Wayne Fisher,
In memory of George Hoff
Bill and Claire Hoff,
In memory of our uncle George Hoff
Carol Meyers,
In memory of George Hoff

In memoriam: Ralph Lomerson
by Don Cornelius

For those who did not know, the Hunterdon County Historical Society lost a very special member of our volunteer family this past summer. Ralph Lomerson, whom many of our members and patrons knew from his work as a library volunteer, passed away in July at the age of 85. Ralph, of course, was a well known figure throughout Hunterdon County. He graduated from High Bridge High School in 1943, and served in WWII in the European Theater. Throughout his working life, Ralph was at various times a dairy farmer, stone mason for the Getty Pipeline, and an employee at Taylor-Wharton. He was also the President and gravedigger for the Spruce Run Cemetery Association. Ralph was a true lover of history. He was a member of the Lebanon Township Historical Society, and was the historian of Glen Gardner. He frequently presented original displays of historical material, and he assisted in writing a historical volume of Lebanon Township. But for those of us at the Hunterdon County Historical Society, we will always remember him as one of the rocks of our corps of volunteers. For well over a decade, Ralph donated countless hours to our Society. He was a wonderful library reference assistant, a seriously productive and helpful archival assistant, and could always be counted on to assist in

HOW TO JOIN
Hunterdon County Historical Society
114 Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822

Please enroll me as a member of your Society.

Annual \$15 per year
Family \$18 per year
Contributing \$25 per year
Sustaining \$50 per year
Institutional \$50 and up per year
Life \$250
Patron \$1000 or more
Student \$3 per year (up to 18 yrs old)

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

ph # _____

email _____

I want to volunteer! ____Yes

special projects such as the County Fair. His warm and open demeanor, deep understanding of local history, and dogged pursuit of a fact or project helped countless numbers of our members, patrons, and staff over the years. Ralph's friendly and engaging smile and gentle sense of humor helped pass the time through many crowded sessions of open library hours or long nights in the Archives. Ralph could always be counted upon to handle any request he was given, and finish any project he started. The HCHS will continue on as it has for the past 125 years, but the loss of such an esteemed friend makes one truly understand that the Society is more than its library, museum, books, artifacts, and furniture. It is essentially a group of people, like Ralph, who come together to enjoy and celebrate the history of Hunterdon County in the company of other good people. But for right now, the Doric House seems a little bit emptier, and things don't feel quite the same around the library. We shall all miss him very much.

(Acquisitions cont'd from page 1090)
Podayko, Irene, Collection of passports, immigration papers, photographs and artifacts of her father Frank Podayko. Gift of Janice Armstrong, Milford, NJ
Quitclaim deed, Mar. 18, 1765, John and Thomas Cole to executors of Tunis Cole in trust for Benjamin Cole (framed). Gift of Benn Cole, Flemington, NJ

Flemington Children’s Choir School

by Jay Langley

The story of The Flemington Children’s Choir School has been a proud chapter in Hunterdon County’s history. Sadly, its song ended in May, when the surviving alumni of the Choir School donated its artifacts, photos, books and records to the Hunterdon County Historical Society for preservation. To help defray the costs of preserving and displaying these items, the Choir School alumni also donated the funds remaining in their treasury – some \$22,404.

The Choir School’s 1890 Chickering piano, a gift originally from Louella Alleger, was given to the Flemington Baptist Church.

And as to the Choir School building itself, on tiny Chorister Place, just around the corner from the Historical Society’s headquarters in the Doric House at 114 Main Street, Flemington – at this writing the next use for that structure remains undecided. The county owns the little building and on its first floor it still houses the office of the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission. But there is talk that the freeholders may sell it. Its status in Flemington’s historic district will help protect it – but its fate is up to the Hunterdon County Freeholders.

The Choir School building and the Doric House are near neighbors in the back, separated by just a few feet. They are so close that years ago a small bridge was built at the second floor level to span the alley between them. The bridge crossed from an upstairs bedroom in the Doric House to the Choir School’s second floor practice loft, or studio. That bridge allowed Miss Bessie Vosseller to commute from her home in the Doric House to her labor-of-love as



Photo caption: “Solemn-faced, Probationer Alan Bullock kneels to receive the surplice, the symbol of admission to the Choir School, from Peggy Dietz, an honor graduate.” Hunterdon County Historical Society, Photographic Collection PX2116.

co-director of the Choir School, with no stairs to descend or climb, and with minimal exposure to the weather.

But we’re getting ahead of ourselves. Let’s start at the beginning. Here’s how the Choir School’s story was related by J. Jay Smith, who is the director of music and organist at the Flemington Presbyterian Church, in a 1996 article in these pages (Vol. 32, No. 2, Spring 1996). Mr. Smith wrote to highlight the Choir School’s 100th anniversary concert, on May 18 of that year, which he helped members of the alumni chorus to arrange and stage at the Presbyterian Church.

known as the two Miss Bessies, were pioneers in developing techniques for training children’s voices for church choir work....

....The training of young singers was so successful that by 1920 all five churches in the village – Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian – were involved with the school. The children entered the school at age nine and attended for seven years.

The first graduation in 1907 honored a quartet of four girls. In time these graduation ceremonies would become an important musical event attracting musicians from all parts of the country. They were held in the Presbyterian Church the third Friday of May each year until 1958. The graduation ceremony was a festive and impressive occasion in which 200 choristers and 150 alumni participated. The choristers would enter the sanctuary in two lines singing the processional “Brightly Gleams Our Banner,” which was written by Grace Leeds Darnell, organist of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church of New York City, and who for many years was at the console. Anthems were sung by the probationers of the school, by the members of the school, and also by the alumni. Selections were also played by guest organists. Awards were presented for attendance and initiative. Gold hoods were given to the members of the graduating class. In addition, the Fidelitas Prize for outstanding work was awarded to one of the graduates. Over the years, this award was presented to sixty-four people. The recipients’ names have been inscribed on stone tablets affixed to the front of the choir studio. The exercises concluded with the recessional “Children Are All Dear to Thee,” by Norman Landis, organist of the Presbyterian Church for sixty years (1897-1956).

(cont’d page 1096)



Photo caption: “Dec. 24th, 1939 in B. Vosseller’s den. Seated behind her typewriter, Miss Elizabeth Van Fleet Vosseller enjoys a joke with her co-founder, Miss Bessie R. Hopewell. From Miss Vosseller’s infectious smile, you’d never know her left side was paralyzed and she was unable to rise from her chair.” Hunterdon County Historical Society Photo Collection PX2281, PX2076.

Give A Gift of History

Give a gift with real meaning this holiday season - give a book about local history! We’re selling several new titles at bargain prices. Several items were donated by the *Hunterdon County Democrat* weekly newspaper. Stop by our library to pick up your copy! For mail orders: Include \$5 for the first book and \$1 for each additional book (unless otherwise specified); maps and posters add \$10 shipping for up to 4 items. Out-of-country checks, add \$5. **For these items if 2 or more are mailed in one tube, shipping is still \$10.

Address on the Dissolution of Nations

William Paterson (HCHS 1997). Essay on political science written about 1770 by a future Governor of NJ and US Supreme Court Justice. 25 pp., soft cover. \$1

Atlas of Hunterdon

Beers, Comstock and Cline (1873, reprinted by HCHS 1987). Contains maps of 14 townships and 32 towns. 77 pp., 13”X16”, hard cover, \$40

Baptists in Kingwood, NJ

Stephen Zdepski (1974). A History of the Kingwood Baptist Church at Baptistown and Locktown and the present Baptistown Baptist Church. 37 pp., illus., soft cover. \$5

Beneath These Waters

Stephanie Stevens (2009). Chronicles the colorful history of Round Valley from its geological formation and Lenape habitat to summer refuge for early Revolutionary Patriots, rich fields farmed by some of Hunterdon’s oldest families, and the reservoir that took the land for drinking water and recreation. 70 pp., illus., maps, index, soft cover. \$7

The Centre Bridge

Elmer Roberson (1928). History of the Centre Bridge Company and the covered bridge over the Delaware River that burned in 1923. 10 pp., soft cover. \$3

The Choyce Compendium

Betty Choyce Sheehan (2006). The Choyces were part of an English migration to Flemington in 1785, along with the Capners, Peter Haward, Isaac Passand, and others. 907 pp., indexed, illus., family charts, hard cover. \$85 plus \$10 shipping.

Ye Colonial Kinsmen From Plymouth Rocke to York Towne

Joseph N. Kearney, 1978. Genealogical study documenting about 200 immigrants of Plymouth, MA and New Amsterdam (present day NYC) and tracing their families through 6 generations. Over 3000 names. 8 24”X36” charts. \$30 non-members, \$20 members. Plus \$10 for shipping.

Facts and Fantasies of Franklin Township

J. Edward Stout (1995). Traces Franklin Township’s geographic, political and social roots over the 150 years from 1845-1995 when the rural community moved from “the combine to the commuter.” The author’s account of The Peak in Franklin speaks to the fantasies of the title, offering history with a sense of humor. 448 pp., indexed, illus., maps, soft cover. \$20.

The First 275 Years of Hunterdon County, 1714-1989

Hunterdon Co Cultural and Heritage Commission (1990). Local history by local experts. 125 pp., illus., maps, soft cover. \$3.50

Flemington, NJ Map

O.H. Bailey and Co. Reprint of 1883 bird’s-eye view map of Flemington. Approx. 20”X25”. \$10. Plus \$10 for shipping**

The Flemington Fair Story

Kenneth V. Myers (1978). 95 pp., illus., soft cover. \$5

Flemington Fair Poster

Russell & Morgan Printing Co. Reprint of 1885 Hunterdon County Fair poster. Approx. 24”X33”. \$30. Plus \$10 for shipping**

Flemington Fire Department 140th Anniversary

140th Anniversary Parade Committee (1982). Includes the early history of the department, list of chiefs, photos of men and equipment from 1842 to 1982.118 pp., illus., soft cover. \$5

The Ghosts of Hopewell

Jim Fisher (2006). The professor’s back! In his second review of the Lindbergh kidnapping, he examines many of the wild new claims about whodunit, how, and why. 200 pp., illus., hard cover. \$20

History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, NJ

James P. Snell (1881, reprinted by HCHS 2008). The standard classic county history. 2 vol, 864 pp., illus., maps, hard cover. \$89.50 non-members, \$85 members. Plus \$10 for shipping.

Hunterdon County, NJ Map

Lloyd Van Derveer & S.C. Cornell. Reprint of 1851 map. Approx. 24”X31”. \$25. Plus \$10 for shipping**

Hunterdon County New Jersey Fisheries 1819-1820

Phyllis B. D’Autrechy (1993). Historical background on shad fishing and the names and locations of fisheries in the county. 44 pp., indexed, illus., maps, soft cover. \$7.50

Hunterdon County New Jersey Militia, 1792

Hiram E. Deats (1936, reprinted by HCHS 1994). Alphabetical listings by township of “free and able-bodied white male citizens” between 18 and 45 yrs. 37 pp., soft cover. \$12

Hunterdon County’s Forgotten Lime Industry

Frank A. Curcio (2006). Winner of the NJ Author’s Award. History of the lime kiln industry in Hunterdon, including background on the process of quarrying, the uses of lime and the major sites of mining in the county. 132 pp., illus., maps, soft cover. \$5

Hunterdon Gazette Weekly Newspaper

Digital photographic images of the Gazette newspaper pages as well as typed and formatted text of the newspaper items containing people’s names and events of Hunterdon County, with an overall name and key word index. Covers 1825-1866. DVD format works on both PCs and Macs. Also contains text of book *Hunterdon Place Names*. \$25 non-members, \$20 members and includes shipping.

Hunterdon’s Role in the Revolution

Hunterdon County Democrat (1976). This large format booklet describes scores of brave local men and women who fought to found a free nation. Many rare old illustrations. 88 pp., illus., maps, soft cover. \$3

I Remember

Gloria Sipes Paleveda (1997). What if Tom Sawyer had been a girl? A Frenchtown matron tells 14 more tales of life along the Delaware early in the 20th century. 78 pp., illus, \$8

In Defence of Her Honor

By Dennis Sullivan (2000) – The New York press went wild in 1886 at the lurid rape and murder of Tillie Smith. An innocent man was set to hang. This real-life mystery occurred in Hackettstown, on the Centenary College campus. 169 pp., illus., soft cover. \$10 for non-members, \$8 for members.

In the Grip of the Expert

Egbert T. Bush (1904). Novel by noted Hunterdon County newspaper writer. 277 pp., hard cover. \$7 non-members, \$5 members.

The Jerseyman: A Quarterly Magazine of Local History

Hiram E. Deats, ed. (1893-1905). Local history and genealogy, primarily of Hunterdon County. Vols 2-11, 376+ unbound pages, with added table of contents compiled by Roxanne K. Carkhuff. Some early issues may be supplied through photocopies. \$100

Lindbergh Kidnapping

Lost for 65 years! Found in a NJ barn! Original cartoon drama traces the “The Crime of the Century.” Fully colorized computer-repaired panels with footnotes. 36 pp., soft cover. \$5 non-members, \$4 members.

Lindbergh Newspapers

Time travel in a box! This set of 11 reprinted local newspapers covers the “Trial of the Century.” Rare photos. Depression-era ads are priceless! Great gift for students, history buffs, senior citizens and legal eagles. \$25 non-members, \$20 members.

Marriage Records of Hunterdon Co, NJ, 1795-1875

Hiram E. Deats (1918, reprinted with additions and corrections, 1986) 348 pp., hard cover. \$25.

More Records of Old Hunterdon County, Volume I

Compiled by Phyllis B. D’Autrechy (HCHS 1998). Includes division of lands1795-1876; Orphans Court Minutes 1785-1797; Naturalizations 1803-1876, and much more. 276 pp., full index, illus., maps, hard cover. \$25

More Records of Old Hunterdon County, Volume II

Compiled by Phyllis B. D’Autrechy, edited by Roxanne K. Carkhuff (HCHS 2000). Includes abstracts of wills, letters of administration and inventories, 1818-1825, bastardy cases, 1761-1890, and more. 331 pp., full index, maps, hard cover. \$25

Old Stones at Oak Summit

Kenneth V. Myers (1985). Kingwood Presbyterian Church at Oak Summit, Kingwood Township. 20 pp., index, soft cover. \$3

A Precious Place

By Don Freiday (1997) – A local naturalist spins his favorite tales. An engaging flock of stories, whether you’re home by the hearth or out on the trail. 161 pp., illus., soft cover. \$10 for non-members, \$8 for members.

Raritan Township, NJ Map

J.C. Sidney. Reprint of 1850 map. Approx. 24”X33”. \$25

Records of the Kingwood Monthly Meeting of Friends

James W. Moore (1900). 42 pp., soft cover. \$12.50 non-members, \$10 members.

The Ride to Pleasant Grove

By Sal Vuocolo (1999) – A modern couple, repairing their Lebanon Township home, Hance Farm, follow clues to find the early-1800s family that worked this same land. 160 pp., illus., soft cover. \$8 for non-members, \$6 for members.

When Leaves Grow Old and Other Poems

Egbert T. Bush (1916). 32 pp., hard cover. \$6 non-members, \$4 members.

The Vought Family, Loyalists in the American Revolution

Donald E. Sherblom (2009). Explores the background of the historic Vought House in Clinton Township that contains rare plaster ceilings and was saved at the last moment from demolition. Also delves into the prominent family that built it, planned raids against neighbors and plotted disruptions of Revolutionary activities. 63 pp., illus, maps, soft cover. \$5

SMALL PAMPHLETS
Postage Only \$1 Per Item

General Washington at Coryell’s Ferry

Hannah Coryell Anderson (1928, reprinted 1969). 24 pp., illus. \$2.50 non-members, \$2 members.

Historical and Genealogical Sketch of James Sterling

Edward Boker Sterling (1893). Hunterdon Historical Series, no. 3. 27 pp., illus., soft cover. \$2.50 non-members, \$2 members

History of the Readington School, Formerly Called Holland Brook, 1804-1897

John Fleming (1898). Hunterdon Historical Series, no. 4. 15 pp., soft cover. \$2.50 non-members, \$2 members.

Tucca-Ramma-Hacking

E. Vosseller (1901). Hunterdon Historical Series, no. 5. Tales and traditions from the area where the branches of the Raritan River meet. 21 pp., soft cover. \$2.50 non-members, \$2 members.

THE JOHN W. KUHL MARRIAGE and OBITUARY FILE

Marriages and obituaries published in Hunterdon County newspapers from 1908 to 1949 added to the Society’s collections

Through the kindness and generosity of Trustee John W. Kuhl, a quantity of Hunterdon County newspapers published in the last century were periodically passed on to Volunteer Fred Sisser III. Over the past several years Mr. Sisser has clipped every engagement, marriage and obituary, as well as wedding anniversaries, notable birthdays, divorces and other biographical articles from these periodicals. While this is still an ongoing project, Mr. Sisser recently gave the Society twenty 4x5x11 card tray boxes in which there are arranged in alphabetical order, on 3x5 index cards, over 16,000 newspaper clippings concerning Hunterdon County residents.

While there are a fair number of clippings dating from the late 1800s, a majority of the articles come from newspapers published from 1908 until 1949, and most of these are from the *Hunterdon County Democrat*. Some of the more interesting accounts concern the passing of soldiers who fought in the Civil War, for example, Charles F. Nixon, Peter Morgan and unfortunate C. J. Botsford, who died in jail; the marriages and deaths of notable persons who were natives of Hunterdon County, such as Edgar Bloom, Jacob Bunn and Frances Peterman, a famous aviatrix; the remains of soldiers sent home from France after World War I, including Abram Philhower and Frank Eick; and persons who had attained a great age, like Margaret Carkhuff, who celebrated her 100th birthday in November 1921. It is interesting to note that, aside for those by the last name of Smith, the next most numerous family represented are those by the surname of Apgar: two hundred and twenty-seven individuals, ranging from Aaron Apgar who celebrated his 85th birthday in 1923 to Zelpha Jane Apgar who died in 1931.

The John W. Kuhl Marriage and Obituary File joins several other death files already in the Society’s collections, mainly the Frank E. Burd obituary file (c.1900 to 1985); the John W. Lequear obituary file (c.1880-1900); and the Society’s on-going obituary file, as clipped from the *Hunterdon County Democrat* each week. The Kuhl File does eclipse those which were maintained by Messrs. Lequear and Bird in that they are the actual newspaper article; the Kuhl files also covers marriages, and other notable milestones which these gentlemen did not include in their collection.



Dr. Marc Mappen, addressing the Society at Perryville Inn. Photo by Mike Rice.

Celebrating Our 125th Anniversary

by Mary Elizabeth Sheppard

The 125th Anniversary of the Hunterdon County Historical Society was celebrated on Saturday, September 18th at the Perryville Inn. Sixty-four trustees and friends feasted on salad, moist chicken breast with rice pilaf, grilled tilapia with polenta or pasta primavera and decadent desserts.

Dr. Marc Mappen was the speaker. He has a PhD. in American History. A retired associate dean of Rutgers University and renowned historian, he was the co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of New Jersey* and author of several articles on New Jersey history.

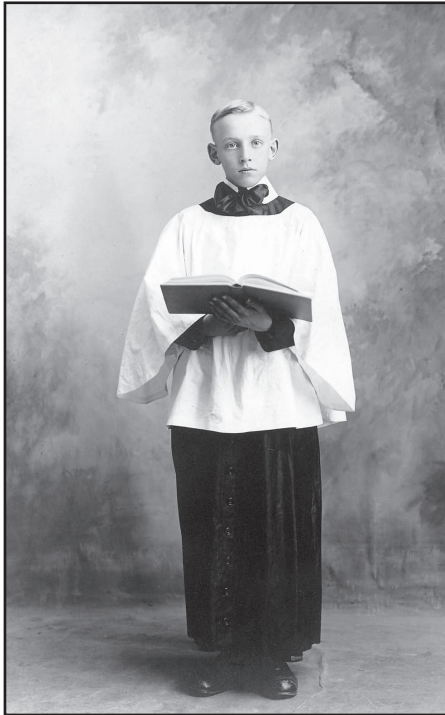
He prefaced his remarks by noting important New Jersey citizens Governor Livingston, Revolutionary hero Molly Pitcher, Bridge Engineer John Roebling, President Woodrow Wilson and Inventor Thomas Edison. Among the items conceived in New Jersey are decaffeinated coffee, transistors and bubble wrap. He suggested that New Jersey should adopt Frank Sinatra’s song *My Way* as the State song. He enthralled us by reading three chapters of his new book *There’s More To New Jersey Than The Sopranos*.

He told of female ghosts that walk the beaches of Long Beach Island, and details of how the Orson Wells Mercury Theater radio broadcast on Halloween eve resulted in the War of the Worlds invasion and panic throughout the nation. We heard of the fascinating adventures of Alice Huyler Ramsey -- the 22 year old spunky wife of a Hackensack attorney -- who drove a Maxwell automobile for 41 days from New York to San Francisco. These were the days before paved roads, maps and AAA.

This book should be required reading for all students studying New Jersey history and will be enjoyed by all who believe that New Jersey is more than the industrial buildings along the turnpike.

The lesson in historical New Jersey personalities was a good way to start the Society’s 126th year. So thanks to Dr. Marc Mappen for that.

Images from the Past

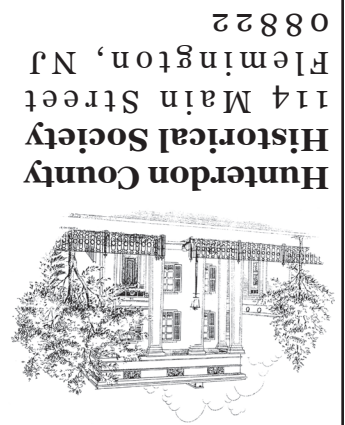


Flemington Children's Choir School

Not for girls only! Photo caption: "To Miss Bessie Vosseller, Merry Christmas is the Wish of Harold Kinney." ca. 1919. Hunterdon County Historical Society Photo Collection PX2287.



Photo caption: "Studio of Flemington Choir School. Chorister's Place looking up toward Main Street." Date unknown. Hunterdon County Historical Society Photo Collection PX2120.



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Hunterdon County
Historical Society
114 Main Street
Flemington, NJ