

# Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Volume 46  
No. 2  
Spring 2010



## Hunterdon County Historical Society

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### June 17 - Free Concert

RockRoots performs a concert about the history of Rock & Roll  
Deer Path Park

#### June 26 - Quilt Turning

HCBS Archives Building  
See pre-registration info below

#### 4th of July - Lebanon Parade

Come see our float in NJ's oldest  
4th of July parade  
Lebanon Borough

#### Aug 25-29 - County Fair

County Fairgrounds

#### Sept 18 - Anniversary Lunch

Featuring speaker Marc Mappan,  
Executive Director, New Jersey  
Historical Commission  
Perryville Inn

### QUILT TURNING PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

#### EMAIL:

hunterdonhistory@  
embarqmail.com

or

#### CALL:

Leave a message with your  
name and phone number  
(please speak clearly!)  
908.782.1091

Space is limited to the  
first 25 responses

## "Quilt Turning" June 26 Open to Society Members Only

An up close and personal "turning" of the 32 quilts and 7 coverlets in the Society's collection will be held for members only at our Archive Building, 67 River Road in Raritan Township on Saturday, June 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A donation of \$30 covers admission and lunch. Attendance is limited to 25 persons.

Funds raised by the turning will be allocated at \$10 for lunch, \$15 to purchase acid-free quilt storage boxes, and \$5 to support the Mid-Atlantic Quilt Study Group led by Judy Grow of Flemington whose members have worked for months to conserve and document the quilts.

Steps in conserving quilts include freezing, thawing and refreezing to kill any insect life, careful vacuuming on both sides through a swatch of fiberglass screen, and sometimes a small bit of restorative stitching. Thorough documentation of the quilts includes genealogical data on the maker as well as details about the fabrics, dyes, trims, patterns and quality of stitching. Stories of those details are part of the turning.

One guest from Delaware who attended an earlier turning said, "The amazing quilt historians are knowledgeable about every aspect of quilting. They immediately know the year a quilt was made by the fabrics and dyes, and where it was made by the style of quilting. The experience was enlightening and stimulating. I felt included in the human story revealed by each unfolding quilt."

Quilts in the Society's collection date from 1830 to 1997. Most are from the 1800s at the beginning and middle of the industrial revolution. Several are multi-generational, so the tops may have been pieced in the 1800s, but not quilted until the 1900s. The collection has four tops that remain unquilted. With the exception of one quilt that was made in Ohio, all in the collection were made in Hunterdon County and are the gift of current or former Hunterdon families.

Five of the quilts and one coverlet were taken out of state by Lillie Sheets who migrated to Iowa with her family in 1884. Two of those quilts were made by Mary

DeMott Sheets, wife of William H. Sheets, and three by Mary Emmans Sheets, wife of William Sheets. When Lillie died in 1956, her niece Catherine Sheets inherited them. In 2009 she sent them home to Hunterdon to be cared for by the Society.

That care means that the quilts are carefully stored in acid-free tissue and boxes in a controlled temperature environment with limited light exposure, and refolded on a regular schedule to preserve color and alleviate fiber stress. Judy Grow says, "By taking the steps to preserve the quilts as the Historical Society does, they are insuring that many future generations will be able to enjoy and learn from the collection."

There are remarkably few repeats in patterns in the Society's collection. A sampling of some of those patterns are Birds in the Air, Broken Dishes, Irish Chain,

Log Cabin, Magical Triangles, Mathematical Star, Pinwheel Dresden Plate, and Roman Cross. The Study Group reports that these names began appearing in print in the 1890s, but what the earlier makers actually called their quilt patterns is not known.

There are seven signature quilts in the collection with old Hunterdon family names on them, like Eugenia Coryelle, Rebecca Clifton Hampton, Harriet B. Lambert, Sarah Elizabeth Sutphin, Lydia Lomerson Tharp, and Margaret Westover.

There also are two fundraising quilts. One was made in 1895-96 to start the library at Voorhees Corner School in Raritan Township. Ten dollars was raised by charging five cents a name, and ten more dollars realized when the quilt was auctioned. That 20 dollars was matched by the State, so 40 dollars started the library. Names were written in indelible ink by Mrs. Jesse Merrell. The other fundraising quilt, made in 1883 for the Baptist Church Mission Band, has over 600 names on it.

Any family with quilts they would like to preserve for the ages is welcome to donate them to the Hunterdon County Historical Society where they will receive lasting care.



This outstanding Seven Pointed Mariner's Compass Star quilt in the collection of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, and the only one with appliqué, was an original design made by Keziah Lee Fisher Welsh, c. 1850 in Tewksbury.

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Terry A. McNealy, Editor

Beth Rice, Layout

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

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EMAIL: hunterdonhistory@embarqmail.com  
US ISSN-0018-7850

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**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

Al Field, San Diego, CA  
Alta M. Fleming, Beverly, MA  
Elaine and John Gorman, Flemington, NJ  
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Marc and Mary Ellen Soldavin, Frenchtown, NJ  
Victoria Stodart, Stockton, NJ  
Judy Swerer, Florissant, CO  
Craig H. Trout, Lovettsville, VA

**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.

Asbury Methodist Church records and related materials (mostly photocopies). Gift of Ron Schultzel.  
Bibles of John Kuhl (1828-1894) and Elisha Kuhl (1859-1930); account book of Abram Case of Three Bridges, 1920-1926. Gift of John W. Kuhl.  
Campanelli, Dan and Marty, Hunterdon County Historical Society's Great Armchair, ca. 1725: A Comparison Study (2010). Gift of authors.  
Church of St. Magdalene De Pazzi, Flemington, The Laying of the Cornerstone and Dedication of the New Church... Nov. 26, 1942; 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion Flemington High School, June 29, 1963. Gift of Russ Lamendola.  
Cole, Robert, Collection of programs from Ringoes Seminary, 1875-1876; Flemington Baptist Church, 1925-1930; 6 photos of new bridge over South Branch Raritan River, 1934; school class photos. Gift of Robert Cole via John W. Kuhl.  
Craig, Robert W., Temples of Learning: Octagon Schoolhouses in the Delaware Valley (1988). Gift of author.  
Doric House deed search, Feb. 2010, compiled by Stephanie Stevens. Gift of Stephanie Stevens.  
Franklin Township Collection of newspaper clippings, newsletters, booklets, etc. Gift of Mary Compton Bodine Estate to the Franklin Archives.  
Goss, Margaret A., Collection diaries, scrapbooks, etc., High Bridge, ca. 1950-2009. Gift of Margaret A. Goss estate.  
Hance Farm: Letter, Jan. 23, 2010, J.L. Brasher to Teresa Vuocolo, and other items relating to the Hance Farm, Lebanon Township. Gift of J.L. Brasher via Fred Sisser III.  
Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, large collection of pamphlets and other materials relating to local history, including a Sanborn Map Insurance Company Atlas of Flemington (1921) with pasted updates 1954. Gift of the Commission.  
*Hunterdon Life*, Dec. 2008, with article on Capt. Jacob Gearhart. Gift of Ethan White.  
*Images of America: Delaware Township* (2009). Gift of John W. Kuhl.  
*Images of America: Franklin Township, Hunterdon County* (2010). Gift of Lora Jones.  
Kraft, Herbert C., *The Lenape-Delaware Indian Heritage* (2001). Purchased.  
Lambertville: collection of records of Lambertville. Gift of Mary Elizabeth Sheppard.  
Reading-Large House, Flemington, blueprints, correspondence, etc., ca. 2000. Gift of John W. Kuhl.  
Roach Family Collection, Frenchtown, including account books of Roach Brothers store; diaries of Eleanor R. Hoff, Civil Defense items and insurance records of Edwin Thomas Roach. Gift of Eleanor Roach Davis.  
Skylands Visitor, v. 20, no. 1 (Spring 2010) with article on Quakertown. Gift of Marty Campanelli.  
Stengel and Kimmenauer genealogical notes. Gift of Kathy Sciarello.  
Stires family genealogical research collection. Gift of William H. Hartman.

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

Patrons, \$100-\$499	Supporters, up to \$99
Henry and Joyce Heunemann, <i>In memory of George Hoff</i>	Judith Atwood, <i>In memory of my brother-in-law George Hoff</i>
Joyce M. Ossinger John Smith Victoria Stodart	Richard Gantz Alice Quayle Gershman Joseph and Cynthia Lear, <i>In memory of George Hoff</i>

## Notes and Queries

**Tercentenary Celebration of the Arrival of the 1710 Palatines:**  
If you are researching Palatine families who settled Hunterdon County, attend this conference of German Heritage to learn more about their 1710 immigration to the Colony of New York. This two-day celebration includes a tour of several of the Newburg, NY historic Palatine sites as well as lectures by speakers on German genealogy topics. This conference is hosted by the Palatines to America and shall be held in Fishkill, NY on June 17, 18, and 19, 2010. For info, call George Apgar at (732) 297-6686.

**Gressman:** Searching for my gr-gr-grandfather's ancestors: Asher Gressman (b.1806 Hunterdon Co.); parents Charles & Phebe Gressman (Grefsman?); wife, Effilender Matthews; possible sister Margaret Grefsman Lee (m. John Lee); b.1796-98.

Barton J. Gressmen  
2655 W 570 N  
Hurricane, UT 84737  
bng99@skyviewmail.com

**Wish List**  
Your donations help us to fulfill our mission and are greatly appreciated.

**Office Items**

- Environmental monitor for vaults
- Electric pencil sharpener
- 2 or 3 shelf mobile book truck

**Archive Building Items**

- Vacuum cleaner
- Roll of acid-free paper to conserve Bibles and scrapbooks
- 2 desk lamps

**THANK YOU!**  
It is with great appreciation that we accept the following gifts:

Vacuum cleaner for Doric House, donated by Dan and Marty Campanelli

Paint for Doric House in colors approved by the National Trust for Historic Preservation colors, donated by Valspar Corporation

Reproduction hand-made ebonite dip pen in the style of the 1850s, four 1850s nibs, an earthenware inkpot, and Civil War ink tablets, donated by AllWriteNow.net, Steve Braun Proprietor, Purveyors of Handmade Fountain Pens, Rollerballs and Vintage Fountain Pens in Baltimore, MD; website [www.allwritenow.net](http://www.allwritenow.net)

**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

**Return to Perryville**  
by Mary Elizabeth Sheppard

On Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, the Trustees hosted the Annual Volunteer Luncheon at the Perryville Inn. We had been to the Perryville Inn last year and were treated graciously. They again provided the best value for the Board.

We feasted on Porcini crusted fillet of tilapia, breast of chicken stuffed with mozzarella cheese and prosciutto or cavatelli tossed with spring vegetables. Our delicious meal was completed with a trio of sweets.

As I looked around the room, it was great to see many familiar faces, but even more exciting to see so many new faces of people who have helped. These are the people who have donated their time to staff the Library and assist with research, serve as docents when the Doric House is open to the public, greet people at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair in August at the Society's table and work tirelessly to catalog and preserve our quilt collection. Some painted the upstairs and others made "delectable looking" petit fours for display and created stunning floral arrangements for the rooms at the Doric House.

The Perryville Inn was built in the Federal Style in 1813. As the last tier of joists were being put in place, a mounted courier came by with the news of Commodore Perry's victory on Lake Erie. Hence the tavern was named Perryville. It served weary travelers.

(cont'd page 1086)



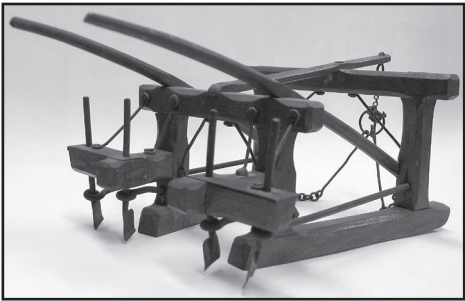
# Oliver Kugler and His Famous Corn Plow

by John W. Kuhl

Our society has recently received a model of the Kugler corn plow, donated by Doris Pierce Snyder. Mrs. Snyder (whose husband, Dennis, died last year) lives on the farm just outside Reaville that had belonged to her parents, Earl and Almeda Kuhl Pierce and before that to her grandparents, Johnson and Alice Polhemus Pierce.

The model had been given to her by a cousin (daughter of her mother's sister) who had married Drew Housel after the death of her first husband, Walter Hart. Housel farmed just over the Somerset County line past Centerville towards Neshanic Station. A note on an old paper reads: "one row, two horse cultivator from Drew and Frances Housel ... made by his father or grandfather."

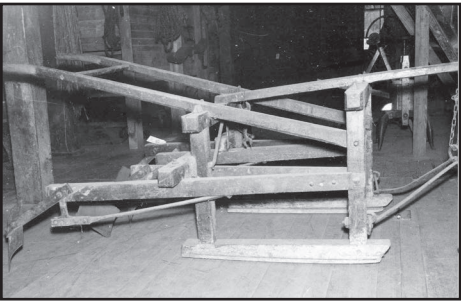
Oliver Kugler farmed on today's River Avenue in Readington Township just east of Rockafellow's Mill towards Three Bridges. That farm was later owned by Cornelius and Ursala Auten, then Frank Allegar, and more lately by the Zajac family. The last of the buildings was recently razed. Kugler's inventive notions jelled to produce a simple, efficient implement to take out weeds in corn and to loosen the soil for aeration and



Kugler Corn Plow model, recently donated to the Society by Doris Pierce Snyder. Photo by Beth Rice.

water retention. He received patents in 1873, and for an improvement three years later. An ad in the Hunterdon County Democrat of 19 May 1874 announced it as the *greatest invention of the age* and cited testimonials of enthusiastic users.

At first, local carpenter Jacob Van Fleet made the plows and packaged them for shipment. The Hiram Deats firm of Pittstown took over as demand soared. Deats' circular explained that no tongue was necessary as it drew straight and even, and that the shares could be set to plow to or from the row. A center shovel could also be used for cultivating fallow ground. The plow continued to outstrip the competition and hundreds of them were made and shipped as far as the Midwest. In the end, however, protecting his patents was so time-consuming and expensive that



An original Kugler Corn Plow on exhibit at the Red Mill in Clinton some years ago. This appears to be one of the later models manufactured by the Deats Plow Works. Photo by John W. Kuhl.

his final net was severely reduced. Kugler opened a hay press and coal yard in Three Bridges and operated it into 1885 when he sold out to Dennis Van Liew. It devolved to Abe Case in 1890 and on to Kuhl Brothers in 1930. All but one of the buildings are now gone. Having sold his farm and Three Bridges property in 1885, Kugler left for another farm in Ocean County, NJ. By 1908 he was back in Three Bridges, living with his son, John. Oliver died of a stroke in Whitehouse on 6 February 1908 and is buried in the Flemington Baptist church cemetery. He was survived by three children, Wilson, John P. of Three Bridges, and Matilda R. (Mrs. Augustus) Hall of Whitehouse.

## CARKHUFF – KIRKHUFF BOOK IN THE WORKS

By Michael Gesner

When my wife Janet and I began our family research, doing a book wasn't in our plans. At first we sought out just ancestors, disregarding cousins. But as time passed, we started branching out sideways and then downwards. I've been asked why we decided on a Carkhuff Book. The answer is simple: Carkhuff descendants are among the nicest people on the face of this earth! I know; I married one. This has been an immense task because we are researching every branch of the family tree. If a female Carkhuff marries out of the family surname, we also try to follow that line down to the present day.

The "Kirkhuff" branch (Janet's line) starts early with John, probably Urban Abraham Kerkhoff's first born son. His family resided in Knowlton, Warren County, NJ. Some descendants in this line retained the exact spelling while others dropped the "h" in the middle. Other variations include Carkhuff and Carhuff. The Hunterdon Carkhuffs, with a couple variations, retained the same spelling.

We're calling our book a First Draft because it will never be finished. I've run into so many people in similar circumstances, but who never actually get their genealogy to print. What a

shame! One researcher has been at it for over 50 years and there is no end in sight. When is enough - enough? To our way of thinking, something is better than nothing. We want to get the book out there for other people to see, to promote changes and additions for a possible Second Draft. However, when will our work be far enough along to publish what we have? A year-and-a-half ago, I stated - *to entirely too many people* - that "we were close to publishing the book." Naïve? Stupid? Some of those same people have recently asked, "Have you finished the book?" When I reply "No, we keep finding more stuff," they simply laugh. And they should laugh. Eighteen months ago, the Carkhuff book included about 7,000 individuals; today the number (including spouses and in-laws) exceeds 23,000.

We've gone the traditional route in the quest for information, using archives, vital statistics, associated family histories and letter writing to aid our effort. Of course, letter writing *today* is emailing. We've also looked up in excess of 10,000 obituaries (includes other families) over the last few years to bring the family history up to date. We wouldn't be where we are today without the internet and yes, we subscribe to ancestry.com. We've also made so many good

contacts via the web, I can't imagine being without this valuable resource. It's true that you have to be careful what you find online because errors get repeated. But when you are looking for "current" data (meaning the last hundred years), you need to contact people directly because they know their immediate family better than anyone.

When in doubt, Janet says, "Google it." And she's right; we've made many fabulous finds using this valuable resource. One of our best strategies has been to personally contact family connections, sometimes by email, on Facebook and even on the telephone. Always willing to share, we'll send out the person's ancestor tree with the hope we will get their current information in return. This ploy doesn't always work because not everyone is as interested in family history (or in sharing) as we are. But, every once in a while, the person on the other end reciprocates, making the overall effort a memorable experience. Some of those cousins had worked on their genealogy for *decades* without ever making the connection to the main branch of the of the Carkhuff/Kirkhuff line. Justifiably elated, some of them telephoned us to voice their thanks. One lady, a centenarian

(cont'd page 1087)

# Dr. George Holcombe Larison, One of 16 HCHS "Founding Fathers"

by Donald Cornelius

Americans are fascinated by beginnings. Were it not for this fascination, it is doubtful that fields such as history and genealogy would become so popular with the American public. Whatever subjects interest us as individuals or groups almost seem to demand that we discover their origins. The nature of this fascination also has a curious consequence in subsequent human interest, namely, a propensity to celebrate beginnings with anniversaries. This is evident throughout our society, including a resurgent interest in our Nation's founding fathers as the U.S. approaches its 250<sup>th</sup> year.

In the spirit of anniversary celebration, it is worth noting that our own Society turns 125 years old this year. Many events are planned to celebrate that anniversary, both to honor what has gone before and to usher in a new era of what is to come. With this in mind, perhaps it is time to re-examine the beginnings of our own Historical Society and to look into the lives and character of the men and (later) women who created and built it. It will not take long to realize that these people who formed the Society that we enjoy today were truly special people, another set of "founding fathers," if only on a smaller scale.

As many of you already know, the Hunterdon County Historical Society was organized in September of 1885. Sadly, our

Society is not the most famous organization that began that year (AT&T and The Salvation Army also incorporated in 1885). Famous or not, it still speaks well of any group that is able to survive the trials of 125 years of variation in historical interest and uneven distribution of economy. Since the Society has not only survived but thrived, a good deal of the credit should be attributed to the founders who organized it, wrote its by-laws, and left an example for the future.

In 1885, the Society began with 16 members. Many of the names are well known to historians and genealogists who have conducted research in Hunterdon County:

- Dr. George N. Best, Rosemont
- N.B. Boileau, Jutland
- Egbert T. Bush, Stockton
- Asher W. Carroll, Locktown
- Rev. C.S. Conkling, Stockton
- Joseph C. Exton, Clinton
- Walter F. Hayhurst, Lambertville
- E.M. Heath, Locktown
- George H. Larison, M.D., Lambertville
- John W. Lequear
- Rev. Dr. George S. Mott, Flemington
- Dr. Henry Race, Pittstown
- William T. Srope, Frenchtown
- Jacob Servis, Lambertville
- Elias Vosseller, Flemington
- Richard H. Wilson

At the first meeting of the Society, three members (Larison, Race, and Conkling) were appointed to a committee charged with drafting a Constitution and by-laws for the nascent organization. It is interesting that the "object" of the society was remarkably similar to what it is today: "to discover, procure and preserve whatever relates to any department of the History of Hunterdon County, natural, civil, genealogical, literary or ecclesiastical: and generally of other parts of the state."

Just as with the founding fathers of our nation, it is noteworthy that our Society began with a set of highly talented individuals who gathered to produce an organization dedicated to the preservation of the public good. Most of these gentlemen were educated, successful, and somewhat prominent county residents who found time to devote to an organization from which there would be small profit but enormous satisfaction.

The first of these individuals was George H. Larison M.D., who was the first elected President of the Society. He was born George Holcombe Larison in Delaware Township on January 4, 1831. In his early life he worked on the family farm. He was a studious youth, however, who always went out of his way to find books to read of an academic nature. In 1851 he left home (cont'd page 1086)



A group of Holcombes in the yard at the home of Dr. George Holcombe Larison, in Lambertville, NJ, probably 12 August 1891. Dr. George H. Larison is standing in the middle with hat on. Hunterdon County Historical Society, Photographic Collection Px237, Larison, George Holcombe, M.D.



**(Larison cont’d from page 1085)**  
to attend school in New Haven, CT for a year. In 1852, he attended the University of Lewisburg, PA (now Bucknell University) where he eventually received his A.M. degree. In 1853, he returned to the county to teach at Van Dolah’s School, were he was highly successful.

In 1855 he began to study medicine in Flemington under Sam Lilly. Later that year, he enrolled in the medical program at the University of Pennsylvania, from which he obtained his M.D. in 1858. In addition to beginning his practice of medicine in the county, he introduced the first large peach farm to Hunterdon County on a tract of land he had leased from his father, harvesting a hugely successful crop in 1859. Another success for that year, on a more personal level, was his marriage to Sarah Fisher.

For many years, Dr. Larison enlarged his practice in Lambertville and the countryside around it. According to Walter Hayhurst, “I believe it can be truly said that no call from rich or poor, by day or night, was ever unheeded. Almost invariably by his patients was he regarded not only with confidence and esteem, but real affection.” It has been estimated that Dr. Larison attended over two thousand cases of childbirth, and once, in the smallpox epidemic of 1863-64, saved 95 out of 99 cases that he treated. The honor in which he was held by his fellow professionals is evident in the fact that he was an officer in the Hunterdon County and NJ State Medical Societies for many years, elected Third Vice president for the State in 1871 and President in 1875, presiding over the 109<sup>th</sup> annual convention of that group.

While his medical career was impressive, it is made all the more so when considered in tandem with his other avocation. In addition to being a successful doctor, he was also a practicing ordained minister of the Gospel. In 1867, he became a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Lambertville. In 1869, he volunteered to furnish supplies at a failing church, the Solebury (PA) Baptist Church. He began preaching there in 1870, became ordained, and was the Pastor until 1876 when the church became solvent again. He was an itinerant preacher for a few more years, but then organized another church at Bushington, PA. Eventually, he returned to NJ to preach, finishing his career at the Sandy Ridge Baptist Church and the

Baptist Church at Ringoes. As in medicine, Dr. Larison was active in the professional ecclesiastical community as a member of the Reading Association of the Baptist Church and the Moderator of its first session in 1875.

Apparently, a dual career of medicine and salvation was not enough to satisfy Dr. Larison. He also held several public offices in his lifetime. He held the office of the County Coroner several terms. He served as the Lambertville Superintendent of Schools for sixteen years, and also served as Councilman for seven years. In 1878, he made an unsuccessful run for office as a U.S. Congressman. His public service was not all political; in his early career, he

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community.”**

organized and captained a company of militia from Sergeantsville. He worked his way up in State Militia from Captain to Brigadier General, and after the re-organization of the State’s Militia Service he became a Surgeon on the staff of Colonel A.W. Angel, 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment, NJ National Guard.

Dr. Larison was involved in other volunteer civil associations as well. He served as a volunteer agent of the United States Weather Bureau from 1872 until his death. He also was a principle in the Lambertville Improvement Company, an organization to promote the industry and manufactories of the town.

Throughout his life, Dr. Larison had exhibited a predilection for the collection of books, objects, pamphlets, papers, and a general interest in history and historical artifacts. This activity caused him to become a member of the Bucks County (PA) Historical Society. It was at a meeting of this group in July of 1885 that he had a conference with Jacob Servis and William T. Srope, two other Hunterdon residents. This meeting instigated the conference in Flemington during September of 1885 that resulted in the formation of the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Therefore, Dr. Larison was not only the first President of the HCHS, but also one of the three who conceived the idea of its formation.

Although Dr. Larison’s term was for one year only (as stated in the by-laws), he continued to serve the Society in other ways. These included organizing a very successful dual meeting of the Society and the Holcombe family reunion in 1886, serving as a member on various committees, and

continuing to present several papers and items of interest to the Society throughout the remainder of his lifetime.

Dr. Larison passed away on March 7, 1892. His fellow Society member Walter Hayhurst summarized his contributions to both our Society and greater society in a biographical sketch at the October 21, 1893 meeting of the HCHS, stating that he did not feel comfortable estimating a man’s worth, “but he cannot fail to express his own opinion that one so unceasingly active in so many different directions, so apparently successful in his efforts, and actuated by worthy motives, must have rendered substantial service to the community.”

If an organization like the HCHS was to last 125 years, it must have been built on both a worthy vision and a strong foundation. Both of these things are best provided by a steady organizer and leader. It is comforting to think that Dr. Larison, a man of accomplishment, intellect, energetic activity, and community service provided those values to us through the reaches of time. In studying a “founding father” like Dr. Larison, it is easy to see why we like beginnings... and why we like anniversaries, too. They make us feel better about both where we came from, and where we are going.

#### Bibliography

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Item AR-034; HCHS Corporate Archives. Scrapbook, 1885-1966.

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#### (Perryville cont’d from page 1083)

With the out buildings, it became a meeting place for numerous drovers conducting their stock business during the 1800s. The early Union Township Committee meetings were held there. Alas it became a victim of President Eisenhower’s Great National Highway System. In 1959 it was sold at public auction by the State of New Jersey for \$250.00. The move to its current location took three months, November 1959 to January 1960. It is now on the National and State Register of Historic Places and continues today as a charming, comfortable place to meet friends and host the public to a wonderful dining experience.

## FROM THE DESK OF DONALD CORNELIUS, HCHS MANUSCRIPT CURATOR

The transition from spring into summer is just beginning in 2010, and with that change many others are happening here at HCHS as well. Just as the tulips and iris blooms in the Doric House garden are fading into memory, the transition in moving our large collection of archival material from the vaults at the Doric House to our wonderful new Archives Building is also coming to a close. With one more large move planned in late May, we will finally have moved the bulk of our archives, or at least those portions of it that were meant to be moved, into their new home.

Large material movements have not hindered our progress in working on collections, however. Our dedicated volunteers have been working hard to ensure that our collections continue to

be processed and made available to our members and researchers.

One of the collections being worked on at the moment includes another collection of Bartles Papers, including Hunterdon County Court docket books from the first half of the Nineteenth century. Another is a collection of personal papers left to the Society by Egbert Bush. A new archival volunteer, John Matsen, is working on arranging the records of the Kingwood Grange that were donated to the Society in 2008. Also, the Society’s collection of Bible Records has been spruced up recently, with a dozen new entries placed into that collection for research. Another collection in the works is the records of the Hunterdon County Comptroller for the year 1830, which includes an amazing amount of detail on a series of

#### (Carkhuff cont’d from page 1084)

from Florida (who acquired computer skills when she was 92), picked up the phone to add information to her tree. She contacted me through her niece in the West. It turns out that we knew more about her ancestors than did her niece who teaches classes on genealogy.

Here’s a sampling of families that have married into the Carkhuff line: Alpaugh, Apgar, Barnes, Bellis, Bird, Bonham, Brewer, Bunn, Bush, Case, Cherry, Clickenger, Cole, Conover, Cooley, Crater, Creveling, Cronce, Dalley, Dalrymple, Deardorff, Dilts, Egbert, Eick, Emery, Emmons, Ent, Fisher, Fritts, Fulper, Gano, Gardner, Gary, Good, Gulick, Hall, Hart, Hartpence, Higgins, Hoffman, Housel, Huffman, Hummer, Hunt, Jennings, Keiderling, Kinney, Kitchen, Kline, Kugler, Labaw, Lake, Larue, Linaberry, Loller, Miller, Moore, Mount, Opdycke, Philhower, Poulson, Prall, Quick, Reading, Rittenhouse, Rodenbaugh, Rounsaville, Rush, Schamp, Schenck, Schomp, Sheets, Sherman, Smith, Snyder, Staats, Stires, Storr, Stout, Stryker, Sutton, Suydam, Swackhammer, Swarer, Taylor, Terriberry, Thatcher, Tiger, Trimmer, Trout, Van Arsdale, Van Doren, Van Fleet, Van Horn, Van Kirk, Vanselous, Voorhees, Wene, Wilson, Wyckoff, Yawger and Young.

We’ll be using www.lulu.com to publish the Carkhuff Genealogy. Advantages in using Lulu outweigh the negatives. First of all, it’s economical and you can print one book at a time.

Our plan is to publish three books, one each for the Hunterdon & Warren County Historical Societies and one for ourselves. (*Depending upon demand, we may decide to print an additional supply, to be offered for sale by the Society.*) Additional books can then be ordered by anyone directly from Lulu. Coil bound, soft & hard covers are available. On the negative side, paper options and sizes are limited and the book page limit is 740. We are already heading towards this maximum so like it or not, we may have to publish sooner rather than later. If you see us at the Society, don’t ask me if the book is done – ask Janet. Maybe she’ll have a better answer for a change. If you are a Carkhuff descendant and would like to make sure that your immediate family is included, please contact us. We are, of course, willing to exchange information. And if you’d like a book, tell us and we’ll print an extra copy for you.

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website: <http://gesnergenealogy.com>

*Editor’s Note: Janet & Michael Gesner have been pursuing family genealogy for close to ten years. They are library assistants at both the Hunterdon & Warren County Historical Societies. In fact, this is a full-time hobby for Michael who is in his fifteenth year of “retirement.” Their first family history book “Adam Eshback of Walpack,*

road and bridge improvement work.

Combined with all of this activity, the receipt and implementation of a new computer system and software to run our library, museum, and archives may seem rather boring and tame. I assure you that is not the case! With the help of this major upgrade, it is hoped that in the foreseeable future, our archives will be able to maintain an online, searchable catalogue of manuscript collections. Someday, we may be able to use this system to digitally image our huge photo collection, and make the images available for viewing over the web! In time, catalogues for many of our individual collections may be available for remote viewing, and that will greatly enhance our ability to reach out to those who may not know of the wonderful and rich historical collections we keep in trust.

*Sussex County, New Jersey” was published last summer. Both have roots in Hunterdon County. Janet is a Barnes, Kirkhuff & Creveling descendant while*

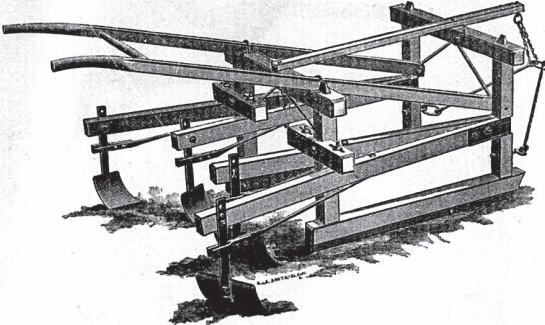


**Michael  
Gesner**

*Michael has ancestors with surnames that include Case, Compton, Eldridge, McPherson, Pegg, Smith, Snyder, Storr, Taylor, Thatcher, Tomson, Trimmer, Warman, Wolfe and Youngblood. You can’t miss Michael when he’s at the Society on Thursdays, either serving as a volunteer or doing his own research; he’s always with his laptop and quick to offer assistance (whether he is on duty or not) to anyone who comes in the door. On one memorable occasion, a woman from Tennessee needed help on her Hunterdon family. With a few keystrokes, Michael found her line (the Gesner database now boasts over 310,000 names) and replied to the lady: “You do know that you are a Mayflower descendant, don’t you?” She didn’t.*

## Images from the Past

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**Detail from advertising circular, ca. late 1870s.**

