GOVERNOR JOHN READING IS EASILY THE MOST FAMOUS OF COLONIAL RESIDENTS OF HUNTERDON COUNTY. He was a member of the colonial governor’s council from 1721 to 1758. He was twice acting Governor and the first American-born person to hold that position. But much of John Reading’s impact on the county beyond those facts is not widely known. As the county approaches its tri-centennial in 2014, it is important to reintroduce this important historical figure. The members of the society and the public are invited to the Hunterdon County Historical Society’s Annual Meeting at the Flemington Public Library on Sunday, March 29, at 2 P.M., where David R. Reading will present a lecture on Governor John Reading and his family.

David is a fifth great-grandson of Governor John Reading and grew up in Hunterdon County, graduating from Hunterdon Central High School in 1960. His interest in family history was sparked by the research started by his mother, Roberta T. Reading, in 1959. Mrs. Reading met and had many long discussions with the society’s Hiram E. Deats regarding the Reading family. David is continuing this interest in what his mother called “This fantastic family heritage.” He has collected a wide variety of existing information and has made some new discoveries.

David will provide us with a brief chronology of West New Jersey history and the role played by Colonel John Reading, Governor John and the Governor’s eleven children. Of particular interest is Colonel John’s long history with the Council of West New Jersey Proprietors and the founding of Hunterdon County, as well a Governor John’s contribution to the Presbyterian Church, his influence in the founding of Princeton University, and his role during the French and Indian War. He will close with a brief summary of the Governor’s children, particularly their involvement in the American Revolution, both as loyalists and patriots.

Editor’s Note:

In our last issue, we published the diary of Mary Hannah Stout Errickson for 1904. The transcriber used an indexing program, and due to a technical glitch the index codes were printed in the newsletter, even though they had not appeared on the proofs. The index terms appear as the letters XE followed by a term in quotation marks, and they should be ignored. We apologize for the error.
NOTES AND QUERIES

Address correspondence to the Genealogical Committee, or to our email address. One query listing of ten lines free to members, 25 cents per line over ten lines; non-member rate is 25 cents per word. Remember to include a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) with genealogical correspondence for the courtesy of a reply.

HARCOURT, HARKER, HARSFUL: Seek information about my 5x great grandmother Rebecca HARKER. Probably b. ca. 1747-1755, she married Enos Randol in Feb. 1770 at Machackemeck (Deer Park), Orange County, NY. Reason to believe she was actually Rebecca Harcourt, b. in now Hunterdon Co., to William Harcourt and w. who may have been Sara or Sarah Harsful. Need proof of that, and of Rebecca’s mother’s full name or her parents’ names. Need info re Rebecca’s early years and parents. Paul A. Stein, 172 Oenoke Lane, New Canaan, CT 06840 (paul_stein@email.msn.com)

LA ROCHE: Seek information on the ancestry and life of T. Zachariah La Roche, b. 24 Nov. 1768, near Bern, Switzerland. Especially interested in his activities in France during the French Revolution. (He left France in 1794 to come to the U.S.) Charles S. Chase, 1804 Lord Fairfax Highway, Berryville, VA 22611 (aquila9chase@aol.com)

OSBORN, CARKHUFF, DEHART: Seek parents of James P. OSBORN b. 20 Dec. 1805 NJ. He m. Rebecca Carkhuff 4 Dec. 1830 in NJ. Rebecca was b. 12 Feb. 1811 dau. of Jacob Carkhuff & Catherine (--). They lived in Readington Twp. James and Rebecca had ch Jacob C. Osborn 1838-1859 NJ & Charles Todd Osborn 1843 NJ-1928 KS. James P. and Rebecca were in Porter Co. IN in 1860 census. Catherine who I believe is sister of James P. Osborn m. William DeHART and had: Isaac Newtown b. 11 Dec 1840, John Wilson b. 21 Aug. 1842, Mary Elizabeth b. 4 July 1845, Lydia Ann b. 12 Mar 1847 & William J. b. 20 July 1848. This family also migrated to IN. Info from Osborn bible 1848. Nancy J. Willis, 903 N. Kentucky, Iola, KS 66749 (snowstreetcat 2@yahoo.com)
Recent Acquisitions

Scrapbook of newspaper clippings about the Lindbergh kidnapping case, compiled by Theresa Schmid of Weehawken, NJ. Gift of the compiler’s granddaughter Rita Usher.

Poster, Vaudeville and Minstrel Show, Ringoes, advertised by the Hunterdon County Firemen’s Association, Nov. 18, 1937. Gift of Judy Schaar.


Bice, E.E., Flemington, New Jersey, Illustrated (1898) Gift of Craig D. Tipton.


Deinzer, Hermann, Collection of musical manuscripts, the work of a local Hunterdon County composer and musician. Gift of Max Deinzer and Maria Deinzer Lifrak.

Society Receives Gift of New Reader-Printer

The Edward Astle Foundation of Annandale, New Jersey, has come to the aid of our society with a very generous donation of $11,687.00 to purchase an additional microfilm reader-printer. Our recently expanded library hours with ever-increasing usage by our patrons, and the age of our other four machines, have combined to put unprecedented pressure on this segment of our service as researchers comb through our nearly one thousand rolls of film for information from newspapers, vital statistics, burials, and a host of other old Hunterdon records. Visitors to our library often see people on all of our machines.

Coming at a time when our society is concentrating on the costs of our new archives storage building, the funds for this necessary purchase is especially welcome. These machines are not cheap. This donation just covers the purchase of a Canon MS-300II scanner, the equipment necessary to operate it, and a reconditioned workstation to house it. A plaque naming the Foundation as the donor has been prepared and attached to the new machine. Both the members of the society and our patrons deeply appreciate this valuable gift from the Astle Foundation.

Archives Building Campaign Donors

The following gifts have been received since the last newsletter was published, and are here gratefully acknowledged

Platinum Club, $5,000 and up
Platinum Club, $5,000 and up
Richard S. DeHoff
John W. Kuhl
John M. Matsen

Trustee’s Club, $1,000-$4,999
Richard and Hilda Mannon
Michael Morris Associates
David J. Riley
Donald F. Scholl, Jr.
Henrietta Siodlowski

Benefactors, $500-$999
Anonymous Business Donation
Janet A. Alpert
Marly Goodspeed
Bruce Meier
Patrons, $100-$499
Edmund Abegg
Judith Biebesheimer
Jim and Penny Corcoran
Max L. Deinzer
Kathryn B. DeMott
Thomas F. DiBianca
Marie Farley
Flemington Furs
Scott and Karen Holmes
Hopewell Valley Community Bank
Jay and Catherine Langley
Maria Deinzer Lifrak
Maddalenas Catering
Catherine L. O’Shea
John and Linda Peterson
William R. Reading, in memory of Susan Reading
Paul and Ann Sauerland
Betsy Taylor
Art and Cathie Wetstein

Supporters, Contributions up to $99
Richard Gantz
Margaret Gritz macher
Robert Isham
Carol Myers
Joseph F. Purcell
Rick and Sue Vaiculevich
Treasurer’s Report

It has been a busy year for the workers of our society and equally so for your treasurer. After a bit more than a year in this office, it is time for a report on our finances, complicated as they are with paying for our new archives building and attempting to replenish our somewhat depleted reserve funds. As you know, and is obvious from the figures, we depend largely on the interest and dividends from those reserves to fund our annual expenses. We believe it is not only your right as a member, but your duty to know the state of our finances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008 Income</th>
<th>2009 Budget (Not yet official)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank Interest</td>
<td>$13,708.83</td>
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<td>CD Interest</td>
<td>7,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dividends</td>
<td>48,195.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Div. (R.James)</td>
<td>2,850.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doric House Donations</td>
<td>7,958.31</td>
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<td>Grants Received</td>
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<td>Large Foundation</td>
<td>600.00</td>
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<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>2,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sale of Maps, Books</td>
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<td>Sale of Gazette C.D.s</td>
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<td>4,200.00</td>
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<td>$111,448.71</td>
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2008 Actual Operating Expenses

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<td>Electric, Gas, Water, Sewage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleaning, Snow &amp; Ice, Pest Control</td>
<td>1,568.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs, Maintenance</td>
<td>2,003.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doric House Insurance</td>
<td>4,611.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wages &amp; Payroll Costs</td>
<td>37,358.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Purchases ($3148.00 for Snell’s)</td>
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<td>Fees, Dues, Permits</td>
<td>325.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stationary, Preservation Mat.</td>
<td>3,007.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book &amp; Negative Storage</td>
<td>849.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminars &amp; Training</td>
<td>351.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Luncheon</td>
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<td>Printing (Newsletter &amp; other)</td>
<td>1,918.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage (Incl. Newsletter)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$73,336.76</td>
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Total 2009 Budgeted Expenses

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<tr>
<td>Normal 2008 Expenses as above</td>
<td>$73,337.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utility Expenses New Archives Building</td>
<td>12,487.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Building Misc</td>
<td>676.00</td>
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<td>New Building Insurance</td>
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<td>$89,500.00</td>
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Treasurer’s Report

Book Purchases in 2009 should be nearly $3000 less and as of February, we have moved out of our bok storage unit to gain another $65 per month. This should allow our total normal expenses in 2009 to remain close to that of last year. To this however, must be added the additional expense of maintaining our new archives building. Plummeting interest rates, slashed dividends, and a reduction of our capital funds as we paid for our new building, have all combined to halve our expected 2009 income. This leaves us with a planned deficit of $34,500 for the year. This, we can handle short term, but we must somehow turn this around if we are to remain viable over the years. Your trustees have elected thus far to not pull in our horns and to continue as much as possible the remarkable progress we have lately made in the performance of our preservation of Hunterdon History. Our country’s current financial woes make it a difficult time to seek further cash donations. Our ability to construct our new archives building was made possible by generous estate bequests from past members over the years. We would hope that present members might keep us in mind when planning their own estates.

Finally, our membership should know the status of our building finances. From December of 2006 to mid-February of 2009, we have received donations of $352,748, over 99% of this from members. We have recently solicited county businesses and a few have sent in generous donations but we are not in prosperous times. Locals know that ours is an expensive area in which to build. Below is the total cost of our building (most in 2008) to date through mid-February.

Payments to General Contractor $ 685,901.67
Architectural Services 18,477.40
Engineering Site Plan Services 25,237.16
Twp. Escrow Accounts 2,200.00
Real Estate Tax (up to Cert.Occ.) 366.40
Advanced Financial Audit (Req. by St.) 3,750.00
Site Work, Moving Costs, Misc. 1,887.17
Elevator Registration (SNJ) 54.00
Rolling Shelving System 70,687.00
Gas & Electric Connections 13,592.65
Sewer Hook Fee (Rar.Twp.Munc.Auth.) 3,767.00
Lightning Rod Installation 3,200.00
Security System Installation 1,100.00
Construction Insurance 1,406.00
Publicity, Printing 786.80

Total $ 832,413.25

The building is essentially completed except for exterior landscaping to be completed in the Spring. We will owe the contractor a final payment in the area of +/- $70,000 but believe that is the last big expense. We were fortunate to lately receive a donation of several truck loads of badly needed office furniture from the closing office of the Courier-News newspaper in Somerville. Township officials have already allowed us to move in some of our newspapers and other material in advance of the official certificate of occupancy. Our archivist and executive administrator are in the intricate process of planning the transfer of materials from the Doric House. We think the building has turned out well and look forward to showing it at a forthcoming open house. All suggestions and comments are of course, welcome.

John W. Kuhl  Treasurer
A Community of Service: Spotlight on the Hunterdon County Chapter of the American Red Cross

by Donald Cornelius

One of the unique features of an archival repository with a local theme is the variety of the materials which it collects. The Hunterdon County Historical Society is no exception. Within our collections are held important legal documents, many genealogical records, and the papers, diaries and memoirs of notable people, places, and businesses from our history. Worthy of serious attention, but often overlooked, are those collections that seem to have a narrow focus, but in reality offer a large glimpse of the cross section of our county’s history. One such collection in our possession is the papers of the Hunterdon County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

At first glance, this set of boxed manuscripts seems to be only a mass of documents that record the day to day workings of just another county organization. Within the folders, however, a rich history unfolds. It is a history that includes some of the most notable names and important events that have occurred in the County; and, at the same time, records the incredible capacity for service and giving with which the County responded.

As a group, the International Red Cross was founded in Geneva, Switzerland, 1863. It was founded as an organization for the relief of suffering caused by war, pestilence, famine, flood, fire, and other calamities. The organization as a whole is enjoined to be strictly neutral in terms of policy and no one is excluded from its relief efforts for reasons of nationality, race, religion, or any other division made by mankind.

The movement gained international popularity, but that popularity was slow to reach the United States. Clara Barton was a fierce advocate for the establishment of the Red Cross in America, but its appeal and popularity did not really manifest until the onset of World War I. In 1917, a national appeal was made to the citizens of the United States to organize and actively volunteer and support the Red Cross through the formation of local chapters.

On March 9, 1917, a mass meeting was called in the Hunterdon County Courthouse to address this appeal. At this initial meeting, Arthur F. Foran acted as temporary chairman, and through the generosity of the time of the citizens of the County, the Hunterdon County Chapter of the Red Cross was officially formed.

As may be expected, the roster of officers of the Chapter was a veritable “Who’s Who” list of recognizable Hunterdon County Citizens. Mrs. Frances Hyde Engeman of Flemington (later Mrs. George K. Large) was elected chairman. Percival Christie of High Bridge was Vice-Chair; Nedwill Sutphin of Flemington was the Treasurer, Miss Marion W. Williams was the Secretary. The executive board consisted of Mrs. Edward B. Allen, Mrs. Arthur F. Foran, Mrs. Benjamin F. Dewey, Mrs. Fred J. Bodine, and Mr. Foran. And, although not present on the officer’s list, no Hunterdon County organization could be without at least a contribution from Hiram E. Deats: he “provided the first chapter headquarters by giving space in the old Post Office Building in Flemington for the duration of the war.”

The nascent organization grew quickly. Fifty members joined at this organizational meeting. Within one month, seven auxiliaries had been organized with a total of 885 members. Within one year, there were 4 branches and 33 auxiliaries within the county, with a total membership of over 7,900 persons.

After organization, the first order of business for the chapter was the raising of funds and the contribution of items for international relief from the ravages of the war. A first fund drive in 1917 raised $8,161 dollars and a second campaign on 1918 brought in an astounding $27,798. In addition to outright funds, relief took many other forms. The chapter “sewing room” produced 12,016 garments, the “knitters” produced 6,544 other articles, and 3,435 other articles of clothing and sundry were donated to add to the relief effort.

After the war, the Hunterdon County Chapter settled into a less furious pace of existence. In 1919, Mrs. Katrina Case became the chair of the chapter and guided it through many of the peacetime years, and she was succeeded in 1931 by Mrs. C. Ryman Herr. With the balance of its post-war funds, the Chapter established a nursing program within the county, and built up and maintained a public health program. This program, in addition to direct relief nursing care, also laid the groundwork for health programs in the public schools, which became a public responsibility. Further benefits of the nursing work included aid for tubercular and crippled children, and instruction in home nursing.

The meeting pace slackened, in general, during the peacetime years. The Chapter reduced their meeting schedules to once a year, for the purposes of electing officers, hearing committee reports, and maintaining the annual roll. Special sessions and relief drives were still conducted when situations warranted, however, such as a 1923 drive that raised $5,557 for the relief of suffering resulting from a devastating earthquake in Japan; a 1928 drive that raised $3,879 to aid victims of a West Indies hurricane; a 1931 fund that donated $5,523 for drought relief, and $8,083 raised for flood relief in 1937.

The advent of World War Two saw a corresponding re-emergence of activity within the Chapter. By 1942, the Chapter had raised $35,249 for relief. In addition, many specialized areas of assistance developed. 2,006 persons were trained in First Aid, 262 people volunteered to form a “Canteen Corps”, 34 volunteers formed a uniformed Motor Corps and 19 volunteers joined the Staff Assistance Corps. By 1942, 3,807 garments had been sewed, 2,099 knitted, and 505 armed forces garments had been produced. Perhaps of most value was the staggering amount of surgical
As I work my way through this tumultuous winter, photographs have been weighing heavily on the mind of your curator, lately. Everyone, it seems, loves old photographs. And everyone seems to want old photographs, too. Just in the last few months, we at the Society have fielded several research requests from patrons looking to find old photographs in our collections, whether it be of relatives, people associated with various groups of historical interest, or sometimes of places that are no more.

And we do have photographs here at the Society – lots and lots of them. The principal portion of our photograph collections is a group of photos called, appropriately enough, the Hunterdon County Historical Society Photographic Collection. It is a collection of over 4,000 photographs, from various sources and covering various subjects. You are probably familiar with some of them, as many of them have graced the pages of this newsletter from time to time.

4,000 photographs is a lot to look through, however, if you only want one. With that in mind, I would like to publicly acknowledge a man that many of you know. Ralph Lomerson, one of our library volunteers here at the Society, has embarked on an ambitious project. Utilizing his knowledge of local history and his amazing patience and determination, Ralph is going through our photographic collection, one by one, and is indexing and describing them. Ralph started this project about one year ago, and is already over half finished. When Ralph completes his project, we will be able to create an index that will allow our patrons to search our photo collection by subject and/or name.

Amazingly, this collection of photographs only scratches the surface. A recently completed thorough inventory of all of our holdings, both processed and unprocessed, has revealed a massive amount of photographs just waiting to be added to our collections. If all of these photographs were indexed and identified tomorrow, I estimate that the number of images in our collection would probably triple!

And, as they say in fast talking commercials on TV – Wait, there’s even more! Not only do we have all of these loose photographs, we also have a good amount of scrapbooks that have been donated to us over the years. These collections of photographs also need to be properly indexed and identified so that they can be added to our collection and made available to you, our members and patrons.

So, dear members, now do you understand why your curator has been thinking of photographs so often? That leads me to my next thought – are there any other folks out there who, like Ralph, love old photographs and would like to look through some and take some notes? It does not need to be a burdensome thing – just a few hours a month is appreciated, and would go a long way toward moving some of our photographs from a box no one can look at to a collection that our members can search and use. Who knows – you might even find a photograph of a place you remember as a child, or of a person, perhaps even a relative, from the past. If this sounds like a good idea, or a way to pass some time and benefit your Society, please give us a call, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, think Spring!

-Donald Cornelius
Curator of Manuscripts

American Red Cross
(cont’d from previous page)
dressings prepared: 198,694 by 1942 along with 684 pints of donated blood. The continuance of the war caused continuing relief efforts; in 1944 the County Chapter collected an astounding $65,349.

1945 and 1946 saw a transition from wartime back to peace for the Chapter. Mrs. A.K. Schanse was the chair for this period, during which the Chapter continued to maintain public interest and contribution to relief efforts. Mrs. Fredric Horsch became the chair from 1946 to 1950, and it was during this time that the organization purchased its Chapter House on Main Street in Flemington.

A Defense Blood Program was instituted in the Korean War years of 1950-1953. This program and its trained volunteers became the nucleus for the Red Cross’ famous blood drives that continue today. Perhaps the most famous instance of Red Cross local services occurred during the Flood of 1955, during which “the Chapter lived through and successfully solved the many problems presented by the Floods.” In the 1960's the Chapter successfully expanded both its blood collection programs and its community outreach and preparedness education.

Throughout the subsequent years, the focus of the Red Cross has stayed the same, but the breadth of the Chapter's services has expanded dramatically. In a 1998 article in Strictly Hunterdon, it was noted that although the Chapter’s “first and foremost mission is to provide battlefield and disaster relief, it has changed a bit.” The Red Cross sponsors many public health and safety programs such as HIV/AIDS education, blood collection, swimming and water safety, CPR and first aid classes and certification, and veterans care and comfort. In an even further expansion of community outreach, the Red Cross also coordinates community consciousness programs which include picnics, Sunday Socials, and the organization of scouting efforts for projects and community service.

And, most familiar, the Red Cross is still always there when disaster strikes. When the Delaware River flooded in 1996 and again in 2004, the Red Cross was there to help with housing, meals, and vouchers for those who were displaced. When the gas pipeline exploded in 1996, the Red Cross was there. In fact, any time something happens in this county – whether it is to offer support for victims and troops in a foreign war, or to help a local family recover from a house fire – they are always there.

While it can accurately be said that the papers, printed materials, photographs and other materials the Society holds in our archives document the history of this worthy organization, they really go beyond that. With little imagination, it can be said that the papers of this organization go a long way to document the last 90 years of history of the Hunterdon Community through the records of its activities. Such a treasured history can make all of us glad to have an opportunity to benefit from the existence of both the Hunterdon County Chapter of the American Red Cross and its records.

Bibliography
Engelman, Frances H., and Dunham, Mary E. History of Hunterdon County Chapter American Red Cross. [1917]. HCHS Collection No. 70, Box 1, Folder No. 9.
Landis, Barbara. History of Hunterdon County Chapter American Red Cross (Rough Draft). March, 1943. HCHS Collection No. 70, Box 1, Folder No. 10a, 10b.
Wagner, Katherine E. History of Hunterdon County Chapter, American Red Cross. [1965]. HCHS Collection No. 70, Box 1, Folder No. 13.
Terenzi, Mark. “Gift of Time.” Strictly Hunterdon, January 22, 1998. HCHS Collection No. 70, Box 6, Folder 306.
QUICK/PRIMMER: Seeking info on parents of Tunis Quick (b. 2 Apr. 1796 in NJ & d. 16 Dec. 1873 in Cordova, IL), who married Phebe Primmer (b. 23 Aug. 1806 & d. 22 Feb. 1881 & dau of John Primmer and Mary Roberts) of Hopewell on 17 Feb. 1827. A.C. Quick book lists Tunis as son of John Quick, a harness maker in Trenton. This John was left a legacy in his father Teunis Quick’s will proved in 1802. Need verifiable link of Tunis to John. Denise Williams, 12898 W. Arizona Pl., Lakewood, CO 80228 (williamsdenise@comcast.net)

ROWE: Professor Emeritus Gail Rowe, University of Colorado, is looking for information about a forebear Philip J. Rowe, 1753-1817. It is believed he was from Oppenheim, Germany, and was part of Robert Hunter’s Naval stores operation in Dutchess County, NY. It’s believed that he came to Hunterdon. Any information will be appreciated. Contact Theodore A. Hagios, 9 Valley View Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822, (908)782-7079, or tedria@att.net.

TOMBSTONE FOUND: Pardon the expression, but a tombstone has popped up in Burlington, NJ: Dorothy Ann Welsch 1812-1826 pneumonia; Father William; Mother Cornelia Wyckoff Welsh; Married Somerset 20 June 1897; Brother Morris. It is alleged the original burial site was the Ringoes area, and the removal was for “a project.” Any information will be greatly appreciated as the Burlington people would like to see the tombstone re-erected at or near the original site. Contact Theodore A. Hagios, 9 Valley View Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822. (908)782-7079, or tedria@att.net

FAMILY REUNIONS

APGAR: 35th Annual Apgar Family Reunion, Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, at the Stanton Grange, Stanton, NJ. This year we are forming a committee to attend the 300th celebration of the Palatine immigration to the colony of NY (1710-2010) with this event along the Hudson River. Call George Apgar Jr. 732-297-6686 (www.apgarfamily.com)

PALATINE FAMILIES OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY: If you want to help plan the 300th (2010) celebration of the 1710 arrival of the first German Palatines in the American colony of New York, contact either George Apgar at 732-297-6686 or Jim Pickel at dotjimp@aol.com.