This year the book sale is set for Saturday, October 11 at the Archive Building, 67 River Road in Raritan Township. A few “flea market” items also will be on sale and tours of the state-of-the-art 2009 archive storage building will be given. Manuscript Curator Donald Cornelius and docents will be available to answer questions about the archives.

Books for the sale are drawn from the Society’s collections when there are two or three other copies or when, although of historical interest, they are not relevant to Hunterdon County history. Most of the books are hardcover, non-fiction, and from the 19th and 20th centuries. There are some pamphlets, most notably, Poor Richard’s Almanac, printed in 1766 by Benjamin Franklin.

Book sale coordinator Mary Ellen Soldavin calls several of the books “special,” specifically naming The Ice Crop: How to Harvest, Store, Ship and Use Ice with photographs and recipes by Theron L. Hiles in 1908; Log Cabins: How to Build and Furnish Them by William Wicks in 1889 with photographs and drawings of cabins built on or near the water in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut; and an 1829 leather-bound Greek Testament. Also, an 1812 bridge charter agreeing to building a bridge over the Delaware between Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and a miniature leather-bound book only four by two inches titled Psalms Carefully Suited to the Christian Worship from 1813 and completely readable.


Sorting for the sale is not yet complete, so more detailed information will be sent to the local press along with pricing ranges closer to the sale.

The selection has not been gone through by commercial book buyers or sellers, so shopping will be particularly interesting. All proceeds will support Society programs.

If you have questions, call Executive Director Linda Hahola at 908-782-1091. Volunteers who would like to help with the book sale are asked to call Trustee Mary Ellen Soldavin at 908.996.4512.
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.

Abegg, Edmund - Nine Diaries, and a typed autobiography of his time living with his grandfather, Hiram Abegg, on his farm in Flemington.

Allen, Charles, in memory of Marion Crisman Huff - Two CD’s containing transcripts of the Robbins Family Documents.

Barnes, Shirley More - Genealogical files for the Moore family.

Haver, Ella - Wood bat boat made by Samuel Bonnell, which he took to Lake Hopatcong every spring and fall.

Dr. James Pyatt’s [Ella’s fifth grandfather] apothecary scales and weights.

Brass lantern inscribed to Samuel L. Bonnell, Clinton, NJ. On bottom: A. France, Pat. 1861. It was carried by him in the Civil War.

Two copper and brass Civil War powder horns, one inscribed Samuel L. Bonnell, Clinton, NJ.

Leather shot holder with embossed hunting dog and tree design; shot is in a separate glass jar.

Wagon wheel measuring tool, or traveler, which measured the length of iron band needed to go around a wagon wheel.

Two transfer ware cups with no handles. One, ca. 1850, is decorated with drawings of MacDuff’s Castle and Berwick Solag. The second cup appears to be a Chinese-influenced design, ca. 1800. Ella had the cup through the descendants of the Fuller family, who came over on the Mayflower.

Family Bible of David Haver [Ella’s great, great grandfather], 1846. 

Columbus and Columbia, The Progress and Development of the Western World by James G. Blaine; 82 pages, n.d.

Nine family images: Grandmother Ella Margaret Risler and Grandfather Daniel Spencer Fox are ca. 1870-80 prints on albumen type paper; the smaller case image is a daguerreotype. The farm, established by the Barton Family in 1763, was described in Barton Hills, a collection of the papers of the Barton Family

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Three ca. 1850 quilts in excellent condition. Two of them are registered and written up in Herstory: Quilts of Hunterdon County by Veronica Micelli.

Wood chair with rush seat, ca. 1850, owned by David T. Leigh, three-time Mayor of Clinton. The chair was purchased by Samuel B. Haver from Minnie Ella and Cassy Leigh, sisters, for $39. Mr. Leigh was Mayor of Clinton three times and lived in the large mansion that is the present Town Hall.

Hunt, Janet - 18th century cupboard.

Hunterdon County 300th Committee - Signature quilt, ca. 1845.

Laxon, Margaret, in memory of Jeannie Marie Fitzpatrick - Needlepoint matted and framed with poem beginning, “The logs were hewn...”

Murray, Joan England - Genealogy of Brunnell and Allied Families.

Arms is extended to those members who have

Membership Report

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

Reported by Mary Ellen Soldavin, Membership Chair

John Allen, Ringoes, NJ

Richard Barber, Woodbridge, VA

Gayle Cayton, Willcox, AZ

Cyrena Condeni, Ridge, NY

John Kalajian, Flemington, NJ

Daniel Leeche, Flemington, NJ

Donna Lesniak, Evergreen Park, IL

Patricia Macci, Warren, MI

Naomi McCabe, Evergreen Park, IL

Patti Olsen, Flemington, NJ

Raymond Simmonds, Ringoes, NJ

Joan Spitzfoerson, Poland, NY

Derek Williamson, Ringoes, NJ

ATTENTION MEMBERS

To receive this newsletter electronically instead of a printed version through the mail, please email your request to huntendonhistory@embarqmail.com with ‘Electronic Newsletter’ in the subject line. We will email the newsletter in a PDF format to you before the printed version even reaches the post office! And best of all, all photos will be in FULL COLOR.

SOCIETY NOW FULFILLING RESEARCH REQUESTS

$25 per 2 hours of research. Go to www.hunterdonhistory.org/research-policy for forms and more info.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Society welcomes these experienced volunteers who are helping in the Library. Come in and meet them.

Jennifer Carlson, a researcher from Lebanon.

Melissa Jannuzzi, a sophomore at Rutgers who is a History major.

A big thank you is extended to Leslie Moore for his service to the Society. We wish him well in his new home in Pennsylvania.

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Hun terdon County was very seldom the original destination of European immigrants. Dutch settlers came for the most part from Brooklyn, Kingston and Staten Island in New York and from earlier New Jersey settlers in Sussex, Monmouth and Monmouth counties. English and Scots came west from Monmouth and north from Pennsylvania and old Burlington. The Germans mostly came from Philadelphia and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. These migrations occurred in the late 1600s and early 1700s. After the Revolutionary War, many of the children of these immigrants headed west and south in their turn. They helped to populate the frontier lands in places like Ohio and Kentucky, but more importantly the newly opened regions in western Pennsylvania and New York.

Possibly the single most important source for the study of the many connections of Hunterdon County families to Pennsylvania is the set of books called The Pennsylvania Archives. All told, there were 138 volumes published in nine series from 1892 to 1914, and they are available at the Society’s Hiram E. Deats Library. They provide a wealth of information crucial to being able to track just about any of the many connections of Hunterdon County families to Pennsylvania. These migrations occurred in the late 1600s and early 1700s. After the Revolutionary War, many of the children of these immigrants headed west and south in their turn. They helped to populate the frontier lands in places like Ohio and Kentucky, but more importantly the newly opened regions in western Pennsylvania and New York.

I n years past New Jersey was just one of theStrips of the Old York Road, a stagecoach run between Washington, DC and Philadelphia. In 1764 Surveyors Richard Holcombe, who lived at Corry’s Ferry, and Abraham Prall, who resided between Kingston and Reaville, called the town Reaville. The town also had two other names: “Manners’ Tavern” and later “Greenville,” but the name of Reaville stuck and was recorded on the maps. In 1745, Reaville was bypassed by the stage coach in favor of Flemington. In 1772, it was reported that there were 3,277 persons living in Hunterdon County; back then we were still Indian Territory.

Growing up in the Reaville area, I can remember a lot about how the town used to be, and even more was told to me about its history by the folks in this area. It was a busy little town with lots of small businesses. Reaville contained a church, a hotel, a schoolhouse, a butcher shop, a fur trader, a clockmaker, a gunsmith, two chicken farms, East Amwell’s Tax Collector’s office, a dairy farm, a creamery, a milk stand, and two general stores with a post office in one of them.

Because the church is the tallest building, all directions are given as though you are standing on the church steps looking out at the town.

To your left is a Y in the road where the Old York Road goes to the left and Amwell Road goes to the right. In the middle of the Y, there is a large building that was the first general store in town and it had the Reaville Post Office in one corner. It also was a home with the owners living above the store. Today the building is known as Traditions, a care facility for senior residents.

The hotel also was to the left of the church and next to the general store headed on Amwell Road in the direction of Clover Hill. There was a delivery lane between the general store and the hotel so that the businesses could get deliveries. After a while, the delivery lane became a shortcut between the Old York Road and Amwell Road, so that you would not have to make the sharp corner around the general store. The hotel had a bar and pool table and was a popular place for locals to go for a drink. The story goes that in the early 1900s one Halloween night one of the patrons of the bar got a little drunk, so some of the local men, took his horse drawn wagon apart and put it all back together again on the roof of the Hotel. When the man came out of the bar, he could not find his wagon! The old hotel has been since converted into apartments.

There was one chicken farm to the right contiguous to the church property, and another chicken farm on the corner of Manners Road. The Kaim Farm to the right, had about three acres of ground and four fairly large chicken coops. They also had a family cow and their son, Walter, rode his bicycle throughout the town selling raw milk and eggs. This is now a private residence, and a second home has been built on the same property, closer to the church.

The dairy farm was to the left of the church. Its barn sat in the middle of the round where the road forks again, this time left for Barley Sheaf Road and right for the Old York Road. Ralph Swarner milked cows in that barn, and for years had a milk stand at the very fork of the roads. Farmers delivered their ten-gallon, 82-pound cans of milk there for pickup and delivery to the creamery for processing. Years later the barn was converted into a house with a business on the ground level for the Krieg Electric Company. The Kriegs added additional buildings for their business over the years.

The second General Store opened up some time after the first one closed. It was to the right, diagonally across from the church. It had the first phone in the area, so everyone would go there to make a call. You picked up the phone and a live telephone operator answered and asked for the number or person’s name you wished to call. The operator put through your call. The store was later known as Mrs. Kennedy’s. It had a gas pump out front; it was a gathering spot with all types of candy was inside. There was bread, lunchmeats, soda, ice cream, and canned groceries, but also odds and ends like diaper pins, baby bottles, two-quart milk tins to carry raw milk, kerosene lamps, light bulbs, and newspapers.

The store opened early on Sunday morning so you could get your newspaper. It closed when church was about to begin and remained closed the rest of the day because Mrs. Kennedy was the church’s choir director. After Mrs. Eleanor Kennedy died, a number of other people tried to run the store but eventually it was closed. This property is now a private home.

The butcher shop was in a small building on Amwell Road, almost opposite from Manners Road. Carl Alvanter was the butcher.

The dairy trade was in the house of Mr. Sipler who would buy the animals that I trapped in the winter. Trapping was
was a charismatic speaker and preached here to a crowd of 5,000 persons. Governor Reading was a member of the congregation and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. He gave money for a silver communion chalice to be purchased on his death, and this chalice with the hallmarks made by DuBois is now in the Presbyterian Church Museum in Philadelphia. The church building originally was located in the middle of the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery and was moved into the town of Reaville in 1838. There is a long history of the church, but the Presbytery closed its doors in 2006 against the protest of the local congregation and many others. The congregation then disbursed to numerous other local churches. The church building was sold to the Presbytery to a buyer, and then was resold by him to a past parishioner, and reopened its doors in November 2009 as Reaville Church, Inc. a Nondenominational Christian Church with services on Sunday mornings at 9:30 and Bible Studies on Thursday nights at 7:30. Of all the small home-based businesses, public, or commercial buildings in the hamlet of Reaville, the church is the only building still being used for its original purpose.

300TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE DONATES QUILT

This year 1845 signature quilt was found by the Society’s Textile Curator Judy Grow in a private collection in Kokomo, IN. She secured it for the recent exhibition of Hunterdon quilts and negotiated with the negotiators/landowners and the new owners agreed to cover the cost as part of its lasting legacy to the County. The Society will preserve the quilt with the other 50+ in our collection.

The collection features signatures of several Kingwood residents and is believed to have been owned by Deborah Kugler who signed both the front and back. The pattern is unknown among today’s published pattern encyclopedias. The Kugler family genealogy has been researched to accompany the quilt.

Collection No. 128, Clark-Dunham Family Photographs Collection No. 128, the Clark-Dunham Family Photographs, contains images from the Clark-Dunham family. The majority of the images are studio portraits, but only a few are identified. Of chief interest are the identifiable family photos round out our recent collection. If anyone can identify these images, we would greatly appreciate it, and that information will of course be published on the website for the collection in question. So here is your opportunity to help with this issue. According to Wikipedia, “Crowdsourcing is the process of obtaining needed images, data, or ideas, by soliciting contributions from a large group of people, and especially from an online community.” In this specific type of crowdsourcing, we will ask our members and other interested parties to help us identify the names and approximate dates, of the subjects of photographs in the Clark-Dunham and other collections. On our website, there will appear a story on crowdsourcing, with a link to a group of images from the collection. If anyone can identify these images, we would greatly appreciate it, and that information will of course be published on the website for the collection in question. So here is everyone’s opportunity to become, at least in a small way, one of our very special archival volunteers!
Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Harrison of Plainfield, NJ, stopped in front of the Clinton Democrat office with their “Gospel Wagon.” The Harrisons made two tours of the United States in their wagon between 1903 and 1906, preaching the Gospel with no collections of fees or charity for support.

Image Date: ca. 1903-1906.