



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

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The Jubilee of 1826

by Marfy Goodspeed

On July 4th, 230 years ago, Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. (Congress declared independence on July 2nd, adopted the Declaration on July 4th, and the delegates began to sign the document on August 2nd). This year, as in every year since then, Americans will celebrate with Fourth of July parades, and some will even listen to a reading of the Declaration. Today, even though we feel threatened as Americans, we also have the knowledge that our country was built on very sound, if somewhat flawed, foundations, and that the government established so long ago has succeeded admirably. Not perfectly, but admirably.

In 1826, people were not so certain of their government. The 50th anniversary of the Declaration was almost a surprise to many who wondered if the country could succeed. A democracy based on a federal system was a daring experiment. So, when people realized that the Jubilee was approaching, they knew they really had something special to celebrate.

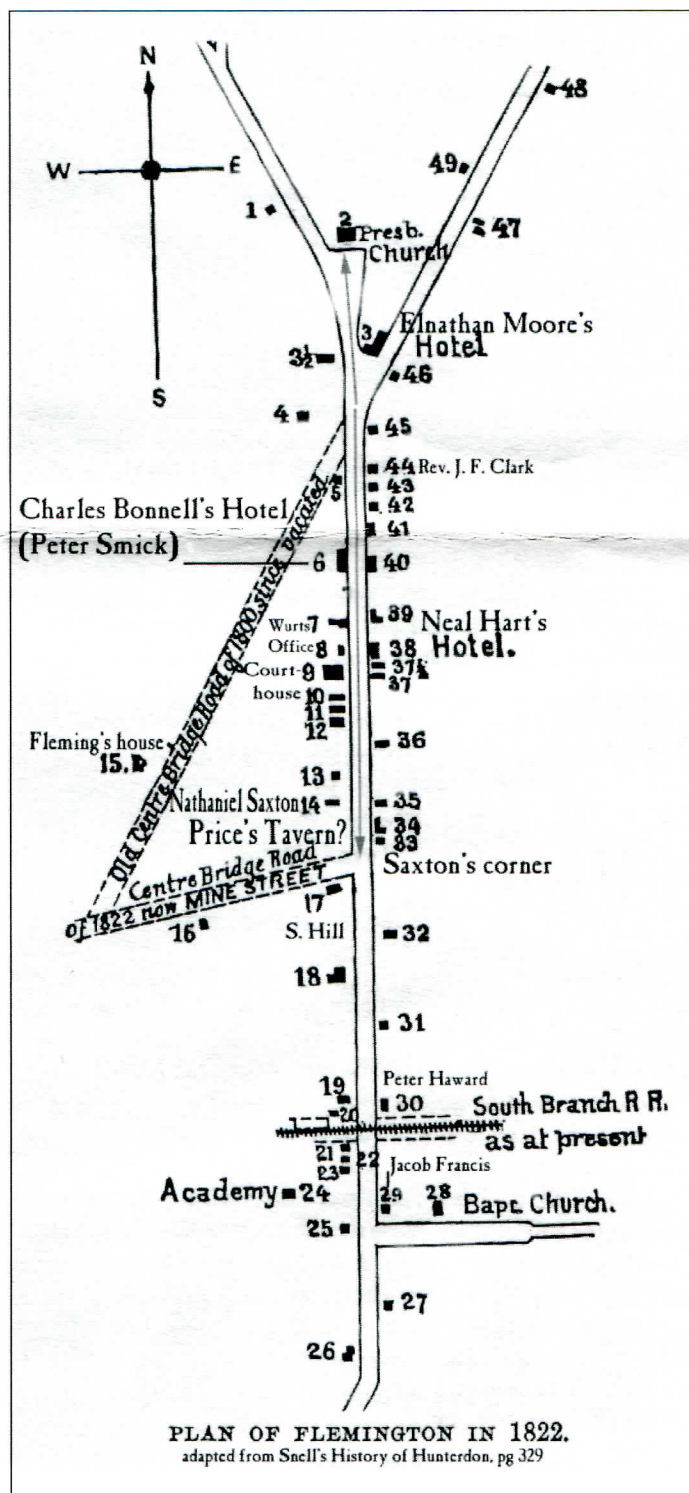
By 1826, Fourth of July celebrations were already a well-established tradition, beginning with the first one in Philadelphia in 1777, and a ritual seemed universally accepted: a parade accompanied by "bands of music," from the courthouse to the church where a local or visiting minister would give a sermon, songs would be sung, a specially chosen person would read the Declaration, the minister would give his benediction, then everyone would parade back to the center of town and disperse, some to their homes, others to a hotel for a "handsome repast" followed by toasts. All would then go home feeling they had shared in the patriotic expression of appreciation for their exceptional country and for the sacrifices made to create it.¹

Such was the case in Flemington and Lambertville in 1826. Thanks to Charles George, editor of the *Hunterdon Gazette*

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2006 Calendar

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 23-27 Aug. | 4-H Hunterdon County Agricultural Fair, Route 179, Ringoes |
| 28 October | Camp Echo Hill Reunion
2-5 p.m. Lilac Drive, Clinton |
| 12 Nov. | Fall meeting |



PLAN OF FLEMINGTON IN 1822.
adapted from Snell's History of Hunterdon, pg 329

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Membership Report

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

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Notes and Queries

Address correspondence to Genealogical Committee. One query listing of ten lines free to members. 35 cents per line over ten; nonmember rate is 25 cents per line. Remember to enclose a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) with genealogical correspondence if you expect a reply.

KERN, MELICK, ROELOFSON, TRIMMER, VAN SYCKLE: Am trying to locate the John (Johannes) Trimmer (d. 1750) *German Bible* Rev. Chambers mentioned in his *Early Germans Of NJ* (1895) and locate other related Trimmers. John Trimmer, b. 1757, m. Catherine Roelofson, was the oldest surviving son of Matthias, b. ca. 1723 who was the oldest son of Johannes. Perhaps the Bible went down the line of Jacob Trimmer, b. 1757, m. Mary Kern. The oldest Trimmer Bible I know of exists is from Jacob D. Trimmer [1802~ 1864], who m. Susanne Melick in New Germantown, NJ. She was a dau/o Tunic Melick [1784-1862] and Sarah Van Syckle, m. 18 May 1905. Sarah was the sister of Peter Whitfield Melick. ADD: Dr. Robert Whitfield Trimmer, 15114 Durham Way East, Granger, IN 46530 e-mail: trimmerrw@aol.com.

HEATH: The Heath Family Association invites interested persons to the "Descendants of Andrew Heath and Elijah Heath Sr. to the 2006 Heath Family Reunion. It is being held on Saturday 23 September 2006 (noon to dusk) in Knox Grove in Washington Crossing State Park Titusville NJ. For information check the Reunion website coming soon at: www.heathreunion.org or contact Nancy Heath Dallaire at Nancy117@netzero.net.

HOW TO JOIN

Hunterdon County Historical Society
 114 Main Street
 Flemington, NJ 08822

Please enroll me as a member of your Society

Annual	\$15.00 per year
Family	\$18.00 per year
Contributing	\$25.00 per year
Sustaining	\$50.00 per year
Institutional	\$50 and up per year
Life	\$250.00
Patron	\$1,000.00 or more
Student	\$3.00 per year (18 years of age or less)
Century Club	\$100.00

for which I enclose my remittance in the amount of \$

Name _____

Address _____

Wilda Holcombe, Senior Society member dies

Miss Wilda Holcombe had been a member of this Society since January 1957, over 49 years. She died 6 April at her residence in Raritan Township and was survived by her sister, Evelyn E. Holcombe, to whom we extend sincere sympathy.

Daughter of William S. and Annie Prall Holcombe, she resided all her life on the Raritan Township farm where she was born. A graduate of Trenton Normal College (now The College of New Jersey) she was a lifelong teacher.

The Jubilee of 1826 *(Continued from page 981)*

and *Farmers Weekly Advertiser*, we have a record of that celebration.² And, thanks to the hard work of Bill Hartman and his volunteers, we have ready access to that record on CD.³ Charles George came to Flemington to commence publishing a newspaper in 1825. He had been running a printing shop in Philadelphia, and it is likely that he was invited to Flemington by a group of men who met in February 1825 to discuss the need for a paper in town.⁴ The first issue of his "Hunterdon Gazette" came out on March 24, 1825, which gave George a few months practice before the July 4th celebration of 1825, and that event gave him some preparation for covering the far more important one in 1826.

That year, on June 5th, some citizens met "at the house of" Mr. Smick in Flemington to prepare. Peter Smick had just taken over the tavern of Charles Bonnell in May.⁶ It was located on Main Street where the Post Office now stands.⁷ The group met to name a "Committee of Arrangements" to plan for the upcoming big day,

"to make such arrangements as they shall deem requisite for celebrating the day in a manner corresponding with the magnitude of the cause which gave it existence. Messrs. P. I. Clark, Wurts, and Miller were unanimously appointed the committee, and have already commenced preparations for a splendid celebration."

The readers of the *Gazette* would have known immediately who Messrs. P. I. Clark, Wurts, and Miller were. That is no longer the case, so a little background is helpful here.

Peter I. Clark (1790-1863, son of Rev. Joseph Clark and Margaret Imlay) was an attorney who came to Flemington from New Brunswick in 1815 and had become prominent, probably thanks to his "noble, commanding presence, frank and genial countenance, rich, musical voice, courteous dignity, and suavity of manner."⁸ In years to come he was an active supporter of Andrew Jackson, the Hunterdon militia, the Flemington Presbyterian Church and the Hunterdon Bible Society. He delivered an oration when the cornerstone was laid for the new courthouse in 1828. He was the county prosecutor from 1828 to 1832, and was elected to the Legislative Council in 1831-32. In 1826 he was 36 years old.

Alexander Wurts (1799-1881, son of John Wurts) was born in Morris County and graduated from the College of New Jersey (Princeton University) in 1815. He studied law and then moved to Flemington to practice it. He also became involved in politics and was elected to the NJ Assembly in 1824.⁹ In 1823, he was named an executor of the estate of Joseph Bonnell Esq., a very prominent and wealthy Flemington lawyer who died at the age of 30. A few years later, in 1831, Wurts married Bonnell's sister, Mary. In 1826, Wurts was 27 years old.

Also 27 years old was Andrew Miller, born in Somerset County in 1799. After being admitted to the bar in Somerset, he came to Flemington about 1824 "taking the place [probably the office] of Joseph Bonnell, then recently deceased."¹⁰ In September 1826, Miller joined Charles George and Rev. John F. Clark, Presbyterian Minister of Flemington, to open "a Classical School" called the Flemington Academy.¹¹ He served on the Board of Freeholders in 1833.

What is interesting about these three men is that they were all attorneys who had been born outside of Hunterdon County, but had come to Flemington between 1815 and 1822. One historian has described how "county seats in New Jersey . . . provided focal points for the flow of political information and resources, and they attracted men who aspired to public office and professional achievement."¹² This was especially true in the years following the War of 1812 when the economy was expanding again. These three men are good examples. And Charles George might be added to the group, even though he was not a lawyer.

Although Flemington was the county seat of Hunterdon, it was part of the much larger township of Amwell (consisting of present-day Flemington, Raritan, Delaware, East & West Amwell, Stockton and Lambertville). Back in 1808, "Flemington was but a small village. From the Presbyterian church to the Baptist there were but sixteen houses, of which three were occupied as taverns."¹³ It was not much larger by 1826. The only house not located on Main Street (also known as the road to Trenton) was the one built by Samuel Fleming on today's Bonnell Street.¹⁴

A week after their meeting, the committee of arrangements announced in the *Gazette* its plan for the day. It was quite explicit, beginning with a salute of 50 guns at sunrise. The procession was to assemble at 11 o'clock in front of the "house of N. Price" (Gen. Nathan Price), at the corner of Mine and Main Streets.¹⁵

The order of the procession was carefully laid out; the procession would march to the Presbyterian Church, where "Exercises in the Church" would be heard. Once the program had concluded, the procession would reform and march to the house of Mr. Smick, where "a salute of 24 guns [would] be given in honor of the States of the Union." Dinner would be served at Mr. Smick's to those who had taken the trouble to make a reservation.

The Marshal for the day was John T. Blackwell, Esq., another lawyer, who came to Flemington with his family from Hopewell about 1800, at about the age of 28. He quickly became prominent, being named to the Court of Common Pleas by the legislature in 1804 and 1808. In 1810 he became the County Clerk, a position he held until 1829. In 1811 he was named Surrogate and held that position, concurrently with that of County Clerk, until 1818. By 1826, he was in his 50s, semi-retired and highly esteemed.

As planned, the celebration began with the ringing of "the village bell, the display of the National Flag, and a salute of 50 guns." At 11 a.m., 42 Revolutionary War veterans (including two black men, Lewis English and Jacob Francis) "reported themselves to the Committee of Arrangements." They were given badges of broad white ribbon, stamped with the American Eagle, and the words and figures "Survivors of 1776," [which] were affixed to the left button-hole of their coats." The *Gazette* listed the names of the veterans as follows [dates and home towns have been added when known¹⁶]:

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The Jubilee of 1826 *(Continued from page 983)*

Jacob Anderson [1754-11 May 1837, Bethlehem, carrying the banner '1776'],

Samuel Barber [1756-23 May 1847, Amwell/Delaware]

William Bennett [_____, Amwell]

John Besson, Sr. [1750-24 July 1842, Amwell/Raritan]

William Bilby [abt 1745-aft 1826, Shamokin Valley, PA and Amwell]

William Bowne [4 Aug 1750-1842, Amwell/Cherryville]

Robert Butler [abt 1740- July 1831, Bethlehem]

Andrew Butterfaus [1758-abt 1850, Amwell/Delaware, carrying the 'Saratoga' banner]

Capt. Tunis Case [1761-21 Aug 1846, Amwell/Delaware]

John Chamberlin [1742-1830, Alexandria]

James Clark, Sr. [1755-20 Dec 1828, of Flemington, carrying the 'Monmouth' banner]

Albert Conover [_____-bef. Jan 20, 1836, Amwell]

Adam Conrad [1744-after 1834, Kingwood]

Paul Cool, Sr. [_____, Raritan]

Samuel Corwine [1762-1837, Amwell]

Nicholas Danbury [_____, Amwell]

William Danbury [_____, Amwell]

William C. Dilts [1763-20 Oct 1848, Amwell]

Lewis English [_____, Amwell]

Daniel Ent [1757-30 Jun 1847, Amwell/Delaware]

Joseph Fish [_____- after 1830, Amwell]

Jacob Francis [1753-26 Jul 1836, Flemington]

William Fulper [_____-abt 1830, Amwell]

Peter Geary [1751-aft. 1830, Amwell]

Capt. Jon. Higgins [1755-11 Oct 1829, Amwell]

John Howe [abt 1754-after 1840, Amwell/Raritan, carrying the 'Princeton' banner]

Adam Hummer [_____-abt 1830, Kingwood]

Martin Johnson [5 May 1754-7 Sep 1828, Amwell/Delaware]

Christopher Kuhl [_____, Amwell]

John Maxwell, Sr. [abt 1740-15 Feb 1828, Flemington]

James Metlar [2 May 1754-11 July 1830, Alexandria]

Richard Mills [_____, Bethlehem, carrying the 'Yorktown' banner]

George Pownell [_____, Amwell/Locktown]

Tunis T. Quick [15 Mar 1762 -11 May 1836, Amwell/Raritan]

David Schamp [1754-1839, Readington, carrying the 'Trenton' banner]

George N. Schamp [1750-15 Apr 1840, Readington]

John Servis [Sep 1760-24 Mar or 9 Apr 1834, Amwell]

Michael Shurts [4 Jul 1760-23 May 1840, Lebanon]

Moses Stout [24 Jun 1750-2 or 13 Mar 1833, Amwell]

William Taylor [abt 1754-3 Aug 1838, Amwell/Raritan]

Elijah Thatcher [_____-1850, Amwell/Delaware]

John Trimmer [1762-6 Dec 1844, Amwell/Raritan]

Jerome Waldron [abt 1760-14 Jun 1848, Amwell/Raritan]

These gentlemen, who ranged in age from about 63 to 86 years, decided who would carry the banners (those carrying banners had participated in the battles they represented). They

also chose "officers for the day," Samuel Barber, Esq. and Capt. Tunis Case, both of Amwell/Delaware. The veterans then proceeded to the courthouse to await the parade.

The various military companies lined up for the procession on the dirt road by Nathan Price's house. They were followed by "the Jackson band of music," a standard bearer, members of the clergy, the orator of the day, the day's reader of the Declaration, and the Committee of Arrangements. These were followed by a "choir of 13 females dressed in white" representing the original 13 states, and a younger group of 11 women, all wearing badges with the names of the states. Then came "a great assemblage of females from all parts of the country" and they were followed by "an immense concourse of citizens and strangers." One wonders who was left to watch the parade. It is also very interesting that so many women took part, as it was generally rare for women to participate in public demonstrations.

Starting from Gen. Price's House near Mine Street, the parade marched to the Presbyterian church to the tune of "Hail Columbia."¹⁷ Charles George observed that the band continued playing until "the whole audience were seated in the church." The church was well-prepared for the great event, decorated with "large wreaths of laurel" which "encircled the whole interior of the building." The pillars were "most delicately entwined with the richest of the Evergreen, while the Holy altar was literally embowered with all that could delight the eye or gratify the taste; the whole being studded with the richest and choicest of the flowers of the forest and garden." Both prose and church were heavily 'embowered.'¹⁸

After an invocation by Rev. John F. Clark, and a song from the choir, the Declaration was read by none other than Alexander Wurts, followed by another "ode from the choir." Then the Orator of the day, Andrew Miller, gave his speech. It is a little surprising that two men from the Committee on Arrangements ended up with the principle speaking roles. But perhaps the more prominent figures in Flemington declined in their favor. Miller concluded his speech with an acknowledgement of the veterans. As Charles George wrote:

"Upon their being especially addressed by him, they spontaneously rose in their seats, and continued standing with the most fixed and solemn attention. Few witnessed this scene without emotion. This corps was assembled for the first time since the revolution, and to-day they came out to test their love of country, and to bequeath afresh the inheritance that they had so dearly purchased."

At this point, the editor remarked that "however a niggardly economy on their part may withhold from the poor old soldier a bare living, the voice of the people awards to him a generous support." He was referring to the failure of Congress during its last session to pay the debts due to the veterans.¹⁹

After another song and the benediction, the procession re-assembled and marched to the accompaniment of the Jackson band to "the house of Mr. Peter Smick." Once there, a 24-gun salute was given, one round for each of the states of the Union at that time. Then the old veterans were treated to a meal by Mr. Smick, during which time they recalled their wartime experiences. After the veterans had finished their dinner, at 3

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p.m. "a large company" sat down to eat in Mr. Smick's tastefully decorated dining room. In keeping with a tendency to appoint officers for any and all occasions, a "President of the table" was named (veteran Jacob Anderson Esq.) and for good measure, a Vice President (George Maxwell Esq.). Exactly what their responsibilities were is hard to say, unless it involved maintaining proper decorum. Once the dinner had finished, "the cloth was removed" and the toasting began.

As was customary, 13 toasts were first given, by persons unnamed in the *Gazette*. The subjects were: The Day, The Federal Union, [George] Washington, The Remnant of 1776, The Jubilee, the President of the United States, The Governor of New-Jersey, The State of New-Jersey, Samuel L. Southard [Secr. of the Navy], The Republics of South America, Greece, the new States and "Woman" ("A dish of contrarities; but one we never tire of nor forget.") The *Gazette* does not say if women were present to hear this toast, but the 13th toast was always for the women or "the Fair."

These were followed by toasts given by "volunteers," whom the *Gazette* did identify. Most were members of well-established Hunterdon families: Jacob Anderson (the president), George Maxwell (vice president), Mr. Charles Bonnell, George C. Maxwell Esq., Samuel G. Opdycke Esq., Zaccur Prall M.D., John Waterhouse Jr., Capt. H[enry] M. Kline, Maj. Wm. Hunt, Capt. Peter I. Case, Capt. Peter Ewing, Capt. Jacob Voorhees. The newcomers were, in addition to Miller, Clark, Wurts and Blackwell already described, James H. Blackwell (son of John), Leonard N. Bowman [Boeman], and Adams C. Davis.

Judging by the toasts given, the sentiment was clearly with Andrew Jackson, despite his having lost the presidential election of 1824 in the House of Representatives to John Quincy Adams. Only one toast is recorded for the President, but Jackson received two by name, along with others favoring a future election. From Samuel G. Opdycke: "Gen. Andrew Jackson — defeated once, but how? That's the question. We hope to fight that battle o'er again." Or from Capt. Henry M. Kline: "God save the republic; but the 4th of March 1829 [when the next president would be inaugurated] will tell a tale, the resolutions of Adams brethren of Somerset [a reference to Samuel Southard] to the contrary notwithstanding."

There was some dry humor offered by Charles Bonnell, who toasted the last session of Congress, saying: "Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee rise; I wish to publish a four hours speech on this question."

Other subjects for toasts were the Delaware & Raritan Canal, Gen. Bolivar, the Congress at Panama, "the venerable Thomas Jefferson," Gen. William Maxwell, Greece and Missolonghi, and by Peter I. Clark Esq., to "the Judiciary of the United States, we tremble for its extension upon the basis assumed in the last congress. Heaven protect this precious repository of our liberties from the intrusion of bold speculation." In April 1826, Congress debated legislation to increase the number of judges on the Supreme Court from 7 to 10. The legislation, which eventually failed, was meant to deal with the huge amount of litigation coming from the western states where so many land titles were being contested.

The Delaware & Raritan Canal was still just a dream in 1826, inspired by the success of the Erie Canal, which opened in 1825. General Bolivar was leading a movement for independence of all South America from Spain. The Congress at Panama was intended to create an alliance between the newly independent South American countries and the United States (it failed).

Greece and Missolonghi were matters of interest similar to South America — the struggle of other countries to win independence from colonial powers. But Greece was a special case, with its history as the birthplace of democratic government. Missolonghi was a fortress where Greeks hoped to take a stand against the Turks there, reports of its fall appeared in April 1826. The Greeks had vowed to die rather than be captured; articles in the paper mentioned as many as 8-10,000 died.

Gen. William Maxwell was one of Hunterdon County's genuine war heroes, in both the French and Indian and the Revolutionary Wars; he died in 1796.²⁰

The death of Thomas Jefferson on this day, as well as of John Adams, was not known to the residents of Flemington. Recall the toast given by Andrew Miller to "The venerable Thomas Jefferson." No mention was made of it in the description of the celebration given in the *Hunterdon Gazette*, published on July 12th, a week after Jefferson and Adams died, other than a brief notice at the end of the story on Lambertville's parade. A week later, lengthy stories were published about the two great men, and Charles George made these comments:

"We are not the first who have remarked the striking coincidence of events which, on the jubilee of our national independence, bereaved the country of two of its revered sires, just fifty years from the day on which they signed the Declaration of Independence. — But one of the chosen band remains — Charles Carroll of Maryland."

After the toasts were given, a salute was fired (presumably outdoors) by the Company of Infantry headed by Capt. Jacob Voorhees and Capt. Peter Ewing, followed by more music from the much-appreciated Jackson band. The editor congratulated everyone involved on a successful event, without any incident of rowdiness or rude behavior. As a former resident of Philadelphia, Charles George could appreciate the way Flemington celebrated its Jubilee. In his editorial a week later he wrote:

"This auspicious day was held, in this village, with unusual demonstrations of joy; and to a stranger it would perhaps be impossible to give an adequate expression of the kind and degree of feeling excited upon this interesting occasion. . . . There is something in a village celebration of great events, that has a character peculiar to itself. Borrowing nothing from the imposing and sometimes unmeaning pageantry of a city celebration, it exhibits the simplicity of an ardent and honest zeal to contribute her utmost to the general swell of exaltation."²¹

The Celebration at Lambertville

Lambertville (as it was generally called at this time) was a different place from Flemington, although it followed the time-honored formula for July 4ths, with the proper parade, organized by a "Committee of Arrangement," which in Lambertville's case included "a company of boys dressed for

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the occasion, under the care and direction of captains Lambert and Rounsavell." Lambertville's "ladies" were escorted to the church ahead of the rest, rather than follow as part of the parade. At the church there was

"1, an invocation to the throne of Grace by the Rev. Mr. Van Lieu;²² 2, an ode composed by C. B. Phillips for the occasion, was sung by an excellent choir under his direction; 3, prayer by Mr. Van Lieu; 4, another appropriate ode; 5, reading of the Declaration of Independence; 6, Hail Columbia by the band; 7, oration; 8, anthem, strike the cymbals, words adapted by C. B. Phillips; 9, Benediction by the Rev. P. O. Studdiford."

The citizens of Lambertville were joined by those of New Hope in the parade to the church.²³ Lambertville was more oriented to the river and its sister village on the other side, than towards the center of the county. It was a far more commercial town than Flemington, as it always had the benefit of river traffic. Lambertville seemed to feel itself in competition with Flemington which became apparent after the county courthouse in Flemington burned down in 1828. Lambertville citizens immediately began promoting the idea of moving the county seat to their town, and wrote lengthy letters to the *Gazette* describing the advantages of their town over Flemington's. But in 1826 Flemington won hands down when it came to the number of war veterans in its parade.

After the ceremonies at the church, the parade returned to "the east side of the bridge," where the New Hope residents returned across the river, and the Lambertville residents "sat down to an excellent dinner at the hotel prepared by John S. Prall. The Marshall of the day and president of the dinner was Major William Garrison, while Dr. John Lilly was chosen Vice president. After the cloth was removed, the toasts began. As with Flemington, the *Gazette* did not identify those who gave the first toasts, but did name the volunteers. They were:

From old families — Mr. Jos. Wood, Mr. John Hoppock, Dr. Wm. Coryell, Alex. Coryell, C. B. Phillips, G. W. Rittenhouse, J. B. Smith, J. W. Coryell, G. Abbott, J. Chamberlin, John H. Coryell, Capt. John Lambert, Henry Thatcher, J. Thatcher and probably Thos. Thompson. The 'new men' were Mr. Stewart of Philadelphia, Mr. Delavan, Capt. R. H. Knowles, and J. Ashmore. The pattern was similar to Flemington's — the old families dominated, but new men with ambition took active roles in the life of the community.

Many toasts were given — two for "The Day we celebrate," six for the United States or "our Government," one for The Governor of New-Jersey, one for Dr. Geo. Holcombe, "our representative in congress," one for The Secretary of the Navy [Samuel Southard] and one for Gen. Lafayette. Also toasted were De Witt Clinton, The Delaware and Raritan Canal, "Our South American brethren," the Greeks, "The American Fair" and The Washington Band.

There were toasts for the war veterans and the militia, and for Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, this last one drunk standing. Andrew Jackson received six toasts, including one that hoped that "the 4th of March 1829 place him in the presidential chair." Unlike Flemington, John Quincy Adams

also received toasts. Two were disparaging, like the one from J. B. Smith, "The President of the U. States — may he learn by 4 years experience that honor gained by barter and intrigue is but a crown of thorns," and two were actually positive. One of the positive ones was given by Henry Thatcher ("the people's choice as elected by the constitution") and the other by one of the unnamed original toasters ("with the happiness and prosperity of his country ever in view, he has nothing to fear from the virulent tongue of calumny, the monster of disappointed ambition.")

One wonders what the atmosphere was like as these toasts were given. How much animosity was there between Jackson and Adams supporters? The *Gazette* claimed all was harmony. "The [Lambertville] company separated at an early hour, highly gratified with the entertainment of the day."

Speaking of the Flemington event, Charles George wrote:

"It is a cause of congratulation, that though many things were encountered in the course of the day in which in rude hands there is no small risk, though the procession was perhaps the largest ever assembled in this place, and the church crowded so that many were obliged to stand during all the exercises, not a single accident occurred to mar in the least degree the good feelings which predominated on this day. Before the darkness came upon us, our village was restored to its wonted repose."

No other July 4th would quite live up to the intensity of the one celebrated in 1826. Judging by reports in the *Gazette*, Flemington did not have one every year. Some years (1837, 1840, 1845, 1851-54, 1856) there was no celebration in Hunterdon County worth reporting.²⁴ With the presence of so many Revolutionary War veterans, gathered together for the first time since the war had ended, the 4th of July of 1826 was a singular experience.

Independence Day was a non-partisan political holiday at which all were welcomed. But the coming years of the Jackson administration brought much tumult to Hunterdon County, as they did to the rest of the country, and this was reflected in subsequent 4th of July celebrations. Judging by the toasts given in 1826, it seems that those present had an inkling of what was coming.

1 Fireworks were not a part of 4th of July celebrations in Hunterdon County in the 1820s and 1830s. They were used in Philadelphia in 1777, and many towns in the United States made fireworks a regular part of their festivities. But a review of the *Hunterdon Gazette* indicates they were not used in Hunterdon until 1848, at a celebration held in Centreville.

2 It is summarized in James P. Snell, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties* (Philadelphia; 1881), pg 329-330.

3 Readers can purchase their own copies of the *Gazette* on CD from the Hunterdon Co. Historical Society.

4 Hubert G. Schmidt, *The Press in Hunterdon County, 1825-1925*, Flemington: Hunterdon County Democrat, 1960-61, pg 2.

5 Common expression in the 19th century to designate an inn or tavern, although it is not a hard and fast rule that a tavern is always referred to. A person advertising in the *Gazette* to sell his property would direct readers to meet at the house of the subscriber, who was not an innkeeper.

6 Snell, pg. 330.

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The Jubilee of 1826 *(Continued from page 986)*

7 Snell, pg. 328-29, with Flemington map of 1822. The only tavern license for Peter Smick in the County. Archives was for a license in Flemington in 1829. His application was signed by Henry Groff Adams C. Davis, Andrew Miller, J. H. Blackwell, Alexander Wurts, Charles George, Elnathan Moore, Ralph H. Knowles, John S. Wyckoff, Charles Bonnell, Thomas Capner, David Reading and Sam Hill [#1332].

8 Snell, pg 211. His wife was Cynthia Risler of New York.

9 Snell, pg 208. He was re-elected for the terms of 1828-32.

10 Snell pg 207; Snell's biography of Miller does not give his parentage. Alexander Wurts did not occupy Joseph Bonnell's office, as he had moved in 1820 into the building previously occupied by Samuel Southard.

11 An advertisement in the *Hunterdon Gazette* [No. 79, Sept. 20, 1826] announced it would open in November 1826 with room, board and tuition for the year costing \$110. Unlike many academic institutions of the time, it, remained in business well past the 1850s.

12 Philip C. Davis in Stellhorn, P. A, Ed. (1979). *Jacksonian New Jersey*. Trenton, New Jersey Historical Commission.

13 From Peter Haward's diary, in Snell 328.

14 When Flemling built his house in 17__, the only road was the one to Howell's Ferry (Stockton). Main Street did not exist; it was surveyed as the road to Trenton by Nathaniel Saxton in 1805 [HCHS 0005/3:56]. See the Snell map of 1822 for the vacation of the old road to the ferry.

15 There are two questions to answer regarding Nathan Price: 1) did he run a tavern? 2) where was it? Writers have stated there were three taverns in Flemington: the northern one near the Presbyterian Church run by Elnathan Moore, the middle one owned by Charles Bonnell and run by Peter Smick and the southern one owned and run by Neal Hart, later called the Union Hotel. Yet newspaper references to "the house of Gen. Nathan Price" are frequent. The Hunterdon Brigade Board met there every year from 1831 to 1838, and in 1829, the Trenton & Flemington Mail Coach left Flemington from the house of Nathan Price, innkeeper. In the March 4, 1832 issue of the *Gazette*, there is a notice from Thomas Stout that he is moving "to a large and commodious shop now erecting on the corner lot of Samuel Hill, Esq. Immediately next Gen Price tavern." So we must conclude there were four taverns in Flemington.

Determining just where the house of Gen. Price was located has proven difficult. There are no deeds showing his purchase of land in Flemington; presumably, after retiring from his tavern business in Ringoes, he rented a house in Flemington. According to the 1822 [Snell pg 329] map of Flemington, Samuel Hill's pottery was located at the southwest corner of Main and Mine Streets, and his large house was a short distance south on Main Street. The only tavern license for Nathan Price at the Hunterdon Archives is one dated 1829 for a tavern "where I now dwell at the new establishment called Saxton's corner in the village of Flemington." The 1822 map shows Nathaniel Saxton living just north of the intersection of Mine and Main, which must, therefore, be "Sexton's corner." I still cannot say exactly where Price's tavern was, but we're close.

Price's license was signed by most of the luminaries of Flemington at the time: George Maxwell, Charles Bonnell, William Maxwell, Alexander Wurtz, Charles George, Thomas Capner, James W. Hart, Samuel Hill, Titus Quick, John P. Quick, James Clarke and Joseph Case [plus one illegible; Hunterdon Co. Archives, License #1349, May 1829].

16 Sources checked: Snell's History of Hunterdon; Hunterdon Co. Wills and Estates index; Obituaries from the *Hunterdon Ga-*

zette; Hunterdon Co. Historical Society Bible Records, Cemetery Records and Deats Genealogical Files; Fred Sisser, "Hunterdon's Revolutionary War Veterans."

17 Columbia was the goddess of Liberty, a feminization of Columbus,

18 For a description of the church as it appeared in 1826, see Snell pg 310-311; Rev. Clark had a new pulpit installed in 1827 (Snell pg 312).

19 As described in an article from the "New York Literary Gazette" reprinted in the July 5th edition of the *Gazette*.

20 Snell 251. See "General William Maxwell" by John F. Schenk in HCHS News. Vol. 12, No. 2, pg 197-205.

21 *Hunterdon Gazette*, No 69, July 12, 1826.

22 Probably Rev. John Van Lieu of Readington.

23 In the case of both Flemington and Lambertville, the editor referred to "the church: as the destination for the parade without naming the church, as if there were only one church in each town, which was not the case. Since the benediction was given by Rev. Peter O. Studdiford, we can assume the church referred to was the new Presbyterian church on Union Street (see Snell pg 274-75).

24 According to Snell, the last one celebrated in Flemington was in 1860 [pg 324].



Recent Bequest

Levesley Bequest

Life member Janet Moreau Levesley died in October 2004, a resident of East Grinstead, Sussex, England. Her parents, D. Howard Moreau and Dale Simmonds Moreau, had lived in Flemington and he owned the *Hunterdon County Democrat*. Mrs. Levesley and her husband, Michael Levesley, settled on his ancestral farm: in East Grinstead, south of London after they were married in 1965 Her financial bequest, for which we are appreciative, has recently been received by the Society.

Condolences to her family, husband, Michael, son Mark, daughter Christina Levesley Hoseason and granddaughter Emma V. Hoseason, all of England, and her sisters, Dale Moreau Killinger of NC, Anne Moreau Thomas of Flemington, and Margaret Moreau Willet also in England.

17th Annual Volunteer Recognition Lunch

Wednesday, 3 May 2006 — Lambertville House

Following the tradition of lunch in the north part of the county one year, south the next year, in 2006 the group traveled south to the lovely restored historic Lambertville House for luncheon recognizing the Society volunteers. A delightful buffet luncheon was served in the Coryell Room and enjoyed by a number of people who had volunteered in various capacities during the past year.

The historic Lambertville House, *circa* 1812, is one of the oldest functioning inns in New Jersey. A wooden bridge crossing the Delaware River established Bridge Street as a major thoroughfare. John Lambert built the stone tavern and inn now known as Lambertville House.

Thanks to Linda Gustofson and her staff at the Lambertville House and thanks to the Society volunteers!

Shirley V. Favier, Membership Chair
 William H. Hartman, Newspaper extracts, CD sales
 Clifford L. Hoffman, Holcombe-Jimison Museum liaison
 John W. Kuhl, recording Secretary
 Helen S. LaRue, Treasurer [retired]
 Douglas D. Martin, Chair, Museum Committee
 Edna J. Pedrick, Treasurer
 Beth Rice obituary file
 Donald Scholl, attorney

Doric House hosts and hostesses

Margaret Houck	Lewis Sanders
Lara Jones	Richard Stothoff
Douglas D. Martin Chair	Harold O. Van Fleet
Edna Pedrick	Margery C. Van Fleet

Library Research Assistants

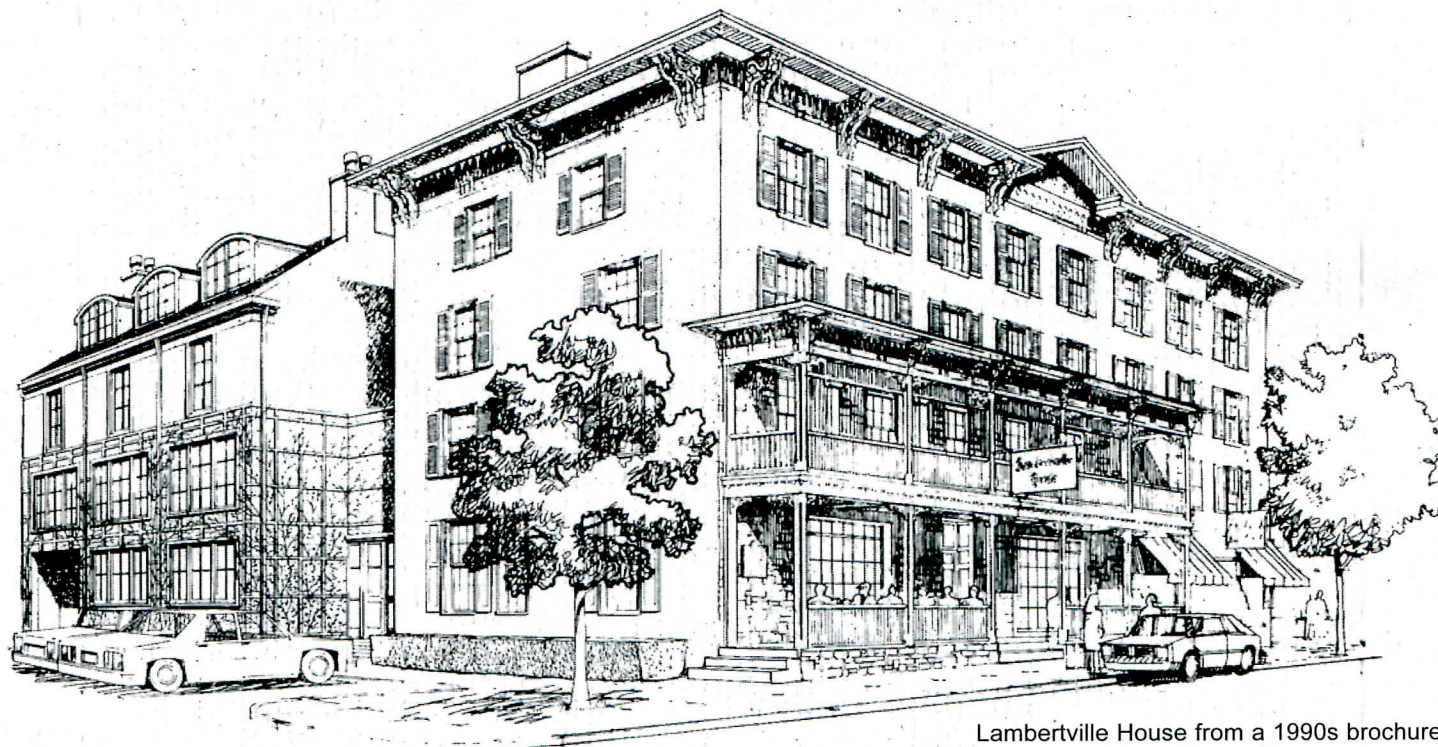
Roxanne K. Carkhuff	Kathleen J. Schreiner
John W. Kuhl	Ronald Schutzel
Ralph Lomerson	Mary Elizabeth Sheppard
Edna McIntyre	Fred Sisser III
Beth Rice	Stephanie Stevens
Shirley Wydner	

Agricultural Fair Exhibit

George Carkhuff	Lewis Sanders
Roxanne Carkhuff	Donald Scholl
Dick Houck	Mary E. Sheppard
Maggie Houck	Stephanie Stevens
John Kuhl	Richard Stothoff
Ralph Lomerson	Harold Van Fleet
Douglas Martin	Margery Van Fleet
William O'Hare	Ed Zanetti
Edna Pedrick	

Buildings and Grounds

Harold O. Van Fleet, Chair
George E. Carkhuff John W. Kuhl
Richard H. Stothoff



Lambertville House from a 1990s brochure

Camp Echo Hill Reunion, Oct. 28

by Doug Kiofsky

Childhood memories of summer camp are filled with fun and adventure. Friendships were forged and teamwork was encouraged. Robert and Hermia Lechner, physical education teachers from different schools, wanted to pass on their knowledge of life skills and fondness of "the great outdoors" to others, so they started a summer camp.

In 1936, the Lechners purchased a 76-acre farm from Carmen Bonavinia in the Stanton Station section of Clinton Township for \$65,500 for the purpose of converting it into a summer camp for children, ages nine to fourteen. Consisting of an 1836 stone farmhouse, two chicken coops, a barn, an orchard, rolling terrain, and a pond next to Prescott Brook, the property came to be known as Camp Echo Hill. During this transformation from farm to summer camp, structures were either demolished or adapted for reuse, such as activity cabins. The barn was removed and some salvaged beams were incorporated into the construction of the dining hall. One of the chicken coops was converted into a washhouse. Outhouses or "greenies" (due to their green paint) were constructed from barn wood and other materials.

Enrollment for the first camp consisted of 60 boys. Three years later, the girls' camp was initiated with an enrollment of 18 girls. By 1950, the popularity of the camp grew to 78 girls and 110 boys. Tuition for the summer, including laundry service and haircuts from the camp barber was \$200. In addition the barber, the staff included chefs, registered nurses, counselors, and Native-Americans from the Cherokee Nation that taught programs in Western folklore. Reveille sounded in the morning and Taps was sounded in the evening. Two counselors were on duty after Taps; they walked around the camp and made sure that each child was secured in their cabin or tent. One counselor would go off duty at 10 pm and the other counselor an hour later. Girls in the camp were referred to by their nicknames as "honnies," while the boys were referred to as "sonnies." Children would take turns serving meals to their tables (eight children per table) and had schedules for cleaning detail. Once a week, children made their own meals with outdoor barbecues. "Slum-gully" was the meal of choice, consisting of chopped hotdogs, sliced potatoes, and baked beans simmered a large pot.

Probably the most notable person to attend Camp Echo Hill was a 6-year old by the name of H. Norman Schwarzkopf. In the summer of 1941 as the threat of global warfare loomed in the air, the young Schwarzkopf and his two older sisters, Ruth Ann, 10, and Sally, 8, had a great time learning how to fish and swim. Schwarzkopf carried the rules of discipline and teamwork that the Lechners evoked in every camper throughout his life.

During World War II, a victory garden was created so the camp could grow its own vegetables. Children were assigned to nurture the garden, which promoted responsibility. When Robert Lechner hired men from the Civilian Conservation Corps to plant over 200,000 trees at \$1 a day, children were taught conservation practices by tending to the saplings with watering cans. Since Echo Hill was a former farm, children

also catered to the animals that resided there. One mascot was a goat named "Troubles" that had a penchant for getting into mischief. Another mascot was a Dalmatian named "Dutchess" who sometimes appears in the camp photos. Recreational activities included baseball, tennis, badminton, tetherball, archery, target shooting, boxing, craft making, horseback riding, and the old-fashioned game of kick-the-can. The man-made pond provided opportunities for water related activities such as fishing, boating, and swimming.

In 1959, the Lechners retired and donated the property to a local church for the continual use as a summer camp. Years later, the Lechners reclaimed the property, then sold it to the County of Hunterdon as open space in 1974. Today, the tradition to educate children still thrives each summer under the direction of the Parks Department.

Stories of the past will again come to life as Camp Echo Hill's alumni will reminisce about their youthful adventures on October 28 from 1:30 to 5pm at the former camp on Lilac Drive in Clinton Township. Any alumni wishing to attend are asked to bring a cold covered dish, bag of snacks, or beverage. Please call Doug Kiofsky at the Hunterdon County Parks Department for reservations and further information at 908-806-4630, email him at dkiofsky@co.hunterdon.nj.us, or write to the Parks Dept. at PO Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900.

Form of Bequest

(This form is recommended for use in making a bequest of real property, in a Will or otherwise, naming your society as beneficiary)

ITEM: I bequeath the sum of \$_____ to the Hunterdon Historical Society, Flemington, NJ.

ITEM: I bequeath to the Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington, NJ, without restrictions title to and full possession of historical materials and objects, (real estate, account books, diaries, Family Bibles, documents, papers, photographs, programs, newspapers, clippings, books, records), etc.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____



Images from the Past

1903 Flemington Baseball Team



HCHS Collection PS 540

Donated by C.S. Alvater, Flemington

Back row left to right: [unidentified], John Hunt, Zeke Lutz, _____ Servis, Arthur Foran, Charles Carmody. Front row left to right: Charles Biddle, Dick Slattery, Harry Lott.

The 1903 season was most successful for the team fielded for the Flemington Athletic Association, winning fifteen out of nineteen games played.

2006 Financial Report

Receipts

Bank Interest	17,617.23
Sale books & maps	2,089.20
CD sales	2,537.00
Dues and gifts	19,713.00
Investment receipts	33,300.00
Dividends	3,152.90
Raymond James account	13,143.45
Xerox fees collected	1,111.45
Miscellaneous receipts	4,078.92
.....	\$96,733.45

Excess receipts \$1,608.27

Expenses

Advertising	350.00
Archives bldg.	28,434.68
Calendars/2006	1,277.42
Donations	250.00
Insurance	5,721.55
Licenses	60.00
Maintenance/repairs	4,767.34
Mileage	700.00
Miscellaneous	246.66
Postage	1,600.00
Printing Newsletter	3,775.25
Professional fees	1,950.00
Rental/Womens Club	150.00
Sewer/water	592.80
Supplies	748.63
Tax/payroll	1,481.21
Telephone	1,203.71
Utilities	4,913.23
Wages	35,390.27
.....	\$95,125.18