



# Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Vol. 39, NO. 3

Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

FALL 2003

## New Book about Local Slavery Topic of Fall Meeting *Sunday, 16 November at the Flemington Womens Club*

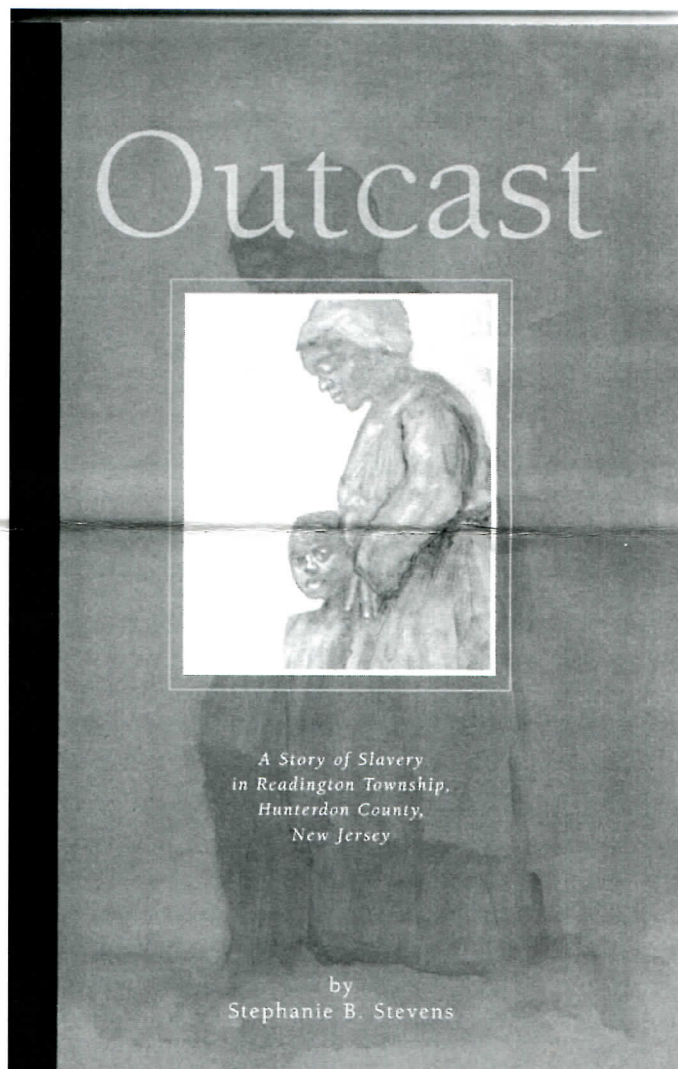
The author of *Outcast: A Story of Slavery in Readington Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, Stephanie B. Stevens, will be the guest speaker at the Society's Fall Meeting on 16 November 2003, at 2 p.m., in the Flemington Womens Club on Park Avenue. Mrs. Stevens has authored two other books on local history, *Forgotten Mills of Readington*, *For a Better Life* (the history of the Polish settlement in Readington).

She currently serves as Chair of the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission and served as Readington Township Historian for 23 years. While in Readington she was founder of three living history museums which flourished under her volunteer direction. In 1995 she was appointed by then Governor Christie Whitman to serve on the Task Force for New Jersey History, a body which, over a two-year period, met and promulgated recommendations for the course of both physical and educational history in our State. Appointed to the New Jersey Historic Trust in 1998, Mrs. Stevens currently serves as Vice Chairman. She also serves as Secretary for the Advocates for New Jersey History, a statewide group formed to support the activities of the New Jersey Historical Commission. Mrs. Stevens is a Life member of the Hunterdon County Historical Society where she serves as a Library volunteer.

Join us at the Womens Club on November 16th for Mrs. Stevens' presentation. She will have copies of her book available and be happy to sign copies purchased. Copies are \$5.00. Refreshments and social hour follow her talk.

### 2003-2004 Calendar

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Nov. 16      | FALL MEETING - 16 November 2003<br>Flemington Womens Club - <i>The Outcast</i> ;<br><i>Slavery in Readington</i> by author,<br>Stephanie B. Stevens |
| Nov. 27      | THANKSGIVING - Library closed   |
| Dec. 25      | MERRY CHRISTMAS - Library closed  |
| Jan. 1, 2004 | HAPPY NEW YEAR - Library closed   |
| March 28     | ANNUAL MEETING  |
| April 27     | 14th Annual Volunteer Luncheon  |



### It's A Stick-up

Enclosed with this issue of the Society's *Newsletter* is a handy 2004 stick-up calendar.

Anyone who wishes, may pay 2004 dues anytime before receiving the 2004 notice by sending dues to Mrs. Shirley V. Favier, Membership Chair, 114 Main St., Flemington, NJ.

**HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER**

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**PUBLICATION COMMITTEE**

Roxanne K. Carkhuff, Editor

**— Library Hours —**

Thursday, 1-3, 7-9 p.m. and by appointment

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**Acquisitions**

Artifacts, manuscripts, family Bibles, and other material representative of the history of Hunterdon County and the families who resided here are welcome additions to the Historical Society's collections. To the donors of recent acquisitions the Society expresses its appreciation.

*Early Burial Grounds in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area*, compiled by Myra Snook, part I January 2000, Part II January 2003. Donated by Bonita Grant, Hopewell, NJ.

Lebanon Township Gravestone Information: Inscriptions from stones in the old Swack Church and Mount Lebanon Church cemeteries copied 1973-1975 by Kenneth L. MacRitchie, donor, of Red Bank, NJ.

*Hunterdon County Democrat*, January-March 2003, April - June 2003, two reels of microfilm. Donated by Hunterdon County Democrat, Flemington, NJ.

John H. Vail's Quakertown general store account books, 1867-1895 and day books, 1867-1868, check registers covering 1886-1892. Donated by Judy Holub, Bloomsbury, NJ.

*The Outcast: A Story of Slavery in Readington Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, by Stephanie B. Stevens. Donated by the author, Whitehouse Station, NJ.

Miscellaneous papers from the estate of Henry and Edna Bauer relating to the operation of their farm in Readington Township and miscellaneous billheads from local businesses with which they conducted business. Donated by their daughter, Louisa Bauer Cole, Neshanic, NJ.

(Continued on page 923)

**Membership**

A warm welcome is extended to these members who have recently joined the Hunterdon County Historical Society or upgraded to Life member.

James L. Borders & Mary Daly, Stockton, NJ  
Charlotte Brown, Doylestown, PA  
Russell D. Compton, Hopewell, NJ  
Les Conover, Albuquerque, NM  
Diane L. & Thomas J. Curtis, Stockton, NJ  
Arthur W. Day, Ludlow, MA  
Tirzuh Doyle, Greenville, NC  
Rhonda Farless, Wayne, MI  
Jacqueline J. Fitzhenry, St. Louis, MO  
Jeannie Geremia, Flemington, NJ  
Janet and Mike Gesner, Washington, NJ  
Lisa A. Gogal, Roseburg, OR  
Elaine Hull, Sciota, IL  
Phyllis E. Johnston, Wellsville, NY  
Jo-Ann Lieberman, Vero Beach, FL  
Jacqueline Lubinski, Asbury, NJ  
Mrs. Bertha Ann Lucas, Katy, TX  
Linda B. Marks, Lambertville, NJ  
Joyce M. Ossinger, Sammamish, WA  
Nora Probasco, Louisville, KY  
May and Mike Saxton, Glen Gardner, NJ  
Frances M. Smith, New Holland, PA  
Joanna Studdiford, Bay Head, NJ  
Louis Crane Williams, Potomac, MD  
Robert P. Yates, Harrisburg, PA  
Erich and Linda Zeh, Frenchtown, NJ  
Erich Zeh, Jr., Phillipsburg, NJ

LIFE

(Mrs.) Shirley V. Favier  
Membership Chair

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

## GREEN SERGEANT'S COVERED BRIDGE

By Marfy Goodspeed, April 2001

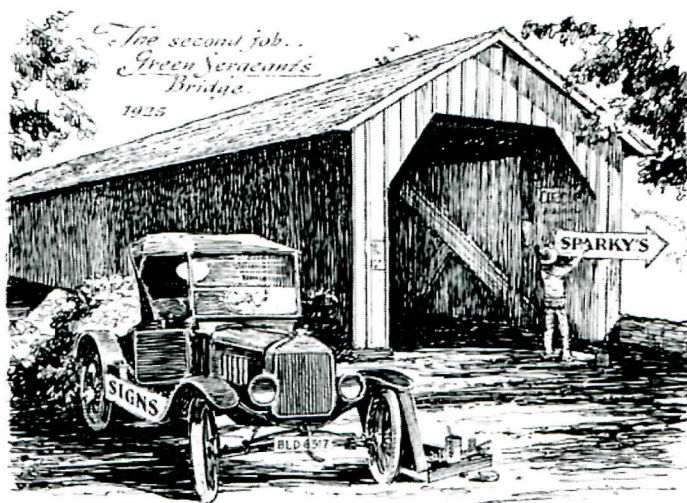
The official seal of Delaware Township carries a picture of Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge, the last remaining covered bridge in New Jersey. At one time, there was nothing unusual about this bridge as "Hunterdon County was well-supplied with covered bridges" over its many creeks.<sup>1</sup> Now they are all gone but this one. There had probably been a bridge over the Wickecheoke Creek at this site before the Revolution. In 1787, the freeholders met to discuss repairs to the bridge at the house of Samuel Opdycke who owned the mill near the bridge.<sup>2</sup> It was probably his father, John Opdycke, who built the first bridge, as this sort of improvement was left to the property owners, and John Opdycke owned the land on either side of the Wickecheoke.

He was not the first landowner of the area under which the bridge was built. The land was originally surveyed in 1711 to Dorothy Medcalf, widow of Mathew Medcalf of Gloucester County. In the 1740's, at least 100 acres was sold by the Medcalf estate to Edward Milner of Bucks Co., Pennsylvania. Milner was a Quaker and a miller, and probably built the first mill on the Wickecheoke Creek, although William or Peter Rittenhouse may have predated him with a mill further north on the same creek.

Following the Revolution, bridges in Hunterdon County were the responsibility of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the governing body in the county. The minutes of their meetings in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries show that most of their business involved the construction and repair of bridges. Samuel Opdycke's bridge was almost certainly not a covered bridge. Covered bridges were built in England during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but the first one to be built in America was not put up until 1804. It went over the Schuylkill at Philadelphia. A covered wooden bridge was built from Trenton to Pennsylvania in 1806. Then in 1814, a covered bridge was built to connect Lambertville with New Hope and another one connected Stockton to Centre Bridge, Pa. There was also a covered bridge built in 1835 to connect Raven Rock with Lumberville, PA.

The first known covered bridge on this site was erected in 1872-73 and named after Richard Green Sergeant, a farmer who operated the nearby Sergeant's Mills. He was known locally as Green Sergeant. His father was Charles Sergeant, who bought the farm and mill from the heirs of Samuel Opdycke in 1805. Charles Sergeant was a veteran of the Revolution, and a successful miller and real estate speculator who died in 1833.

The Hunterdon County Freeholders met at the hotel of Jacob Wilson in the Village of Sergeantsville on September 16, 1872 "for the purpose of viewing the site on Witchley Oak stream near Sergeant's Mills."<sup>3</sup> They voted during the afternoon session to build a bridge and that "all piers be removed and a wooden bridge be erected with iron stringers." The motion was offered (and defeated) to drop "the pier next to the hotel." [This is intriguing since there is no record of a hotel in that area; it may have referred to the side of the bridge nearest the Sergeantsville Hotel where the freeholders met.] Another motion was made



"Green Sergeant's Bridge . . . 1925" an illustration from Eric Sloane's *Return to Taos: Sketch Book of Roadside America*.

(and defeated) to include capping the truss work with pine boards.

The bridge would be as wide as the 'present' abutments would permit, which meant that the bridge built in 1872 was constructed on existing abutments. The timbers were to be of white oak or rock oak, but at the next meeting (on September 23, 1872) the Freeholders decided that the truss braces, head beams and side timbers would be made of pine. The building committee consisted of Freeholders Smith, Rittenhouse and Bird. When the Board of Chosen Freeholders reorganized the following year (May 14, 1873), the new committee for "the bridge in Delaware Township" was Smith, Hockenbury, and Bird.<sup>4</sup>

The clear span, from abutment to abutment was (and still is) 73 feet 8 inches long. The construction was supervised by freeholder Joseph Smith (1809-1877), the "Chosen freeholder" for Delaware Township from 1870 to 1875. "Uncle Joe" Smith, as he was widely known, was 63 years old in 1872. Despite his age, he would walk from the bridge site to Flemington at regular intervals to get funds to pay the workers. One time he was coming back from Flemington with the payroll when a companion joined him who acted suspiciously. Smith casually wandered off the road and got himself a solid stick suitable for beating someone over the head. His companion immediately made himself scarce.<sup>5</sup>

Joe Smith and his wife Eleanor Stuart lived on farm on Sanford Road, Delaware Township. One of his descendants is Jeannette Smith of Delaware Township who has pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Tradition says that "Uncle Joe" was highly respected, but his stern face shows that he also must have been pretty tough.

The chief architect and builder was Charles Ogden Holcombe, bridge builder of Lambertville, who also is said to have built the

(continued on page 920)

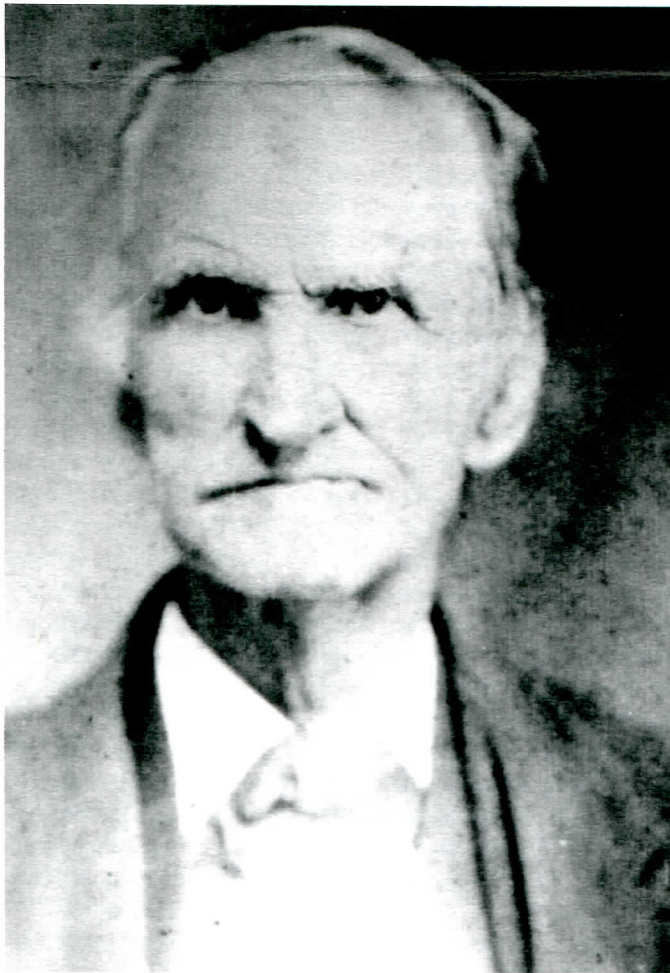
## Green Sergeants Covered Bridge *(continued from page 919)*

bridge over the Lockatong Creek (built in 1878 by the Lambertville Iron Works Co.). Charles Holcombe was known as a very skilled carpenter who worked on other projects besides bridges, despite the fact that he needed to walk with two canes.<sup>6</sup>

One of the men who worked on the bridge was Peter Sibley, a ship's carpenter who lived about a mile south of the bridge along Lower Creek Road. Sibley also needed to walk with a cane. That does not seem to have limited the work he did. Masonry on the bridge was done by Ely Everitt and his brother Charles Everitt.<sup>7</sup> Their work was confined to the existing abutments. The Everitts also built many of the stone houses in the township.

The lumber used to build the bridge was probably milled at the Sergeants' sawmill which was located along Lower Creek Road, between the road and the creek. The Beers' Atlas of 1873 shows "S. Mill" in that location. Green Sergeant who owned the sawmill and a grist and flour mill, was born in 1795 and died in 1878. It should be mentioned that the Beers Atlas of 1873 does not indicate any bridge over the Wickecheoke, perhaps because a covered bridge was not noteworthy.

To build the bridge, stringers were laid (the beams that cross the stream, iron in 1872) and supported by masonry abutments



Freeholder Joseph Smith who supervised construction of the bridge in 1872.

as referred to in the Freeholders' minutes. The Green Sergeant bridge is unusual because it combines several different styles of truss bridge construction. One of the more interesting design elements is the iron verticals which replaced heavy wooden beams. The cost of construction was quite reasonable. In July 1872, Joseph Smith, the freeholder for Delaware Township reported spending \$3,270.67 on bridges in the township. This was before construction of the Covered Bridge had begun. The following year he reported expenditures of \$4,523.99. It must have been difficult work, as the summer of 1872 was reported to be the hottest in 29 years.<sup>8</sup>

Eric Sloane, a famous writer and illustrator of old American folk ways wrote a book called *Return to Taos: Eric Sloane's Sketchbook of Roadside America* in 1960 in which he described a return visit to the Covered Bridge in 1959, just before the bridge was torn down and rebuilt. He described the bridge as "gleaming severely white through a glen of maples."

His first visit was in 1925 when he was traveling from Flemington to New Hope, earning his way by painting signs. One of the signs he painted was for a man known in the neighborhood as "Spark-plug" or "Sparky." Sparky had a road house "at one end of the bridge," and Sloane's sign, which was attached to the bridge, served to direct traffic to it. It was a large white sign in the shape of an arrow. At that time, in 1925, the bridge was covered with signs, circus posters, advertisements for New Hope shops, etc., which were all gone by 1959. It appears from the illustration in Sloane's book that the roadhouse was just to the right on Upper Creek Road as you head west. Sparky tried to pay Sloane with some of his "home-made bottled goods," but Sloane preferred cash \$10.

On Sloane's visit in 1959, he came upon "an old fellow" who recalled that Sparky's place was torn down in 1926 when he (the old fellow) bought the property. This must have been a mistake of Sloan's, since the old man bought the place in 1936, not 1926. As they talked, Sloane listened to the sound of cars driving over the loose wooden planks of the bridge. "I took the job of caretaking here," the old man said, "and they made me a sheriff [probably deputy sheriff] so I could collect some sort of a salary."

"The old fellow" was Dr. Edward H. Gelvin, who lived in the small stone house just west of the bridge. Dr. Gelvin was a Presbyterian minister for 60 years until he retired in 1955. That was probably about the time he and his wife celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, as shown in an undated news photo. Dr. Gelvin was 90 years old in 1961 when the Green Sergeants Covered Bridge Association was organized and he was listed as a member. Sloane noted that while the book was in preparation, the old bridge was torn down, but "the pieces were saved by a group of Hunterdon County residents."

Henry and Mary Brown Burget were married by Dr. Gelvin in the Gelvin house. According to Henry Burget, this was the house where his wife Mary was born. Mary Burget was the daughter of Edward C. Brown (1886-1970) and Kathryn Stryker (who died in 1963). Ed and Kathryn Brown had four children: William, Mary (who died in 1997), Louis and Richard.

Ed Brown was the son of William C. and Jennie Gulick Brown. After his father's death, Ed inherited part of his father's

*(continued on page 921)*

### Green Sergeants Covered Bridge *(continued from page 920)*

property, while he and his widowed mother sold an adjoining 18 acres to his sister Ida J. Smith in 1920. Well before that time, Ed Brown began a hatchery business in a building across the road that is no longer standing; only the foundation remains. He prospered at the hatchery business and about 1920, when Mary was one year old, he moved to a property in Sergeantsville where he could put up several large hatchery buildings. Hatcheries were a big business in Hunterdon County in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1892, Joseph Wilson of Stockton figured out that he could ship day-old chicks by train and have them arrive safely, because day-old chicks do not eat. He quickly developed a thriving business. Demand for day-old chicks from Hunterdon County was so strong that brooder houses and hatcheries were popping up on farms all over Delaware Township. But Ed Brown was one of the most successful.

Ed Brown sold his house and barns by the bridge in 1921 to Katie L. Bennett, wife of Frank C. Bennett. She owned the property up until 1936 when she and her husband sold it to Dr. Gelvin. So who was Sparky? And where exactly was Sparky's roadhouse? Henry Burget recalls that it was across from the Gelvin house, where the Brown hatchery was. Edward Gelvin said it was there and was torn down in 1926. But the drawing by Eric Sloane doesn't make sense if that is the case. Perhaps Sloane's memory was at fault. An undated drawing shows a building with a porch, a chair on the porch and remnants of a sign at the location where the old hatchery was. This might have been Sparky's road house. Sparky must have been a tenant, and Mrs. Bennett must have turned a blind eye to the goings on at her property.

The Brown-Gelvin house was built well before 1833, when Charles Sergeant mentioned it in his will as "the lot whereon Joseph Slack now lives." Gelvin noted that the house was of the type known as a "Dutch stone pile," which meant it was built without taking measurements. Sergeant bequeathed this lot to his daughter Elizabeth Reading during her widowhood and then to her son Charles. Elizabeth Sergeant had married William Reading in 1812; he died in 1831; she did not die until 1873 at the age of 80. Charles was the oldest of their seven children.

In 1935, Egbert T. Bush wrote that a few years previously, the bridge had caught on fire but was rescued by a neighbor.<sup>10</sup> That event may have coincided with the repairs made to the bridge in 1932 by John Scott, an engineer who built many of the metal truss bridges that still remain in Hunterdon County. Scott claimed that the bridge would take 40 tons and would last that long (40 years?). Unfortunately, it didn't.

During the 1950's, severe flooding undermined the bridge and by 1960 it was leaning precariously. The Freeholders proceeded to have the bridge dismantled in preparation for construction of an entirely new bridge, but this was not well-received in Delaware Township. Local people organized themselves into the Green Sergeant Covered Bridge Association and got national attention for the plight of New Jersey's last covered bridge.

### Members of the Covered Bridge Association:

Eleanor F. Stone, President  
 Edward M. Stone  
 Carolyn Macak  
 Chester B. Errico  
 Raul Tunley  
 Beverly Jones  
 Howard I. Sample  
 Anthony Zega  
 Berthold A. Sorby  
 Howard Menand Jr., Princeton University  
 Frank H. Curtis  
 Robert W. Thayer  
 Bernard Douglas  
 Francis A. Alley  
 Clarence A. Horn  
 Henry N. Fisher  
 Henry Burget

As a result of their efforts, the old bridge was reconstructed, this time on steel beams. Traffic was limited to one way traffic in a westward direction. A modern bridge was built adjacent to it to handle traffic going eastward. "Abutments were rebuilt and reinforced with concrete set into rock footings and steel-doweled into the old masonry walls. Old timber trusses 84 feet long, 12 feet 9 inches high and 1 foot 3 inches thick were re-conditioned and erected in their former positions on steel brackets, projecting from a new steel undercarriage, and new and salvaged planking was laid on the floor stringers. Sixty percent of the original pine siding was also retained in the restoration and 90 percent of the old rafters were used to support a new cedar shingle roof. All this was done at a cost of \$69,468. The contractor was J. F. Chapman & Son of Hillside, New Jersey."<sup>11</sup>

On September 15, 1961, the "reconstructed" covered bridge was dedicated. Present were Dwight Palmer, Commissioner of the New Jersey State Highway Department, Senator Wesley Lance, Assemblyman Raymond Bowkley, Ralph J. Muller, Director of the Hunterdon Board of Freeholders, Freeholder J. Linton Alles, George Pyatt, Mayor of Delaware Township, Mrs. Edward Stone, President of the Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge Association, Mildred Cotton and Chester Errico, members of the Association, D. Howard Moreau, President of the Hunterdon County Historical Society (and also publisher of the *Hunterdon County Democrat*), Hal Clark, President of the "Delaware Valley Protective Association" and Dr. Edward H. Gelvin.

Also present was Clint Wilson, who was inspired to read a poem he had written for the occasion, as follows:

"If this old bridge could tell us about the long ago,  
 What a legend would unfold that some would like to know.  
 We'd hear about the wagons that crossed the bridge each day.  
 We'd hear about the lovers that stopped here on their way.  
 It was called the kissing bridge but since has lost that name.  
 Our state's last old covered bridge is now its claim to fame.

*(continued on page 922)*

## Green Sergeants Covered Bridge *(continued from page 921)*

If this old bridge could tell us about what's happened here,  
We'd hear about the artists, a sight to many dear.

We'd hear about the tourists who came to get a view,  
Take pictures of the old bridge, admire the scenery too.

We'd hear about the floods that raged, the dangers that they  
caused.

We'd hear about the famous that once right here have  
paused.

If this old bridge could tell us the close calls that its had,

Of all that's fished in pools beneath, the boy that's now a  
dad,

If this old bridge could tell us how time has changed the  
scene,

We'd know that time is precious to make the future gree.

We'd hear about the people that came here for a walk.

What memories would unfold, if this old bridge could talk!"

A large model of the Covered Bridge can be seen at the Township Hall. It was built by George Brewer, a retired cabinet maker. There are also news clippings and brochures, including a picture of the bridge just before its collapse.

Today the Covered Bridge is still standing, and has become a symbol and a focus of historic interest. In 1974, the Covered Bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1999, the Covered Bridge Historic District was listed on the National Register, which included Edward Gelvin's house, Sparky's (now demolished) roadhouse, Brown's hatchery, the Miller's house, the old Opdycke house and extending to the east to include the Green Sergeant Schoolhouse.

Last year, the County Road Department received a \$300,000 grant for restoration work on the Covered Bridge, under the guidance of the N. J. Historic Sites Commission and local residents. The County reshingled the roof, repaired the planks on the floor and painted the walls. Extensive repairs were made to the masonry on the companion bridge. New guide rails and fences were install and planters set between the two bridges for safety.

The property where Sparky's roadhouse was located is being conveyed to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, as part of its effort to preserve the Wickecheoke Creek. There is little evidence that this intersection was once a busy location. Today, the only attraction for visitors is the Covered Bridge and its surroundings. But the Bridge is treasured, and with luck, and some effort, it will remain in place for many years to come.

### Some Sources for the Covered Bridge:

Egbert T. Bush, "Story of Green Sergeant's Bridge And Its Builders," Hunterdon Co. Democrat, 20 June 1935.

"New Jersey's Only Covered Bridge," Bucks Co. Courier, 4 Oct 1987.

*Return to Taos: Eric Sloane's Sketchbook of Roadside America*, NY: Funk & Wagnalls, 1960, pg 33.

"Public Effort 25 Years Ago Saved Hunterdon's Covered Bridge," by Jane Wyckoff, H.C. Democrat, 20 March 1986.

Items on file in the Delaware Township History Cabinet, Delaware Twp Municipal Building, Sergeantsville, NJ:

"Green Sergeants Covered Bridge, Sergeantsville, N.J.," by the Covered Bridge Association, 11 August 1974.

Letter from Alice V. Sample to William Winter, Road Dept. Supervisor, Hunterdon Co., 11 April 1978 concerning repairs to the Bellis Bridge and the Opdycke Bridge.

Photos & postcards & Clippings: Covered Bridge from Milford to Upper Black Eddy, destroyed in fire of 1903; Covered Bridge from Stockton to Centre Bridge, destroyed by fire in 1923.

Collection of newspaper clippings and brochures.

Picture of bridge before its collapse, undated clipping.

Picture of Covered Bridge during the centennial celebration, H.C. Democrat, 21 Sep 1972.

Photograph by Michael Tozzi

Model of bridge by Sy Reimer, Large model, by George Brewer.

1. Egbert T. Bush, "Story of Green Sergeant's Bridge And Its Builders," Hunterdon Co. Democrat, 20 June 1935.

2. Minutes of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Hunterdon Co., NJ, 1787.

3. Minutes of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Hunterdon Co., NJ, 1872.

4 Minutes of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Hunterdon Co., NJ, 1872.

5. Egbert T. Bush, *ibid.*, 20 June 1935.

6. Born in Lambertville, March 21, 1813 to Emley Holcombe and Polly Skillman. He married first Rebecca Barber and had a daughter Mary; married second, Katherin Young. He died in Lambertville on Dec. 25, 1890 and was buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery. [Wilson, "Charles Ogden Holcombe"]

7. E. T. Bush, Hunterdon Co. Democrat, 20 June 1935.

8. The Hunterdon Republican, July 11, 1872, Sept. 12, 1872 and July 24, 1873. No mention was made of the covered bridge in this newspaper during 1872 and 1873.

9. *Return to Taos: Eric Sloane's Sketchbook of Roadside America*, NY: Funk & Wagnalls, 1960, pg 33.

10. Egbert T. Bush, "Story of Green Sergeant's Bridge And Its Builders," Hunterdon Co. Democrat, 20 June 1935.

11. Clint Wilson and Bob Hornby described how the bridge was rebuilt in their history of the township, from information in a 1987 article in the Bucks Co. Courier Times by Lysbeth Bledsoe.





Green Sergeants bridges on a past winter day, This shows the restored span carrying traffic west and the new bridge carrying traffic east.

### Acquisitions ( continued from page 918)

*National Register (NJ) and State Register (SR) Historic Districts in Hunterdon County*, NJ Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, 2003, Stephanie B. Stevens, Chair. Donated by Mrs. Stevens, Flemington, NJ.

Independent research project for the building at 155 Main Street, Flemington, NJ, now Hunterdon Exchange, 2003, Donated by the researcher, Jennifer M. Wagner, Ringoes, NJ.

*New Jersey and The Negro: A Bibliography, 1715-1966*, compiled by the Bibliography Committee of the New Jersey Library Association and published by the Association. Donated by Kathleen J. Schreiner, Flemington, NJ.

*Mayflower Families in Progress: William Brewster of the Mayflower and the Fifth Generation Descendants of his son Love<sup>2</sup>*, compiled by Barbara Lambert Merrick, edited and indexed by E. Virginia Hunt, published 2003 by General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Donated by New Jersey Society of Mayflower Descendants, Harry P. Folger, 3rd, Secretary, Woodbine, NJ.

*Mary M. Rittenhouse, Wife of Rowland Stringham*, by Helen M. Stringham Fridblom, 2003. Donated by Mrs. Fridblom, Lawrence, KS.



## The Hunterdon Gazette Project

The second CD in the 4 part series to computerize and index the *Hunterdon Gazette* is now completed and available. The CD covers the years 1835-1844 inclusive. It also contains the entire book: *The Press in Hunterdon County* by Hubert G. Schmidt.

The next 2 CDs (1845-1856 and 1857-1866) may be completed during 2005. Please see "Give History for Christmas," page 925 for instructions on how to order your copies of Volume I and II.

## Muster Roll Added To Society Collections

Roxanne K. Carkhuff

By an unprecedented purchase, the Society seized an opportunity to add to its collection an undated Hunterdon County muster roll for the Second Company, First Battalion of the First Regiment of the Hunterdon Brigade. The roll contains 61 names of men who were likely residents of Readington Township.

After some negotiation with the out-of-state dealer offering the manuscript, the Society agreed to spend \$100. for this interesting document. Gifts to the Society are most often the way the collections grow, however in this instance we bought it. The Board is pleased the document has finally returned to its' origins. Donations to offset the cost are most welcome and donors of at least \$10 will receive a color print of the list.

It was represented as a 1800 document, but was more likely a roster from the late 1830s, primarily because two of the men known to us were born in 1819. Most of the names are familiar names to Trustees Carkhuff and Van Fleet. In fact, there are several Carkhuffs listed, as is David Van Fleet. With the Carkhuffs, since the same given names were used for consecutive generations these names not helpful in dating the list. However, a Carkhuff grandson, John Q. Clickenger's name is there and he was born 4 May 1819. Trustee Van Fleet provided information on David Van Fleet, including his birth date, also in 1819. In earlier militia lists, the published 1792 list, for instance, men between 18 and 45 were eligible to serve. Thus, the late 1830s date was estimated for the manuscript. The following names appear on the list:

Capt. Asa Carkhuff  
Leut. David Van Fleet  
Ensign George F. Campbell  
1 Serj. Ezekial D. Cole  
Jacob J. Cole  
Morris Sharp  
Henry J. Demott  
Henry Eyemaster  
William Daily  
Peter Davis  
Jeremiah Smith  
Cornelius F. Schamp  
Peter D. Schamp  
Wm. A. Emmans  
Adrian Pickle  
John J. Michel  
John Hagans  
Morris S. Crammer  
Charles Fritts Jun.  
Henry Huffman  
Abraham L. Voorhees  
Peter Louterette  
William C. Van Doren  
Gabriel Carkhuff  
Henry S. Kline  
Jacob Sheats  
John Suliulivan  
Jacob G. Carkhuff

Tunis J. Stires  
Peter Biggs  
Jacob Voorhees  
Jam. James  
Asher King  
Ezekial J. Cole  
Abraham Hagan  
Timothy E. Baker  
John Swackhammer  
[line thru]  
David Davis  
John T. Housel  
George Smith  
Peter Sweesey  
Nicholas Ott Allegar  
Henry S. Schamp  
William D. Bellis  
Garret Bellis  
Adrian Smith  
Edward Michel  
William Johnson  
Peter S. Daily  
Jacob Newel  
Ezekial C. Cole  
Ezekial Carkhuff  
Daniel Campbell  
John Van Sickle  
John Q. Clickenger

George L. Hall  
Ralph Yorks  
Asher Smith  
Silvester Vlereblom  
David Waldron  
James [?]  
John Harle

Henry ?  
Samuel Brittan  
Jacob Painter  
George H. Hall  
Charles  
Peter J. Smith  
Tunis Cole Jun.

Second Company  
Muster Roll of the Second Company  
of the First Battalion of the First  
Regiment of the Hunterdon Brigade, Militia

Capt. Asa Carkhuff  
Leut. David Van Fleet  
Ensign George F. Campbell  
1 Serj. Ezekial D. Cole

Jacob J. Cole  
Morris Sharp  
Henry J. Demott  
Henry Eyemaster  
William Daily  
Peter Davis  
Jeremiah Smith  
Cornelius F. Schamp  
Peter D. Schamp  
Wm. A. Emmans  
Adrian Pickle  
John J. Michel  
John Hagans  
Morris S. Crammer  
Charles Fritts Jun.  
Henry Huffman  
Abraham L. Voorhees  
Peter Louterette  
William C. Van Doren  
Gabriel Carkhuff  
Henry S. Kline  
Jacob Sheats  
John Suliulivan  
Jacob G. Carkhuff  
Tunis J. Stires

Asher King  
Ezekial J. Cole  
Abraham Hagan  
Timothy E. Baker  
John Swackhammer  
David Davis  
John T. Housel  
George Smith  
Peter Sweesey  
Nicholas Ott Allegar  
Henry S. Schamp  
William D. Bellis  
Garret Bellis  
Adrian Smith  
Edward Michel  
William Johnson  
Peter S. Daily  
Jacob Newel  
Ezekial C. Cole  
Ezekial Carkhuff  
Daniel Campbell  
John Van Sickle  
John Q. Clickenger





## Give History for Christmas

Give the gift that continues to give! For the historian/genealogist on your Christmas gift list the Historical Society offers some gift suggestions.

For mail requests, order by number and add \$4 for the first book and \$1 for each additional book to cover postage packing. For #14, postage is \$10.

1. Beers, Comstock and Cline, 1873 *Atlas of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*. The *Atlas* is 13½" x 16", 77 pages with a hard cover and contains maps of fourteen townships and thirty-two towns existing in Hunterdon County in 1873, printed on acid-free paper. Reprinted 1987 by Hunterdon County Historical Society. \$40.00.

2. D'Autrechy, Phyllis B., *Hunterdon County New Jersey Fisheries 1819-1820*, 44 page soft cover booklet with maps, illustrations, and a full-name subject index, 1993. Gives the historical background on shad fishing and the names and locations of fisheries along the Delaware River within Hunterdon County. \$7.50

3a. *More Records of Old Hunterdon County, Volume I*, compiled by Phyllis B. D'Autrechy, published by Hunterdon County Historical Society, 1998, 276 pages, full-name index, maps, illustrations, hard cover, \$25.00.

3b. *More Records of Old Hunterdon County, Volume II*, compiled by Phyllis B. D'Autrechy. This hardcover volume has 258 pages plus a full-name index and has maps and illustrations. \$25.00

4. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *Hunterdon County New Jersey Militia, 1792*, an alphabetical listing of "free and able-bodied white male citizens between . . . eighteen and forty-five" listed alphabetically by townships, 37 pages, published 1936, reprinted 1994, soft cover. \$12.00

5. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *The Jerseyman: A Quarterly Magazine of Local History*; Volume II, No. 4, 1905, 376+ pages, unbound, with added Table of Contents compiled 1985 by Roxanne K. Carkhuff. \$100.

6. Deats, Hiram Edmund, *Marriage Records of Hunterdon County, New Jersey 1795-1875*, 348 pages, hard cover. Reprint, with additions and corrections, of 1918 edition. \$25.00.

7. "Flemington, New Jersey 1883," a bird's eye view of Flemington showing exterior details of buildings in 1883, black and white lithograph, 20" x 24" suitable for framing. \$10.00.

8. *Hunterdon's Role In The Revolution*, published by Hunterdon County Democrat 22 July 1976 in honor of our nation's Bicentennial Year and the 150th Anniversary of the Hunterdon County Democrat, 88 pages, photographs, illustrations, maps, soft cover, \$3.00

9. Myers, Kenneth V., *The Flemington Fair Story*, 1978, 95 pages, photographs, soft cover. \$5.00.

10. Myers, Kenneth V., *Old Stones At Oak Summit*, Kingwood Presbyterian churchyard at Oak Summit, 1985, 20 pages, added index, soft cover, \$3.00.

11. Vail, Mary C., *History of Land Titles In The Vicinity of Quakertown, New Jersey*, 1915, 15 pages plus added index 1983 by Marfy Goodspeed. Soft cover, \$5.00.

12. Voorhees, Rev. Oscar M., *East and West Jersey Boundary Line Controversy*, 1906, 21 pages, soft cover. \$6.00.

13. Wittwer, Norman C., *The Faithful and The Bold*, the story of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldwick, New Jersey, 14 August 1714, 1984, 49 pages, photographs, maps, index, hard cover. \$10.00.

14. Snell, James P., compiler, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*. 1881, October 1995 facsimile reprint dedicated to Kenneth V. Myers, late president of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, 800+ pages, maps, illustrations, no index. \$80.00 plus \$10.00 postage.

15. Stout, J. Edward, *Facts and Fantasies of Franklin Township*, 448 pages, maps, photographs, illustrations, October 1995. \$20.00.

16. The weekly newspaper *Hunterdon Gazette* 1825-1834, Volume I, and 1835-1844, Volume II, on CD, including digital photographic images of the *Gazette* newspaper pages, and typed and formatted text of the newspaper items containing people's names and events of Hunterdon County, with an overall name and key word index. Price per volume includes shipping and handling — \$20 for nonmembers, \$15 for members.

17. Stevens, Stephanie B., *Outcase: A Story of Slavery in Readington Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, printed 2003 by Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, NJ, 80 pages, soft cover, \$5.00.

### Other Publications

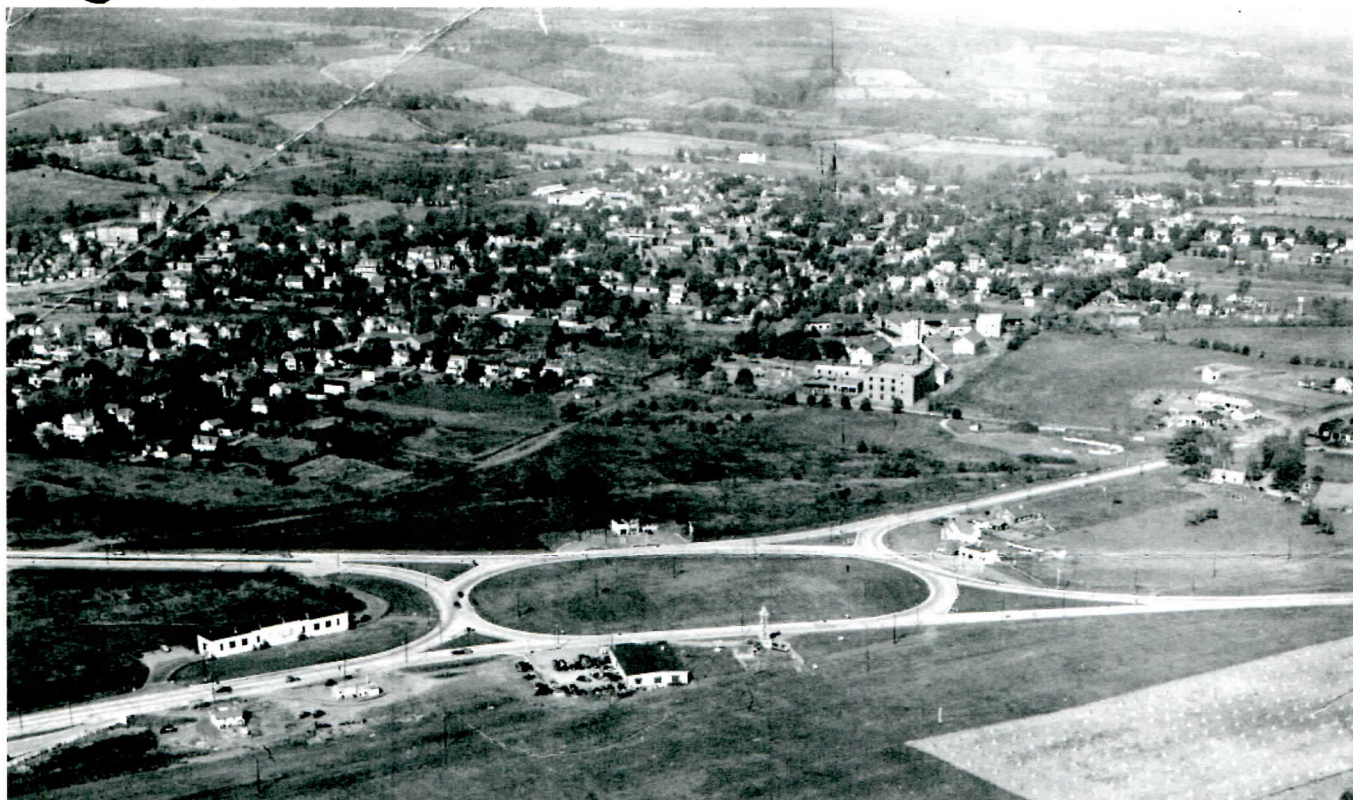
The Sourland Planning Council has reprinted in soft-cover *New Jersey's Sourland Mountain*, first published in hard-cover in 2001. Those who wish to purchase copies should send checks to The Sourland Planning Council in the amount of \$18.00 per book (price includes postage). Send to Jim Luce, P.O. Box 85, Skillman, NJ 08558, (phone 908/359-3309; e-mail: lubaum@aol.com)

A single sheet, printed on both sides, has also been prepared of "Additions and Corrections." Those wishing separate copies of the A&C sheet can send Jim a stamped, self-addressed business (9½") envelope to his address above. Those who wish sheets that are flat, or unfolded, should send Jim a check for \$1.00 made out to the Sourland Planning Council, the \$1 to cover the cost of envelope and postage.



## *Images from the Past*

### **Flemington Circle, 1941**



Collections of Hunterdon County Historical Society  
through the courtesy of Rick Epstein and Hunterdon County Democrat

The Flemington Circle photograph above was taken in late summer/early fall 1941. Close examination of the photo shows the foundation of the Hunterdon Theater at the intersection of Church Street and Route 31 [then Route 30], with no construction ongoing.

The circle, now Route 202/31, was opened in June 1939 and there was no Hunterdon Theater in the photograph, so it was taken before June 1942 when the Theater opened with the feature, "Broadway" starring Pat O'Brien and George Raft. To narrow the time of the photo down further, construction on the Theater was started by St. Cloud Amusement Corporation, Van Lieu and Van Horn general contractors, in 1940. After the foundation (visible in the photo) was in place, construction halted because of building material shortages, particularly steel, due to World War II. The building was completely redesigned by local architect Edwin A. Weed to eliminate unavailable war materials. For instance, concrete arches and laminated wood were substituted for steel beams in the roof. Construction work restarted in the fall of 1941, utilizing the previously installed foundation.

The theater was nearing completion when the War Production Board issued a ban on May 23, 1942, for nonessential construction to halt effective June 6. Workmen were added to the theater construction crew to push for the finish before June 6. The push was successful and the theater opening was held on June 11, 1942.

The Society's contest at the Hunterdon County 4-H and Agricultural Fair in August 2003 to identify the year of the photo brought in 130 entries, with guesses from 1927 to 1970. Jean Harding, Flemington, won an 1850 Raritan Township map and Russell D. Compton, Hopewell, won an annual membership in to Historical Society with their correct dates.

Observing the well-leaved trees, wheat shocks, and wagons of loose straw in the fields, the time of year the photograph was taken is late summer-early fall of 1941.