SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND LECTURE MARCH 13
"The Earth Beneath Us: the Geology of Hunterdon County"

Join Mr. John Allen for an afternoon lecture on Sunday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m. at the Flemington Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street in Flemington. Mr. Allen will explore the relationships between Hunterdon County’s ancient geological past and its modern demographics and economic history.

The earth beneath us in Hunterdon County contains iron ore that once fueled the forges during the American Revolution, and in the 19th century, carbonate rocks fed the numerous lime kilns that sprang up in the northern part of the County. In the southern reaches of the County, the presence of tantalizing traces of copper ore led to a spate of hopeful investment opportunities in the late 1800s. The County also has rocks best known for their architectural use as “brownstone” (New Jersey’s official State rock) as well as “trap rock”–used by the State for roadways, riprap, railroads and garden landscaping.

Mr. Allen earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Connecticut and a master’s from Rutgers University, both in geology. After 34 years as a petroleum geologist, and living on three continents, he retired in 2013. He fills his time researching denizens of the area’s cemeteries, reading historical literature, and studying the impact of New Jersey’s geological history on the development of the Garden State.

The talk will last about 45 minutes, followed by questions; refreshments will be served.
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.


Clinton Township Historical Commission, c/o Frank White. One volume; Oaths of Office of Township Commission officials, constables, magistrates, and other elected and appointed officials of Clinton Township, 1931-1948.


Hackettstown Historical Society, c/o Ray Lemasters. One photograph, church anniversary, 1930; records of Lloyd C. LaRue, of Pittstown, N.J., 1928-1936; 1 partial day book, John C. LaRue, Coos Cross Roads School, 1884-1893; and 3 farmer’s pocket ledgers, ca. 1931.

Hendley, Jean. Fringed ribbon, Fraternal Order of Rockawalk Tribe #177 of Califon, N.J. Pictured below.


Knight, Helen P. A collection of 33 letters from Peter Haward to his “Dear Brother” and “Dear Father,” 1800-1854.

Prall, W. Terrill. Two books, publisher unknown, from Califon, N.J. Pictured below.

Raritan Township Bicentennial, 1976.

Mathews family including correspondence, photographs, ephemera, and children’s clothing.

Rice, Beth. Side chair, library desk and children’s toys for education collections.

SOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Framed oil portrait of General Paul Henri Mallet Prevost, ca. 1825. See photo, back page.


Thompson, Diane O. Two items; a poster and a program, Raritan Township Bicentennial, 1976.

Tietjen, Bill. Two items; 1 copy of The Kingswood Record and a physician’s ledger and call book, Mary W. Pratt, 1/3/1886, from C.W. Larison.

Vive Institute for Jewish Research, One road map of Hunterdon County, 1941; and 3 postcards of Hunterdon County landmarks.

This interesting artifact donated by Jean Hendley is a fringed ribbon of the Improved Order of Red Men, a fraternal organization founded in the 19th century. The ribbon is in pristine condition with its original envelope. A niece of Mr. George Cecil Hoffman (1904-1950), the ribbon’s owner, mailed it to the Society after uncovering it in a box in a family barn in North Carolina!

An Exercise in Family Relationships

By David J. Riley of New Brunswick, NJ; no relation to the Trimmer family

In 1887 when he was 26 years of age, Edward C. Trimmer worked in the corner store in the village of Quakertown, NJ for Thatcher Trimmer Jr., the ninth owner of the enterprise that first opened in 1844 and operated until 2007. Edward’s diary, a 1961 donation to Rutgers University by Charles A. Phiffer, contains notes about his work and personal activities. Nineteenth century diarists wrote about friends and associates, but rarely about relationships. Here are excerpts of Edward’s entries, with his personal spelling and punctuation.

Monday, January 22, 1883
I am going down to Oak Grove to get the horse shod – Thatcher went to Flemington and from there is going to Trenton NJ – store finds me the remainder of the day.

Tuesday, February 20, 1883
...Wm Langer had his sale. Stephen D. Snyder left for Kansas good luck to him

Saturday, February 24, 1883
...I am in the store all day. Same foolish conversations every day, very tiresome – just at present it is politics.

Whether Edward was related to Thatcher was not stated but their shared surname implies kinship. Who was their common ancestor? Edward’s diary provided the starting point but genealogical research revealed the answer.

**Edward C. TRIMMER**

Born on 10 February 1857, Edward lived with his widowed grandmother Deborah (Pegg) Trimmer in 1880. In 1871 Deborah had wed Samuel Trimmer, son of John H. Trimmer and Martha Thatcher. Edward’s Octogenarian brother, Andrew Trimmer, even named his son after Edward. The younger Edward was probably the boy Edward writes of so fondly writing about him often. Edward lived from 1831 to before December 1900.

Thatcher was 26 years older than Edward, suggesting one generation between them. “Junior” in the early 1800s distinguished older and younger men of the same name. The older man was probably Thatcher Jr.’s uncle, Andrew Thatcher Trimmer, son of John H. Trimmer and Martha Thatcher. The relationships of this Andrew Thatcher Trimmer were named Thatcher.

**Thatcher Trimmer Jr.**

Thatcher Trimmer Jr. lived near Edward. In 1880, his dwelling was enumerated just above Dorothy and Edward Trimmer’s property. Among his heirs was grandson Edward Trimmer, son of John H. Trimmer and Sarah H. Van Doren, in his will.

**Concluding Thoughts**

Edward Trimmer died intestate in September 1880. Among his heirs was grandson Edward Trimmer, son of John H. Trimmer and Martha Thatcher. Edith Trimmer; Petition Book 2: 394, Surrogate’s Office.

**Cemetery Committee Members Lead Ancestor Discovery Tours**

Paul Kuehnert, his wife Judith, and son Evan of Hopewell NJ recently joined Bob Leith of the HCHS Cemetery Committee for a visit to Moore Cemetery in Delaware Township to see the graves of Paul’s ancestors. Paul and Evan are pictured here with the headstones of Paul’s seventh great-grandparents, John and Christeen Acker Busenbark, on the left. The headstone for Paul’s daughter Elizabeth is on the right just behind Paul. Bob Leith noted that the daughter spelled her family name differently from her parents. In fact, within Hunterdon County some of the permutations of the family name are Busen- bark, Busenberg, Busenbark, Busenbark, and Busenbark.

New research by John Allen, another Cemetery Committee member, revealed the possibility of a Busenbarker burial place on the Onimk Preserve. This land was purchased in 1771 by Johannes Busenbarker Sr., John Busenbarker’s father. A visit was then arranged for the family to this site. Historic discovery comes in various ways. HCHS members were originally led to the colonial-era burial site on the Preserve by Moore Family descendants, Dick and Ricky Moore, who discovered it while hunting. The gravestones there are unlettered, but one may mark the grave of Paul’s senior forefather, Johannes.

Kuehnert’s interest in his ancestral burials was generated by “The Bosenbury and Taylor Graveyards,” a web posting by Marfy Goodspeed on December 18, 2015. To learn more about the cemetery on the Mt. Airy to Sandy Ridge Road in Delaware Township, go to www.goodspeedhistories.com.

Members of the Cemetery Committee have created a large database on burial grounds in Hunterdon County and the people interred in them. They are happy to escort tours for people seeking their ancestors.

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**Notes**

1. Petition Book 5: 48, Surrogate’s Office, Flemington, NJ.
2. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, John Trimmer; Deed Book 57: 428, Clerk’s Office.
3. 1830 U.S. census, Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County, John Trimmer; Petition Book 1: 150, Surrogate’s Office, Flemington, NJ.
4. Marriage Book S: 22, NJS.
5. Petition Book 1: 150, Surrogate’s Office, Flemington, NJ.
9. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, Thatcher Trimmer, Jr.
10. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, Francisco Trimmer.
11. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, Paul Trimmer.
13. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, Francisco Trimmer.
16. Thatcher Trimmer, death certificate, NJS.
17. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, John Trimmer; Deed Book 57: 428, Clerk’s Office.
18. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, John Trimmer; Deed Book 57: 428, Clerk’s Office.
19. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, Francisco Trimmer.

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**Endnotes:**

2. Edward C. Trimmer, “Diary [1883],” A: 1810, Manuscript Diaries, Library and Journals Collection, Special Collections and University Archives, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.
3. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County
4. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County
6. Petition Book 1: 150, Surrogate’s Office, Flemington, NJ.
7. Marriage Book S: 22, NJS.
11. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, Paul Trimmer.
13. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, Francisco Trimmer.
14. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, Thatcher Trimmer, Jr.
16. Thatcher Trimmer, death certificate, NJS.
17. 1880 U.S. census, Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, John Trimmer; Deed Book 57: 428, Clerk’s Office.
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**Winter 2016**

**Hunterdon Historical Newsletter Vol. 52, No. 1**
NEW COPPER REPLACES 1845 ROOF ON THE DORIC HOUSE

Sam Tippett and crew scraped off five layers of built-up roofing.

The Society was awarded a grant of $43,100 from the Hunterdon County Historic Preservation Trust last fall to replace the roof on the Doric House. Tippett & Sons Roofing Co. LLC in Frenchtown was selected to do the work, which is being overseen by Trustee and Architect Christopher Pickell, whose office is just across the street.

There have been some patches over the years, but, surprisingly, the basic roof is the one applied 175 years ago. About five layers of old roofing have been removed, exposing the original 1845 roof, which was composed of many small tinned steel plates. The original pine sheathing boards were found 98 percent intact and were left in place. Only a few spots of deteriorated wood were uncovered and replaced at downspout locations, right where one would expect to find some problems. These original sheathing boards and roofing have now been completely covered with a layer of plywood and a water and ice shield membrane, which is providing temporary waterproofing while the copper roof is built above it.

The new copper roof, which is expected to last 75 years, is an important milestone in the Society’s stewardship of the Historic Register house. The project follows the structure’s exterior and interior painting, the opening of the attic servants’ quarters and the basement summer kitchen, the creation of an exhibition gallery with specialized LED lighting, and several other projects.

Winter and the New Year are often times of personal reflection. It’s a chance to make resolutions to improve ourselves (hey, I remembered where my gym is!). And as it is for the Archivist, then so should it be for the Archives. After several years of making production (accession, cataloging, processing, and release of archival collections) our main goal, a period of reflection and self-assessment has crystallized our vision like the icicles that form outside our library window.

The volunteer team has been very successful at production tasks as an archival program. This newsletter feature and periodic updates on our website and Facebook page have detailed items we have collected, collections we have arranged, and the quantity of new material we have made available for researchers.

The project was approved by the New Jersey State Preservation Office and all work followed the Secretary of Interior’s guidelines for historic preservation.

The new copper roof, which is expected to last 75 years, is an important milestone in the Society’s stewardship of the Historic Register house. The project follows the structure’s exterior and interior painting, the opening of the attic servants’ quarters and the basement summer kitchen, the creation of an exhibition gallery with specialized LED lighting, insulation of the attic floor, a new furnace, restoration of the east side of the building and removal of a 1940s addition, and a complete rehabilitation of the research library.

The Flemington-based private foundation was established in 1957. Its philanthropy is focused on education, health, and human services.

The November archival workshop taught by Manuscript Curator, Don Cornelius, filled the library with people interested in the Society’s holdings and how to access them.

The Tablet newspaper is a connective tissue that allows the Society to increase our efforts in this area. Therefore, our archival resolution for the New Year at the HCHS is to find a way to increase the public’s access to - and knowledge of - our collections. Starting the year off, fully half of our volunteers are already committed to working on a preservation project: enclosing all 1,600 volumes in our bound manuscript collection in acid free archival storage material. This project is important and long overdue, but it will not take all year. Those volunteers will eventually be available for more access projects. Potential projects include creating a brochure that highlights the archival holdings of the HCHS and that can be widely distributed, increasing the amount of catalog records in our network, improving both in-house and internet access to our catalog, creating new and better finding aids for existing collections and making them more accessible on our website, holding another workshop for more attendees to learn about the archives, and possibly even starting a blog about the archives and our collections.

Not one of these things is easy and all of them will take time away from the traditional processing of the Society’s holdings. But that material is now cataloged and is safely stored. It can wait a bit again while we take time to spread the word about what we have here in the HCHS Archives – and why you should know about it!
Spotlight on Collections

PORTRAIT OF FRENCHTOWN FOUNDER COMES HOME

Provenance is a word often used by historical societies and museums when it comes to cataloguing their collections. Often the provenance, or the history of an object as it finds its way to a logical repository, is as interesting as the object itself.

This oil portrait of General Paul Henri Mallet Prevost (1756-1833) is a recent gift to the Society. It ended up in the collections of the Southold Historical Society of Long Island, New York. What we know is that one of the descendants of General Henri Prevost settled in California and contacted the Southold Historical Society on an unrelated matter. A short time afterwards, the painting was shipped to them, unsolicited. They figured the donor determined that New York was close enough to New Jersey and a lot closer to Frenchtown than California! Thanks to a quick internet search, the curator of Southold contacted us and Henri Mallet Prevost traveled FedEx to our door.

The painting is most likely the only known image of General Prevost, considered the founder of Frenchtown. He escaped the French Revolution in 1793 and settled in New Jersey with his family. It was painted by an unknown artist, circa 1825, and we hope to have it restored, along with other important portraits in our collections.