



# Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

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SPRING 1988

## Origins of Early German Palatines Revealed in Most Appropriate Setting

The Zion Lutheran Church of Oldwick was filled to capacity on Sunday afternoon, 1 May 1988, when Society members and friends gathered for the annual Spring Meeting to hear guest speaker, Henry ("Hank") Jones, Jr. Hank, an eminent genealogist, spoke to over 225 individuals on his exciting seventeen year quest of the Old World origins of some of the earliest German Palatines to emigrate to America, many of whom settled in New Jersey. Appropriately, the meeting was held in Hunterdon County and at Zion's 239 year old edifice in Tewksbury Township, where many of the Germans, on whom Hank spoke, resided and worshipped.

Under the guidance of Program Chairmans Roxanne K. Carkhuff and Fred Sisser III, the meeting was conducted in conjunction with the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Convened at 2 P.M., Hank was introduced by President Sinclair. Both men made note of the significant contribution on the early Germans of Hunterdon County made by the late Trustee, Norman Wittwer, who resided at Oldwick, and whose widow was in the audience. Hank's hour-long address elicited many extremes of emotions in the listeners as he unfolded his account of genealogically pursuing the Palatine Germans in the Old World, inserting both humor and empathy along the way regarding certain aspects of these sturdy pioneers.

Many Society members, some of them lineal descendants of those researched by Hank, and keenly interested in Hank's topic, were unable to attend (though it was noted that many who attended were from out-of-state, the furthest away being Michigan). For these, and others who are interested, Hank's entire speech was transcribed, and is being made available. Likewise, many of those in attendance were anxious to purchase Hank's award-winning two volume set on The Palatine Families, however, due to the demand, order forms were soon depleted. Those interested in ordering a printed transcript of Hank's address may write to the GSNJ Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy Stratford, 132 West Franklin Street, Bound Brook, NJ 08805, and those wishing to purchase Hank's book, should write him at P.O. 8341, Universal City, CA 91608. He is also planning to publish a subsequent book on the later arriving Germans, and those interested in receiving notification should write to the above address.



Zion Lutheran Church, Oldwick, New Jersey

## 1988-1989 CALENDAR

- October 1-31** Library closed for redecorating  
**November 20** **FALL MEETING** "The New Jersey Constitutional Convention", Wesley Lance guest speaker, Flemington Womens Club.  
**April 2** To Be Announced

The Society's library and research materials will be unavailable beginning October 1. Minor repairs and interior painting of the library rooms will commence on that date. It is anticipated work can be completed for reopening on November 3. However, patrons are urged to inquire by mail if the work is completed to avoid inconvenience. Notice of opening will be published in the *Hunterdon County Democrat*.



**HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER**

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**PUBLICATION COMMITTEE**

Roxanne K. Carkhuff, Editor

Phyllis D'Autrechy

Kathleen J. Schreiner

Walter J. Young

**- Library Hours -**

Thursday, 1-3 p.m. and Saturday 1-4 p.m.

TELEPHONE: 201/782-1091

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*Family History 1587-1985* by Roy P. Galvin, Williamson Family Chart by Dereck Williamson. Donated by Dereck Williamson, Whitehouse, NJ.

*Alpaugh Genealogy*, compiled by Belva Rymon and Russell Alpaugh, undated. Donated by Arletta (Alpaugh) Smith and Bernice (Alpaugh) Seifert.

Manuscripts, clippings, John C. Hopewell memorabilia. Donated by Barton Evans, Flemington, NJ.

Art ephemera, Civil War letters from John Trimmer, George Scott and others, Almanacs from 1853, 1872, 1878, 1890, 1955. Donated by Marguerite Lisk.

Ida Bellis Papers pertaining to Somerset County families. Donated by Mrs. John B. (Jane Bellis) Duffy, Ringoes, NJ.

William Wean's discharge certificate dated 27 June 1863, newspaper clippings. Donated by Mrs. Donald Wean.

*Hyler: The Privateer Ancestor*, by George Moore, 1987. Donated by the author, White Stone, VA.

Daughters of American Revolution membership certificate issued to Ann W. Stout, for Colonel Lowrey Chapter Flemington, New Jersey, 1930.

Xerox copies of deeds, Joseph Howell and wife Sarah to Jacob Howell, 1797; Joseph Howell and wife Susannah, to George Ely, 1761; draft of the division of lands of John Reading, Senior, 1744. Donated by Austin L. Davison, Jr., Stockton, NJ, lineal descendant of Benjamin Howell, father of Joseph and Jacob, and John Reading.

Reading Family memorabilia including manuscripts and clippings. Donated by lineal descendant Eleanor Templeman, Arlington, VA.

Photographs of Fulper pottery collection previously donated by Mrs. George Conover. Donated by Mrs. H. Seely Thomas, Flemington, NJ.

Letters received by Sarah "Sallie" Elizabeth Craig (Mrs. Henry "Harry" M. Kline) of New Germantown, Tewksbury Township, during the years 1862 through 1868; biographical data and photograph of Mrs. Kline. Gift from Marion and Helen Waldron, Oldwick, NJ.

Microfilms of *Frenchtown Star*, March 1879 - August 1932; *Delaware Valley News*, January 1933 - December 30, 1976, January - June 1983; 97 reels. Donated by H. Seely Thomas, Publisher, Flemington, NJ.

*Constitution and By Laws of the Centreville Vigilant Society*, Edition of 1900. Donated by Mrs. Lorena Cole Vincent, Neshanic Station, NJ.

Photocopy of deed between Peter Vandike of Amwell Township, Hunterdon County and Freegift Stout, Junior, of the same place, dated 1767. Original from the Rutgers University Library, Accession 1224. Donated by Fred Sisser III, Bridgewater, NJ.

*The Osborne/Reich Ancestry, 1360-1986*, by Edmund Arno Osborne, 1986. Gift from the author, Dover, PA.

**ACQUISITIONS**

*Murder Along The Musconetcong*, by Ruth Trask Farrow, 3 copies. Donated by Rev. Charles R. Stires, Amagansett, NY.

*Stryker Family In America*, Norman Stryker, 1979. Donated by Fred Sisser III, Bridgewater, NJ.

Beaded dress worn by Elizabeth Smith Fisher Foran (Mrs. Arthur Foran, Sr.). Donated by Mr. and Mrs. James Foran, Lambertville, NJ.

Handmade, embroidered girls petticoats; fan; photographs; "Thoughts On Happiness: An Address Delivered Before the Hunterdon County Bible Society at Ringoes, New Jersey August 18th 1873" by N. W. Voorhees, President of the Society. Donations from Misses Helen and Marion Waldron, Oldwick, NJ.

Photographs, local scenes and portraits. Donated by Mrs. Robert Chamberlin, Richmond, VA.

Photostatic copy of Governor John Reading's Family Record, inscribed "from H. E. Deats to Mr. H. U. Ransome December 25, 1930." Donated by Horace U. Ransome, Waldboro, ME via Mrs. Worth Cunningham, Flemington, NJ.

Elijah Baker (1776-1863) Family Tree. Donated by Kenneth V. Myers, Milford, NJ.

Peter Voorhees Papers, miscellaneous legal documents. Donated by Karl Lachamacher, Flemington, NJ.

*The French Contribution to the Founding of the United States*, Marcel Villanueva, 1975. Donated by the Abraham Clark Chapter, SAR, Roselle, NJ.



## NOTES and QUERIES

Address correspondence to Genealogical Committee. Listings of ten lines free to members, rate per line over ten lines is 25 cents; non-member rate is 25 cents per line.

Remember to enclose a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) with genealogical correspondence.

BARBER, FELMLEY, HUGHES, SIDELLS, WELSH: Seek par/o James O. Hughes (1830-1896) who m Lydia O. Barber (1827-1878), both bur Clinton NJ. (their dau Emma L. Hughes m Morris J. Welsh 28 May 1873); Sophia Sidells, 2nd w/o David Felmley (b 1756) whose 1st w died 1782. All residents of Hunterdon Co. in 1780's. ADD: Barbara W. Austin, 25 Park Road, Dayton, OH 45419.

DILTS, HOUSEL, TIETENBERG: Seek info re fam/par/o Peter Dilts (Trenton). As minor he substituted for stepfather Mr. Housel under Capt. Dawson, NJ Troops, RevWar. 1780's to VT where he m Abigail Wilson, par/o six chil. He d Peru, NY 1831. Seek info re anyone having surname Tietenberg. ADD: Gretchen Tietenberg, RFD #1, Box 272, Augusta, ME 04330.

KING, McLEAN, MELICK, PERINE, VAN KIRK: Seek info re John King, d 1777, Bedminster; dau Issabella m William McClean; their son John McLean (1760-1834) who m Mary Van Kirk (1762-1835); their son Thomas King McLean who m Mary Perine (1753-1882); a dau/of Peter Perine (1753-1838) and Catharine Melick (1761-1793). McLeans and Perines moved to upstate NY after Rev. ADD: Edward McLean, 76 Ludlow Dr., Chappaque, NY 10514.

HOUSEL, KEMPLE: Want to contact descendants of William and Peter Housel who migrated from Hunt. Co. to Northumberland Co. PA circa 1790. Peter died Tubot Twp. 1797. William m. Elizabeth Kemple, Peter m. her sister, both dau/o Johan Philip Kemple who died Amwell Twp. Hunt. Co. 1771. ADD: Roxanne K. Carkhuff, P.O. Box 334, Ringoes, NJ 08551.

CRAMER, HAINES, HAZEN: Is Ann Elizabeth Cramer b 1799-1877 dau/o George or John Cramer? Des maiden name, m/o William Hazen (1826-1908), res Washington Twp. Morris Co; James Haines b 1833; Sarah Todd, b 1839-1928 bur Mendham. ADD: Anne Willard, 13700 Lyman Lane, Red Bluff, CA 96080.

GASSNER, JOHNSTON: Seek anc/o both, any info would help. Magdalena (Lena) Gassner b 1780, d 1 Mar 1843 m 23 Dec 1798 John Johnston. She was prob fr German Valley (now Long Valley), he of Oldwick; rem to Warren Co. ADD: Elaine Johnston, 3205 Falcon Lane, #117, Wilmington, DE 19808.

## Historian's Bookshelf



*Kingwood Township Of Yesteryear*, Barbara and Alexander Farnham for the Kingwood Township Historical Society, 1988. 65 pages with illustrations, photographs, maps, index. Available for \$6 from the Township Clerk or by mail \$7.50 to Kingwood Township Historical Society, R.D. #1, Box 448, Frenchtown, NJ 08825.

*Notice From New Jersey Newspapers 1781 - 1790* by Thomas B. Wilson, 1988. 554 pages, person, place and subject indexes. \$30 postpaid from Hunterdon House, 38 Swan Street, Lambertville, NJ 08530.

This new publication contains extracts from all newspapers published in the State for the period indicated. Foreign and national news have been omitted from the abstracts but all items having a bearing on genealogy or local history have been included as have advertisements. These range from merchants and tradesmen to real estate sales, personals i.e. marriage separations, insolvent debtors, runaway servants and lists of letters remaining at the post office. A valuable addition to the library of local historians and genealogists.

*Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 4, 1915, A. Van Doren Honeyman, Editor. Reprinted 1988, 330 pages, surname index, photographs and illustrations. \$25 postpaid from Hunterdon House 38 Swan St., Lambertville, NJ 08530.

Volume 4 contains baptismal records from four churches, cemetery and burying ground inscriptions, genealogy of the Lane family, continuation of Somerset County Marriages 1795-1879, historical essays about the Dutch migration from the Raritan Valley to New York circa 1785, pre-Revolutionary migration from Somerset and Bergen Counties to Conewago, Pa. and more. It is a valuable addition to the library of historians and genealogists.

*Union Township Rural Recollections*, edited by Andrew C. Herdan, photography by Ronni Nienstedt, 1988, 281 pages, profusely illustrated with maps and photographs, hardbound, no index. \$25 from Union Township Historical Society, Box 160, R.D. #3, Pittstown, NJ 08867 or Hunterdon County Historical Society, 114 Main Street, Flemington, NJ. For mail orders please add \$1.50 for postage.

*Union Township Rural Recollections* is a narrative and pictorial history of UNION TOWNSHIP researched and compiled by the Union Township Historical Society. Chapters on the Rockhill District, Grandin, Jutland, Perryville, Van Syckle & Norton, Pattenburg and Belle Wood Park are complimented by the many old photographs. A treat of a trip back in time!

### ACQUISITIONS (continued)

*The Ancestors of Caroline Larue Pitts* by Henry Larue Pitts, 1987. Gift from the author, Wheaton, IL.

*KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP OF YESTERYEAR* by Barbara and Alexander Farnham for the Kingwood Township Historical Society, 1988. Donated by Kenneth V. Myers, Milford, NJ.





## 50th Wedding Anniversary for John Judson and Mary Lowe Biggs

The above photograph was taken seventy-five years ago in June 1913, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Judson Biggs near Barley Sheaf, Readington Township. When their children, grandchildren, other relatives, neighbors and friends gathered to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

John Judson Biggs, son of John O. and Sarah Ann (Laberteaux) Biggs, of Pleasant Run and Mary Lowe, daughter of David and Rebecca (Baker) Lowe, of Barley Sheaf, were married June 24, 1863 by Horace Doolittle, minister of the Stanton Reformed Church.

The couple descends from families of the early settlers of Readington and Clinton Townships. They were farmers and lived their entire married life on the farm where she was born and raised. The house was built in 1850 by her parents on part of the old Baker farm purchased by her great-grandfather, Timothy Baker in 1792 and which remained in the family until 1946.

They were parents of four daughters: *Sarah Rebecca* (Sallie), born June 7, 1864, married Sylvester Reed and lived in Pittstown; *Annie Minerva* (Minnie) born May 27, 1866 married George Higgins and lived on an adjoining farm; *Margaret Emma* (Maggie), born October 3, 1875, married Ephraim Burroughs Hall and lived with the Biggs; *Mary Viola* (Ollie), born February 7, 1877, married Alfred L. Everitt and lived in the Stanton area.

The Biggs were active members of the Grove Methodist

Episcopal (Woods) Church and their home was often used for prayer meetings, church socials and suppers.

Many of their descendants are still living in Hunterdon County today.

### 50th Wedding Anniversary for John Judson and Mary Lowe Biggs June 24, 1913

- Front Row: Edward Clawson, Ida Schomp Clawson, Hirrie Higgins, Alfred L. Everitt, John Waldron
- 2nd Row: First two unknown, Ina Ewing Mundy, Carrie Reed Deats, Bert Deats, Alice Reed, Irvin Reed, Jennie McLoan Higgins, Bessie Hall Higgins, John Higgins, George Bernasco holding Eugenia Bernasco
- 3rd Row: Carrie Ewing, James Ewing, Cornelia Hall, Mrs. John Biggs, John Biggs, Leah Bernasco, Sylvester Reed, Jacob Sheats, Katherine Ewing Sheats, Mrs. Hankinson, Mrs. Ross Jones, Ross Jones, Mildred Bernasco, Jennie Bernasco
- 4th Row: William R. Ewing, Sarah Mariah Biggs, Julia Clawson Ewing, Holloway Cole, Clarence Higgins, Margaret Biggs Hall, Ephraim Burroughs Hall, Carrie Clawson Lowe, Elijah Lowe, Mary Everitt, Bessie Higgins, Mary Ewing Lant, Richard Mundy, Russell Higgins, Howard Saums, Ella Huff Saums
- Back Row: Viola Biggs Everitt, Judson B. Everitt, John Judson Biggs, Mary Lowe Biggs, George Higgins, Minerva Higgins



## THE LONG RANGE FARM

*Home of Joseph Capner [1760-1809] and Family*

Joseph Capnerhurst arrived in Philadelphia in September 1786. He stayed with his uncle John Hall at the Coltman's home in Philadelphia while he looked for a farm to buy and prepare for the arrival of the rest of his family from England. On October 12, 1786, Joe with his brother John, found a farm near Flemington, New Jersey. Excerpts from John Hall's diary read,

"Oct 12 Met Jack and Jo, Jo found place in Jersey, I decided to go with Jo to see prop, it was not much money. Went to Pennytown with Joe spent night.

Oct 13 Got up, walked to Flemming Town arrived near 1, was kindly received by the Burges family, dined and went with young Mr. Burges to look over property. Jo, I and Mr. Burges went on the hilly part, very unpromising, then thru the wood and not much better, then to house, good orchard of 11 acres of wheat stubble and full of clover. This more promising, below had better soil, good meadows a good run of water down the middle, not bad. Went and called on woman proprietor and bid 550 but she would not take it. Looked at the house of good stone, not very convenient barn but tolerable good, bid half her price, she refused, we left and went to Mr. Burgess. Jo very anxious to get something, and it was a tolerable low price and by industry he would do well. We agreed to go tomorrow and pay her price.

Oct 14 Jo and young Burgess went down and agreed with the old woman and she was to come and enter into an article of agreement. After noon she came and old Mr. Burgess wrote the agreement and Jo and she signed it. Back to Trenton."

The 172 acre farm originally lay just west and southwest of Flemington. Today the majority lies within the Borough limits of Flemington. The name, Long Range Farm, comes from its shape. It was very long and narrow, starting at the north on a hill and running south, quickly flattening out to pasture over a mile in length.

The farm had been part of a huge tract of 5,000 acres owned by William Penn, extending from the Delaware River on the west to the Raritan River on the east, with the northern border being an east-west line running very near present-day Capner Street where it crosses over Cemetery Hill (Mullen Hill). The property went to his sons after William Penn's death and was surveyed circa 1712. In a deed of transfer dated 9 March 1738 the Penn brothers sold a portion of the tract to Palatine immigrant Phillip Kase. Fifty years later, in a deed dated 26 September 1788, Rachel White, the remarried widow of Phillip Kase, sold the 172 acre portion of the tract to Joseph Capnerhurst.

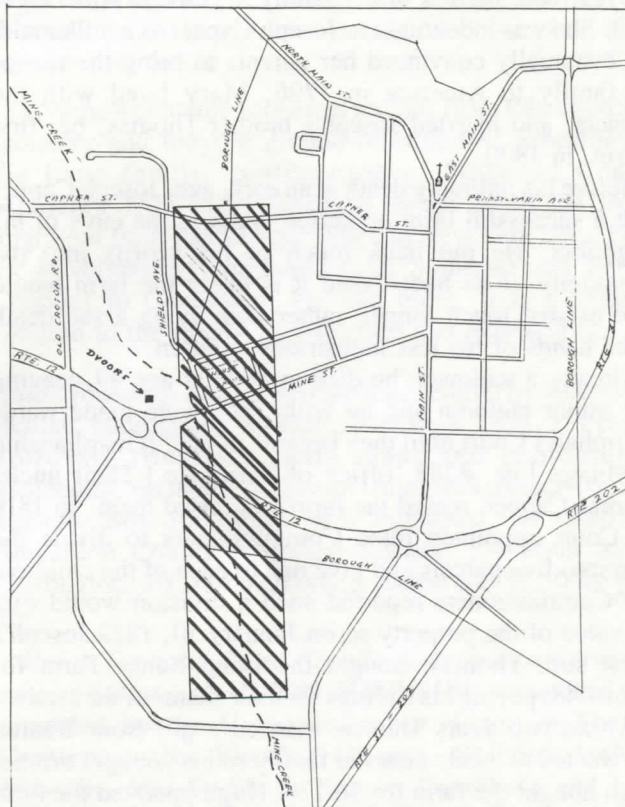
In a letter from John Hall to his sister Mary in England, dated January 1, 1787, he wrote, "This place of Jo's contains 170 acres and is an oblong square the hous stands about the middle or as I suppose nearer the ends towards the wood and high land. At one door or window he will have a clear view of all his land downwards. He will likewise look all over the upper part of his land up to the wood out of a window on the other side the hous. There is a small run of water down the middle of the land below

the house. Mr. Passand and I must undertake cutting it straight and floating all the low land. There is some in tillage just below the hous of a most excellent soil. There is a publik road crosses it. The hous will want considerable improvement and alterations. The barn is a considerable large one in good repair."

The house was of stone mortared with mud and had a basement and three floors. The first two floors had four rooms each and a center hall, the attic was finished with rooms also. The house was built in the late 1730's by Phillip Kase. During copper mining operations, around 1855, the house was torn down and it was noted the house was still strong and difficult to demolish.

There was a tenant farmer on the property so Joseph had to wait for his term to conclude. On November 2, 1786 Joseph moved to the farm and lived with the tenant, spending his time clearing and working the fields to prepare for taking over the farm. On March 12, 1787 Joseph visited Philadelphia and with John Hall, obtained a check for \$2234. The next day Joseph paid off the farm and returned to his new place to prepare for the arrival of his family.

The family arrived by boat from England, landing in Philadelphia on April 20, 1787. They were met by John Hall who got them through customs by the 23rd and prepared them for the trip to Flemington. The party went by stage, across Coryell's Ferry, to the farm in Flemington, arriving on the 25th. The house bulged with this influx of people. There was Joseph, his mother Mary, his brother Thomas, sister Nancy, Uncle John Hall who moved in also, Isaac Passand and William Gilbert (distant relatives from England) and several servants.



Map of Flemington as it appeared today. The shaded area is Long Range Farm. Drawn by David P. Brackett.



As the farm was rebuilt, it having been very run down after the previous owner, Mr. Kase died) many improvements were made. Thomas Capner spent the month of May 1787 building a new privy. In September and October they built a barrack building with a thatched roof. During October and November of 1787 they built a wood building for John Hall which contained two rooms, one for his parlor and the other for his workshop. Hall built the masonry oven and chimney himself. Mary Capnerhurst, John Hall's sister, noted in a letter from England that it was so nice the new building for John had seven large windows, and there was no window tax in America.

In late 1790 a new barn was added. With John Hall's experience as a miller in England, it was no time until he started developing a water system to gravity irrigate the farm. He and Mr. Passand built a system of ditches, which Hall called his navigation, that brought water from Neshanic Creek (Mine Creek) from the Cases' land on the west, around the face of Cemetery Hill and over to the Burgesses on the east, selling them water. This system was further developed in the early 1800's and became the first water system for the town of Flemington.

The farm operation that Joseph Capner built was very successful. In the early years, he concentrated on a dairy operation, making quantities of cheese that was taken to market in Philadelphia and Trenton. Joseph also sold other farm goods. He began raising sheep around 1805, importing English Bakewell sheep and breeding them. He became famous for his quality stock and he also raised purebred cattle.

Mary Choyce, a daughter of James and Elizabeth Choyce, was the first of her family to come to America in 1793. She was indentured to Joseph Capner as a milk maid, and eventually convinced her parents to bring the rest of the family to America in 1796. Mary lived with the Capners, and married Joseph's brother Thomas, her first cousin, in 1800.

Before his untimely death at an early age, Joseph Capner built a successful farm operation that was the envy of his neighbors. He put back much of his profits into the community. If he hadn't died it is likely the farm would have existed much longer, rather than dying a sad death at the hands of his less industrious children.

Already a widower, he died in 1809 at age 49, leaving five minor children and no will. They were made wards of Orphan's Court until they became of age. [Guardianship of Minors File #283, office of Surrogate.] Their uncle, Thomas Capner, rented the farm and raised them. In 1819 the Court appointed three Commissioners to divide the farm into five parcels and give one to each of the children. The Commissioners reported such a division would ruin the value of the property so on January 10, 1822 Joseph's eldest son, Thomas, bought the Long Range Farm for \$5,616.48, paying his siblings for their shares of the estate.

Within two years Thomas married a girl from Trenton and wanted to locate near her family so his younger brother Hugh bought the farm for \$6,120. Hugh operated the farm until 1836 and sold it to Flemington Mining Company for \$42,600.

He had reportedly found copper ore when digging on his land and the effort to mine copper in the area was renewed, having been unsuccessfully tried many years earlier. Over the next twenty-five years the property was slowly destroyed by the would-be mining operations. Companies went broke one by one, after luring their stock customers with visions of mine tunnels filled with "salted" ore. More than a million dollars was dumped into eleven mining operations. Long Range Farm was stripped and covered with mine buildings, several engine houses, a crushing plant, a huge brick mansion, eight miners' houses, an office, a laboratory, carpenter shops, blacksmith shops, storage houses and barns. The original stone house was torn down. The mines did produce copper for about a dollar



"The front of our house" Drawn by Thomas Capner in 1787. [Hunterdon County Historical Society Collections, Capner Papers]

a pound, but it sold for about 18 cents a pound. To settle complaints after more losses, the Sheriff sold the property. It kept reverting to Hugh Capner as mining firms failed and it was resold many times. After all mining attempts had failed, on October 26, 1866 the farm was sold to John Moses and has since become town lots and a few farming parcels in the southern portion.

Many members of the Capner family began, passed, and departed their lives at Long Range Farm. Joseph Capner moved there in 1786, was married there in 1796, and his five children were born there. His wife died in 1803 and he died in 1809. Thomas and Mary Capner's daughter Mary was born there in 1801. Hugh Capner and his wife Matilda lived there and Thomas Capner, Nancy Capner, Isaac Passand, William Gilbert, John Hall Capner (Jack), the Exton family, the Choyce family, John Hall, the children of Thomas Capner and Mary Choyce all spent time at Long Range Farm.

It should be noted that the house on Mine Street, west of Flemington on the traffic circle, for many years referred to as the Dvoor house, long attributed to Joseph Capner, is NOT the Capner house as indicated by a Tercentenary



marker on its lawn. Maps and plottings I made during my deed research showed the exact placement of the Capner property. The Dvoor house, which the Tercentenary marker identifies as built by Joseph Capner was not located on the land owned by Joseph Capner.

*David Parsons Brackett*

#### Footnote

The conclusion that Joseph Capner's house cannot be the Dvoor house was reached for the following reasons:

1. John Hall resided with his uncle, Joseph Capner from April 1787 to 1799 and then lived on the neighboring farm of Isaac Passand and visited with the Capners on a weekly basis. John Hall's daily diaries in which he made entries from 1785 to 1812, make no mention of a new house being built, but he notes other structures being erected – a barn, privy, two-room building for himself. [John Hall diaries in possession of the author.]
2. The property Joseph Capner bought from Rachel White had a stone house with full basement, two full stories and living space in the full attic, which was more than adequate to house a family of seven in 1796 so there was no need for a new house. [Capner Papers, Accession number 0031, Hunterdon County Historical Society.]
3. The 1852 "Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey" by Samuel C. Cornell shows John Case occupying the house located where the Dvoor house is today. By this time the Capner property had been sold to the Flemington Mining Company.
4. Joseph Capner's deed mentions a cemetery encroaching on his land. The location of the Case cemetery on Bonnell Street matches the description of the encroachment. [Hunterdon County Deed Book 1, page 290 +]
5. John Hall described the property to Mary Capner in England in a letter dated 1 January 1787, writing the farm was ¼ mile out of town. The Dvoor house is over ½ mile from the old Center Bridge Road, placing it off the Joseph Capner property. [Capner Papers, *ibid*]
6. The "Map ... Hunterdon Copper Company, Hunterdon County, New Jersey" by Professor Montroville Wilson Dickenson, 1859, in the collections of the Hunterdon County Historical Society place the Capner Farm entirely on the town side of Mine Creek.
7. The property on which the Dvoor house sits would have been in the middle of Case land. Selling the land on which the house is located to Joseph Capner would have split the remaining Case land in two parcels.
8. The road return for Capner Street shows the western boundary of the Joseph Capner farm to be about 3,200 feet west of Flemington's Main Street while the Dvoor house is about 3,450 feet west of Main Street, placing it off the Capner property.
9. The road return for Mine Street places Mr. Capner's hedge at 1,485 feet west of the Center Bridge Road. The Dvoor house is about 2,500 feet west of that point, placing it off the Capner property.
10. The deed for Isaac Passand's farm, which bordered the Capner farm, places Passand 2,010 feet west of Main Street, again placing the Dvoor house off the Capner farm. [Deed book 37, page 413 +]
11. The deed for Roger Bowman's land, bordering Capner on the east, locates Long Range Farm too far east to accommodate the Dvoor house. [Deed book 4, page 280 +]
12. The original survey of Joseph Capner's farm shows a creek passing into the property from the west. It is possible to fit the survey so the creek would pass through near the survey spot and include the Dvoor house within the bounds of the farm. However, if this is done, it moves the property several thousand feet to the north and makes the Capner farm partially within Coxe survey of 1712 which is incorrect as the original Case tract was entirely within the Penn survey of the same vintage. So, by moving the survey south, aligning the north line of the Capner farm with the Coxe/Penn line of 1712, it matches with the Mine Creek entering the property at Mine Street as the survey shows. This places the Dvoor house west of the Capner farm and is substantiated by the fact that the northern neighbor to

Capner was Thomas Lowrey who bought his land from Coxe, thus placing the northern line of the Capner farm on the Coxe/Penn line. This line has been shown to pass just north of present-day Capner Street where it passes over Cemetery Hill, and through the intersection south of the Presbyterian Church. [*History of Hunterdon & Somerset Counties, New Jersey* by James P. Snell, published 1881, *Rural Hunterdon* by Hubert G. Schmidt published 1945, *Traditions of Hunterdon* attributed to John W. Lequear, reprinted 1957.]

13. The chain of title to the Dvoor land passes back to the Case family. Jacob Dvoor took title 29 March 1920. The property had passed through several owners since being devised to John and Peter I. Case by the last will of Philip Case, the younger. [Deed books 333:523 + 1920; 329:547 + 1919; 375:132 + 1918; 170:592 + 1870; 135:379 + 1866; 52:22 + 1832, research by Kenneth V. Myers]
14. The Case family retained the land west of Capner. The widow having sold their house to Capner with the eastern portion of their property near the Case family cemetery, one of the Cases built the Dvoor house. [Deed book 1:290 1787]

**Note:** *The author, David Parsons Brackett, is a descendant of the Capner family. John Hall's diaries are in his possession and were important in preparing "Long Range Farm." His research during several visits to New Jersey from his home in Port Angeles, Washington pinpointed the farm of his ancestor and clearly convinced him the Tercentenary marker was in error.*



## WITTMER MEMORIAL FUND

Through the generosity of his many friends the NORMAN C. WITTMER MEMORIAL FUND received nearly \$9,000 with which to purchase a microfilm reader-printer and the Committee, Chairman Adam Siodlowski, Mrs. George Melick, Mrs. Stephanie Stevens, Willard Young, Jr. and Kenneth V. Myers, did a fine job.

The reader-printer selected, a CANON PC 80, was delivered in January and library patrons are pleased with its performance. Formal dedication will be July 10 at 4 p.m. in the Society Library. Donors, members and guests are invited to attend.

Remaining monies in the FUND will be used to finance the machine's operation and purchase additions to the microfilm library. On order already are available films of three newspapers, the *Democrat-Advertiser*, *Lambertville Beacon*, and *Milford Leader*. The Society has not previously been able to make the Lambertville and Milford papers available to researchers. Although the *Democrat-Advertiser* was on file in the Society, the extremely fragile condition of most volumes rendered it difficult to use. The original newspapers will be retired from use and preserved.





OLD VIEW OF NEUWIED

Palatines from Neuwied on the Rhine River who migrated in 1710 and the 1720's settled in Hunterdon County. Hank Jones says our County could be renamed New Neuwied.

["Alte Ansichten Neuwied",  
Bucher Kehrein, Engerser Str. 40, Neuwied]

## Membership Report

We welcome the following new members to the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

Miss Charity Craig, Flemington, NJ  
 Sharon R. DeClerico, Orange, CA  
 Jeanne DeLand, Irvine, CA  
 Lillian D. Hoffman, Valhalla, NY  
 Mrs. Eric C. Hook, Westford, MA  
 Miss Mary E. Groff, Toms River, NJ  
 Joan W. Marsh, Annandale, NJ  
 Edward C. McLean, Jr., Chappaqua, NY  
 Dorothy & Merry Morton, Chester, NJ  
 Mrs. Edward W. Ott, Belvidere, NJ  
 Rev. John F. Potter, Ringoes, NJ  
 Mrs. Margaret A. Rose, Roseau, MN  
 John M. Thomas, II, Flemington, NJ

*Mrs. Frederick Stothoff*  
 Membership Secretary

## HOW TO JOIN

**Hunterdon County Historical Society**  
 114 Main Street  
 Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Please enroll me as a member of your Society

Annual	\$12.00 per year
Family	\$14.00 per year
Contributing	\$25.00 per year
Sustaining	\$50.00 per year
Institutional	\$50 and up per year
Life	\$200.00
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 .....

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