



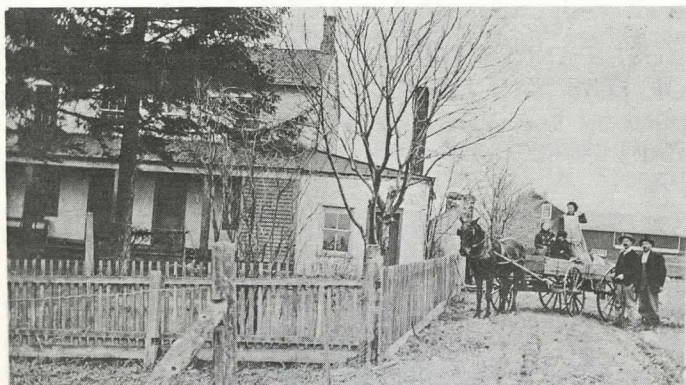
Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

VOL. 20, NO. 3

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FALL 1984

Mr. Urbach to Discuss Jewish Settlers in Hunterdon



William Grossman family arriving in 1911 at their recently acquired farm in Kingwood Township. Photograph loaned by daughter-in-law, Mrs. Oscar Grossman.

At the Society's Fall Meeting in the Methodist Church's Education rooms in Flemington on November 18, 1984, Solomon Urbach will speak of his experiences as a prisoner in concentration camps during World War II preceding his arrival in Flemington as a displaced person in 1949.

Fifty years ago in 1934 Hitler had become the Fuhrer of Germany... the beginning of a reign of terror in Europe. At that time Hunterdon County people were struggling with the problems of the Great Depression, repeal of the Prohibition law and the Hauptman trial. Scarcely could they foresee or be much concerned with the holocaust that started that year with the first concentration camp at Dachau. Ten years later nearly six million Jews in Europe had been annihilated.

Mr. Urbach was fortunate to have survived the terrible ordeal of the holocaust. Most members of his family were killed and all their possessions destroyed. He came to Hunterdon County with many Jewish immigrants afforded this opportunity under the Displaced Persons Act of 1949.

Ill-prepared financially and emotionally to start a new life, many of these persons settled in Hunterdon as poultry farmers with little, if any, experience raising chickens. They struggled bravely against uncertainties and misunderstandings. With it all, in three decades the new residents have become very much a part of the Hunterdon County community.

The arrival of this wave of immigrants to our shores in the 1940's and 1950's was not the first time that a Jewish migration founds its destination to be the United States. Fleeing the pogroms, legalized anti-

Semetism symbolized by massacres in Russia, Poland, Rumania, Lithuania, and Hungry, some two million Jews came to America between 1881 and 1914. Many of Hunterdon's most prominent Jewish families arrived here during this period.

One of the most notable immigrants of this time was Joseph Finkle, the founder of Lambertville's large hardware business. Showing determination and fortitude, he came to Trenton after his arrival in Philadelphia from Russia in 1898 and eventually settled in Lambertville. He earned an average of \$4-\$5 a week as a pedlar with a pack on his back walking from farm to farm on the dusty roads of Hunterdon County. Within three years Mr. Finkle had saved enough money to purchase a horse and wagon — \$22. By 1920 he opened a hardware store in Lambertville which has grown steadily and is now operated by his son as one of Hunterdon's largest privately owned retail establishments. Mr. Finkle became a naturalized United States citizen on September 21, 1904. His petition for citizenship was witnessed and recommended by Walter Hayhurst, an eminent attorney in Lambertville who served a term as County prosecutor.

Although Mr. Finkle was a merchant, many of these late 19th century immigrants to Hunterdon took up farming as an occupation, encouraged perhaps by the Jewish Agricultural Aid Society established in the country about 1900. One of the Society's earliest loans was in 1909 to Isaac Levine of Kingwood Township. A provision in the mortgage of the Agricultural Aid Society stated, "If the obligor fails for 30 days to reside on the premises or fails during any one year to cultivate farmland in good farm-like manner, the whole principal shall be due."

In 1937 a group of immigrant farmers in and around the County, led by Oscar Grossman, a second generation poultry farmer, formed the Delaware Valley Coop to operate a feed and grain store in Flemington. This institution was an important part of the agricultural scene until it closed in 1983.

Information on the earlier Jewish settlers in Hunterdon is a subject I have been researching and will be presented as an introduction to Mr. Urbach's address. The subject of Jewish migration to and settlement in Hunterdon County is one that has been much overlooked in Hunterdon's history. The discussion at our Fall Meeting should prove interesting to all. Join us on Sunday, November 18, in the Meeting Room of the Flemington Methodist Church at 2 p.m.

Kenneth V. Myers

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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Recent Acquisitions

The Society expresses appreciation to the donors of the following items which have been added to the Society's collections. Artifacts, manuscripts and other material representative of the history of Hunterdon County and/or the families who resided here would be most welcome additions to the collections.

From Hunterdon Abstract Company, Flemington, NJ, 400+ rolls of microfilm containing Hunterdon County deeds, mortgages, surrogate records, tax maps, etc.

Six scrapbooks compiled by Mrs. George (Bessie) Alvater of Flemington, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Perzel, Flemington, NJ.

WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC NEW HOPE, donated by Ann Niessen, New Hope, PA.

A BRIEF FAMILY HISTORY compiled by Mrs. H.S. (Elizabeth Runk) McMorris, Princeton, NJ, gift of the author.

EWING TOWNSHIP SESQUICENTENNIAL 1834-1984, donated by Mrs. Theo. D'Autrechy, Pennington, NJ.

JOHN SMITH 1718-1791 DESCENDANTS FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER, Spring 1984; manuscript of Pickel Genealogy, by Beverly B. Smith, 1983 (work in progress) given by Mrs. Beverly B. Smith, Flemington, NJ.

THE CAPTURE, THE PRISON PENN AND THE ESCAPE, by Willard W. Glazier, 1868; **LIFE AND SERVICES OF GENERAL JOHN A. LOGAN AS SOLDIER AND STATESMAN**, by George Francis Dawson, 1884; donated by Mrs. Henrietta Van Syckle, Lambertville, NJ.

STOCKTON FIRE COMPANY 75TH ANNIVERSARY 1903-1983, given by Mrs. Bertha Schuck, Stockton, NJ.

A 360 YEAR FAMILY HISTORY OF THE AUTEN ANCESTORS AND PRESENT DAY FAMILY OF LOIS VAN LIEW AUTEN DILLEY(*1918) compiled by Lois Van Liew Auten Dilley and Charles W. Dilley, 1983, donated by the authors of Coopersburg, PA.

SOME DESCENDANTS OF JAMES DALRYMPLE, compiled by Thomas Franklin Hull, 1984, given by the author, a resident of W. Lafayette, IN. This is a revision of an earlier compilation.

Aller family memorabilia; two human hair bracelets made from the hair of Margaret Aller Lloyd (1835-1911) and her sister, Eliza Aller (1840-1867), daughters of John and Elizabeth (Besson) Aller; a valentine received in 1861 by Eliza Aller. Donated by Mrs. G. Wesley Allegar, Clearwater, FL.

An account book for the firm J.K. Lippincott, Alfred Walling and Sam Sproul, Keyport, New Jersey donated by Alan Painter, great, grandson of Samuel Sproul.



Membership Report

The following new members have recently joined the Society. A warm welcome is extended to them.

Ms. Rosemarie Beardsley, Somerville, NJ
Meg & Ron Byerlee, Flemington, NJ
Mr. W. Gerald Cole, Macungie, PA
Samuel M. Fleming, Laguna Beach, CA
Mrs. Martha H. Gelbach, Flemington, NJ
Mrs. Charlotte V. Groff, Berrien Springs, MI
Mrs. Martin Hoffman, Flemington, NJ
Donald Jones, Sergeantsville, NJ
Ms. Loretta Kenefick, Woodside, NY
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph LaValley, Flemington, NJ
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Mullen, Flemington, NJ
Mr. & Mrs. Walter R. Seuren, Cherry Hill, NJ
Mr. Peter Shrope, State College, PA
Mrs. Marshall A. Smith, Jr., Fresno, CA
Ms. Judy Stewart, Kendall Park, NJ
Mrs. John Terp, Bloomsbury, NJ
Dottie Williams, Flemington, NJ

Mrs. Frederick Stothoff
Membership Secretary

Sproul Account Book

The Society received the gift of an old account book in which Obediah Herbert Sproul kept records of his pupils for the years he taught school in Pittstown and Stockton prior to the time he prepared for the practice of medicine. During its period of use the book has been the cash book for a business firm of J.K. Lippincott, Alfred Walling and Sam Sproul in Keyport, New Jersey, then later the school record as mentioned and finally a place to record favorite excerpts of literature by Dr. Sproul.

The reference to Sam Sproul was obviously made to Reverend Samuel Sproul, the father of Dr. Sproul, who was the minister of the Sandy Ridge Baptist Church from 1858 to the close of 1867.

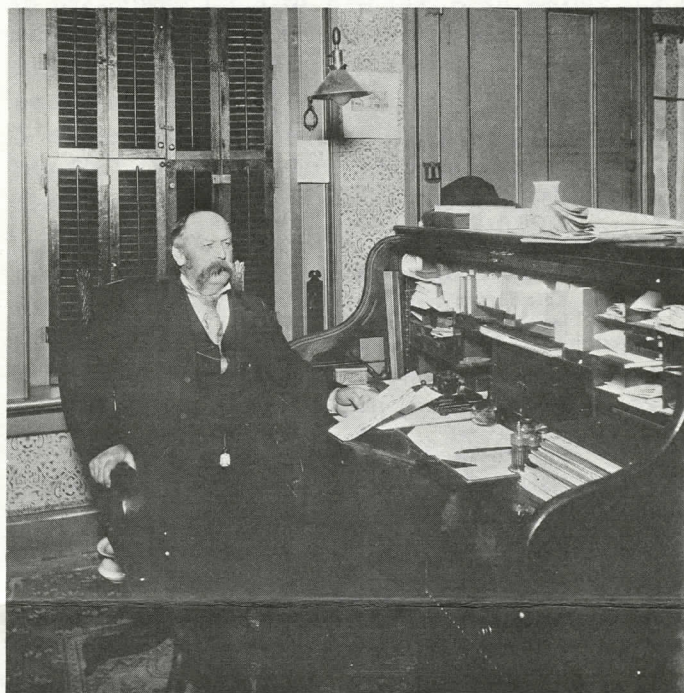
Middlesex County was the birthplace of the young O.H. Sproul on May 26, 1844 and much of his early education he received from his father who was a universally talented person. After his stint of teaching in 1863 and 1864, O.H. studied at the University of Pennsylvania and in 1866 received his medical degree following which he took a preceptorship with Dr. Foulke in New Hope. Dr. Sproul established his own practice in Stockton shortly thereafter and soon married a local young lady, Amy H. Dilts. He was active in community affairs, serving as clerk of the local schoolboard, the secretary of Centre Bridge Company of Stockton, became a member of the Stockton Baptist Church and the Orpheus Lodge F & AM while he expanded his medical practice in Stockton.

About the year 1890 he removed with his family to Flemington and there continued prominently in the medical community. For years he was the Secretary of the Hunterdon County Medical Society and in 1894 was elected President of the New Jersey Medical Society. To this last organization he was so loyal that he missed but three meetings in over 60 years. He was a member and frequent delegate to the meetings of the American Medical Association.

That Dr. Sproul reached many people in caring for their health did not escape the eyes of local politicians. In 1894 he became a candidate for County Surrogate on the Republican ticket and even though he was a member of the party then very much in the minority he won by 165 votes. After his term was over he maintained an interest in political affairs but was never again a candidate for public office. During the term of Governor Frank Murphy in 1902, Dr. Sproul was appointed to the Board of Managers of New Jersey Sanatorium for Tubercular Diseases and with his help the site of Glen Gardner was settled on as the location for this important State institution.

The Hunterdon County Historical Society is proud to have had the Doctor as one of its incorporators in 1898. During the many years he was associated with the Society he faithfully filled various officer and com-

mittee assignments. Mr. Frank Burd, senior member of the Society recalls him, "I used to see Dr. Sproul when he visited my grandfather Woodruff's house. After the matter at hand had been attended to, he liked nothing better than to sit and chat for awhile, enjoying a good story. He always displayed a keen sense of humor. He was rather a stout man, carrying impressively his 200 pounds or so. About him I never heard a derogatory word or criticism."



O.H. Sproul, M.D. taken at his desk while Surrogate of Hunterdon County, 1895-1898.

Mrs. Amy Sproul died March 29, 1921 at the age of 75 and four years later, after a long siege with cancer, Dr. Sproul passed away on February 13, 1925. He was buried in the Sandy Ridge cemetery. Dr. Sproul and his wife were the parents of three children, Florence who married Victor C. Hyde, Eleanor who married Howard Painter, and Samuel who died early in life. When Mrs. Painter closed her dwelling in Flemington some years ago the large pier mirror which graces the living room in the Doric House was her gift to the Society. A fitting remembrance of Mrs. Painter and her father, Dr. Sproul.

An excerpt from Obediah H. Sproul's school record is included here covering the quarter commencing September 29, 1863 for District #9, comprised of parts of Alexandria, Franklin and Union Townships. He records at the bottom of the list, "Left Pittstown December 23, 1863. Stockton commencing January 4, 1864 for \$.03 1/2 per day of attendance per pupil."

TOWNSHIP	SCHOLARS	AGE	PARENTS NAME	DAYS ATTENDED
A	Mary Smith	11	Charles S.	33
A	Sallie E. Pittenger	13	John	49
F	Jennie Welch	10	John	62

Continued on page 422

SPROUL ACCOUNT BOOK continued from page 421

TOWNSHIP	SCHOLARS	AGE	PARENTS NAME	DAYS ATTENDED
U	Joseph Taylor	13	Joseph	51
F	George C. Little	14	Sedgewick	37
A	William S. Huff	11	John	28
A	John W. Huff	7	John	17
F	Willie L. Tharpe	8	Joseph	58
A	Edward Quick	9	Amos	50
A	Clark Smith	9	Chas S.	49
F	Michael F. Gooley	7	Michael	26
F	Mary Gooley	6	Michael	5
F	Winfield S. Smith	9	Wm R.	59
A	Lizzie Stryker	15	Peter	57
A	Kate Stryker	12	Peter	32
A	Amelia Stryker	9	Peter	41
F	Emmerellis Little	9	Daniel	22
F	Mary Welch	6	John	44
F	Sarah A. Bests	10	Cornelius	46
A	Barker Shrope	11	Peter B.	35
A	Peter B. Shrope	9	Peter B.	31
A	Kate Shrope	15	Peter B.	10
A	Mary Compton	5	Wilson	24
F	Annie Probasco	8	Silvester	10
F	William Tower	11	John	51
	Jacob West, Jr.	13	Jacob Sr.	38
	Lemuel West	18	Jacob Sr.	15
F	Eliza Stryker	14	Larison	13
A	Mary Rockhill	16	George W.	15
A	Maggie Rockhill	7	George W.	22
F	Ida May Probasco	-	Silvester	4
F	Greenleaf Quick	13	Amos	21
A	George Huff	14	John	15
A	John Compton	8	Wilson	16
F	Joseph West	16	Jacob	15
F	William Hummer	17	Herbert	13
A	Jacob Everett	13	Catherine	2
A	George K. Shrope	19	Peter B.	12
A	John Stryker	18	Peter	8

41 pupils

Kenneth V. Myers



NOTES and QUERIES

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

CHAMBERLIN: Seek info re Joseph Chamberlin, b NJ ca 1732, d NJ 1816. Wife Amy Taylor b NJ 1729, d NJ 1784. Chil David, Zilpha, Joseph, John, Clayton, Lewis, Jesse and William, b 1772, d OH 1851. ADD: Mrs. Verne Chamberlin, 8100 W. Lincoln Way, Wooster, OH 44691.

STEVENS: Des par, w/o Joseph Stevens. Will named chil: John, Henry, Sarah; proved 28 Apr 1712, Hunt. Co., NJ. Are any desc still there? ADD: Charlotte Groff, 108 S. Kephart, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

SCHWEITZER/SWITZER, NEFF: Henry Schweitzer (Switzer) b 6 Dec 1744 NJ, m Anna Maria Neff, b 17 July 1753 New Germantown (now Oldwick) Zion Lutheran Church; mov Bradford, NY 1802 with 12 chil. Des info re Henry & Anna Maria's birth, marriage record and their ancestors. Postage refunded. ADD: Wallach H. Ruch, 1605 Idylwood Ct., Modesto, CA 95335.

ANDERSON, OPDYCKE, SMITH: Rebecca Anderson, b 1699 Dutch Kills NY, d 1785 NC, d/o Annetje Opdycke & Cornelius Anderson; Rebecca m John Smith, b Hopewell NJ ca 1695. Des par/o John, marr rec. Chil: Andrew b 1724, m Annatje; James b 1726, m Ann; John Jr. Anderson (ance) & Elijah, des b &/or bapt. rec. Postage refunded. ADD: Mrs. Marshall Ashby Smith, Jr., 2322 N. Maroa Ave., Fresno, CA 93704.

PEGG: Seek info re Peter Pegg b 1811 PA. Who were his parents? 1880 census reports his father was born in NJ. Also seek info re Peter Pegg, baptised Kingwood Baptist Church 1787. Will exch on Pegg Family. ADD: Dorothy B. Roadman, 27053 Stark St., Sun City, AZ 92381.

BROKAW, GEARHART, KLINE, MOELICH, VAN-HORNE: Des corres w persons working on Kline-Moelich, Brokaw-Gearhart, Kline-Gearhart, & Gearhart-Van Horne lines. ADD: Beulah Brinker Olson, 103 Fairholm Drive, Waverly, IA 50677.

BIRCH: Interested in corres/w anyone having information re Rensaler Johnson Birch of Hopewell, in particular his activities during the Civil War and his relationship with a Franklin Pierce Benjamin. Corres/w anyone having info re the Benjamin Family of Hopewell. ADD: Roy Fisher, 1053 Niels Lane, W. Chester, PA 19382.



TENANTS continued from page 424

of Andrew Johnston & contains:

57	Philip Eick	233
64	Philip Schuyler	48.7
15	Peter Hogoboom	292
16	Widow Allpack	326
17	Jeremiah Forster	215
36	Maurice Crater	37
14	John Lance	176
34	John Rose	207
35	Wm Servos	222
128	Peter Risenborough	141.8
142	Thomas Hall	207

Marfy Goodspeed

TENANTS OF THE WEST JERSEY SOCIETY'S GREAT TRACT

The earliest settlers of Hunterdon County are often subjects of curiosity and speculation because we know so little about them. Records for the pre-Revolutionary War period are very scarce and leave us wondering what the firstcomers did, why they did it, and who they were.

Some light can be shed on these questions from the papers kept by John Stevens Esq. (1716-1792), available on microfilm at the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Stevens and James Parker had acquired most of the West New Jersey Society's Great Tract in Hunterdon County. It extended from Frenchtown and Milford across what is now Alexandria, Union, Clinton, and Tewksbury townships.

Reel Four (frame No. 122) shows a paper with the date 1762 in pencil at the top, entitled: "Terms agreed upon between John Stevens and James Parker for the disposal of the undivided lands in the Society by Sale or Lease." These "Terms" give a rare glimpse of life in Hunterdon County in the 1760's.

"By Sale — at the rate of 7 bushels of wheat an acre in three equal payments

The Lands to be laid out by perpendicular lines except where they joyn land already located

Such Lands as may be agreed for the first paym to be made either in the fall or spring as may best suit and the two remaining payments to be made annually after and satisfactory security to be given for the same

To be carefull that Messuages are made with as little Inconvenience as may be to the Remainder

Terms of Leasing

Leases to be given for 7 years — Improvements to be a Log House and Log Barn with Stables

clearing _____ acres of meadow & _____ acres of plow Land planting 100 apple trees & keeping up the number

These improvements to be esteemed payment for the first four years and the Remaining three years to be at the Rate of £5 per 100 acres per annum [?] for 100 acres and for the excess of 100 acres 6 per acre

No settlement to be made on any place less than 100 acres."

Also on Reel Four (frame No. 475) is a further "Memorandum for Mr. John Emley for leasing John Stevens Farm in the Societys. . . [for 7 yrs] from 25 March 1765." John Emley, an early settler of Kingwood, served as real estate agent for Stevens. His instructions were these:

"Each tenant to plant in the first two years of his lease as many Apple trees as with what is already on the place will make 200 altogether in One Orchard & to keep up that Number to Trim the trees & keep them

in Order & to fence the Orchard apart from the other fields

to Clear fit for Sythe 1 acre of Meadow Ground in each year during the Lease

to be allowed £10 for each new house

to be allowed £10 for each new barn

to be allowed for each Well that Shall be dug at the house not Exceeding £5

furows to be set on the out side lines & the fields to be laid out regular with straight fences into 4 fallows & 5 where it will admit of so many peach and Cherry trees to be planted about the houses

Trees to planted at the Doors to Shade the house"

Who were the people who laid these fields and planted these trees? Mr. Stevens has very kindly saved for us (at frame No. 632) a listing of the tenants. In October 1765 Parker, Stevens and some other investors had signed a deed of Partition (Burl. x 47 ?) confirming an earlier arrangement which divided the Great Tract into 15 allotments. These were further divided by means of a survey made by Johnathan Hampton into farm lots of 150 to 400 acres [?]. Stevens' list gives us the number of each allotment, whom it was drawn by, the number of farms in the allotment with their acreage and, most valuable, the names of the tenants. For genealogists, finding an ancestor who leased rather than bought his land is a great frustration since tenants generally go undocumented. Here we have an excellent and very early exception to that rule.

Lott or Allotment Number Nine was drawn by James Parker & contains:

Farms or Tracts	Tenants Names	Acres
# 56	Conrad Bun	243
129	Wm Fleming	47.5
118	Joseph Webster	191
120	No Tenant	280
122	Benjamin Pyatt	248
131	Mary Fitzgerald	202
119	Alexander Davison	179
121	John Armstrong	193
63	Helle Manning & Pickle	593

Lott or Allotment Number Ten was drawn by Patrick M^cEvers & contains:

66	John Sagar	141.8
67	Joshua Critchfield	195.6
22	Peter Young	24.1
109	John Frampton	160
111	Francis Pierce	160.9
113	Wm Clyne	190
114	Ziba Osmun	150
18	George Glass	264
20 or 21	Christian Teets	274
23	Henry Thomase	371
110	Samuel Alexander	98.8

Lott or Allotment Number Five was drawn by John Stevens & contains:

58	Maurice Sharpestein	265
40	Jacob Rumbo	230
41	Wm Jones	380
42	John Bun & Wm Durling	257
49	Joseph Smith	479
51	James Crawford	84.4
124	Thomas Fleming & John Bowne	226

Lott or Allotment Number Six was drawn by the Executors of Andrew Johnston & contains:

# 60	Andreis Amock	117
62	Andreis Johnson	109
72	Daniel Jones	190.8
144	John Rodenbock	166
146	Joseph Schaffer	261.8
145	Peter Quick	83.7
147	Maurice Dills	272
148	Wm Sheet & And ^w Dyne	360
26	Matthias Beckers & Conrad Johnes	509

Lott or Allotment Number seven was drawn by John Stevens and contains:

Farms or Tracts	Tenants Names	Acres
# 61	Baltus Hendershult	233
#130	John Watson	149
#132	Joseph Gordon	247
137	Upeton Compton	181
149	And ^w Cregier	375
134	Thomas Lyttle	256
136	James Smock	291
133	Joseph Biggars	190
135	Woodland	138

Lott or Allotment Number Eight was drawn by Nathaniel Marston, Gabriel Ludlow and Henry Cuyler, Jun^r and contains:

55	Marius Glanville	158
59	W ^m Pittenger	149
44	Aaron Sutton	214
52	Matthias Cranmer	281
70	Widow Rodenbock	221
71	Jacob Eyck	156
43	Samuel Swaert	289.4
46	Jacob Angelman	218.6
45	John Feeney	187
48	John Sutton	174

Lott or Allotment Number Thirteen was drawn by Lord Sterling & contains:

# 87	Jacob Shreefs [?]	51.8
99	No Tenant	4.4
107	Philip Palmers	240.4
96	James W. Farlane	170.5
97	Ralph Johnson	168.4
98	Christian Bolten hummer [?]	145
106	Henry Woorst	192.3
108	Wm Beavers	219.4
94	John Cowen	273
95	George W. Kicken	286
126	John Irwine	261
107	Woodland ½ of 137 acres	68.5

Lott or Allotment Number Fourteen was drawn by John Stevens & contains:

# 65	Arthur Critchfield	33
------	--------------------	----

78	Henry Coonts	235
73	George Kimmins	156.9
89	John Guise	213.8
92	Joseph Webster	226
93	Isaac Oaks	130
150	George Rhoads	119
88	Peter Kemble	111
90	Matthias Hand	264
91	Peter Otto	291
24	Jacob Henns	275.4
117	Woodland ½ of 137-acres	68.5

Lott or Allotment Number fifteen was drawn by Nath^l Marston, Gabriel Ludlow & & Henry Cuyler, Jun^r & contains:

79	Abraham Young	180.4
80	Wm Waggoner	209.7
81	No Tennant	9.5
82	Paul Beam	274
83	Peter Dills	282
84	Paul Andreis	283
85	Woodland	154
86	Ditto	32
138	Wilrich Heely	186
139	Richard Reed	146
140	John Granger	105.4
141	Henry Compton	126.7

Lott or Allotment Number One was drawn by James Parker and contains:

4	James Hoffman	320
1	John Van Est	169.6
2	Jonathan Hunt	184
3	Wm Woortman	235
5	Matthias Schaffer	170
10	Wm Diltz	53.9
50	George Ribbles	345
53	Wm Wires	347
125	Matthias Brewer	204

Lott or Allotment Number two was drawn by Lord Sterling & contains:

69	John Swackhammer	448
6	George Sharpe (sold to JS)	189.8
7	Nicholas Lunenburgh	236
68	Jacob Cummys	238
32	Joseph Blaine	145.7
33	Thomas Jones	245
37	Gershom Silver	193
47	John Shriner	106
123	Wm Fleming	192
127	Joseph Osmun	142

Lott or Allotment Number Three was drawn by John Stevens & contains:

54	George Albert	238.8
143	No Tennant	20.3
8	Teunis Cranmer	244
9	Herbert Hawkenburg	236
11	Christian Curts	202
13	Widow Shipman	200
12	William Allpack	274
39	John Rumbo	187
20	Henry Hoffman	396
25	David Johns	179

Lott or Allotment Number four was drawn by the Executors

Continued on page 422

Book Review

THE FAITHFUL AND THE BOLD, Norman C. Wittwer, 1984. Zion Lutheran Church, Oldwick, New Jersey. Monocacy Book Company, Redwood City, California. 49 pages, photographs, maps, index. \$10. Available from Hunterdon County Historical Society. May be picked up at Society headquarters or ordered by mail for which add \$1 postage.

To the casual reader, *The Faithful and the Bold* is indeed a slim volume. Its forty-odd pages tell the story of one small group of people gathered together for a worship service in the year 1714. The book details who some of these people were, and how they came together that August day.

But for many of us who worked with, or were helped by its author, this book is both an example of scholarly research at its best and a fitting memorial to a man who helped and inspired many people in their search for history in Hunterdon county and beyond.

The Faithful and the Bold is the story of the first meeting of a congregation of Palantine Germans who would eventually become the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldwick, New Jersey. Its author, the late Norman C. Wittwer, Jr. for many years the Society's Librarian, spent years researching the origins of this church. Along the way he assimilated more first-hand historical knowledge than most of us have ever encountered. And as library patrons and fellow researchers will recall, he was always willing to share this knowledge with others, painstakingly supporting his information with primary sources, from his own collection and in the collections of the New Jersey Historical Society, the New Jersey Genealogical Society and Rutgers University.

And so it is with great pleasure that we greet this book, published posthumously by the congregation of Zion Lutheran from the manuscript given them by Norman in the last weeks before his death. The book is well done. It tells the story of the worship service conducted on August 1, 1714 by Justus Falckner for a gathering of mostly German families from the Palatine. He explains the background of these families and others who came from Germany to America in the years 1709-1711. Compelling evidence is presented that the home of Aree Van Guinee, where the service was held, was actually in Franklin Township, Somerset County, rather than Potterstown, New Jersey; and that, indeed, Van Guinee, a Black freeman, might have been the moving force behind the formation of this congregation.

The book was edited by Pastor Dennis J. Carroll, to whom Norman entrusted his manuscript and John P. Dern, Norman's friend and fellow researcher. It is to their credit that Norman's voice is still very much evident. The book's handsome physical appearance would certainly have pleased Norman.

In his introduction, Pastor Carroll refers to the manuscript given to him as being unfinished in Norman's eyes and suggests that others will use this work as a foundation for future study. And perhaps this is the real value of the book aside from the historical vignette it describes. For Norman's real legacy to all who take their research seriously is his example of precision and accuracy at all costs. His search for the facts led him far afield, into areas that would be of help to others who have since published, and into sources and documents long unused. Indeed, his type of research is never "finished." There is always one source yet to be explored, one loose end to be tracked down.

It is with a certain sadness that we realize so much Norman Wittwer knew was never written down, that so many more books could have been written had he taken the time from the quest to detail the journey. And we are certainly grateful to the congregation of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and Norman's family and friends who have given us this book to remember him by.

Kathleen J. Schreiner



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 County Historical Society, Flemington, N.J.

ITEM: I bequeath to the Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington, N.J., 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: _____

MIERS FAMILY RECORD

When Anna Miers applied for a widow's pension on the Revolutionary War service of her husband, Alburtus Miers she submitted the Family Record and affidavit of Isaac Godown which became part of Alburtis Miers' file, W27973 in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. These were discovered in the file by Marfy Goodspeed who secured xerox copies for inclusion in the Bible and Family Records collection of the Society.

The affidavit of Isaac Godown, dated 29 April 1840, provides some background information on Alburtus Myers and wife, Anna, and the creation of this Family Record. His statement relates that the Family Record was printed with a pen by the hand of one Aberdeen, a schoolmaster, under the direction of Alburtus and Anna Myers (sic) about the year Seventeen Hundred and Ninety Six all except the last entry of the Birth of Anna the younger which he believes was done in the hand of John Miers. Alburtus Miers named in the Record was the identical person named in a Certificate of Pension dated 2 May 1834. Anna named above remains his widow since Alburtus' death in January 1838.

An Account of the Age and Names of the Children of Alburtus (sic) and Anna Miers Said Parents were Married the Ninth day of December Anno Domini 1784. Said Father Alburtus Miers was born June 26, 1751.

Elizabeth Miers was born December 1, 1785.

Sarah Miers was born August 4, 1787.

John Miers was born January 8, 1789.

Peter Miers was born September 22, 1790.

Pamelia Miers was born November 13, 1792.

Catharine Miers was born February 8, 1794.

Cornelius Miers was born November 18, 1796.

Anna was born September 10, 1799.



GIVE HISTORY FOR CHRISTMAS

For the history minded on your gift list, remember the Society's reprints.

Atlas of Hunterdon Co. New Jersey, F.W. Beers, 1873, \$25.00 (Postage \$1.).

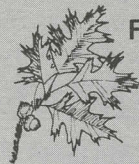
History of East Amwell, 1700-1800, East Amwell Bicentennial Committee, \$18.50 (Postage \$1.).

These books may be ordered by mail or picked up at the Society headquarters. On mail orders, please add postage as above.



FALL MEETING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18
2 p.m.

Flemington Methodist Church



The Doric House, Society headquarters.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE NOW

Artist Frank Darling's drawing (see left) of the Doric House appears on Christmas cards which the Society is selling as a fund-raising project. The cards are printed inside with a holiday greeting and the back has historical information on the Doric House and its builder, Mahlon Fisher.

The cards are available at the Society headquarters, in local shops and by mail. Each packet of 20 cards with matching envelopes sells for \$5. On mail orders please add \$1 postage.

