



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

VOL. 19, NO. 1

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WINTER 1983



'THE GOLDEN AGE OF POSTCARDS'

The pictorial history of the 20th century has been clearly recorded on postcards. The picture postcard was extremely popular from 1905 to 1910 and every town and hamlet in Hunterdon County was documented on cards. There is no other source of pictures that does as thorough or as complete of a job of the entire county. Our speaker, Mrs. Betty Davis of Wrightstown, Bucks County, PA will show how postcards evolved; the government regulations that prohibited the development of postcards until the turn of the century; the "Golden Age of Postcards"; and the types of cards that are typical of the various decades during the 20th century. Whenever possible, cards of Hunterdon County will be used as illustrations on an opaque projector. Mrs. Davis's talk will be covering two things at one time — (1) the postcards of Hunterdon County and (2) the history of postcards.

Mrs. Davis is a member of the Washington Crossing Card Collectors Club which meets monthly at Titusville, NJ (2nd Monday at 8 p.m.) and is editor of the

club's monthly bulletin. She is co-author with two other members of the club of the book *The Postcards of Bucks County as Printed by the Arnold Brothers*, which was published in 1980. She has collected cards since the early 1940's when she lived in Hunterdon County, and has an extensive general collection but also specializes in such cards as local history, automobiles, Columbian Exposition, A.M. Davis Publishing Co., etc.

While the program will be quite informative, it will also present an interesting trip back through the 20th century and should stimulate many memories of "how things were".

ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, March 27 at 2 p.m.
Flemington Library
One Maple Avenue

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS

"The Peters Line from Christ Peters to Deborah Peters, 1786-1868" gift of compiler, William H. Blue, Seattle, WA.

Newsletter of the Parke Society, Vol. XIX, #2, 1982, gift of editor, David L. Parke, Reading, PA.

The Willson Family 1762-1959, The Willson Family Supplement 1959-1979, gifts of Richard E. Wilson, Ottawa, IL.

"Cool-Kuhl-Kole: Index to File" gift of Mrs. Richard H. Coover, Sun City, AZ.

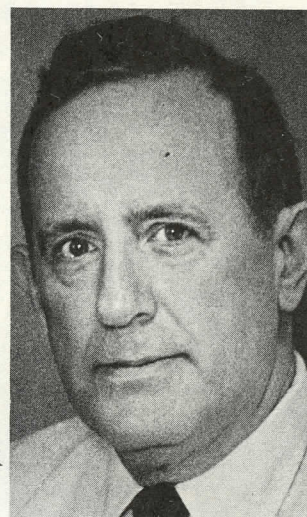
York County, Pennsylvania Directors of the Poor Record of Apprentices 1860-1911 gift of South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, York, PA.

The Ringo Family History Series, Vols. II thru X, gift of James J. Ringo, Ringoes, NJ.

"Pennsylvania Genealogical Findings In The Allemangel Area of Berks & Lehigh Counties & Adjoining Areas" gift of author, Warren J. Ziegler, Milford, NJ.

Volume I Of The Minutes of Lawrence (Maidenhead) Township gift of Marion O. Harris, Morristown, NJ.

Surviving Early Records of York County, Pennsylvania (More Precisely Being Genealogical Excerpts From Will Book A, 1749-1762), gift of publisher, South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, York, PA.



NORMAN C. WITTWER
1919 - 1982

WHEREAS, Norman C. Wittwer, respected Historian and dedicated researcher, was removed by death from our midst on December 25, 1982, and

WHEREAS, he served the Society as a Trustee for twenty-five years, during ten of which he held the office of President, and for the past eight years as Librarian, and through his efforts the Society collections increased, the Hiram E. Deats Bequest became a large and valuable addition to the Society's holdings; the library was organized, cataloging begun, and was opened to the public on a limited but regular basis for research; and organization, inventory and indexing of the manuscript collection was begun; and

WHEREAS, during his term as President of the Hunterdon County Historical Society a successful major fund raising program was embarked upon to acquire and restore the Doric House as headquarters of the Society to house a museum and library,

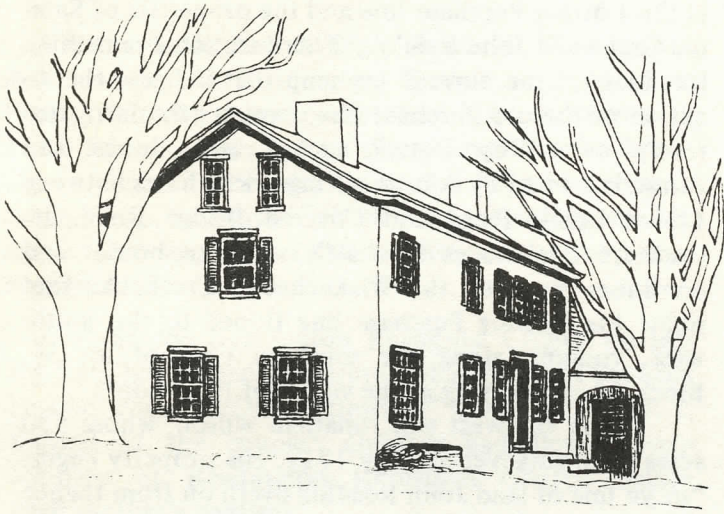
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that for his dedication to the goals of the Society, i.e. collection, preservation and dissemination of historical information, its continued existence and growth, the Society expresses its debt of gratitude and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Society express sincere sorrow at the death of our devoted member and extend sympathy to his family for the great loss they have sustained, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this memorial be made a part of the minutes of the Society and a copy forwarded to the family of Norman C. Wittwer.

Adopted 4 January 1983

BROOK HOLLOW FARM



In 1664, Charles II of England, by right of discovery and conquest from the Dutch, granted all the land between the Delaware and Connecticut Rivers to his brother the Duke of York. The Duke in turn divided what is now New Jersey between John Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, giving each a half interest in the entire tract.

In the spring of 1674 Berkeley sold his share of the province to John Fenwick "in trust for the use of Edward Byllinge" for £1000. Both Fenwick and Byllinge were Quakers. Byllinge's financial condition was so wretched that he did not dare purchase anything under his own name. Fenwick was one of his creditors and claimed that the deed from Berkeley was a proper settlement of Byllinge's debt. Byllinge did not agree and looked to William Penn, Gawen Lawrie and Nicholas Lucas, three prominent Quakers, to settle the dispute. They divided the Berkeley-Byllinge share into tenths, giving one tenth to Fenwick and putting the other tenths up for sale. They also encouraged settlement of the western portion of the province, away from the well-established eastern towns and the influence of Sir Carteret.

Carteret's interests were recognized by the Duke of York, but the Fenwick-Byllinge arrangement was not, so Penn and the other Quaker trustees began long negotiations with Carteret, ending on 1 July 1676 with the Quintipartite Deed which divided the province into East and West Jersey with a line running from Little Egg Harbor on the Atlantic to its northwestern corner on the Delaware River.

In that same year, Byllinge and Penn wrote "The Concessions and Agreements of the Proprietors, Freeholders and Inhabitants of West Jersey in America," placing the governing power in a representative assembly. They also divided each of the "Tenths" further into tenths, creating 100 shares or "proprieties."

Settlement in West Jersey began in the 1670's and was concentrated in Salem, Gloucester and Burlington Counties. Earliest settlers were Quaker proprietors, and subsequent arrivals had to purchase their land or shares from them. By 1700 West Jersey had a population of 8,000, and many were anxious to settle the lands north of "the Falls of the Delaware at Trenton."

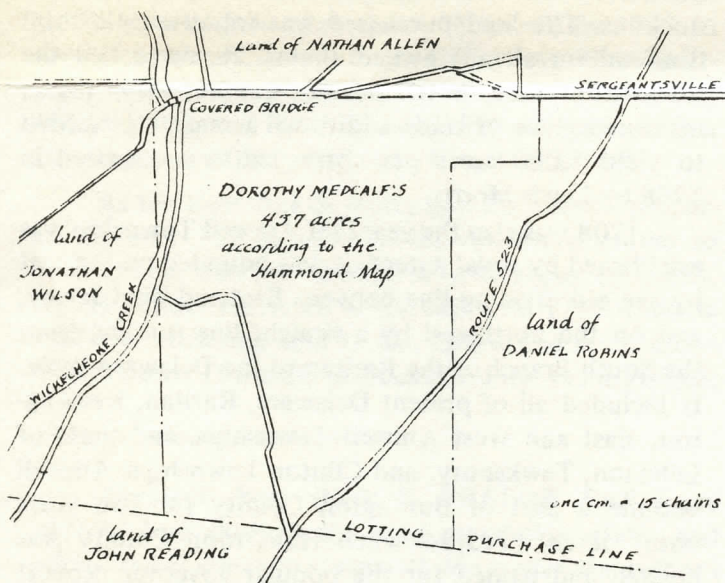
The proprietary government was preparing for extensive purchases of land above the Falls when the Jerseys were reunited as a royal province under Queen Anne in 1702. The land was to be bought from the Lenni Lenape Indians (the "Original People"). Even though they might argue that their title to the land was sufficient through the King of England, the Quakers were careful to negotiate with the Indians, although the terms were usually very favorable to the Quakers. The first purchase was made in 1703 by John Reading, William Biddle, and John Wills. They bought 150,000 acres from the Indian chiefs Himhammoe and Coponnockous. The land purchased was to serve as a third dividend on already-owned shares. It was called the Lotting Purchase, "lott" meaning a share, rather than a measured piece of land. Additional acreage was needed to yield 5,000 acres per share, and was acquired in 1708 by Lewis Morris.

1708 was also the year that Amwell Township was established by royal patent. It was bounded on the east by the old dividing line between East and West Jersey, and on the northwest by a straight line running from the South Branch of the Raritan to the Delaware River. It included all of present Delaware, Raritan, Readington, East and West Amwell Townships, and parts of Lebanon, Tewksbury, and Clinton Townships. Amwell became a part of Burlington County for five years until March 1713/14 when Hunterdon County was created and named for the popular governor, Robert Hunter.

The earliest surveys in the Lotting Purchase were made in 1712 by Richard Bull. On 29 April 1712, he surveyed 437 acres for Dorothy Medcalf "in right of her daughters Mary and Deborah" (Liber A folio 128, West Jersey Proprietors). Dorothy Medcalf was the widow of Mathew Medcalf of Gloucester County who wrote his will on 18 July 1710, and died that year. As a holder of proprietary shares, Medcalf was entitled to acreage in the new Lotting Purchase. His will devised to his daughters Mary and Deborah "the Lands that belongeth to me that is untaken up" (N.J. Wills, #24J).

The Medcalf tract is especially interesting because according to the survey its southern border runs along "a line commonly called the Lotting Purchase line." The location of the survey was mapped out by D. Stanton Hammond in 1963, along with the other proprietary tracts in Hunterdon County, a very difficult undertaking, given the inaccuracies in many surveys. Mr. Hammond's location of the Medcalf tract appears to be about 15 chains south of where it should be. This was discovered by comparing the Medcalf survey with deeds and mortgages for surrounding properties.

The north was bordered by Nathan Allen's 2,700 acres. His survey was never recorded, so the shape of the tract must be deduced from bordering owners. One of the earliest mortgages in the Allen tract was made for 133 acres by Richard Lanning in 1742 (HCLO-#164). His lot was bordered on the south by "Edward Milner, formerly Dorothy Medcalf. . ." Adjacent to Lanning on the west was a nearly identical lot of 130 acres. Both lots are still clearly visible on the tax map of Delaware Township, and taken together show the northern boundary of the Medcalf tract.



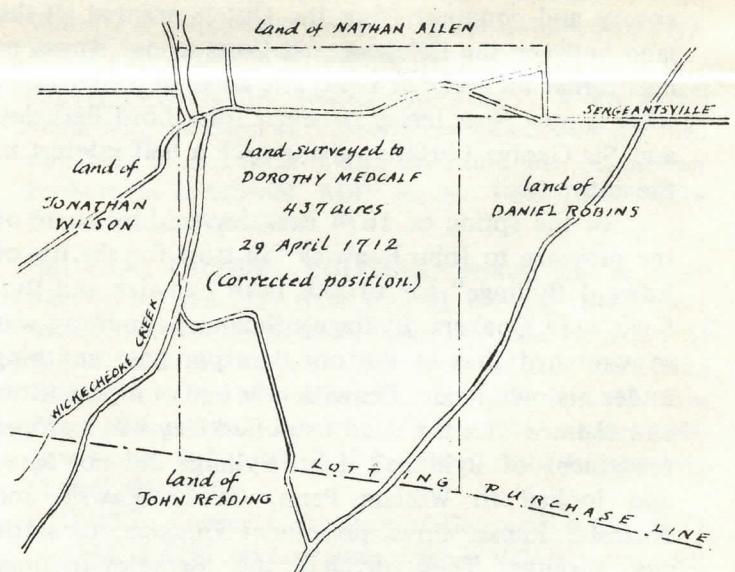
None of the roads shown existed at the time of the survey.

In the northeast corner of the tract there is a small extension of 20 chains by 15 chains. The rectangle fits neatly along the old roadbed of the Rosemont-Sergeantsville Road. Below this rectangle the Medcalf tract runs south for 75.30 chains along the property line of the old Abraham Larew plantation, now partly owned by Donald and Beverly Jones. The line continues across Route 523 and stops 18 chains below the road. To the east was the original proprietary tract of Daniel Robins. His first survey in 1712 for

700 acres was not recorded. Later he found he had an extra 7 acres and had a resurvey in 1725, in which his western border is 75 chains, matching up with Dorothy Medcalf's eastern side. Medcalf's survey states that her property begins "in or next to Samuel Green's line, it being a corner to Daniel Robin's land."

Along the southern border of the Medcalf tract is the Lotting Purchase line and the properties of Samuel Green and John Reading. There are some remaining lot lines on the current tax map that indicate the location of the old Purchase line, namely, the farm currently owned by Donald and Beverly Jones, and formerly owned by Albertus Ringo, which lies between Lower Creek Road and Covered Bridge Road. Its southern line traces Medcalf's southern border and continues west to the Wickecheoke Creek. At that point the Lotting Purchase line tipped to the southwest, running along the southern edge of lot 31, Block 32 and arriving at the village of Rosemont.

Along the west was Jonathan Wilson, whose 500 acres were surveyed in May 1712. His property begins "in ye line of land John Reading liveth on from thence north 78 chains 50 links to a hickory for a second



Corrected position showing changes in the Lotting Purchase line.

corner." That is Medcalf's western border, which measures in her survey as 84 chains. Wilson's northern border runs along the present Sanford Road. Six chains north of the road (84 minus 78) is the starting point of Medcalf's northern line.

Thus we have the Medcalf tract fitting into place. The Hammond map is not substantially altered as a

(continued on page 374)

HUNTERDON'S LAST VETERANS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

EDWARD MITCHELL

Edward Mitchell lived in Somerset County before coming to Readington Township, Hunterdon County, possibly after his discharge from the service in 1776. His name appears on the tax ratables for Readington Township in May 1778 and he paid tax as a single man. By May 1780 he was married when his name again appears on the tax list and he paid as a householder.

From the Readington Reformed Church records we learn he married Catherine Mattis. She was baptised at that church "On Confession" October 26, 1792. Several of the couple's children had already been baptised at Readington Reformed Church before their mother's baptism.

Edward Mitchell applied for a Revolutionary War pension October 24, 1826 under the 1818 and 1820 Acts of Congress. In his declaration of service Mitchell stated he enlisted for the term of one year in 1775 in the State of New Jersey in the Company commanded by Captain Joseph Stout in the regiment commanded by Colonel William Maxwell in the line of the State of New Jersey on the First Continental Establishment. He continued to serve in the said Corp until the fall of 1776, when he was discharged from the service in Fort George in the state of New York. He was at the siege of Quebec and several other skirmishes. In his pension application Edward Mitchell stated he had no family and had transferred all his property to his son, Ditmars, for payment of debts and for his support. The property, valued at \$68.00, consisted of cattle and household furniture. His pension was granted at a rate of \$8 monthly, beginning, May 9, 1827.

New Jersey Department of Defense records, deposited with Archives & History Bureau, New Jersey State Library, may be useful in providing additional information on the service of Edward Mitchell. He enlisted November 8, 1775 as a Private to serve in Captain Joseph Stout's Company, 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Continental line. He was age 20 years and a resident of Hunterdon County at the time of enlistment. He was on the expedition to Canada and was at the siege of Quebec, and was discharged at Ticonderoga, New York in November 1776.

Edward Mitchell, age 85, was listed on June 1, 1840 census as a pensioner residing with the family of

Jacob Mitchell in Readington Township, Hunterdon County. I believe Jacob was Edward's grandson, a son of his son John.

At the age of 84 years, 11 months, Edward Mitchell died June 26, 1840 and was buried in Memorial Park Cemetery D.A.R., at Whitehouse Station. He was born July 26, 1755. No tombstone has been found for his wife, Catherine. She must have died at least fifteen years prior to Edward Mitchell's death because she is not noted as part of his family when his pension application was made in 1826.

The family of Edward and Catherine (Mattis) Mitchell was comprised of the following known children.

- i. Jannetye Mitchell baptised July 9, 1780 at Readington Reformed Church, married Jame (sic) Blare and had a son, Edward, baptised August 24, 1800, married second George Fraser. She died November 17, 1842 in Morris County.
- ii. John Mitchell born February 23, 1782, baptised at Readington Reformed Church on April 14, 1782, married July 24, 1803 Catherine Pittenger. He died November 29, 1866 and both husband and wife are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Whitehouse Station.
- iii. Andrew Mitchell, baptised January 19, 1785 at Readington Reformed Church, married Achsah Scott, daughter of George Washington Scott and Gertry Ten Eyke, on July 10, 1803.
- iv. Mary Mitchell, born March 24, 1786, baptised April 10, 1787 at Readington Reformed Church, died March 24, 1870 and was buried in Memorial Park Cemetery.
- v. Ditmars Mitchell, born circa 1790, no record of birth or baptism but he is referred to as, "my son Ditmars" in Edward Mitchell's pension application and in Mary Mitchell's will as, "My brother Ditmars Mitchell." His birth date may be approximated from his enumeration in the 1850 census of Washington Township, Morris County. Ditmars Mitchell married Sarah Mattis, daughter of John and Mary (Berry) Mattis, baptised October 14, 1794 at Readington Reformed Church. Five of this couple's children were baptised at this church also.
- vi. Peter Mitchell, born April 8, 1793, baptised May 19, 1793 at Readington Reformed Church. No further information is known about this son.

Dora M. Alexander

BROOK HOLLOW FARM (continued)

result, since the only major changes involve the Allen tract and the Purchase line. Because the Purchase line changes its slant from South 80° East along Medcalf's line to South 71° East along the Samuel Green lots, there is no conflict with the rest of the Hammond map.

On 17 November 1715 Dorothy Medcalf died without a will. Her inventory was made by Richard Bull and Thomas Sharp.* Her son Mathew and son-in-law Samuel Ladd petitioned for and were granted administration of her estate. [But Mathew died the next year on 12 March 1716/17. His executors were John Estaugh and Samuel Ladd. Samuel Ladd died intestate on 20 September 1725 and his widow Mary, daughter of Mathew Medcalf, was granted administration of the estate with her brother Jacob Medcalf as fellow-bondsman. By the time Mary made her second accounting of the estate she had married Tobias Holloway. Several debts were paid by the estate and it is possible that Mary decided to raise funds by selling the property in the Lotting Purchase. There is, unfortunately, no deed to show such a sale.] The earliest record of a new landowner is a mortgage for the 437 acres made by Edward Milner (sometimes "Milnor") in 1743 to the Hunterdon County Loan Office. Another mortgage of 1742 by a bordering landowner refers to "land formerly Medcalf now Edward Milner" (Hunterdon County Loan Office mortgages, Nos. 170 & 164).

At the time that he mortgaged his Amwell property, he sold 111 acres from the southwest corner to John Quick, who also applied for a mortgage (H.C.L.O. #171). Milner remained in Amwell until 1752 when he sold his remaining land to Mr. Larew and removed to Wrightstown Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

*Both surveyors in the Lotting Purchase.

Excerpts from BROOK HOLLOW FARM are printed here through the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Jones to share with the reader the author's explanation and maps of the Lotting Purchase.

Brook Hollow Farm owners Donald and Beverly Jones commissioned Marfy Goodspeed to prepare an historical profile of their Delaware Township, Hunterdon County property in 1982. This document is but one example of Ms. Goodspeed's unique approach to a "house history." Each one is carefully researched, well written, neatly illustrated and worthy of perserving for future historians.



NOTES and QUERIES

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

HARTPENCE, VAN KIRK, DRAKE, MOORE, LEONARD, LOTT: Wish to corres/w all Johannes Eber Hartpence (1735-1801) desc. Seek par/anc/o Peter Van Kirk 1735-1824), Thomas Drake (1724-1792); Rhoda Moore (1774-1847), m Richard Slack, liv Kingwood, Hunt. Co.; Mary Lott (1720's-1790's) m. William Leonard, liv Morris Co. 1750's, mov Wash. Co., PA 1770's. ADD: Esther Herr, 4174 Fairfax Dr., Columbus, OH 43220.

BLUE: Seeking present owner of silver bowl owned by Frederick Blue of Somerset Co., NJ at his death in 1793. Inscription on bottom may solve genealogical problem. ADD: William H. Blue, 2625-38th Ave. W., Seattle, WA 98199.

BARRASS: Will corres/exch info re Barrass. My direct line from Alice Barrass, Nailstone, LEICS., England, sis/o Thomas Barrass, traveling Baptist minister, 1830's in Hunterdon Co. He married 1) Sarah ____, 2) Mary Ann Burd. Thomas' children were Ann, Edward, Joseph, Thomas and Mary. ADD: Pa. Oldfield, 34 Ferncliffe Dr. Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD17 5AQ, England.

WORTHINGTON: Quarterly newsletter, "Worthington Descendants." For information contact: Frances Brengle, 6619 Pheasant Dr., Rt. 16, Baltimore, MD 21220.

SMITH, CARPENTER: Seeking info re Maj. A.W. and Rachel Smith bur. Old Greenwich Presbyterian Churchyard and their son, John R., and Sarah (Carpenter) Smith, bur. Bloomsbury Presbyterian churchyard. ADD: Marilyn Varner, 3442 Valor Ct., Annandale, VA 22003.

SKINNER, LANNING, COLEMAN: Seeking info re James Skinner, b 1 Jan 1752 Hunt. Co., NJ, d 9 Aug 1841, Covert, Seneca Co., NY; Pri NJ in Rev War; m Rachel Lanning, b 11 Nov 1752, d 16 Aug 1827 Covert, NY; and their son Reuben Skinner, b 8 Dec 1774 Morris Co., NJ, d 22 Apr 1861 New Haven, OH, m Sarah Coleman, b 28 Feb 1773, d 4 May 1845, New Haven, OH. ADD: Paul J. Lareau, 1891 Ashland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104.

OPDYCKE: Seeking burial place of George Opdycke, Sr., b ca 1743, d 1795, res Lockatong Creek at Milltown, now Idell, Kingwood Twp., Hunt. Co. ADD: Jack D. Mount, 106 Jefferson Ave., Magnolia, NJ 08049.

SCHENCK, BARRICK, COOL, CRISE: Need info re Peter Schenck, b Koblenz, Germany; had s John, Capt. Rev War, b 1752, d 1817, m Eve Barrick, b 1765, d/o William Barrick, d ca 1804. Bernet Crise b Holland, m Elizabeth Cool, d 1844. Some migrated to Cayuga Co., NY. Were Cools originally Coolbaughs? and Barricks originally Reisenbarricks? ADD: Mary E. Swenson, 21 Johnston St., Seneca Falls, NY 13148.

HANNING: Mathias/Matthew Haning appears Abr. Van Neste journals (1775-1776) Somerset Co., NJ; on tax rolls Hunterdon Co., 1778-86 as Hany. Any info re Matthew Haning (Variants) 1775-1790, location Abr: VanNeste Store 1775-6. ADD: James L. Haning, 6715 Forest Dell, San Antonio, TX 78240.

EARLY SETTLERS OF HUNTERDON COUNTY

THE VAN FLEET FAMILY

(continued from Vol. 17, No. 1)

Continuing the series *Early Settlers of Hunterdon County*, initiated in Volume 11, Number 2, this article will conclude the genealogy of the Van Fleet family which was begun in Volume 15, Number 3. The author included thirty-four footnotes to this segment of the genealogy, which, for want of space, are deleted from the following account.

9. RACHEL VAN FLEET, probably the youngest daughter of Frederick and Mary (Biggs) Van Vliet, was born in Readington Township, Hunterdon County, circa 1737.

By her father's will, it is known that Rachel married Garrit Low.⁴⁵ As "Gerrit", he was baptized at the Dutch Reformed Church of Readington on 3 August 1735, the son of "Cornelius Low" and his wife, "Judick".¹²⁵ Cornelius Low was a resident of Readington Township, where he and his wife, Judith Middagh, owned considerable property, which they left to their four sons.¹²⁶

Garrit and Rachel (Van Fleet) Low attended the Readington Church, and their first two children were baptized there.¹²⁷ On 25 January 1763 the consistories of the Readington Church and the Dutch Reformed Church of Neshanic met and "proposed to raise the question of the dividing lines of their respective parishes." After "one thing and another", it was agreed that a separation between the congregations be enacted. In part, the dividing line ran from "... old Cornelis Low, the afore mentioned Cornelis Low belonging to Rev. J.R. Hardenbergh [i.e. Readington], his son Gerrit [Low] to Rev. J.M. Van Harlingen [i.e. Neshanic]."¹²⁸ With the separation, Garrit and Rachel had their remaining children baptized at Neshanic.¹²⁹

Garrit Low's connection with the Neshanic Church came several years before being assigned to its congregation. In the account books of his brother, Dirck Low, who maintained the records in the building of the "Kark" at "New=Channak", he noted, the "The Account of Gerrit Low", that on 2 May 1760, Garrit was paid £0.3.0 "To Braking of Stone a Day". A year later, on 8 May 1761, he was given £0.6.0 "To Hauling of a Lode of Winder Schantling."¹²⁰ After a member of the Church which he helped to build, "Gerrit Low" contributed £1.0.0 on 7 December 1772.¹²⁰

Garrit's farm was located in Readington Township, "near the South Branch [of the Raritan River], & County Line between Hunt.^{dn} & Som.st,"¹³⁰ In the will of "Cornelius Lou of the Township of Reading. . . Yeoman", made on 24 March 1763, he noted that "... by an Indenture of Bargain with my Sons Namely

Derick, Cornelius, John, and Gerrit" he agreed to "let [i.e. lease] my Several Lands, Tenements, and Plantations, for. . . Yearly Rents and performances. . ." By the "Indenture", which was dated 7 August 1758, Cornelius ordered that his sons, after his death, should "Yearly and every year Render and pay the said Rents to my . . . wife Judick Lou". He concluded his will by stating that "... my Said Sons Shall have and possess the Lands and Tenements which they and every one of them now Occupy and possess. . ."¹³¹

The farm left to Garrit by his father was located on "the South Branch of Raraton River", and contained 187 acres.¹³² On 6 June 1771 Garrit and his brothers, Cornelius and John, signed an acknowledgement because of "... an unequal Division of the Lands of Cornelius Low late of the Township of Reading Deceas'd". Accordingly "Dirck Low has some of said Land more than the others sons of said Deceas'd". Thus the elder brother paid £12.16.3 to Garrit and the others.¹²⁰ Some time previous to 1784 Garrit purchased "... all that certain Island situate lying and being in the south branch of Raritan river, together with a piece of land on the south side thereof, divided therefrom by a part of the south branch, the whole lying & being in the township of Hillsborough [Somerset County]..." The ten acre island, and the land in Somerset County, came to 49 acres.¹³³ The island was for many years known as "Garret Low's Island."¹⁴⁸ In July 1784, Garrit was assessed £0.3.7 on the 39 acres he owned in Hillsborough Township.¹³⁴

In time, Garrit mortgaged his various properties. On 6 April 1787 "Garret Low of the township of Reading. . . yeoman" secured a mortgage from "Peter B. Dumont of the township of Hillsborough" on the 187 acre farm.¹³⁵ Four days later, on 10 April 1787, Garrit secured yet another mortgage on his farm. "... lying in the Township of Reading . . . on the North side of the south Branch of Rariton River. . ." from one Henry Disbrow, also of Hunterdon County.¹³⁶ In time, both Dumont and Disbrow had to resort to the Courts to collect on their loans to Garrit. By the August Term of 1791, Disbrow was still trying to collect on his loan.¹³⁷

Besides difficulties with his mortgages, Garrit seems to have had an even greater problem with his older brother, Dirck Low. Because of the stipulation in their father's will that rents be paid to their mother, Judith (Middagh) Low, it fell to Dirck, as administrator, to handle her estate. As administrator he was constantly after Garrit to pay the £45.18.4 which he owed her estate. The problem began on 1 June 1772, when Garrit became obliged to his mother in the amount of £36. In a letter written about 1774 by Dirck to his brother Cornelius Low, he gave an indi-

cation of his feelings toward Garrit when he noted: ". . . as for Gerrit I dont expect a copper therefor I will Sign over the note to any of the cridotors if I can."¹²⁰ The case between the two lasted until 1791, when on April 19th Garrit paid £31.4.2. Dirck seems to have closed the matter on 20 May 1791, when he paid "Fredrick Frelinghuisen for a fee in and Action bet[w]een Gerrit [Low] and the Estate [of Judick Low Deceas^d]"¹²⁰

Garrit frequently appeared in the Hunterdon County Courts, almost always as the defendant and usually for debt. Exceptions were several charges of assault. During the 1771 February Term, in "The King v. Garret Low," he was indicted for assault.¹³⁹ Even over twenty years later, on 1 June 1793, Garrit was charged for "having Committed an assault & battery on the body of Abraham Schenck."¹⁴⁰ During the October Term of 1772, William VerBryck brought charges against Garrit. On the 16th of the same month, Garrit brought countercharges against VerBryck. VerBryck's attorney told the Court that the plea given by Garrit "was for delay only". The Court agreed, and thus the plea was "struck off the files".¹⁴¹ Charges of debt were leveled at various times on Garrit by Jacob Ten Eyck, William Paterson and Peter Schenk.¹⁴² Garrit's propensity to become involved with the law apparently carried over to at least one of his children. On 21 February 1786 "Peter Schank former Sheriff of Summerset [County]" charged "Garret Low in behalf of his son Cornelius" for "horse Racing". For this Garrit paid the fine of £12.⁶⁵

Garrit Low is variously described as a "yeoman" and "Farmer"¹⁴³ and operated as such on his 187 acre "plantation". At a Court appearance in August 1787, he is listed as having "6 horses, 6 cattle, 10 sheep, waggon, Plough, [and] harrow".¹⁴⁴ By the time of his death in 1816, he seems to have limited his farming to raising sheep, as indicated by the "17 Sheep", "Sheep Shears", and "34lb Wool" itemized in his inventory.¹⁴⁵ Garrit also may have made cider at one time or another, as indicated by a "Momerandum of the Money paid out by Dirck Low of the Estate of Gertruid Titsort Decea'd", on 4 June 1766, when Garrit was paid £0.4.0. "for a Half Barrel Sider".¹²⁰

Though Garrit was in his forties by the time of the Revolutionary War, no record survives to indicate that he served.¹⁴⁶ He was, however, a member of a local militia "Training for the month of November 1779" under the command of Captain Abraham Covenhoven.⁶⁵

The last known recorded act by he and his wife was on 27 May 1815, when "Garret Low of the Township of Reading in Hunterdon County. . . and Rachel his wife" sold to "Henry Dilts of the Township of

Hillsborough in Somerset County", for \$193.50, three acres in Hillsborough Township, bounded by the heirs of Abraham Low and Abraham G. Schenck.¹⁴⁷

Garrit Low was dead by 28 June 1816, when "Letters of Administration [were] granted to Peter La Tourette and Henry Van Fleet, both of the County of Somerset." In the inventory of "Garret Low late of the Township of Readington", also made on 28 June 1816, there is listed, among other things: "1 Note against Henry Dells dated 27 May 1815"; a note for \$8.28 against "Garret & Robert Low"; a stove which "widow Vleerboom keeps"; one "Bay Mare Sold [to] Christopher Striker"; saddle and bridle, tables, chairs, spinning wheel, "Large Chair", pots, fireplace tools, and "Slead".¹⁴⁵ Rachel Van Fleet Low may have survived her husband. No known record is found on Rachel after the mention of her in the deed of 27 May 1815.¹⁴⁷

Garrit Low's signature as it appears on the acknowledgement he and his brothers signed on 6 June 1771

The children of Garret and Rachel (Van Fleet) LOW:

38. i. CORNELIUS, baptized 12 February 1758; married Jane Allen.
39. ii. JUDITH, baptized 12 August 1759; married Christopher Stryker.
40. iii. SARA, baptized 1 April 1764; married Cornelius Emmans.
41. iv. GYSBERT/GILBERT, baptized 16 February 1766; married Sarah Emmans.
42. v. ABRAHAM, baptized 7 August 1768.

Fred Sisser, III



— WANTED —

RUNKLE: Wanted to buy, *The Runkle Family* by Ben Van D. Fisher, published 1899, New York, T.A. Wright publisher and printer. ADD: Mrs. Berry Choyce Sheehan, P.O. Box 7167, Clearwater, FL 33518.