



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

VOL. 18, NO. 1

Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

WINTER 1982

THE LIVES AND THE LEGACY OF OUR LOCAL INDIANS - ANNUAL MEETING

Eugene Petrosky will be the speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Hunterdon County Historical Society which will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 28, in the Flemington Library, 1 Maple Avenue.

Mr. Petrosky has been seriously interested in archeology for approximately seven years. He has his own collection of Indian artifacts and maintains an inventory of other collections as well as a record of Indian site locations. He recently completed an archeological update on the northern part of Hunterdon County.

The Society has an extensive Indian collection donated by Jacob Polhemus, John C. Thatcher, Hiram E. Deats and others which Mr. Petrosky has examined, cataloged and photographed. Representative examples of the collection are displayed in the Society's former headquarters at the Flemington Library.



The Leni-Lenape built wigwams of tree limbs and bark.

The local tribe was the Leni-Lenape, or Delaware Indians. Flemington residents may know of a monument standing in a small cemetery on Bonnell Street. This was dedicated to the memory of Delaware Indian chief Tuccamirgin who befriended an early Flemington settler, Johan Philip Case, in whose family plot the monument is located.

We invite you to join us on March 28, and bring information and/or Indian artifacts to share with Mr. Petrosky and the guests.

Going, Going, Gone

The Society's first reprint, *Snell's History of Hunterdon & Somerset Counties, New Jersey*, a Bicentennial commemorative, has been sold out! The supply of two other reprints is still adequate. The *1873 Hunterdon County Atlas* sells for \$25 plus \$1 postage on mail orders and the *History of East Amwell 1700-1800* sells for \$18.50 plus \$1 postage. The Publications Committee is considering future reprints and members' suggestions and ideas are being solicited. Two books are being considered at this time, *Snell's History of Hunterdon. . . and Marriage Records of Hunterdon County, New Jersey 1795-1875*. This is a 337 page alphabetical listing by brides' and grooms' names compiled by H.E. Deats from the original records in four volumes in the Hunterdon County Clerk's office and first published in 1917. The final decision on what to reprint will probably be made on the basis of which title seems to be most in demand, so let us hear from you.

A complete list of publications which the Society offers for sale, about Hunterdon County history and/or genealogy, is available to anyone who sends a self-addressed, stamped (20¢) #10 envelope to the Publications Committee.

Family Records Requested

Photocopies of family records from Hunterdon family bibles are solicited by the Genealogical Committee. May we have the loan of your family Bible so a record of your family will be preserved in our file?

ANNUAL MEETING 2 P.M.

SUN. MARCH 28

Flemington Public Library (not County Library)
1 Maple Avenue, Flemington

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

Published Fall, Winter, Spring, by the Hunterdon County Historical Society, 114 Main St., Flemington, N.J. 08822

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

US ISSN-0018-7850

OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President Kenneth V. Myers (1984)
Vice President Edwin K. Large, Jr. (1983)
Vice President Richard H. Stothoff (1984)
Recording Secretary John W. Kuhl (1984)
Corresponding Secretary Roxanne K. Carkhuff (1983)
Treasurer Frederick Stothoff (1982)
Librarian Norman C. Wittwer (1982)
Virginia Everitt (1983) Chester Piell (1982)
Douglas D. Martin (1983) Walter J. Young (1984)
John F. Schenk (1982)

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Society has received the following donations to the collections.

3 handwoven scarves from Mrs. Edna Nickerson

Framed prints of the residence of John Blane, a Hunterdon County physician, and the Presbyterian Church at Grandin from Fred Burdick.

Memorabilia from the inauguration of Governor George T. Werts, January 17, 1893, Mrs. Frances Niece

Indian artifact from Mrs. Millicent Dewing

"The Henry Wanamaker Family of Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County, An Abbreviated History of" copy 1 of 9 copies given by compiler Mrs. W. (Susan Wanamaker) Jackson.

1850 *Census of Fulton County, Illinois*, Mrs. William Smith

Cemetery Inscriptions of Fulton County, Illinois, Vol. 4, Fairview & Joshua Townships, Mrs. William Smith

Jersey Troopers, Mrs. George E. Carkhuff

Sites of Historical Interest — Hunterdon County Master Plan Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission

Photographs and family memorabilia from the estate of Helen B. Large

Portraits and scenes from the Whitehouse area given by Dorothy A. Stratford

"The Clan Hixson and Its Roots In America 1635-1981" gift from compiler Richard B. Hixson

Weller and Rapp family papers and photographs given by Mrs. George Allen.

**CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED TO
BALANCE SOCIETY'S BUDGET**

We finally fit the national pattern — a little. We, too, face a budget deficit this year. The Hunterdon County Historical Society has never had one. Our proposed budget for 1982 indicates a shortage of several thousand dollars out of total proposed budget of \$31,000.

Our library and manuscript collection reported to be one of the finest of any local Society in the State, is growing and requires continued expenditure of time and funds to make these materials accessible to researchers, students and historians. Ancient documents are great possessions but their greatest value is in having people know about them and make proper use of them.

This Newsletter goes to approximately 500 people. If any of you have any loose bucks, we could certainly use some checks to the HUNTERDON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 114 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822. Contributions are tax deductible.

Edwin K. Large, Jr.
Vice President

**READING-OPDYCKE-JOHNSON
CEMETERY CLEANUP**

Help is needed to clean up and partially restore the old Reading-Opdycke-Johnson burying ground on the Lloyd Wescott farm near Rosemont. The work party will meet 9:00 Saturday morning, April 24, 1982, at the entrance to the Wescott farm on Raven Rock Rosemont Road, one mile south of Rosemont in Delaware Township. If there is rain, the cleanup will be postponed until the next Saturday. We will need as many workers as possible and any amount of help will be appreciated. If you are unable to work, please show up and lend moral support. Please bring tools, ie. shovels, hoes, rakes, clippers, etc.

Several Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans are buried in this old family cemetery. A list of burials was published on page 6 of vol. 2, no. 3 (1966), of the *Hunterdon Historical Newsletter*. To this list should probably be added Hon. Joseph Reading, 1728-1806, (son of Gov. John Reading) and his wife Amy (Pierson) Reading.

For additional information contact Jack. D. Mount, phone (201) 932-1227.

AS YE SOW



In this photo taken before 1900, Frederick K. Porter mans a team of horses cutting hay while another man rakes with one horse. The steel bridge in the background crosses the Raritan River near the present location of Tenneco Plastics in Raritan Township. Today the farm is owned by Porter's grandson, Eugene Brokaw. This is one of many photographs appearing in the book.

BOOK REVIEW

AS YE SOW: THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN RURAL COMMUNITY, Louis V. Kovi, 1981, Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture, Flemington, NJ, 221 pages, photographs, illustrations, index, \$15.

How old does something have to be before it becomes an antique? How long ago must an event have occurred before it becomes history? If you are like most people, if you can remember it, it can't be history yet. But the best history is written when there are still folks around to say it wasn't so. And the faster things change, the more of us there are who can remember "the good old days". . . the days when the egg market in Flemington was just that, rather than a fancy office building, when the neighborhood gathered for Grange meetings, when Agway was the GLF and teenagers who had been driving trucks since they were twelve couldn't wait to get their farmer's license at sixteen.

As Ye Sow, The Story of An American Rural Community is the history of Hunterdon's agriculture in the twentieth century. Beginning with Frank Burd's description of the family farm at the turn of the century the reader is carried through the changes that have come, some welcome, some not, to Hunterdon's farms. Mr. Kovi's lively, readable style and the frequent use of the personal reminiscences of the people themselves breathe life into the story. The author sets the scene

with a general historical overview drawn from his extensive research in those dry bare bones of history, journals, minute books, and newspapers. Then he steps back, and lets the participants tell the story in their own words. The result is an example of oral history at its best. Unlike some groups that commission the publication of a history, the board of Agriculture has allowed the story to be told as it happened, with all the difficulties, failures and triumphs. This book was not intended to glorify the members of the Board, but to describe the real work involved in bringing the 20th century to farming in Hunterdon.

As the second publication of the Board in 50 years, *As Ye Sow* is far more than a sequel to *Rural Hunterdon*, for farming changed very little in the first 150 years of the county's history. It has been the last seventy years that have brought the most major changes, from the mechanization of the farm, to the growth of major agribusiness in the county.

The story begins with Frank Burd's description of the family farm at the turn of the century, when the typical was a general farm. The farmers themselves worked hard and patiently endured the trials that came with living close to the land. There were good years and bad years, and change came slowly if at all. New ideas such as Daylight Savings Time, consolidated school districts and free immigration were overwhelmingly opposed by the majority of Hunterdon's farmers

answering a Board of Agriculture questionnaire in the 1920's.

But with World War I, it became evident that change would be inevitable. Chicken farmers were tattooing their flocks to foil chicken thieves and the once prosperous peach markets were gone as the orchards rang with axes chopping down trees destroyed by the San Jose Scale.

As inevitable as the change was, it did not come easily. It's difficult to understand the strong feelings that brought a standing room only crowd to the county courthouse in 1927 when the freeholders again considered the question of hiring a county agent.

The independent farmers of the county were so divided on this issue that fistcuffs had occurred at earlier meetings on the subject. It had been 11 years since New Jersey's first county agent had begun work in Sussex county and by this time, Hunterdon had earned a reputation as "the China of New Jersey" among progressive farmers across the state who laughed at what they considered to be backwardness. Despite the support of most major agricultural organizations in the county, many farmers did not want to be told how to run their farms by a "smart-aleck college kid."

The advocates of change won and Edwin Gaunt arrived in the county. With his persistent stubbornness and pleasant manner, he was a good match for the conservative farmers he came to help as Hunterdon's first county agent. His memories of those first difficult years and how he handled the daily challenges make lively reading.

Throughout the book, the reader is made aware that since the earliest days of agriculture, the farmer's enemies, crop disease, drought, pestilence, rising land and equipment prices, declining price and changing markets have remained the same. The focal point of *As Ye Sow* is the story of how the 20th century

brought some very real victories against these problems. New seed varieties, soil conservation techniques, irrigation, and discoveries in the laboratory helped to make farming a little less risky. And the cooperative efforts of the local agricultural organizations, like the Board of Agriculture, and the Grange helped tame the vagaries of the marketplace with feed co-ops. The first co-op egg auction in the state was formed in Hunterdon county so that every farmer had a chance to sell his eggs at the prevailing market price.

The other firsts recorded in Hunterdon are also impressive. The first commercial hatchery in the nation was begun in Frenchtown when Joseph Wilson reasoned that live chicks could be delivered to farmers across the nation by the new Rural Free Delivery System in the few days before they would require food or water. This allowed even small chicken farmers to build a high quality flock in a short time.

The first calf sired by a championship bull and bred by artificial insemination was born on a Hunterdon farm. Though the technique had been used in Denmark for some time, this experiment in 1938 was to be a major victory for the dairy and cattle industry of the United States.

If farmland preservation, right-to-farm legislation and other more recent Hunterdon innovations should fail, and agriculture should pass from the scene in the county, we will have *As Ye Sow* to help remember the days when Hunterdon was rural. This book belongs on the bookshelf of every person who prizes the way of life in a rural economy and would like to remember and preserve "the good old days" of Hunterdon's history.

Kathleen J. Schreiner

Copies of *AS YE SOW: THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN RURAL COMMUNITY* may be purchased from Hunterdon County Historical Society, 114 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822. Price is \$15 plus \$1.50 postage on mail orders.



Another of the photographs appearing in the book is that of the Flemington Chapter of Future Farmers of America taken in 1942. The 1942 edition of *THE ECHO*, Flemington High School year book identified the members as follows: Bottom row, left to right: Vernon Conover, George Snyder, John Newburg, Fred Mnich, Arthur Dalley, Grover Johnson. Second row: Mr. Lodge, advisor, Herbert Dvoor, Barton Case, Carroll Heisler, Joe Cvetan, Bill Alleger, Arthur Van Lieu, Eugene Ringer. Top row: George Liebhart, Earl Van Doren, Horace Johnson, Walter Bauer, Eugene Brokaw, Kenneth Van Fleet, Bill Van Blarcom, Orville Lambert.

Marriages Performed

MARRIAGES SOLEMNIZED BY REV. J.G. WILLIAMSON 1876

On the reverse side of a receipt to Rev. J.G. Williamson are notes concerning twelve marriages he performed. Rev. Williamson was pastor of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church at Grandin for 50 years, retiring in 1900. This document is part of the Society's manuscript collection. The information contained therein is being published here because, although all of these marriage records are published in *Marriage Records of Hunterdon County, New Jersey 1795-1876*, compiled by Hiram E. Deats, published 1917, much more genealogical data is included in Rev. Williamson's notes. In four instances there were differences between Rev. Williamson's notes and the published marriage records. The four entries are marked with an * and the difference noted in parenthesis at the end of the entry.

No. 250. June 14, near Sidney, William K. Melick, son of Christopher B. Melick, aged 22, of Union Tp. single, Farmer, and Minnie A. De Mott, aged 19 daughter of Isaac H. DeMott, single, of Franklin Tp., both of Hunterdon Co. N.J.

*No. 251. July 29, at Sidney, A.J. Pierson, son of Reuben, aged 21, of Franklin Tp., clerk, single, and Jennie Case, da. of Wm. R. of Alexandria, aged 20, single, both of Hunterdon Co., N.J. (1877)

No. 252. August 19, at Sidney, Nathan Hoppough, aged 29, son of Isaac, Farmer, of Union Tp., widower, and Maggie A. Oaks, da. of Christopher, aged 17, of Bethlehem Tp., single, both of this county.

No. 253. September 28, near Pattenberg, Lewis S. Hoff, son of Philip, aged —, single, farmer, of Kingwood Tp., and Mary S. Conover, da. of John T. Conover, aged —, of Alexandria Tp., single, both of Hunterdon Co., N.J.

No. 254. October 18, near Pittstown, James A. Little, son of Samuel B. Little, aged 25, Farmer, of North Branch, N.J., single, and Sarah A. (da. of Cornelius) Best, aged 23, single, of Franklin Tp., Hunterdon Co., N.J.

*No. 255. October 18, at the residence of the bride's father, Jacob Philhower, son of Conrad, aged 24, single, of Franklin Tp. and Laura E. (da. of Philip D.) Compton, aged 22, single, of Raritan Tp., both of this county. (1878)

*No. 256. October 31, at Sidney, Jacob H. Hiler, son of Wm. J. Hiler, of Sidney, aged 33, widower, farmer, and Martha Milligan, da. of Dennis Milligan, single, of Sidney, both of this County. (Mulligan)

No. 257. October 31, at Clinton, William (son of Henry) Hoffman, aged 28, farmer, of Clinton Tp. and Emma (da. of Benjamin C.) Bird, aged 24, of Union Tp., both single and of this county.

No. 258. November 18, at Sidney, George F. (son of Christopher) Case, aged 32, single, of Raritan Tp., farmer, and Ann Elizabeth, (da. of William) Creagar, aged 28, of Clinton Tp. single, both of this county.

No. 259. November 18, at Clinton, William (son of George) Gano, aged 76, of Ovid, Seneca Co., N. York, farmer, widower, and Mary S. Conover, da. of Baltis Stiger, aged 73, widow, of Clinton, N.J.

No. 260. December 28, at Sidney, Joseph B. West, son of Jacob, aged 26, single, farmer, and Lizzie K. (da. of Lambert K.) Smith, aged 18, single, both of Franklin Tp., Hunterdon Co. N. Jersey.

*No. 261. March 6, 1877, near Sidney, Charles Wesley Hann, son of Charles, of Pittstown, aged 22, miller, and Arena, daughter of John L.H. Walters of Sidney, aged 19, both single. (Watters)

No. 262. May 5, 1877, at Sidney, John Bryant, son of Joseph, aged 25, farmer, single, of Clinton Township, and Elmira Anderson, daughter of William, aged 18, single, of Clinton Township, both of this county.



Above is an illustration of Reverend Williamson's church, the Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church. This appeared on the cover of a 16 page pamphlet published in 1980 on the Church's 250th anniversary. Copies are available for \$1.50 from the Church, P.O. Box 5294, Clinton, NJ 08809.

NOTES and QUERIES

Address correspondence to Genealogical Committee, c/o Hunterdon County Historical Society. Listings of ten lines free to members, non-member rate is 25¢ per line.

HART, REDMAN: Need p/o Nathaniel (Nathan) Hart, b. 1748/9, d. 1816 Independence/Byram Twp., Sussex Co. and/or wife, Lydia Redman Hart, Hardwick Twp., Sussex Co. Have reason to believe Nathan's father was Nathaniel, Sr. ADD: Richard I. Hart, 165 Poplar Dr., Morgantown, WV 26505.

APGAR: 8th Annual Apgar Reunion, Saturday, September 18, 1982 in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Need volunteers to help with proposed book on Apgar family to commemorate patriarch Johannes, who arrived in America almost 250 years ago. ADD: George Apgar, Jr., 416 Runyon Ave., Middlesex, NJ 08846.

DRAKE, GOLDEN, VANNOY: Need info re ances/o Mary Drake who d. 14 Aug. 1801, w/o Jacob Golden (1730-1811), they liv Hopewell, NJ. Also c/o Andrew Vannoy (1725-1790) and w Abigail, liv Maidenhead Twp., Hunterdon Co., NJ. ADD: Paula Radwanski, R.D. 4, Box 95, Tunkhannock, PA 18657.

COLEMAN/COALMAN, FARNSWORTH: John Coleman, b. 5 Jan. 1754, poss Nottingham Twp., Burlington Co., NJ; prob raised Bethlehem Twp., Hunterdon Co., NJ; m. ca. 1778 Hannah Farnsworth; moved to near West Liberty, VA (now WV) in either Brooke or Ohio Co., about 1783; then in 1800 mov to Wheeling Twp., Belmont Co., OH where he d. 19 Feb. 1835. Need info re his ances, ances/o his w. Hannah Farnsworth. ADD: Norman A. Myers, P.O. Box 495, Fremont, NB 68025.

BELLIS, DILTS, GORDON, KITCHEN, ROCKAFELLOW: Wanted — par/o Rockafellow wives — Hunterdon Co. Reward \$20 for first proven family connection of each wife. Mary Bellis, 1st w/o Peter Rockafellow, d. ca. 1787; Margaret Kitchen, 1st w/o John Rockafellow, 1742-1832; Annie Gordon, w/o Godfrey Rockafellow, 1769-1814; Patience Dilts, w/o John G. Rockafellow, 1799-1852. ADD: John Rockafellow, 583 Paseo Felice, Green Valley, AZ 85614.

BRINK, LAQUER, ROBESON, SINCLAIR: Need desc/o families of Thomas Laquer ca. 1700, Peter Sinclair ca. 1765, Thomas Robeson, ca. 1800, Daniel Brink ca. 1800, Wesley Brink ca. 1850, William Sinclair ca. 1850, all of Hunterdon Co. William Sinclair of Holland, NJ m. Sarah A. Brink of Frenchtown, NJ 19 Jan 1867; issue Washington Robeson b. 1870, Janice A. b. 1872, Edna b. 1874. ADD: Mrs. Eugene Smith, 1504 N. University, Decatur, IL 62526.

GARY: Need info re Peter Gary, Jr., b. 21 Sept. 1751; w. Mary Pegg, m. 1781, Croton, NJ, rakemaker. Also need info re Peter Gary, s/o Mahlon Gary, wheelwright, b. 29 Aug. 1791, Croton, NJ. ADD: Frank L. Gary, Jr., 5 Barbara Dr., Crosswicks, NJ 08515. Ph. (609) 298-7762. (Grandson/o James Pyatt Gary, Baptistown, NJ, bro/o Peter Gary.)

Membership Report

We extend a warm welcome to the new members of the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

Mrs. A.U. Bertland, Washington, NJ
William H. Blue, Seattle, WA
Raymond E. Bowlby, St. Petersburg, FL
Mrs. John A. Collins, Rochester, MI
Mr. Frank A. Desmares, Flemington, NJ
Mrs. Jane Bellis Duffy, Ringoes, NJ
Albert H. Heath, Trenton, NJ
Ms. Judy M. Henderson, Charlotte, NC
Mrs. Janet Holt, Ringoes, NJ
Robert K. Hornby, Stockton, NJ
Mrs. C. Kallas, Stanton, NJ
Allen L. Lewis, Washington, NJ
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Perzel, Flemington, NJ
F. Linwood Reading, Hatboro, PA
William B. Reading, Camp Hill, PA
John D. Rockafellow, Green Valley, AZ
Mrs. Eugene Smith, Decatur, IL
*Mrs. John Swartley, Englewood, NJ
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson S. Talbott, Chagrin Falls, OH
Mrs. Doris T. Volk, Flemington, NJ

Mrs. Frederick Stothoff
Membership Secretary

*LIFE member



HOW TO JOIN

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

Please enroll me as a member of your Society

Annual	\$9.00
Family	\$10.00
Contributing	\$25.00
Sustaining	\$50.00
Institutional	\$100.00 and up per year
Life	\$150.00
Student	\$1.00 (18 years of age or less)

for which I enclose my remittance in the amount of \$

Name

Address

.