



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Vol. 11 No. 3

Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

FALL, 1975

Powder Mill Discovery Ignites Fall Meeting

The speaker at our meeting on November 23 will be Mr. Fred Bartenstein, Jr., of Mendham, New Jersey. His subject will be "Historical Research on New Jersey's Revolutionary War Powder Mill."

The mill in question was that of Jacob Ford Jr., built in Morristown on the Whippany River behind Ford's home, the present Washington's Headquarters building, in 1776. As far as can be determined it was New Jersey's only Revolutionary War powder mill. The records indicate it supplied Continental troops at a critical time when gunpowder was extremely scarce.

Saltpetre, used in the manufacture of gunpowder, was also in short supply. Its manufacture by farmers was encouraged with a subsidy offered by the Continental Congress. Lamington's minister, the Rev. Jeremiah Halsey, who lived in Tewksbury Township, was at least one who was engaged in the manufacture of saltpetre or potash.

For many years the site of the powder mill was lost. In 1969 the Morris County Historical Society asked Fred and Isabel Bartenstein to undertake a full-scale documentary search for it. They were chosen because of their earlier success in helping to locate the site of the New Jersey Brigade encampment at Morristown in the winter of 1779-80. The Bartensteins worked on the project several years and submitted a printed report in the summer of 1972. Subsequent archeological exploration by Edward J. Lenik of Wayne, N.J., confirmed the location. A full version of the Bartensteins' report and Lenik's archeological study has just been published by the Morris County Historical Society under the title, *New Jersey's Revolutionary War Powder Mill*.

Mr. Bartenstein will describe how he and Mrs. Bartenstein went about collecting the available records and postulating the site. (continued on pg. 10)



Bequest of Copper Lustre Collection

Our Hunterdon County Historical Society received in the Spring of this year a very fine legacy from the late Miss Helen McCandless. It contains many lovely pitchers and other very desirable items in copper lustre; earthenware with a specially applied surface or lustre. This surface is sometimes iridescent and is usually metallic in appearance.

Lustre's surface film is deposited on pottery or porcelain by firing metallic pigments in a reducing (smoky) atmosphere. Such decoration became very popular in the first half of the nineteenth century. Centers of manufacture in England included Longton, Burslem, Swansea, and Sunderland. Large quantities were produced around the 1850's for export to the United States. Her gift shows Miss McCandless' keen interest, good taste and excellent

(continued)

FALL MEETING

Sunday, November 23, at 2 p.m.

Flemington Methodist Church
2 Maple Avenue



Copper Lustre (continued)

judgement in the field of nineteenth century ceramics.

Included with the lustreware gift was an antique china cabinet in which to display it, of a period and style appropriate to the nineteenth century time of the earthenware's manufacture, and also that of the building of the Doric House. The cabinet is said to be quite similar to one now in "The Hermitage," former President Andrew Jackson's beautiful southern home.

Miss McCandless' truly generous and handsome remembrance came to the Society "in honor of Miss Primrose Woolverton and her sister, Mrs. James D. Allen" her life-long friends and also members of the Society.

The lustreware and its cabinet are very desirable additions to the furnishings of the Hughes dining room in the Doric House, itself made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Mary Hughes in memory of her late husband, John Ross Hughes.

HOW TO JOIN

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

Please enroll me as a member of your Society

Annual	\$5.00
Family	\$8.00
Contributing	\$10.00
Sustaining	\$25.00
Institutional	\$50.00 and up
Life	\$100.00
Patron	\$1,000.00 and up
Student, Age 18 or less	\$1.00

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

Name

Address

.....

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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Our President's Message Expresses Membership Concern

Most any organization is worth pretty much the sum total of the worth of its individual members. The Historical Society is no exception. That's why I was saddened the other day to learn that a fifth of our members have not remitted dues for 1975. We have a worthy group of individuals in the Society and I'm so proud of our membership I don't want to lose the interest or support of a single one.

The Society functions with a volunteer staff. Newsletters are published, speakers invited to our meetings to discuss historical subjects, genealogical inquiries answered, the Doric House is maintained to house the H.E. Deats Memorial Library with genealogical and historical material for researchers as well as casual readers. These are but a few of the Society's activities made possible by the dues collected from members. Occasionally a bequest will come to the Society from a deceased friend or member. Except for minor income from publication sales, we have no other income to carry on the work of the Society.

Our Society has come a long way in the past five years and is on the threshold of greater service to the Hunterdon County community. This may be "preaching to the chair," but just in case a reader of this message may have forgotten, his remittance will be most welcome to our Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. G.E. Carkhuff, Hunterdon County Historical Society, 114 Main St., Flemington, N.J. 08822.

Kenneth V. Myers
President

EARLY SETTLERS OF HUNTERDON COUNTY:

The Hummer Family

A unique tribute to any man is to have his name perpetuated for generations to come. Such is the honor to the founder of the Hummer family in Hunterdon County, Harbert Hommer, (as his name was originally spelled), whose male descendants have borne his name — Herbert — to the present generation.

Harbert Hommer was born in 1698¹ “in Germany in the Dutchy of Neuwied in the Parish of Honnefeld in the village of Oberhumrich.”² Present-day maps give Harbert’s birthplace as Ober-Hummerich, a village in the parish of Nieder-Honnefeld, in the former German Dutchy of Neuwied.³ Neuweid was part of the Palatinate, situated in the area now located in Western Germany about the Rhine River. It was known as the Lower, or Palatinate of the Rhine — or the Pfalz.

That Harbert’s surname is derived from his place of birth is without question. His parentage, however, is unknown. His father may have been Jacob Hommer, if Harbert adhered to the early German custom of naming the first boy for his paternal grandfather. Likewise, there is one Adam Hommer closely identified with Harbert in America, who may have been some relative.⁴

Harbert was among the early Palatines to come to America. He stated that he “came to this land [America] as an unmarried young man in the year 1726.”² From this year, and for twenty years more, there was a steady outflow of the Palatines from Germany, and the ships which brought the immigrants to America “plied between Rotterdam and Philadelphia with almost the regularity of a ferry.”⁵

It is not known in which Port Harbert Hommer landed when he came to America. In all probability it was Philadelphia. One year after his arrival, in 1727,² Harbert married Anna Eva Kolscher, the daughter of Donges Kolscher.²

Donges is a common German abbreviation of the name “Anthonius”, or Anthony in English. This accounts for the naming of the second son of Harbert and Anna Eva Hommer, who was called “Tunis.” In the predominantly Dutch community in which the Hommers settled, the Dutch for Anthony, which is Tunis, came to be applied to this son.

Anna Eva Kolscher was a native of the German Principality of Nassau, in the district of Beilstein, where she was born in the village of Nassau, also in the Palatinate district of Germany. She came to America with her father in 1722.²



This map, drawn in 1680 by the Dutch cartographer, Nicholas Visscher, shows the ancient German Principality of Nassau. Discernable is the office of Beilstein, and in the top center of the Principality, “Merenberg”, the Parish in which Anna Eva Kolscher, the wife of Harbert Hommer, was born in the early 1700’s.

On July 8, 1730, after having passed the Council on June 25th and the House on July 6th, “Herbert Homer”, and some seventy others “born under the Leigance of the Emperor of Germany”, were naturalized by an Act of the General Assembly of the Province of New Jersey. Described as having settled in “New-Jersey”, Harbert and the others petitioned the Assembly to be naturalized as they were “desirous of enjoying the Privileges and Benefits” which “natural born Subjects” already possessed, in particular the right to “hold Lands.”⁶

The Hommers eventually located in the so-called “Western Precinct” of Somerset County, New Jersey (now Hillsborough and Montgomery Townships), where several German families settled at an early date.⁷

Few records survive to indicate the Hommer’s existence in the Western Precinct of Somerset County. On April 24, 1748 “Anna Hommer” was a witness to the baptism of “Philip Coel”, son of Johan Christ Coel (later Cool, Kuhl, etc.), “at Milstone” (the Harlingen Church, Hillsborough Township, Somerset County).⁸ In 1748 “Herbert Hummer” was listed among those who took up strayed cattle or horses in the “Westering Presinct of the County of Somerset.”⁹ And in 1753 “Herbert Hommer” is listed as a Freeholder of Somerset County.⁷

Harbert and Anna Eva (Kolscher) Hommer were the parents of eight children, all of whom were probably born in Somerset County, New Jersey. All of the children grew to maturity, married, and produced their parents with at least fifty known grandchildren.

The first child of Harbert and Anna Eva was Jacob Hummer, who was born in December, 1728.² His wife's first name was Maria,¹⁰ and they resided in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, where they had six known children.¹¹

The second child was Tunis Hummer, named for his maternal grandfather. Tunis was born in June, 1731, and married Anna Christina Kline, the daughter of Hermanus Kline.¹² They resided in Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, where they had ten known children.¹³

The third child born to Harbert and Anna Eva was Adam Hummer. He was born in December, 1734,² and married Elisabeth, whose surname is unknown.¹⁰ They resided in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, and were the parents of nine known children.¹⁴

The fourth child and first daughter of Harbert and Anna Eva Hommer was Catharina, born May 17, 1737.¹⁵ She married Philip Cool, the son of Paul and Eva Maria (Kaes) Kuhl [Cool].¹⁵ They had seven children when they resided in Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County. In 1790 Philip and Catharina (Hummer) Cool moved to Hampshire County, Virginia (now West Virginia).

The fifth Hommer child was Elisabetha, who was born in October, 1739.² She married Peter Young, the widower of Maria Sneider. The Youngs were residents of Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, and were the parents of nine children.¹⁶

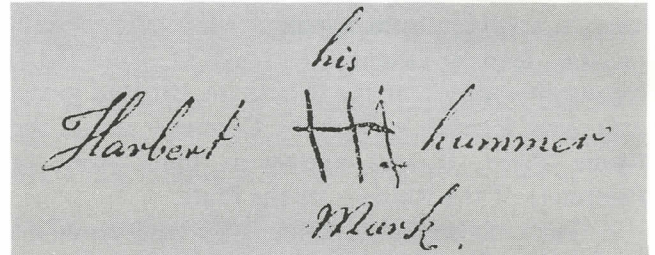
The sixth child of Harbert and Anna Eva Hommer was Harbert, junior, who was born November 11, 1744.² He inherited his father's homestead in Somerset County, where he and his wife, Anna, had two sons.²

The seventh child of Harbert and Anna Eva was Eva Hummer, born in March, 1747.² Eva married a Cool, no doubt Philip Cool, the son of Johan Christ and Eva Maria (Hommer) Kuhl [Cool] whose baptism, ironically, Eva's mother witnessed in 1748.⁸ One account assigns this couple with five children, who may have been born in Hunterdon County.¹⁷

The eighth and last of the Hommer children was Alse, who was born in September, 1749.² She married Philip Bellis, the son of Barnet and Mary Bellis.¹⁸ They resided in Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County, where they had two children before her death at a young age.¹⁸

Though a resident of Somerset County, Harbert bought considerable property in Hunterdon County, which he ultimately left to three of his four sons by his will. On July 10, 1764, Harbert purchased 182 acres of land in Lebanon Township. Described as bound on the "south-east side of the

South Branch of Raritan River", and on the north-east side by the "Kings Highway", Harbert left this land to his son Adam.¹⁴ Another tract of land he owned was situated near Copper Hill, in what is now Raritan Township, where the parsonage to the Amwell German Church was built.¹⁹ Harbert's son Tunis owned considerable property in Amwell and Kingwood Townships, left to him by his father.²⁰ This land was situated on the south branch of the Raritan River where Tunis operated a grist and saw mill. Harbert's land in Somerset County probably consisted of the 250 acres his son, Harbert, junior is listed as owning in September, 1779, at the time he was assessed for this land in Hillsborough Township.²¹



Harbert Hommer's "mark" was a joined double "HH". Notice that this double H arrangement was used in his name on his tombstone.

On May 3, 1766 "Harbert Hummer of the County of Summerset and Province of East New Jersey Being Very Weak in Body But of perfect Mind and Memory" made his last will and testament. His first bequest was that his "oldest son Jacob [be given] the whole Lot of land where he now Lives and he shall give the sum of forty pound[s] unto his four sisters within four Years after the death or Marriage of my widow." To his sons "Tunes" and Adam, he left the lot of land whereon they resided, stipulating that they were to pay "one hundred pound[s] unto [their] four sisters Equally." To his son "harbert" he left "the Lot and place of my Abode." To his "Loving wife", Harbert gave "the full power and priviledge of Living and dwelling on the primises and of all my Effects and to have one half of all that is gained on said place and my son harbert the other half as long as she Remains my widow." Harbert concluded his will by stating that "my two daughters which is not Married Eve and Alse to have on Marriage day an out set as the Rest have had before hand." His son, Harbert, junior, and son-in-law, Peter Young, were appointed executors.²²

Harbert Hommer died in September, 1766,¹ and his will was proven on October 2nd. The inventory of his estate, made on October 17-18, 1766, noted that "To his Purse", Harbert had £51-1-11, whereof £18-16-0 the widow Claimes a right as a



Harbert Hommer's tombstone in the yard of the "High Dutch" (German) Church of Amwell (now Larison's Corner, East Amwell Township). Written in German, it reads: "Here Lies/H Hummer/who was born/1698/died/1766."

Gift from her husband in his lifetime but not given to her by will." Also, the inventory listed "Cattle Kine", horses, sheep, "Hoggs", and various grains, including "Clean Wheat", corn, buckwheat, "Rey" [rye], oats and "flax seed." Some indication of the extent of Harbert's farm is gathered by the long list of "Waggon & plows & sled & Winnowing mill & Correls and Lumber." Household items included "sundry Beds & bedding & Cubboard", brass kettle, "Puter ware", tin ware, "Tea ware", candlesticks, "Dressers & Chests." Also listed were "a Gun & sword", and "2 Bibles & sundry other Books", Harbert's inventory amounted to the sizable sum of £1352-7-6.

In the account papers submitted by the executors in the settling of the estate, £200 was paid to "Peter Young & Eliz. Young" and "Phillip Cool & Cath. Cool" on May 23, 1767. In accordance with the will, this would indicate that Harbert's widow, Anna Eva, was either dead or remarried by this date. However, as "Anna Eva Hummer" she witnessed the baptism of "Anna Eva", the child of her son Adam Hummer, when the child was baptized at the German Reformed Church of Lebanon on September 13, 1768. It is more likely that Anna Eva (Kolsher) Hommer died about 1780, when four years later on October 24, 1784, the remaining inheritance was paid to Catharina (Hommer) Cool,



Elisabeth (Hommer) Young, Eva (Hommer) Cool, and the heirs of Alse (Hommer) Bellis.

The family of Harbert and Anna Eva (Kolsher)

Hommer:

1. JACOB HUMMER, born December, 1728, probably in New Jersey; died September, 1788, Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; married, circa 1756, Maria. The children of Jacob and Maria Hummer:
 - i. ANNA HUMMER, born March, 1757; died September 4, 1818; married John Low.
 - ii. ELIZABETH HUMMER, born circa 1765; married George Pickle.
 - iii. MARY HUMMER, born circa 1768; died March 27, 1801; married Peter Huffman.
 - iv. MARGARET HUMMER, born circa 1771; married Mathias Gearhart.
 - v. SARA HUMMER, born January 1, 1774; married Isaac Loder.
 - vi. JACOB HUMMER, born April 12, 1781; married, February 5, 1803, Maria McFerson.
2. TUNIS HUMMER, born June, 1731, probably in Somerset County, New Jersey; died June, 1810, Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; married Anna Christina Kline, the daughter of Hermanus Kline, born circa 1737, died June, 1827. The children of Tunis and Anna Christina (Kline) Hummer:
 - i. HARBERT HUMMER, born circa 1760.
 - ii. HERMAN HUMMER, born October 6, 1761; died October 28, 1801; married Anna ____.

- iii. JACOB HUMMER, born circa 1764; married (1) Margaret ____, (2) Elizabeth ____.
 - iv. MARY HUMMER, born circa 1767; married, March 29, 1798, John Smith.
 - v. ANNA CHRISTINA HUMMER, born circa 1769; died 1848.
 - vi. JOHN HUMMER, born April 12, 1771; married Harriet ____.
 - vii. CATHARINE HUMMER, born December 22, 1773.
 - viii. GEORGE HUMMER, born February 11, 1776.
 - ix. ELIZABETH HUMMER, born October 15, 1779; died July 12, 1853; married, October 15, 1807, Jacob De Mott.
 - x. SARAH HUMMER, born February 2, 1785; married, March 30, 1809, Peter Smith.
3. ADAM HUMMER, born December, 1734, probably in Somerset County, New Jersey; died January, 1788, Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; married Elizabeth. The children of Adam and Elizabeth Hummer:
- i. ANNA EVA HUMMER, born September 13, 1768.
 - ii. JOHN HUMMER, born December 2, 1770; married, July 3, 1796, Rebecca Kemple.
 - iii. MARY HUMMER, born circa 1771; married John Fonner.
 - iv. ELIZABETH HUMMER, born January 29, 1773; married Henry Traxler.
 - v. CATHARINE HUMMER, born November 9, 1775; married, June 25, 1797, Peter Cumback.
 - vi. PHILIP HUMMER, born October 10, 1778.
 - vii. JACOB HUMMER, born January 31, 1780; died August, 1813.
 - viii. ADAM HUMMER, born December 26, 1781; married, August 11, 1805, Sarah Wyckoff.
 - ix. MARGARET HUMMER, born circa 1785; died October 16, 1874.
4. CATHARINA HUMMER, born May 17, 1737, Somerset County, New Jersey; died April 19, 1818, Hampshire County, (West) Virginia; married, April, 1755, Philip Cool, the son of Paul and Eva Maria (Kaes) Cool [Kuhl], born September 9, 1728; died March 25, 1795. The children of Philip and Catharina (Hummer) Cool:
- i. PAUL COOL, born April 29, 1756; died May 28, 1809.
 - ii. HERBERT COOL, born August 29, 1759; died circa June, 1834; married Ann Aller.
 - iii. MARY COOL, born August, 1762; died June, 1765.
 - iv. ANNA EVA COOL, born May 13, 1764; died June, 1765.
 - v. JACOB COOL, born October 4, 1766; died December 27, 1814; married August 23, 1794, Elisabeth Aller.
 - vi. LYDIA COOL, born June 3, 1768; died May 11, 1857; married, June, 1794, Luther Calvin.
 - vii. PHILIP COOL, born August 17, 1775; died March 4, 1852.
5. ELISABETH HUMMER, born October, 1739, Somerset County, New Jersey; died March 5, 1808, Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; married, February, 1759, Peter Young (Jung), the widower of Maria Sneider, born March 16, 1731, in the "Western Precinct" of Somerset County, New Jersey; died July 11, 1809, Amwell Township, Hunterdon County. The children of Peter and Elisabeth (Hummer) Young:
- i. ANN YOUNG, born September 14, 1764.
 - ii. HERBERT YOUNG, born August 14, 1766.
 - iii. JACOB YOUNG, born October 12, 1768.
 - iv. ELISABETH YOUNG, born June 6, 1771.
 - v. MARGARET YOUNG, born January 12, 1774.
 - vi. SARAH YOUNG, born January 12, 1774.
 - vii. JOHN YOUNG, born July 31, 1778.
 - viii. ELSIE YOUNG, born July 11, 1781.
 - ix. WILLIAM YOUNG, born December 20, 1783.
6. HARBERT HUMMER, born November 11, 1744, Somerset County, New Jersey; died March 19, 1800, Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; married, December 28, 1769, Anna, who was born October 19, 1751; died August 3, 1800, Amwell Township, Hunterdon County. The Children of Harbert and Anna Hummer:
- i. HERBERT HUMMER, born February 11, 1773; died August 28, 1858; married, January 29, 1808, Mary Jones.
 - ii. PETER HUMMER, born September 4, 1781; married, January 20, 1803, Catharine Calvin.
7. EVA HUMMER, born March 1747, Somerset County, New Jersey; died circa 1842, perhaps in Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; married, first, circa 1769, Philip Cool [Kuhl] the son of Johan Christ and Eva Maria (Hommer) Kuhl, baptized April 24, 1748, Millstone, Somerset County, New Jersey; died previous to 1800; second, January 21, 1800, Adam Hummer, perhaps her cousin, the son

of Adam Hommer. The children of Philip and Eva (Hummer) Cool:

- i. MARIA COOL, born February 16, 1770.
 - ii. ANNA EVA COOL, born circa 1771; died May 11, 1856; married William H. Case.
 - iii. WILLIAM COOL, born circa 1775; died young.
 - iv. CHRISTOPHER COOL, born April, 1778; died August 1, 1852; married, first, --- Atwater; second, circa 1805-06, Mary Wheat; third, in 1840, Mrs. Barbara Ann Kreider.
 - v. EMILY/ELLEN/ELSE (possibly) born February 10, 1782; died Sept. 3, 1874; married, Adam Runkle.
8. ELSE HUMMER, born September, 1749, Somerset County, New Jersey; died circa 1780, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; married Philip Bellis, son of Barnet and Mary Bellis, born June 3, 1749, Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; died June 9, 1823, Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; he married, second, Mary Young (1757-1848). The children of Philip and Else (Hummer) Bellis:
- i. HARBERT BELLIS, born January 4, 1773; died 1850; married Charity Smith.
 - ii. ELIZABETH BELLIS, who married George Duckworth.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Harbert Hommer's tombstone, Larison's Corner Cemetery.
2. The large and impressive Hummer Bible, with tooled leather binding and heavy brass clasps, was printed at Lemgo, Germany in 1720, and may have been brought to America by Harbert Hommer in 1726. There were no apparent handwritten notations made in the Bible until 1755, when Harbert had one Martin Buchner write the following account on the inside front cover.

The Bible apparently came into the possession of Harbert Hummer, junior, at the time of his father's death in 1766, when he was willed his father's homestead farm. Harbert, junior made an account of his own family data on the blank page at the end of the Bible.

The Bible's ownership is unknown from Harbert Hummer, junior, until 1974, when Earl Cook, of Trenton, N.J., gave the book to the Sand Brook Historical Society, of Delaware Township, Hunterdon County. The Bible came to Mr. Cook from his grandfather, who was a collector of old books.

A transcription from the original German was made by Donald A. Sinclair, of Highland Park, N.J. in February, 1975, and this was translated into English on April 7, 1975. The following is a literal translation, and all spellings of names and places, and the lack of punctuation, are in keeping with the original German account:

Herbert Hommer was born in Germany in the Dutchy of Neuwied in the Parish of Honnefeld in the village of Oberhumrich came to this land as an unmarried young man in the year 1726 and in 1727 married in this land Donges Kolscher's lawful daughter by the name of Eva who came with her father to this land in 1722

her father having lived in Germany in the Principality of Nassau in the Office of Beilstein Parish of Marienberg in the village of Nassau in which married state the following eight children were begotten first a son named Jacob born in the year 1728 in the last month December second a son named Donges born in 1731 in the month of June third a son named Adam born in 1734 in the month of December fourth a daughter named Catrina born in 1737 in the month of May fifth a daughter named Elisabetha born in 1739 in the month of October sixth a son named Herbert born in the year 1744 in the month of November seventh a daughter named Eva born in 1747 in March eighth a daughter named Elsa born in the year 1749 in the month of September. The proceeding I at the request of Herbert Hommer and his wife have set down as a record done at Somerset January 11, 1755.

Martin Buchner

3. Records in possession of Hank Jones, of Universal City, California.
 4. Harbert Hommer's contemporary, and most certainly a relative of his, was Adam Hommer, who is generally identified as a resident of Hunterdon County, where he is recorded as living in Lebanon Township as early as 1741 (GMNJ, Vol. 37, p. 56). "Adam Homer" was naturalized by Act of the General Assembly of New Jersey on July 8, 1730 (*The Jerseyman*, Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 1). Few records survive regarding this Adam Hommer, not to be confused with Harbert's son of the same name, viz., Adam Hummer (1734-1788). On July 12, 1750 the "young son" [Johan] of Johan Adam and Cattriena (Colsch) Bollesfelt, early residents of Amwell (later Raritan) Township, Hunterdon County, was born, and when baptized, presumably at the "High Dutch" (German) Church in Amwell Township (now Larison's Corner), "Adam Hummer" stood as his godfather [Bollesfelt/Bellis Bible]. Ultimately Adam settled in Amwell Township, where he is recorded as owning 150 acres (GMNJ, Vol. 47, p. 72), which was purchased by his son, Court, from the rest of Adam's heirs on April 26, 1786 (Hunterdon County Deed Book 54, p. 92).
- Adam Hommer "of the Township of Amwell", described as a "widower Being Very weak of Body", made his will on March 8, 1781. He left his estate to his five children, the three sons to have the "plantations" where they resided. He signed his will with the large, carelessly written letters: A H (New Jersey Will No. 1345J). The Inventory of his estate, made on March 20, 1786, would indicate his death as having been about this time. On March 24, 1786 cash was paid out to "Martin Johnson for making [the] coffin." Adam Hommer had the following known children:
- i. Court/Conrad Hummer, who died about June 1, 1786; married Anna Maria Case, the widow of Johannis Yawger.
 - ii. Adam Hummer, who died in 1814; married, first, Lenah; second, January 21, 1800, Eva Hummer Cool, daughter of Harbert Hommer.
 - iii. Harbert Hummer, who married Catharine -----.
 - iv. Elizabeth Hummer, who married Francis Besson.
 - v. Else Hummer, who married John Case.
5. *The Story of the Palatines* - Sanford H. Cobb, (N.Y.: 1897), p. 297.
 6. *Acts of the General Assembly of the Province of New Jersey* - Samuel Allison, (Burlington, N.J.: 1776), p. 98.
 7. *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, Vol. 18, p. 13.
 8. *ibid.*, Vol. 16, p. 37.
 9. *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey* - James P. Snell, (Philadelphia, Penna.: 1881), p. 781.
 10. Baptismal Records, German Reformed Church of Lebanon, (New Jersey), now (1975) the Lebanon Reformed Church.

11. New Jersey Will No. 1425J, State Library, Trenton, N.J.
12. *The Early Germans of New Jersey* – Theodore F. Chambers, (Dover, N.J.: 1895), p. 432.
13. Hunterdon County (N.J.) Orphan's Court Records—Vol. 3, p. 196.
14. Hunterdon County Deeds – Book 19, p. 80.
15. Bible Record of Philip Cool (1728-1795), copy in possession of John W. Kuhl, Pittstown, N.J.
16. *Early Germans*, p. 577.
17. Records in possession of Mrs. Winona Nash, Lawrenceville, N.J. and Franklin Wright, Esq., Memphis, Tenn.
18. Bellis Family Records in possession of the Hunterdon County Historical Society.
19. *History of the United First Presbyterian Church of Amwell, N.J.* – Charles S. Converse, (Trenton: 1881), p. 28.
20. Hunterdon Co. Deeds – Book 18, p. 56.
21. N.J. Ratables, Hillsboro Township, Somerset Co., N.J. – manuscript in the State Library, Trenton, N.J.
22. New Jersey Will No. 331R, State Library, Trenton, N.J.

PAPERS OF THE SOCIETY Continued from Vol. 11, No. 1.

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Old Center Bridge, 1928

SCHULTZ, REV. JOHN E.

History of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Flemington, New Jersey, 1914

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Early Marriages In Amwell, New Jersey, 1886

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Baptistown, 1887

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Sheriffs of Hunterdon, 1890

Sketch of the Murder of John Fields, 1887

SINCLAIR, JESSE

Historico-genealogical Sketch of John S. Hunt, 1895

TAYLOR, KATE

Reminiscences of Shuster's Hollow, 1892

VAIL, MARY C.

History of Land Titles in the Vicinity of Quakertown, New Jersey, 1915

VOORHEES, N. W.

New Jersey's Proclamation of Liberty was First, 1898

VOORHEES, REV. OSCAR M.

Captain David Schomp of Readington, 1901
The East and West Jersey Boundry Line Controversy, 1902

The Famous Frog War, 1908

Unusual New Jersey Land Lottery, 1939

William Alexander, Earl of Stirling, 1902

VOSELLER, ELIAS

Flemington Copper Mines, 1900

An Interesting Find of Two Parchments Relating to Early New Jersey, 1901

Recollections of an Old Time School, 1924

Reminiscences of the Kase Family, 1890

Tucca-Ramma-Hacking, 1901

(concluded)

NOTES and QUERIES

Address correspondence to Genealogical Committee. Listings of ten lines free to members, non member rates are 25 cents per line.

BLOOM: Desire information on Adam Bloom, second son of John Peter Bloom (1731-1814). Adam was born between 1753 and 1757, was alive in 1814. James N. Robinson, 104 Nebraska, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830

BUTTERFOSS, WILSON, LA RUE: Seek information on ancestry and descendants of William and Sarah —(?) Wilson who lived in Hunterdon County near Stockton and Lambertville early 1800's. Eldest son Garrett married Mary Butterfoss and is buried at Sandy Ridge. Daughter Catherine married Daniel LaRue, also buried Sandy Ridge. Mrs. Craig Wilson, R.D. No. 1, Milton, Iowa 53570.

PARK: Desire birth dates of the eight sons of Lt. John Park (1739-1798) and his wife Mary Gordon. Mrs. Everett D. Kaser, 523 Spruce St., Aurora, Ill. 60506.

ROBINS, VAN ORMER: Desire information on Samuel Van Ormer (Vannorman, Vanaman) in Amwell Twp. in the late 1700's. Married Anna Robins, moved to Mifflin County, Pa. Charles Van Ormer, 7718 Sni-A-Bar Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64129.

EMMONS, SCHAMP: Need information on the Mary Emmons who married Joost (George) Schamp in February 1775. Must prove if she was daughter of Andrew and Sarah (Van Duyn) Emans, and her baptism date. Mrs. Jack Byrd, 11114 Cedarhurst, Houston, Texas 77035.

Date

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A Brief Summary of the Changewater Murder Trials

1 Joseph Carter, Jr.
2 Henry C. Hummer
3 Abner Parke
4 Peter W. Parke

} lay under five indictments; for the murder of

F 1 John Castner

2 John B. Parke
3 Maria Castner
4 Maria Matilda Castner and
5 assault with intent to
kill one Jesse Force

The murders occurred in Warren County, New Jersey, on the night of May 1, 1843, while the constitution of 1776 was in effect. Each accused was tried separately. Appeals came under the constitution of 1844.

<i>Defendant</i>	<i>Cause—Murder</i>	<i>Warren Court</i>	<i>Jury</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Presiding S. Ct. Justice</i>	<i>Result</i>
1 J. Carter, Jr.	J. Castner	Oyer & Terminer	Warren Co.	Aug., 1843	Nevius	Acquittal
2 J. Carter, Jr.	J. B. Parke	Circuit	Warren Co.	June, 1844	Whitehead	Conviction
3 Henry C. Hummer	a J. Castner	Oyer & Terminer	Warren Co.	Oct., 1844	Whitehead	Acquittal
	b J. B. Parke					
4 A. Parke	J. B. Parke	Circuit	Somerset Co.	Nov., 1844	Whitehead	Acquittal
5 P. W. Parke	J. Castner & J. B. Parke	Circuit	Mercer Co.	Dec., 1844	Nevius	Conviction
6 A. Parke	J. Castner	Circuit	Middlesex Co.	June, 1845	Chief Justice Hornblower	Acquittal

Book Review

MURDER ALONG THE MUSCONETCONG by Ruth Trask Farrow, T.F.B. Publications, Inc., Ltd. 1973. 174 pages, map, bibliography. (Available from the Society at \$8.00 plus 25¢ postage.)

Very few of our readers do not know about Hunterdon's Hauptmann trial. Most probably know of Somerset's Hall—Mills trial. But how many know of Warren's six trials arising out of the murders on May 1, 1843, of the three Castners and John Parke? Ruth Trask Farrow, a lawyer, has told us about this example of "Jersey Justice" in *Murder along the Musconetcong*, published in limited edition in 1973.

Two men were hanged as a result of the several trials and appeals, but you get the feeling that the outcome was beclouded by a considerable amount of reasonable doubt.

The author has thoroughly researched the legal records. She has also had the advantage of close contact with an old aunt of hers who remembered many first-hand accounts of events bearing on the murders and the various litigations.

Many of the best known names in the New Jersey bar and government were involved as lawyers or judges in the various stages of the trials: Alexander Wurts, who presided over the Constitutional Convention of 1844, Chancellor Abraham

Zabriskie, former Governor Peter Vroom, U.S. Senator Jacob Miller, Attorney General George Molleson and Chief Justice Joseph Hornblower. The audience at the first trial included Governor William Pennington and former Governor Williamson.

During the course of the proceedings the Constitution of 1844 was enacted. On August 1, 1845, the new Court of Errors and Appeals (the then highest state court), in its first decision in a criminal case, affirmed the convictions of Joseph Carter and Peter Parke.

The book is 170 pages long and crammed with information. It is not light reading, but is an interesting account of a very complicated series of events.

Edwin K. Large, Jr.



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?

HUNTERDON'S LAST VETERANS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

By 1840, less than forty of the hundreds from Hunterdon County who fought in the Revolutionary War were alive. The 1840 Federal Census contained a list of those who were receiving government pensions for that military service. In June, 1840, thirty-seven pensioners were residing in the then nine townships of Hunterdon County.

In keeping with the coming Bicentennial year, the "Newsletter" will begin its first 1976 issue with a biography of each of these veterans, and an account of the military careers of these Hunterdon County residents. The profiles of these various men will continue throughout the coming Bicentennial years. Information about these men is solicited from any reader who may know of same.

The veterans, their places of residence, and ages in 1840 were as follows:

BETHLEHEM

Jacob Johnston, 87
John Head, 83
John Bigler, 84
Leonard Martin, 84
John Clifford, 92

AMWELL

Jacob Williamson, sen., 86
Peter Williamson, 77
John Abbott, sen., 82
Amos Peters, 81
Jacob Williamson, 80

RARITAN

Martin Smith, 84
Joseph Gray, sen., 81
John Besson, 90
John Howe, 86

READINGTON

Cornelius Latourette, 85
Adrian Johnson, 85
Cornelius Messler, 81
Edward Mitchell, 85
Peter Shirts, sen., 92

DELAWARE

William Dilts, 86
Elijah Hummell, 84
Tunis Case, 79
Andrew Butterfoss, 81
James Underwood, 77
William Geary, 85
Daniel Ent, 83
Samuel Barber, 84

ALEXANDRIA

Catharine Hogland, 85
Edwin Dalrymple, 88
John Witing, 77

LEBANON

Jacob Nitzer, 97
John Blane, 82

KINGWOOD

John Mires, 81
John Bray, 85
Richard Heath, 84
Christy Little, 77

TEWKSBURY

Christopher Philhower, 86

Powder Mill (continued from pg. 1)

A Virginian originally and member of the Virginia State Bar, Mr. Bartenstein was formerly General Counsel then Administrative Vice President of Merck & Co., Inc. His wife, Isabel, is also from Virginia and is a graduate of Wellesley College where she majored in history. She is currently President of the Women's Branch of the New Jersey Historical Society. The Bartensteins consider themselves in no sense historians, but they are currently working together on research projects on Alfred Vail's contributions to the electromagnetic telegraph for Speedwell Village of Morristown and on New Jersey's Royal Governor's Mansion for the Proprietary House Association of Perth Amboy.

Membership Report

On behalf of the Society, I take this opportunity to welcome our new members.

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Barnes, Phila., Pa.
Mrs. Laura E. Blehl, High Bridge, N.J.
Mrs. Arthur Brecknell, Belle Meade, N.J.
Joan Bake Brubaker, W. Alexandria, Ohio
Ada C. Cannon, E. Brunswick, N.J.
Mrs. Raymond Clawson, Dayton, Ohio
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Cole, Phillipsburg, N.J.
Miss Amy Fenwick, Neshanic Station, N.J.
Paul Jorgenson, Volendam Windmill Museum, Milford, N.J.
John F. Krauss, Flemington, N.J.
Mrs. Harold W. Mullenax, Tulsa, Okla.
Francis E. Pisani, II, Pittstown, N.J.
Miss Inez D. Powelson, W. Chester, Pa.
Mrs. Edmund Roberts, Flemington, N.J.
Mrs. Wm. Schreiner, Flemington, N.J.
Miss Cathy Sheppard, Ft. Washington, Pa.
Mrs. Arthur V. Shurts, E. Lyme, Conn.
Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Volger, Washington, N.J.

Members who have not paid their dues for the calendar year 1975, are urged to do so.

Mrs. George E. Carkhuff
Membership Secretary

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: _____