



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Vol. 12 No. 2

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SPRING, 1976

Luncheon & Trenton Tour on Saturday July 10th

11 A.M. AT THE DORIC HOUSE

A "Capitol Salute to the Bicentennial" has opened the State House in Trenton to visitors during weekends this spring and summer. The project will feature a different county each weekend with the focus on Hunterdon County the weekend of July 10 and 11. Exhibits depicting the heritage of the County will be set up in the Capitol rotunda.

Our Society has planned a luncheon and bus trip to Trenton with visits to the State House and rotunda, the Old Barracks, and the Trent House for July 10.

The Doric House will be open at 11 a.m. on that day and a buffet luncheon will be served in the country kitchen and garden of the Doric House at 12 noon. Following lunch, a chartered bus will take us to Trenton where our first stop will be for a guided tour of the State House. From the Capitol complex our group will proceed to the Old Barracks where members of the Old Barracks Association will take us on a tour of their building, now a museum of colonial and Revolutionary War artifacts.

The Barracks were built in 1758-9 and occupied by British troops and, following the Battles of Trenton and Assanpink, by troops of the Continental line and State Militia. After the Revolution, the buildings were sold by Moore Furman acting in his position as Commissioner for the State and the deed for this sale is filed in the Hunterdon County Clerk's office. The barracks is located north of the Assanpink Creek, which was at that time (and until 1838 when Mercer County was set off from Hunterdon) the southern boundary of Hunterdon County.

From the Barracks we will board our bus for a short trip to the Trent House. William Trent built his home in 1721 on an 800 acre tract of land acquired seven years earlier from Mahlon Stacy. The house today is beautifully restored and furnished to reflect the colonial period. Following our tour of the Trent House and the brick walled gardens surrounding it, we will return to the Doric House.

Reservations for the July 10, luncheon and bus tour will be accepted until July 3. Checks in the amount of \$7.50 for each reservation may be made payable to Hunterdon County Historical Society and mailed to Program Committee, HCHS, 114 Main Street, Flemington, N.J. 08822.



Dick Rawlins

Library volunteer Mrs. T.M. D'Autrechy in the Doric House country kitchen.



Membership Report

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

Mrs. Frank Boyce, Newark, Ohio
Alex R. Chamberlin, Bloomsburg, Pa.
Mrs. Linda Engeseth, Flemington, N.J.
Miss Vi Hill, Wayne, N.J.
Mr. & Mrs. Willis Hinckley, Lebanon, N.J.
Mrs. Wm. McGarry, Syracuse, N.Y.
John M. Matsen, Annandale, N.J.
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Moore, Ringoes, N.J.
Mrs. Donna Sayre, Levittown, Pa.
Jerry A. Schreffler, Bloomsbury, N.J.
Mr. & Mrs. Ray G. Sponsler, Bloomsbury, N.J.
Ray N. Stack, Somerville, N.J.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wachendorf, Whitehouse Sta., N.J.
Leroy Williamson, Galesburg, Ill.

Mrs. George E. Carkhuff
Membership Secretary

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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Some of Society's Treasures Reviewed

It has been suggested that some notes setting forth information on a few of the various articles in the Society's collections, with special reference to the period from 1720 to approximately 1820, would be of interest to our members.

As we know, John Philip Case settled in the Flemington area in 1732 when Indians were still resident in the vicinity. As is well known also, our Society has had a very extensive Indian artifacts collection for many years, principally of objects found in Hunterdon County. Most of these are displayed in the Society's room over the Flemington Public Library and a few may be seen in the Doric House. Here we have on view the peace pipe of friendship smoked by Mr. Case and the then local Indian chief Tuccamirgin. A flint and steel used by Mr. Case also survive in the Society's custody.

Displayed in the same cabinet may be seen several fine powder horns, one of them dated 1776, the fateful year of decision, and another dated 1805, handsomely carved in relief with an American Eagle, presumably by Peter Haward, an area resident.

Members may recall the military skirmish between the detachment of British Dragoons sent to Flemington before the battle of Trenton in 1776 to destroy an arms cache then in Thomas Lowrey's storehouse located at the north end of the settlement of Fleming's or Flemingtown. The British, when returning towards Trenton, were ambushed near Ringoes by a local group of militiamen led by Captain John Schenck and the British commander, Cornet Geary, was killed in the action. Surviving in the Society's collection are some of the buttons from Geary's uniform. The enemy column did not rejoin the main force at Trenton but cut across to New Brunswick, then in British hands.

Perhaps the Ringoes incident helped lighten the tasks at Trenton and Princeton, which major battles followed shortly thereafter.

The Society is fortunate in possessing several attractive cups and saucers and other dishes used by members of the Coryell family of Coryell's Ferry (now Lambertville) during the Revolutionary era. It is believed that General Washington was at the Coryell residence on occasion and if so, may have used some of the items which survive today.

A fascinating document given the Society recently by a member is a printed notice of the vendue or sale of many of the extensive property holdings of William Alexander, Earl of Stirling. The notice is dated July 20, 1779 and calls for the public sale pursuant to an act of the Legislature of many thousands of acres in Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset Counties. Alexander lived near Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

On our back corridor walls at the Doric House are to be found two documents each granting to the ship concerned port and passage privileges. The one of 1804 is signed by Thomas Jefferson and attested to by James Madison and the other of 1830 is signed by Andrew Jackson and attested to by Martin Van Buren, four splendid autographs of former Presidents, of historical significance given to us by a Clinton resident.

An early handmade silk flag with thirteen stars and gold fringe graces one of our display areas, as do a colonial spoon and shoehorn, both made very nicely of animal horn.

Among our treasures is the splendid oil portrait on a wooden panel of Mrs. Mary Woolverton Bray, wife of Daniel, who helped gather the Durham boats to ferry Washington and his troops across the Delaware before the battle of Trenton. The portrait is by Hunterdon's fine local artist, William Bonnell, and was done in 1828.

In our upper hall at the Doric House is a most interesting chest which belonged to Charles Stewart, a commissary General of Revolutionary War fame, who resided near Landsdowne in Hunterdon County. It is constructed with the very complicated "Bermuda" of "West Indian" type of dovetailing.

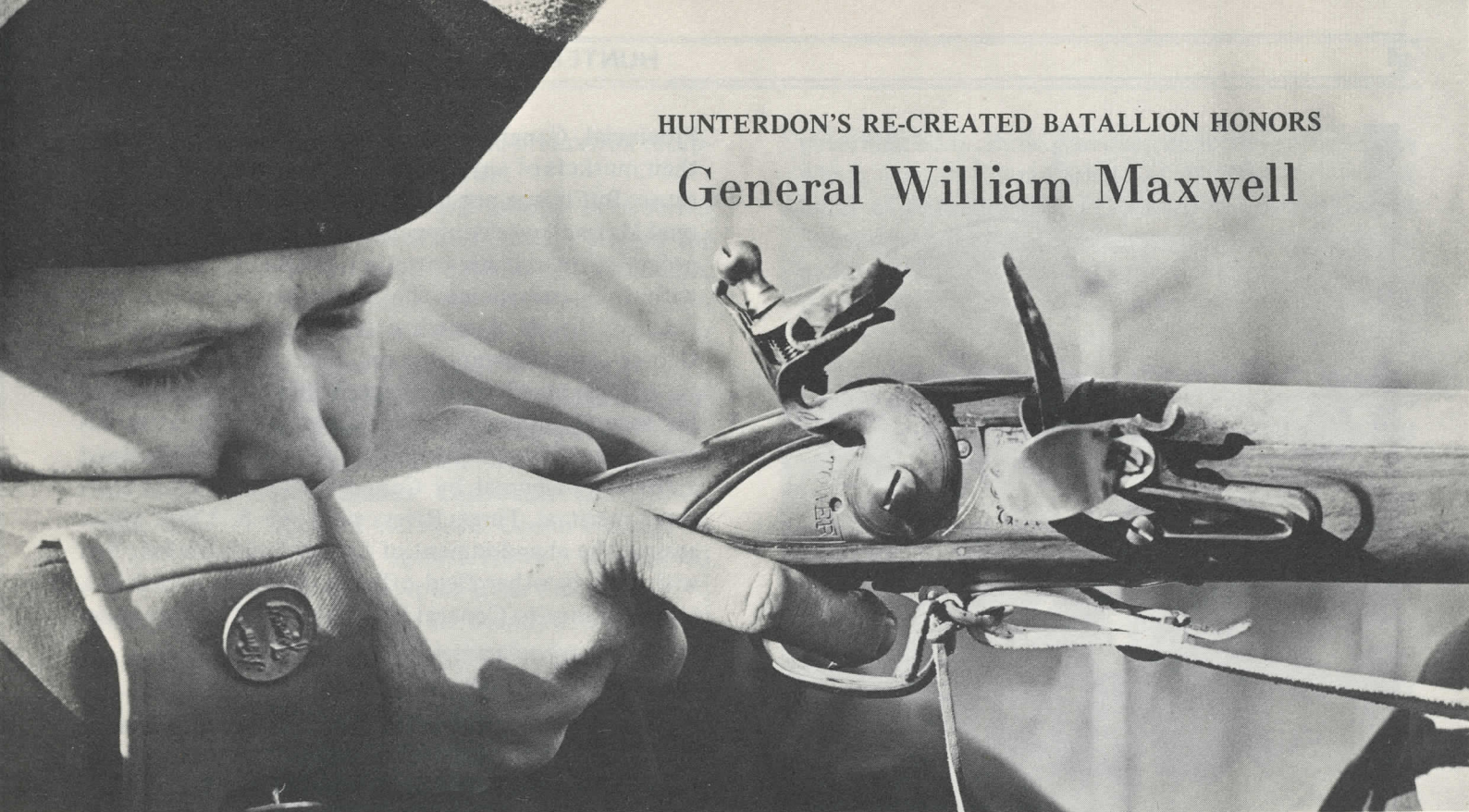
In our restored living room may be seen a very nice late Chippendale slant top desk with bracket feet and an interesting skirt. In the library stands a very good Cornelius Miller clock with brass dial and a solid cherry Chippendale case, a fine survival made well before 1800 in New Jersey.

A portrait of George Washington graces our main entrance hall. It is probably copied from Gilbert Stuart's famous painting done from life. Our example seems quite competently painted, unlike some other existing copies.

(Continued on page 11)

HUNTERDON'S RE-CREATED BATTALLION HONORS

General William Maxwell



Photos by Bajor



“Ready, Aye Ready, Noble Scott!” This legendary statement by the Scottish patriot and hero, Sir William Wallace was one of assurance and of thanks to the leader of the Maxwell clan, who tendered to him in a critical hour of need. They were near Lanark, Scotland, and the year was 1297. Inspired by Wallace’s remark, the motto “Je suis pret”, or “I am ready”, became part of the Maxwell coat-of-arms, and the history of this ancient and honorable family attests to its appropriateness.

The New Jersey branch of the family descended from Thomas Maxwell who “held the bridge” at the Battle of Athlone on June 22, 1691, and received particular mention by Lord Macualety in his *History of England* for his role in King James’ army during the Irish Revolt. Thomas Maxwell chose to remain in Ireland after the capitulation of Limerick and he settled in County Tyrone.

It was from this county in 1747 that John Maxwell emigrated to what is now Greenwich Township, just over our Hunterdon border in Warren County. This area was then part of Morris County, soon to become Sussex (1753), and much later Warren (1824). John Maxwell brought with him his wife Ann, his daughter Jane, and sons William, John and Robert. All three boys would serve their new country as officers in the Revolutionary War.

William Maxwell was the eldest son, born in 1733. Although only in his teens when he arrived on the Greenwich farm from Ireland, he had many manly duties to perform and responsibilities to bear. He en-

listed in the military service at an early age. At 22, in 1755, he was with General Braddock at the Battle of Fort Duquesne in the French and Indian War. He was with General Abercrombie at Ticonderoga in 1759, and reportedly with General Wolfe at Quebec that same year. William Maxwell was, therefore, a seasoned soldier several years before the Revolution. His successful part in protecting our young colonies resulted in his achieving the rank of colonel in the British Army.

The date of his departure from British service is not known, but in 1733 he chaired the meeting of the Sussex County Committee of Safety at Newton on August 10th and 11th. On July 16th of 1774 at a meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of Sussex County he was appointed one of ten deputies to meet with other deputies and appoint representatives to the General Congress. There he was chosen a representative to the first Provincial Congress of New Jersey and was in attendance at Trenton May 23rd to June 3rd 1775. He was again present on August 5th when this Congress reconvened.

He was elected a deputy of the second Provincial Congress on September 21st, 1775 and was present at the October session when it was resolved to raise two battalions for the continental service. William Maxwell was recommended for appointment as colonel of the battalion to be raised in the western part of New Jersey, and his commission was issued by the General Congress on November 8th 1775 and dated October 25th of that year.



Photos by Bajor

The raising of this battalion by Colonel William Maxwell was the inspiration for the formation of a present-day "Maxwell's Battalion" by the Clinton Historical Village in 1975. Photographs of this unit appear on these pages. Authentically clad, and disciplined in Von Steuben's manual of arms, this unit has travelled extensively to bring the sound, color and excitement of the Revolutionary War period to contemporary audiences. The "Continental" of this unit wear the blue regimental coats with scarlet facings. Their cast pewter buttons bear the original New Jersey script. The "Shirts" or "Rangers" in the unit wear authentic fringed linen frocks and carry rifled weapons. The booming flintlock muskets and Kentucky rifles of "Maxwell's Battalion" are impressive indeed, but the unit's visible pride in their representation of the men of colonial Hunterdon gives deeper meaning to their tribute.

Although the 1975 Battalion has faced innumerable problems in recruiting, uniforming, equipping and training its men, there is no parallel to these same difficulties which were encountered by Colonel Maxwell 200 years earlier. Uniforms, blankets and muskets were almost unobtainable by late 1775. The

Provincial Congress called upon citizens to donate their muskets of any type or vintage, in support of the cause. But it was not until February of 1776 that Colonel Maxwell was equipped and able to respond to his orders to march his battalion to Quebec. He set out with four companies, the remainder to follow, and reached the St. Lawrence in March, crossing Lakes George and Champlain on their frozen surfaces.

Thus, at 42 years of age, William Maxwell began his second military career. Seven months after his arrival at our northern borders he was commissioned a Brigadier-General by Congress. He had acted with great merit at Three Rivers on June 8, 1776. Much against the abandonment of Crown Point, on July 8th with twenty other field officers, Maxwell joined in a remonstrance to General Philip Schuyler on this issue.

In August 1776 the British forces routed the American army on Long Island and after several embarrassing and costly defeats in that sector, General Washington laid plans for a retreat to Pennsylvania. From New Brunswick on December 1st Washington wrote Congress of his intention to gather the boats along the Delaware to prevent pursuit by the British across that natural barrier. Washington viewed this as a most critical assignment and gave the responsibility to General William Maxwell and Colonel Wade Hampton. Maxwell knew the Delaware River well, but other qualifications must have been considered by Washington. Author Howard Fast in his "The Crossing" called Maxwell a "hard minded and dependable gentleman." He stated that Maxwell "was one of Washington's close circle of personal friends, whom he leaned on and depended on."

By the fifth of December the impossible had been accomplished. The Durham boats were arriving at John Glover's makeshift dock at Trenton. Hunterdon men like Bray, Johnes and Gearhart performed miracles in this operation and the story of the subsequent crossings and battles of Trenton testify to the importance of their contributions. Maxwell and Hampton had accomplished their mission.

Six days before his dramatic return to Hunterdon on Christmas day and subsequent victory at Trenton, Washington ordered General Maxwell to take command of the troops at Morristown and to harass and annoy the enemy in their quarters. Maxwell did not participate in the battles of Trenton as stated in some sources, but the missions of his troops in 1777 were vital in the defense of New Jersey and the eastern front.

On or about January 3rd he took command of the troops at Morristown.

January 6th — Maxwell engaged highlanders and Hessians (England's finest) at Spanktown (Rahway) and forced their retreat.

- January 8th — American forces under Maxwell recaptured Elizabethtown.
- February 23rd — Maxwell engaged troops of Colonel Charles Mawhood, earlier praised for his stubborn defense of Princeton. British retreated to Perth Amboy.
- March 8th — He engaged General William Howe at Strawberry Hill (Woodbridge).
- June — With Green and Stirling, Maxwell pursued the British to Piscataway.
- June 26th — He defended the Westfield Plainfield area against Cornwallis and Howe.
- Sept. 3rd — Maxwell defended Cooch's bridge in Delaware against Howe's attempt to take Philadelphia from the rear.
- Sept. 11th — At the Battle of Brandywine Maxwell stunned the Hessians under Knyphausen at Kennett Meeting House and Chadd's Ford. Maxwell was outflanked by greatly superior forces, but British and Hessian losses more than doubled Maxwell's.
- Oct. 4th — At the Battle of Germantown Maxwell and Knox, under Stirling, attacked the Chew House, which had been barricaded by Musgrave and six companies of the British 40th Regiment.

Next came the long winter at Valley Forge. Maxwell and his troops were there, sharing the ravages of disease, cold and hunger, which took the lives of over 3,000 men. The capitol city of Philadelphia was occupied by the British.

But on May 6th of 1778 the news of the French Alliance reached the eager ears of Washington at Valley Forge. Washington broke camp on June 18th and immediately took the offensive. The British evacuated Philadelphia and retreated through New Jersey. On June 24th Washington issued orders to Maxwell, Dickinson and Morgan to take the most effectual means of gaining the enemy's right flank, and give the British as much annoyance as possible. Next came orders for Maxwell, "Light Horse" Harry Lee and Cadwalader to harass the enemy's rear. Washington then dispatched Lafayette to Cranbury to take the advance with Maxwell and Morgan who were hot on the heels of the British. The battle of Monmouth took place on June 28th, 1778. Clinton's march through New Jersey and the Battle of Monmouth cost the British an estimated 2,000 men in casualties and desertions.

After Monmouth, British forces found themselves boxed-in at New York. Maxwell and his troops took up a forward position at Elizabethtown. His correspondence during this period, to a friend and to the

governing body, shows the deep concern for his troops which was so characteristic of William Maxwell. A letter of February 6th, 1779 went to Colonel Charles Stewart whose home for some years was at Landsdown, just south of Hunt's Mills (Clinton). Stewart, a life-long friend of Maxwell's, was Commissary General of Issues during the Revolution. In his position Stewart was constantly frustrated by inflated money, lack of supplies, inadequate transportation and indifferent or even hostile elements in the population. Maxwell wrote that his field officers "beged [sic] I would write to you, for they were sure you would not suffer us to be worse served than the rest of the army if you knew it; and more especialy [sic] as we lay on the frontiers."

In sharp contrast to the friendly tone of Maxwell's letters to Charles Stewart, his missives to Governor Livingston and the Council and Assembly of New Jersey were biting. On April 25th, 1779 he caustically wrote, "It is useless for you to say you are not able to



Photos by Bajor

pay [the troops] in full value . . . I know better. Your merchants and farmers were never so rich in this world before."

He said that the selfish people "will make no scruple to strip him [the soldier] of his months' pittance . . . Charity will not carry any of them further than a drink of cold water. They [his troops] have been so shamefully neglected by you that I am at a loss how to address the subject." Also in April, 1779, Maxwell wrote to Governor Livingston and the Legislature demanding action against "licensed spies" and Tories who were continually crossing from New Jersey to New York on "business". This business was popularly known as London trading. He specifically named Captain Archibald Kennedy and "one Mrs. Chandler of Elizabethtown" as chief offenders.

The British retreat through and evacuation of New Jersey had not minimized their endeavors in other sectors. Aided by Tories and Indian allies, the enemy continued to press in on the back door of our young country with a series of merciless assaults. In one terrible encounter near Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, they had attacked 400 American settlers whose able-bodied men were away serving their country. Of the 400 two-thirds were killed and many prisoners horribly tortured by the Indians in this "Wyoming Massacre".

On May 11th 1779, Maxwell's Brigade was ordered to Easton, Pennsylvania, where a major force

would be consolidated before moving out to revenge Indian and British atrocities. The full expedition was under the command of Major General Sullivan. One of Maxwell's units, the Second New Jersey Regiment, passed through Pittstown on or about June 3rd on its march to Easton.

Maxwell must have made a brief visit to his home before embarking on his mission, for he wrote a short note to Colonel Stewart from Greenwich on May 23rd. Included in his eloquently worded message was a simple homely request. Stewart had forgotten to include the "shugar" (sic) for the coffee he had ordered earlier and asked if he might send his man to procure some at Pittstown "as it is not likely there is any to purchase [out] this way."

Pittstown was a supply center during the Revolution. In April of 1779, Stewart detailed his shipments from Pittstown to Easton, presumably to supply the forthcoming expedition. Rum, pork, bread, butter bisket (sic), flour, dry clams and butter were shipped in hogsheads, tierces, barrels and firkins.

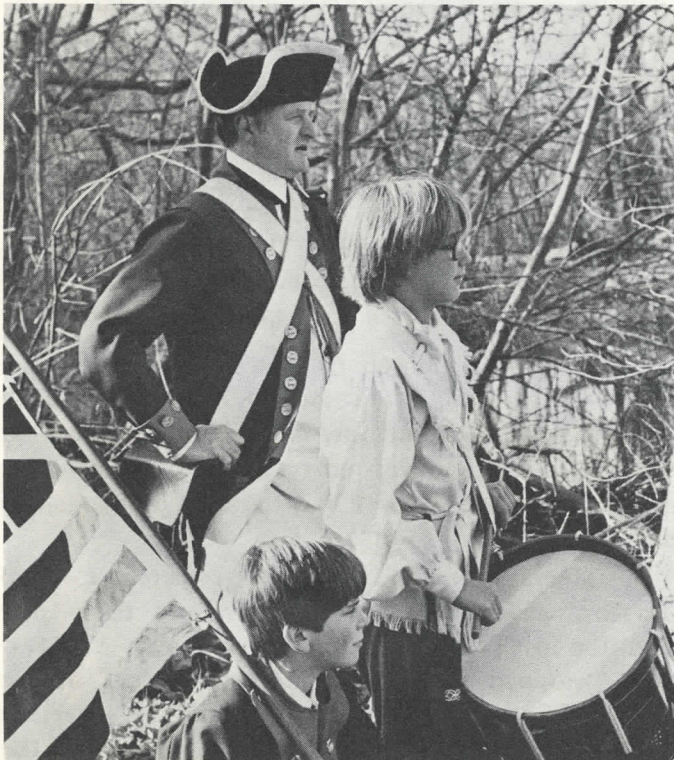
On June 14th Lady Washington arrived at Easton and was greeted by the Second and Third Regiments. The next morning Generals Maxwell and Sullivan accompanied her on her journey as far as Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Other duties of Maxwell's were not so pleasant. On the 1st of July, Michael Rosebrugh of Phillipsburg was executed before the entire army for enticing soldiers to desert to the enemy. General Maxwell presided over the court martial proceedings at Easton.

The army moved out to Wyoming, Pennsylvania where once again the forces were consolidated. After some weeks of drill and training the big push began on July 31st out into the country of the Senecas and Cayugas. In this vast procession through the wilderness, Maxwell's command alone numbered 1,294 men and 111 officers. In addition to the army there were 1,200 pack horses and 700 cattle. Every step at this stage of the expedition was a struggle. The intense heat, tangled forests, rugged mountains and rivers took their toll among the men. General Sullivan was taken ill. This placed General Maxwell in temporary command of the full army for a brief period until Sullivan regained enough strength to continue.

The expedition however, accomplished its goals. Forty Indian towns were burned and more than one hundred and sixty thousand bushels of corn were destroyed. The power of the Six Nation Indian Confederacy was much weakened, as was its alliance with the British crown.

Maxwell's Brigade, with General Hand's riflemen, returned to Easton on October 26th 1779. It is distressing to report that when the inhabitants of Easton heard of the army's approach they raised their prices



Photos by Bajor



for food, clothing and drink for the weary soldiers. But Maxwell and his men were determined not to buy a single article in the town. They passed through Easton and were camped at Oxford, New Jersey the next evening. From there the Brigade moved to Sussex Court House, to Warrick, Pompton, Morristown, Springfield and finally to Scotch Plains, where on November 5th, they set up winter Headquarters.

The winter of 1779-1780 was the worst in the memory of any living American. Baron De Kalb wrote that the snow was so deep that some roads were "twelve feet above their ordinary level," and that the "ink freezes on my pen while I am sitting close to the fire." Inflation had pushed the price of an ordinary horse to twenty thousand dollars. Desertions, mutinies and resignations became commonplace in the American army.

Charlestown fell to the British under Clinton as a tragic beginning to the Spring of 1780. While Clinton was thus engaged, some of his glory-seeking cohorts in New York, including William Franklin, Tory son of Benjamin, were secretly planning, or more accurately plotting, behind Clinton's back. Their objective was to invade New Jersey at Elizabethtown, trap Washington in his lair at Morristown, and thus replace Clinton as the heroes that ended the Revolution.

Once again it was Brigadier-General Maxwell and his New Jersey brigade that was sent to the forward position at Elizabethtown. With four understrength regiments totalling only 741 men, some without arms and accoutrements, Maxwell arrived at Elizabethtown on May 14, 1780. The day before his arrival Maxwell wrote his friend General Stewart to persuade him to assist in the settlement of what appears to have been

a rather sticky family dispute involving family property. The letter indicates that Maxwell's sister Jane must have married twice, a suggestion the writer does not find in other sources. He states, "that since old Mr. Barber died with home [whom] the dispute originated his oldest son has married my sister, with whom and another brother the dispute now lyeth . . . And as they have possession and enjoy the place they are very sasey [sic.] As I am interested in the affair and to have the place or what part of it may be judged to my father in that case, I must beg in my own behalf that you will go up and settle it, . . . You will lodge at my father's where you will get good feed for your horses and a little good spirits for you and your friend." After paying his respects to Stewart's family at "Hackets Town" and "to all our other friends there" Maxwell excuses his "incorrectness" in parts of his letter and ends with, ". . . my brigade is within sight and on their march to the lines."

Shortly after Maxwell and his brigade took up their positions at Elizabethtown the enemy troops began their preparations to invade that point from just across the water in Staten Island. Their force of over 6,000 men was almost double the size of Washington's entire army. They were highly trained and bolstered by reports of the appalling condition of the Americans, and almost all of them were seasoned veterans of four years in the American conflict.

Why was William Maxwell chosen to protect this advanced position? This writer feels that author Thomas Fleming best sums it up in one sentence. "In William Maxwell, George Washington had one of the most gifted militia leaders in America." His troops nicknamed him "Scotch Willie". Whether this name derived from his ancestry (before Ireland), some inability to part with a dollar, a possible liking for a particular beverage or perhaps the trace of an accent in his voice, is not of great significance. His men knew he was one of them. One account reads, "his personal frankness and the absence of all haughtiness in his manner made him a great favorite with the soldiers."

Washington himself had never succeeded in rallying and inspiring the loosely organized and ill trained militiamen but now his back was to the wall. He had to use and depend on militiamen as well as continentals and Maxwell was the man best suited to handle the job.

General Maxwell, with the competent Colonel Dayton, abandoned Elizabethtown and took their position in "The Short Hills." It was there that Maxwell "stopped the British in their tracks," at the Battle of Springfield. The delay enabled the American forces to assemble in enough numbers to beat off the enemy attack and force their evacuation of New

Jersey. Only once more in the Revolution would Sir Henry Clinton be tempted to attack our state, but he rejected the idea as he remembered "the bold persevering militia of that populous state."

About one month after the Battle of Springfield, on July 20, 1780, General Maxwell tendered his resignation from the service of his country. He said, "I have not found my command in the Jersey Brigade for some time past as agreeable as I could wish." It is quite possible that William Maxwell, like Generals Sullivan and Morgan who had already resigned, saw a limited future in the military. These men had given their all for their country and like other American officers were not overjoyed to see foreigners such as von Steuben, Duportail, Cucoudray and others given high ranks and major assignments. Naturally, these appointments were politic on the part of Congress in firming up our alliances, but it was often a bitter pill for proud Americans to swallow. There is evidence too, that Maxwell may have been pressured by his own staff. Lt. Col. Barber writes to Colonel Elias Dayton, "The General has sent in his resignation officially and the officers have agreed not only to be tender of his character but to endeavor to check any disadvantageous reports that may circulate respecting him. I think upon the whole the affair well settled." The intrigue referred to in this letter is not known. The most generally accepted explanation is that Maxwell was "dissatisfied," perhaps even outraged, because of the promotion, or planned promotion, of a subordinate, but more "aristocratic" officer over him. If this is true, it is to Maxwell's credit that he did not follow some examples of complaining letters setting forth his own hard-earned qualifications and criticizing promotion methods of the army. He simply resigned, stating, "to be uniform in my good wishes to a country I love, I would rather withdraw from a service I am fond of, than to remain where my services could not be made agreeable to my wishes." General Washington, who, it has been assumed, knew the reasons for Maxwell's action, wrote to Congress after receiving his resignation, "The merits of this General are well known . . . I believe him to be an honest man, a warm friend to his country and firmly attached to its interests . . ." Washington's choice of words in support of Maxwell's outstanding career, his honesty and constant patriotism are an appropriate tribute to the character of William Maxwell.

So at age 47, and after 25 or perhaps 30 years of military and civilian service to the American cause, William Maxwell returned to Greenwich. Less than two months after his resignation we learn from his letter of September 12, 1780, to Charles Stewart, that Maxwell "brought home a fever . . . which has stuck close to me ever since . . ." Perhaps referring to the details



Ann Drakes Studio

of his resignation, he wrote, "I have some business to settle at headquarters . . ." He conveyed some information about Indian "mischief" in Pennsylvania and regretted "the report of the check that the southern army has got" (probably the crushing defeat of Gates at Camden, South Carolina the previous month.) Maxwell closed his letter with, "I am solicited on all hands to go into the House of Legislature but it will not do. I will tell you more when I see you."

Later on, William Maxwell must have reconsidered these solicitations for he was a member of the New Jersey Assembly in 1783. After this service he returned to Greenwich once more. The writer does not know whether this life-long bachelor lived at the fam-

ily homestead at this time or maintained a separate household. Snell's *History of Sussex and Warren Counties* states that, "unfortunately, General Maxwell's house took fire just after the close of the Revolution, and all his valuable papers, together with his correspondence, were destroyed." It is fortunate that some of the Maxwell letters remain intact in other collections.

On the 23rd of February 1790, Maxwell wrote to Charles Stewart, chiding him for his absence. "We begin to think among your friends that you intend becoming a real citizen on Pennsylvania . . . You have now a good opportunity [sic] to become a good politician [sic] of the State you are in . . ." Maxwell's letter stated he had been visiting in and around "the union" and mentions Mrs. Willson (possibly Stewart's widowed daughter), Mr. Taylor (possibly Robert Taylor, the Union Iron Works superintendent) and others. "The winter appears very hard on the crops so much hard frosts and ice and little snow." Maxwell's penmanship was excellent; bold, clear and orderly. Misspelled words were very infrequent, but he closed this letter to Stewart by requesting one of the Sheridan's small dictionaries.

When General Maxwell was 60 years old he received a letter from Timothy Ford, 31, son of Col. Jacob Ford Jr., who built the noted Ford Mansion in Morristown. Washington utilized this mansion as a headquarters during the revolution. The letter, dated 21 September, 1793, is a request for General Maxwell to sign a certificate of pension for Timothy's mother. Timothy's father had died in the revolution on January 10th, 1777, within a few days of a sudden illness which struck him on a march to Chatham on January 4th. Timothy reminded the General in great detail of the circumstances surrounding his father's death. Such recollection was most appropriate inasmuch as the General had much on his mind during that particular week in 1777. He had just taken command of the troops at Morristown; Washington's fatigued but victorious army would be pouring into camp from their surprise attack on the British at Princeton, and on the 8th of January Maxwell would recapture Elizabethtown, taking 100 prisoners and a quantity of baggage. But Timothy Ford's letter leaves little doubt that Maxwell did remember, for Timothy writes of, "The friendship and sincere regard you manifested towards the family on my father's most unfortunate death, and your kindness in particular to me . . ." Here we see a different aspect of the personality of William Maxwell: compassion. It would appear that the rough, tough "Scotch Willie", under tremendous burdens of responsibility, had the depth of character to administer to a 15 year old boy who had lost his father, and to ease the pain of his family's grief.

Another statement in this letter to the General speaks "of the late glorious revolution in which you acquired the applause of your country . . ." There is little doubt that William Maxwell's accomplishments were indeed applauded in his own lifetime, which causes some wonderment and consternation regarding the relative absence of his name in many accounts of the Revolutionary period. Timothy Ford's letter ends with "wishing you every happiness which reflection on the past, and prosperity in the future can bestow, and in remembrance of your kindness to me on the death of my father, I have the pleasure to subscribe myself, Dear General, Your obliged Friend, Tim. Ford."

As late in his life as 1794 we see evidence of Maxwell's ongoing interest in world affairs and in the cause of freedom. In a letter to a friend in that year he says, "Sir, permit me sincerely to congratulate you on the great good success of the French Nation. I think there



cannot be a doubt entertained but that they will be permitted to settle their government as they please, and I make no doubt that people with so much good sense and generous hearts will make a good government. May God of His infinite mercy prosper all their good designs, and I wish the same to Poland, and freedom with good laws to all the world." Maxwell apologized for not coming to dine, but gave as a reason that his friend Col. Stewart "took away my horse and chair."

In September of 1796, Maxwell's old comrade-in-arms George Washington would decline additional service as President of the United States, after eight years

in that office. The infant country had been weaned and the 18th century was drawing to a close. That fall General Maxwell attended a party at Colonel Stewart's mansion at Landsdown on November 4th. He had visited his close friend's home many times over the years. In the wide halls he had engaged in stimulating discussions with many of the leading men of the times. Tradition tells us that Washington, Lafayette, Von Steuben, Putnam, Ethan Allen and other famous men visited the Stewart home, and while there is no written documentation of these visits, it is probably safe to assume that many people of influence did visit at Landsdown.

Certainly a party at the Stewarts would include excellent food, drink and hospitality. But further, a get-together of this kind provided a forum to exchange information, express opinions and discuss the issues of the day. Upon arriving at the Stewart home William Maxwell was probably looking forward to this opportunity. How would the French Revolution affect our diplomatic relations? What about the election? Would it be Adams or Jefferson?

But fate had ideas of its own on November 4th,

1796. General Maxwell was suddenly stricken at the party and died almost immediately. The grief that engulfed the guests on that day must have been unbearable. But with the gracious soothing of time we look back and wonder if the General himself would have desired to meet his maker in any other way. He died with dear friends at his side. He had never married, his father and mother had passed away ten and six years earlier, respectively. His brothers and sister had families of their own and individual lives to lead. But in his final moments he was with those whose love, admiration and respect he had enjoyed through the heat of battle and the relative tranquility of his later years.

General William Maxwell lies at rest in the family plot in the old Greenwich church yard, beside his brothers Captain John and Lieutenant Robert. John Maxwell was a Revolutionary War hero in his own right and Robert carried the head scars of a Tory weapon to his grave. Although the marble stone over William Maxwell's grave extolls his magnificent contributions to the American cause in both war and peace, it could have said it all by borrowing the simple phrase from his family coat of arms . . . "I am ready."



Photos by Bajor

(Continued from page 2)

Nearby is the Society's Joakim Hill clock, a nice example by Flemington's best known clockmaker.

In our recently completed basement kitchen one may see a rare wood and metal hetchel used to comb flax. What gives it special importance is that it is dated on a metal part and bears the initials of Samuel Waldron, probably the maker, a resident of Clover Hill vicinity. The date of 1760 and the initials, "S. W. & C. W." are done in punchwork and are flanked by a rudimentary design of an evergreen branch on each side of the initials.

One of our tavern signs previously illustrated in a Society Newsletter (Vol. 4, No. 3) is a magnificent folk art survival. It formerly hung outside the "Brick Tavern" or "Perryville Tavern" which still survives usefully near Jutland. On one side is a portrait of President Andrew Jackson and, on the other side are traces of a flag blowing in a breeze, and two buildings; a fact which as of now may not have been known to some of our members, since the sign was only recently hung in our Headquarters so both sides can be studied at the same time.

Come and see us and our displays. If you have any desirable artifacts you wish to entrust to your Society's care by permanent loan or gift, we will be most grateful.

John F. Schenk

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: _____

HUNTERDON'S LAST VETERANS

OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

EDMUND DALRYMPLE

He was of a numerous and worthy family, and early in life, when the people of our land were but a body of dependant colonists . . . himself and four of his brothers marched to the rescue . . . to obtain the blessings of civil and religious liberty.

Perhaps among the most patriotic families of Hunterdon County at the time of the American Revolution was that of the Dalrymple family. Five of the six known sons of James Dalrymple apparently entered the War. The last brother to pass away was Edmund Dalrymple, whose obituary, quoted in part above, attests to the brothers' patriotism.

Edmund Dalrymple, among the eldest sons of James, the first Dalrymple known to have settled in Hunterdon County, was born March 22, 1752 in Amwell Township. While a resident of this place, Edmund volunteered to join the "Amwell Regiment of Militia". At about March, 1776, under Lieutenant Jacob Runk, they marched to Hoboken and from there to "Amboy", where they served out a tour of one month.

In the summer of 1776 the Regiment marched to Woodbridge, where they served out another month. About August or September of the same year the Amwell Regiment was separated into two divisions, each to take alternate monthly tours. Edmund, who was in the Second Division, under Captain Cornelius Hoppock, regularly made his tour of one month "whenever it came to the turn of our class to go which was every other month while the British overran New Jersey & while . . . other tories laid at Staten Island."

Edmund ultimately served tours at Amboy, "at the Blazing Star at Woodbridge", Thorntons farms, Elizabethtown, twice at Newark, "Aquackanuck", "Boundbrook", and "Passaic falls." Edmund was also stationed "at Coryells ferry [Lambertville] on the Delaware under Capt. George Ely to ferry the army across the Delaware". He also helped to ferry Washington's army across the Delaware River previous to the Battle of Monmouth. During the whole of the War, Edmund was "frequently on alarm", and served no less than two years.

By 1785-86 Edmund was a resident of Alexandria Township, where he generally resided until his death. He appears to have been engaged in merchandising, as was his brother, Evan. In November, 1792 "Edmund Derumple" was a member of the Amwell Militia. No records indicate that Edmund was ever married or that he had any children. When he made

application for a pension, as a veteran of the Revolutionary War, on September 2, 1833, Edmund was "a resident of the Poor house of the township of Amwell". The pension was granted on May 1, 1834, after which he seems to have taken up residence with his nieces, Ereminah and Elizabeth Dalrymple, the daughters of his brother Thomas, who had a home in Alexandria Township.

Edmund died on July 19, 1845 in Alexandria Township, in the 94th year of his age. His funeral was held on the 21st by Rev. Manning Force, "a highly distinguished and widely known Minister of the M.E. Church." It is not known from where Edmund's funeral was held, nor where he was buried. In his obituary it was noted that there was no "tomb stone to tell his name, his birth, or his death". Although the funeral services were attended by "a large number of relations and friends . . . No funeral drum rolled over the bier of the soldier of the Revolution."

Edmund Dalrymple

At the age of 81 Edmund Dalrymple made this signature to his Pension Application, dated September 2, 1833.

NOTES and QUERIES

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

REA, CHAMBERLIN: Desire information on Rea family and Lt. Col. William Chamberlin who served in the Revolutionary War. Alex R. Chamberlin, Mountain Grove, Box 290, R.D. 3, Bloomsburg, Pa. 17815.

WILLIAMSON, VOORHEES, BLUE, GANO, GREEN: Desire information on Nicholas Williamson, Amwell, will proved 1760, wife Rachel; parents of Martha

Voorhees (1750-1813/1828) m Ezekial Blue circa 1770; parents of William Gano, Alexandria, d. 1785, wife Sarah Green. Mrs. Thor B. Andersen, 41 Park Road, Maplewood, N.J. 07040.

WILSON, JOHNSON, RITTENHOUSE: Desire information on Esther and Sarah Wilson, daughters of Garrett Wilson and Mary Butterfoss Wilson, Hunterdon County prior to 1860. Esther m. N.B. Johnson, Sarah m. Watson J. Rittenhouse. Need dates, birthplaces for each, where they were married, when and where they died, and where Esther and husband are buried. Harry C. Bartley, 23 Shepard Terrace, West Orange, N.J. 07052.

VAN BUSKIRK: After twenty-seven years collecting Van Buskirk family genealogy I plan to close the work soon. Any Van Buskirks not contacted please write. Mrs. Robert W. Shoemaker, Sr., 929 Winding Ray, Edgewood, Anderson, Indiana 46011.

TRIMMER: Seek data on Jacob D. Trimmer grist mill located in Readington Twp. on the Rockaway Creek near Oldwick. The mill was last known in use in the 1860's. Will exchange any Trimmer family records. Dr. Robert W. Trimmer, 23357 Delany Lane, Elkhart, In. 46514.

THATCHER, EMMONS, HILLMAN: Need husband's given name — Susan Thatcher married — Emmons pre 1817. Desire gravestone inscription of Richard Hillman d. pre-1830. Widow Lydia (Thatcher) Hillman d. 1830 bur. Old School Baptist Church, Baptistown, N.J. Any information welcome. Miss Nellie Thatcher, 6446 Regular, Detroit, Michigan 48209.

DORIC HOUSE FUND DRIVE Main Street, Flemington, N.J. 08822

Find enclosed check for:

\$ as my donation to the
Doric House Building Fund.

From:

Address:

SUGGESTED GIFT CATEGORIES

General—\$50.00 or less; Family \$20.00 or less; Individual—\$10.00 or less; Student—\$5.00 or less; Maintaining—\$100.00; Sustaining—\$250.00; Family Memorial—\$500.00; Patron—\$1000.00; Benefactor—\$2500.00; Memorial Room (limited number) — \$5000.00; Vosseller-Landis Memorial — Optional; Business Firm Contribution — Optional.

*All gifts will be promptly acknowledged
by the Treasurer*

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

.....

