



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Vol. 12 No. 1

Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

WINTER, 1976

Union Iron Works Topic of Annual Meeting

The existence of iron mines along the South Branch of the Raritan River, within present-day High Bridge Borough, were first noted in 1742, when William Allen leased a large tract adjoining the mines and a forge. Later, he and Joseph Turner purchased the tract in 1752, thereby starting a business which continued to the 1960's — ultimately known as the Taylor-Wharton Iron and Steel Company.

During its tenure as the Union Iron Works, the Taylor Iron Works, and finally as the Taylor-Wharton Company, the firm manufactured arms and materiel for all the wars engaged in by the United States, beginning with the production of cannon balls for the forces of the Revolutionary War.

A High Bridge Historical Commission was created in August 1974. At this time, Mayor Donald Manning appointed a committee consisting of Lucille Weigel, Gary DeRemer, Joseph Hoffman and James P. Walton. Within a month this group formed the High Bridge Historical Society, James Walton being elected President.

The Society immediately began making plans to participate in the Bicentennial. At ceremonies held at High Bridge on April 19, 1975, commemorating the Battle of Lexington and Concord, a stone monument was dedicated on the site of the "Old Iron Mines."

With a grant from the County Cultural and Heritage Commission, the Society has ordered a bronze plaque which will eventually be placed on the stone monument.

President Walton will be the speaker at our Annual Meeting on March 28, illustrating his talk on the Iron Mines with slides.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, March 28, 1976 at 2 p.m.

Flemington Methodist Church
2 Maple Avenue



BERTHOLD A. SORBY

Following a lengthy illness which curtailed his activities with the Society for the past two years, Berthold A. Sorby, Trustee and former librarian, passed away on January 10, 1976.

Mr. Sorby came to the Society in 1962 to catalog and organize the collection of maps, books, broadsides, artifacts and genealogical material gathered by Hiram E. Deats. He added to our collections and transposed it into one of the finest historical society libraries in the State.

He was instrumental in getting Miss Helen Large and the late Mrs. D. Howard Moreau to solicit funds toward the purchase and restoration of the Doric House as a permanent home for the Hunterdon County Historical Society. He carried out and supervised much of the restoration himself.

The Society's quarterly *Newsletter* was begun by Mr. Sorby in 1965, and for sometime thereafter was written by him.

"Bert's" devotion to the concerns of the Society stands as a tribute to him and deserves the appreciation of the community.

The Society extends heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Berthold A. Sorby, with the hope that the memory of his good deeds will lessen the pain of their grief.

Kenneth V. Myers,
President

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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Snell's History Reprint Goes to Press

FIRST 300 ALREADY RESERVED

The Hunterdon County Historical Society in conjunction with the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission is reprinting the 800+ page *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey* compiled by James P. Snell and originally published in 1881.

Withstanding the test of time, the book has become recognized as the standard reference on local history for the two Counties. It contains chapters on Hunterdon and Somerset's roles in the Revolutionary War, the geography and geology of both counties, civil history, etc. Information on each of the townships and boroughs in both Counties is covered in separate chapters. Biographical information on a number of prominent citizens has been included.

Snell's *History* has become very scarce and is usually only available in public libraries and rare book collections. To make it available during the Bicentennial years, 500 copies are being reprinted. This is being done page by page with all the text, maps, illustrations, etc., and will have hard covers with gold stamped title and standard library binding.

The cost of reprints are \$37 each. Prepaid orders are being accepted. Checks may be made payable to H.C.H.S. and mailed to 114 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822.



Grandin Papers

TO BE SHOWN IN REVOLUTIONARY MEDICAL EXHIBIT

An exhibit entitled, "New Jersey Medicine in the Revolutionary Era," is being held at the New Jersey Historical Society from February 4th until March 24th, at Rutgers University Library from April 1st until May 27th, and at the New Jersey State Museum from June 5th until August 1st.

The exhibit will feature books, manuscripts, and medical instruments of the period.

Eleven of the items on exhibition are on loan from the collections of the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Most of these are from the papers of Hunterdon's Revolutionary Naval surgeon, Dr. John F. Grandin, including the journal which he kept during his voyage on the privateer, *Fortune* (see HCHS *Newsletter*, vol. 9, No. 2, Fall, 1973).

NOTES and QUERIES

Address correspondence to Genealogical Committee. Listings of up to ten lines free to members. Non-member rates are 25 cents per line.

CHOYCE, POULSON, SEVERS: Need parents, birthplace, burial location of Caroline E. Choyce, b 4/7/1810, m Charles Maxwell; Rachel Poulson, 1st wife and Mary Severs Kitchen 2nd wife of Elias H. Conover. David Conover, 4710 Bay View Lane, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901.

LAMBERT, TAYLOR: Information wanted on descendants of Peter Taylor m Hayes, Sarah Taylor m Hoppock, children of Jerusha Lambert & Peter Taylor, Sr. Descendants of Lambert family contact Mrs. R. Watts, 643 Terhune Dr., Wayne, New Jersey 07470.

COLE, HARRIS, SIDDER: Want data on Mahala Cole 1809-1844, m 1828 in Hunterdon Wesley Sidders, d 1844 in Milford. She resided 1809-13 Fountain County, Indiana; raised by Higgins Harris and w Polly. Mrs. Emma Vanderlip, 410 S. 55th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68510.

GARRISON, JOHNSTON: Rebecca Garrison, m 26 June, 1796 Joseph Johnston of Hunterdon County. Who were her parents? Mrs. George F. Wilson, 11709 Serama Drive, Des Peres, Mo. 63131.

STICKNEY, WILSON: Desire information on ancestry and descendants of Charles Stickney, mentioned as a grandson in the will of Garret Wilson of Hunterdon County, 1860. Mr. Harry C. Bartley, 23 Shepard Terrace, West Orange, N.J. 07052.

HOUSEL: Desire information on Joseph Housel, born 1780 in Amwell Twp., son of John and Jennie Housel. Mrs. Patricia Burton, 41 Collins Rd., Mercerville, New Jersey 08619.

RUDIBOCK, SHEPHERD, WEST: Seek data on ancestors of David Clark Shepherd, probably b. 9/4/1837 to Eliel & Lydia Burkett Shepherd, at Headquarters, N.J. Desire correspondence with others working on above families. David S. Nivison, 1169 Russell Ave., Los Altos, California 94022.



Lord Stirling Broadside Given To Society

William Alexander was born in New York City in 1726. His father, James, had come to America from Scotland in 1715. Possessed of a superior intellect and already trained as a civil engineer, James took up the study of law shortly after his arrival. By 1717 he was Surveyor-General of East Jersey and New York, and by 1718 Secretary-Recorder of the Province of New York. Two more years saw him qualified as a practicing attorney and a member of the New York Provincial Council. In 1721 he married the wealthy widow, Maria (Sprat) Provost, who continued her deceased husband's mercantile business. Within three more years, James Alexander had been appointed a member of the King's Council for New York, Attorney-General of New Jersey and a member of the King's Council for New Jersey. Though a member of the aristocracy, he developed a deep respect for the principles of common law, and his innate abhorrence of the injustices being wrought upon those not so favored cast him in the role of reformer. Crossing swords within Governor Cosby, of "good connexion and small mind . . . who tried to win by arrogance and new statutes what he could not win by character and talents," he and two others carried their case to the people by establishing *The New York Weekly* with John Peter Zenger as its editor. The editorials which inflamed the administration and led to the landmark Zenger trial were written by the founders of the paper. Defense of Zenger was handled by Alexander until he was disbarred. The ultimate acquittal of Zenger established several democratic principles, the most notable being the right of free speech. Having triumphed in this and other causes, James Alexander became established as a champion of the rights of the common man and as a leader of colonial opposition to unilateral British rule. He was among the earliest to profess a belief in the collective good judgement of average men, the principle later embodied in the Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution of the United States.

James Alexander was one of the moving spirits behind the founding of King's College (now Columbia), and one who fought to prevent its' domination by the Church of England or any other denomination. He and William Livingston argued successfully in speeches and

BY virtue of an act of the General Assembly of the state of New-Jersey, passed the last session at Trenton, intitled, "An act for vesting the real estate of William Alexander, Earl of Stirling, within this state; in trustees, to discharge, by the sale thereof, or of so much as may suffice, the debts and incumbrances affecting the same; and to convey to him the remainder, if any there be," Will be SOLD at PUBLICK VENDUE, at the under-mentioned times and places, sundry tracts of LAND, cultivated FARMS, HOUSES, &c. being part of the real estate, of the said Earl of Stirling in this said state of New-Jersey, as follows:

AT John Wykoff's tavern at Potter's-Town, on Monday the 20th of September next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, (the vendue to be continued, from day to day, until the premises are sold) five very fine well-improved FARMS, near Potter's-Town, in the county of Hunterdon, viz.

No.	In the possession of	Arres. C.
1.	Archibald Aurison, containing	183 7
2.	Do. Jacob Tyger, - - - - -	179 7
3.	Do. Joseph Everett, - - - - -	420 45
4.	Do. Benjamin Cooper, - - - - -	423 30
5.	Do. Christopher Teets, - - - - -	223 47

* Also one-half of fifty-five acres including the town spot of Potter's-Town.

ON Monday the 27th of September, at the house of William Davison in Pitt's-Town, and by adjournment from day to day into such places near the premises as shall be most convenient, twenty-one FARMS, under very good improvement, in the townships of Lebanon, Tewksbury, Bethlehem and Alexandria, viz.

In possession of	Arres. C.	
John Swackhamer, - - - - -	448	in Lebanon town-ship.
Caspar Lumburey, - - - - -	236	
Matthias Tufford, now in possession of Swackhamer, - - - - -	238	in Tewksbury town-ship.
Joseph Blain, - - - - -	145 7	
Batrum Bean, - - - - -	245	
John McKeabry, - - - - -	193	in Bethlehem town-ship.
Charles Gordon, - - - - -	106	
William Fleming, - - - - -	192	
Joseph Osmun, - - - - -	142	in Alexandria town-ship.
Frederick Jordan, - - - - -	51 8	
Peter Haugabout, - - - - -	4 4	
Philip Palmer, - - - - -	240 4	in Bethlehem.
John Brink, - - - - -	170 5	
William Craig, - - - - -	168 4	
Do. Ebgor, - - - - -	145	in Bethlehem.
Do. Benjamin Jones, jun. - - - - -	192 3	
Do. Daniel Brink, - - - - -	219 4	
Do. Jacob Achman, - - - - -	273	in Bethlehem.
Do. Isaac Oakes, - - - - -	286	
Do. Daniel Seines, - - - - -	261	
Do. John Martin, wood lot 137, one-half is - - - - -	68 5	

ON Monday the 11th of October next, at Brewster's tavern at Baskenridge, all that fine FARM, and MAN-STON-HOUSE at Baskenridge, the residence of the said Earl of Stirling, with all the elegant buildings, gardens, &c. containing about 1000 acres, of which about 300 is cleared upland, 300 acres of meadow fit for the scythe, and the remainder timber swamp, capable of making the most excellent meadow.

On this farm there are about 1500 fine bearing apple-trees of the best kind, besides several hundred of pears, peaches, plums and cherries in the greatest variety.

ON Wednesday the 3rd of October, at Arnold's tavern in Morristown, and from day to day, and to such places by adjournment as shall be found most convenient, TWELVE LOTS of 98 acres each, adjoining each other, situate in the Great Swamp in Morris county, in the front of the above manions, bounded northerly by the north line of the said swamp; each lot being 14 chains broad, and 70 chains long. They are about four miles southerly from Morristown, in one of the best settled parts of New-Jersey. Each lot has several acres of cleared plow land and meadow; the greatest part of them are capable of being made most excellent meadow, with rich chestnut ridges intersecting them. These lands will be shown by Jonathan Stiles, esq. and Capt. John Lindley, who lives contiguous to them.

Also TWELVE other LOTS adjoining, whose sale will succeed the above, containing 86 acres each, on the fourth side of the said swamp, adjoining the north side of Longhill, about seven miles southerly from Morristown, and two miles from Baskenridge. The soil is excellent for meadow, and some ridges of plow land. Major Cornelius Ludlow, of Longhill, will show these lands. Each lot is 10 chains broad, and 86 chains long.

Also EIGHT LOTS of 50 to 65 acres each, whose sale will succeed the preceding, on the north-east part of the said swamp, on each side of the forge lot on Pine-Brook. These lots are each of them 10 chains broad, and from 50 to 65 chains long. They have some valuable improved upland and meadows; the whole most excellent soil, well watered, and the greatest part capable of being made most excellent meadow. They are situated about four miles south-easterly from Morristown.

ONE LOT of about 130 acres adjoining the above eight lots, and will be sold next in succession. It includes a good stream fine brook, with a very fine mill-dam, the remains of a bloomy forge and saw-mill, some good buildings, and improved meadows and plow lands. These lands will also be shown by Cornelius Ludlow or Jonathan Stiles, esq.

ON Monday the 1st day of November next, at the house commonly called Still's tavern, near the Virginia encampment at or near Middle-Brook, a tract of about 1000 acres of land on the west branch of Middle-Brook, in the vale between the first and second mountain, leased for six years, the leases expired; very good interval lands, and most excellent timber land contiguous to the farms on Baritan river.

ON Wednesday the 3d day of November next, at Philip's tavern in Pluck'em-in, a tract of 800 acres adjoining or near the artillery park at Pluck'em-in; this is chiefly timber land, with some small improvements.

ON Monday the 15th of November next, at Hackett's town in Sussex county, about 2500 acres of land in several farms of good improved upland and meadow, the remainder excellent timber land and fine swamps, in the said county of Sussex, bounded partly by the Muncongo river, and bordering on Hackett's town; the leases are all expired. A proper person will be appointed at Hackett's town to show these lands;—the road from Morris to Easton on Delaware, and the great road from Trenton to Sussex courthouse passes through this tract.

ON Wednesday the 1st day of December next, at the tavern at Croftwicks, two tracts of land near Croftwicks, adjoining Plumsted's and Willcock's land, containing about 526 acres.

N. B. Continental money or Loan-Office certificates will be received in payment, and conveyances executed agreeable to the instructions of the above act, by

RICHARD STEVENS, } Trustees.
JOHN MEHELM, }

JULY 20, 1779.

This broadside recently given to the Society by Mrs. James A. Swackhamer of Whitehouse Station reminds us of Hunterdon's connection with one of America's most prominent colonial and revolutionary families. The broadside advertises the sale, in 1779, of the lands of William Alexander, one farm in the list being then under lease to a Swackhamer ancestor.

Who were the Alexanders? What was their connection with Hunterdon? What circumstances brought about liquidation of William Alexander's landed estate?

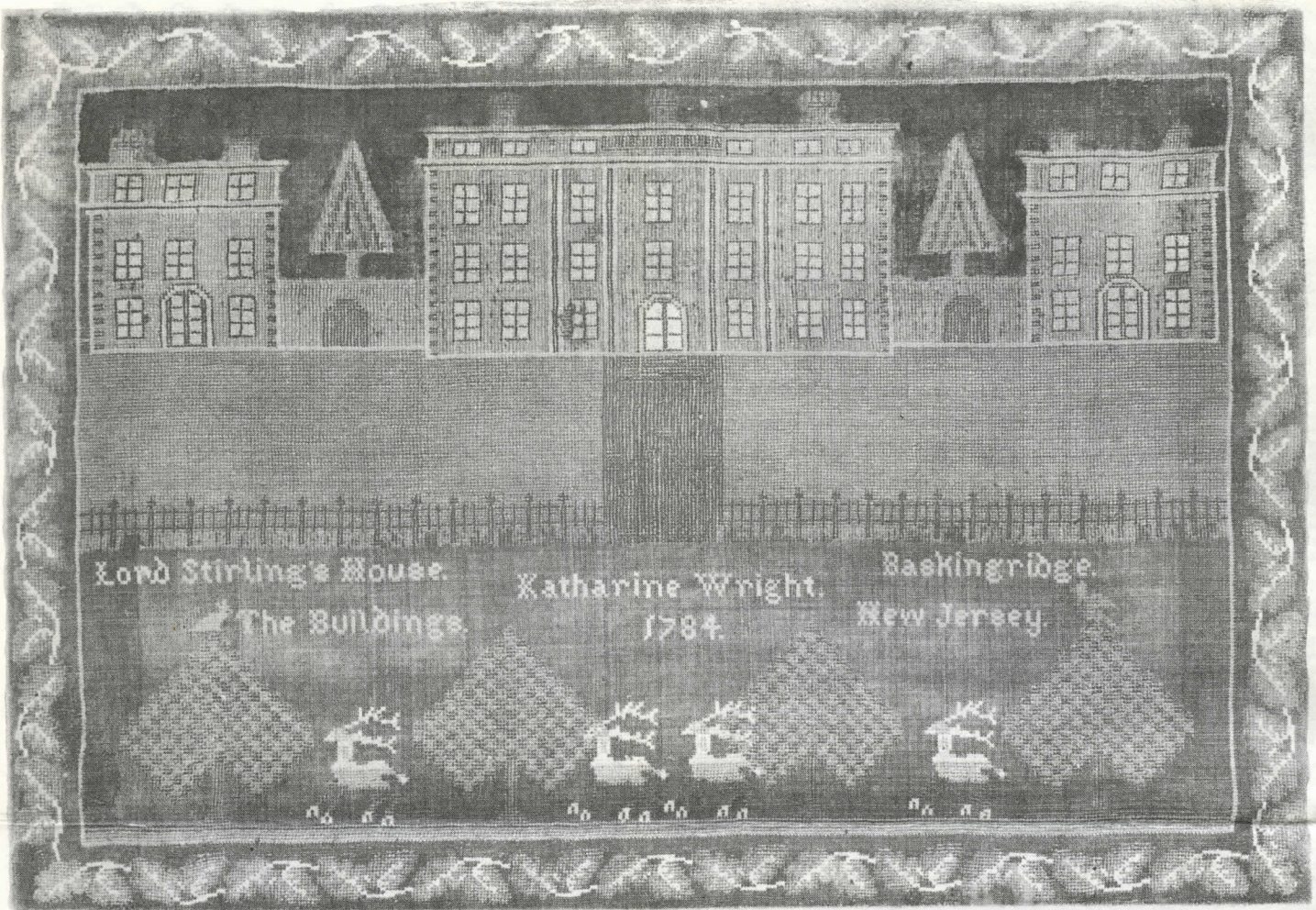


Photo "Courtesy of The New-York Historical Society, New York City"

in published articles that the college was to be established in the public interest and supported by public subscription and should therefore be kept free of sectarian bias. No true history of the founders and foundations of American liberties can omit the early leadership role of James Alexander.

James Alexander's connections with Hunterdon began soon after his arrival. In 1717 he "ran" the line from Cushetunk to the Falls of Allamatunk to resolve the dispute between Budd and Logan and the West Jersey Society. In his notes on that survey appears the earliest known use of the present spelling, "Lamington." He also noted two crossings of a "Minisink Path" in what is now Tewksbury. According to tradition, he discovered, on "the most rugged part of Kushetunk mountain," an arched vault containing the remains of seven Indian warriors. In 1744 he purchased 10,000 acres in an area that was later to be set off and named in his honor, Alexandria Township.

James Alexander's private and public papers show his involvement, largely through the agency of his son-in-law, John Stevens, with lands in northern Hunterdon. Two of his daughters had country man-

sion houses in Round Valley before the Revolution. A third daughter and his son, William, married into the family of Philip Livingston and thus became in-laws of New Jersey's Revolutionary governor, William Livingston.

James Alexander died in 1756, leaving his son William as his principle heir. By this time thirty years old, with good private school training, one fortune inherited and another still being built by his mother with whom he copartnered in a thriving importing business, and married into the prominent and prosperous Livingston family, William Alexander's chance of ever experiencing financial problems appeared very remote indeed. To ice his cake of wealth and prestige, there had recently been left vacant by the death of a distant cousin, a Scottish earldom that had title to an immense fortune in North American lands. If William Alexander were to be successful in a claim to the Earldom of Stirling and in having the old grants recognized as accompanying the title, he would have the dignity of Lord Stirling, backed up by title to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, much of Maine, and a large part of Long Island.

He set out for England in late 1756. After two and a half years a Scottish jury decided that he was the nearest male heir of the deceased earl. That was but the first step in having his claim to the earldom and to the lands recognized by the House of Lords. In this quest he was to be disappointed and after two more years returned home in 1761.

Though he had spent a fortune in vain pursuit of his claim, not all was lost. From the moment that news had arrived that he was the nearest heir to the title, William Alexander had been addressed as Lord Stirling. This was to continue throughout his life, even though the House of Lords had minuted that he should "be considered as having no Right to the said Title by him assumed, until he shall have made out his said claim . . ." The matter was never carried further.

Shortly after his return to America, Lord Stirling commenced the building of a baronial estate on land that he had inherited from his father at Basking Ridge. Of this ambitious undertaking it was said that nothing like it, in taste and expense, had been attempted in New Jersey. Many notables enjoyed the hospitality of Stirling's "The Buildings," including the Livingstons, the Morrises, Governor Franklin, and Washington, and during the war it was frequently used by general officers in the neighborhood. At that time, within but a few years of going on the auction block, the hospitality and the appointments – including a well-stocked deer park and a specially-built phaeton bearing the Stirling arms – were at their most lavish.

In 1752 William Alexander had purchased two of fifteen shares of a stock company formed to acquire the unsold lands of the West Jersey Society's Great Tract in Hunterdon. In 1765 the holdings were divided into fifteen lots and drawn. For his share Lord Stirling drew twenty one farms, probably the very ones listed prominently in the advertisement. There are several manuscripts in the HCHS collections concerning these lands and their tenants, some of which are signed boldly, "Stirling." Other real estate speculations brought to a total of nearly 14,000 acres the lands offered for sale in the broadside. All of Stirling's lands were heavily mortgaged, and the inability to collect rents from the tenants in no way diminished the determination of the creditors to collect what was theirs. Stirling had already been forced, in 1764, to sell lands in New York and elsewhere in New Jersey totaling 9800 acres.

The broadside speaks for itself. The lands were to be sold by the trustees, both residents of Hunterdon, the encumbrances discharged, and the remainder, if any, was to be given to Lord Stirling.

The advertisement appeared in the *Pennsylvania Packet* on July 31, 1779. Within a few weeks three different notices appeared in the press by subscribers

who claimed to hold titles to certain of the lands advertised, forewarning the public against purchase of those lands. The statement that others were in peaceable possession of the mansion house and farm at Basking Ridge "in which the Earl of Stirling lately lived" is patently false, as Stirling continued to live there for some years.

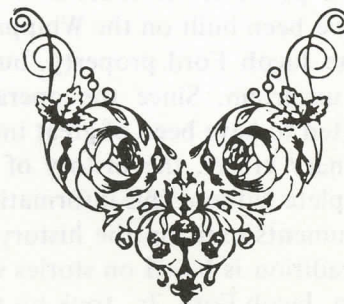
On December 20, 1779, the commissioners reported on the sale. Not all properties were sold, most notably missing from the list being Stirling's home farm at Basking Ridge. This presumably was still in his possession at his death in January, 1783.

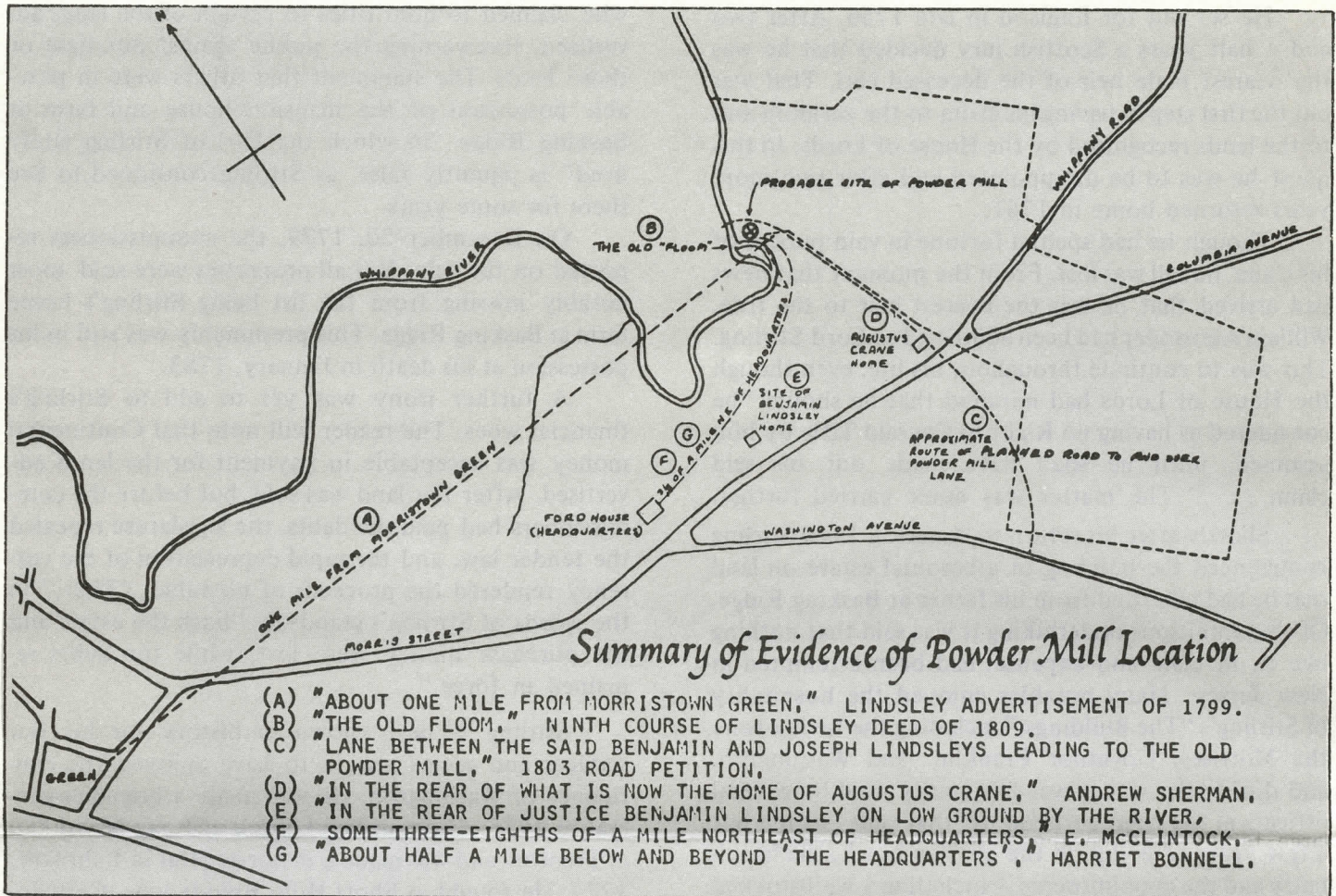
A further irony was yet to add to Stirling's financial woes. The reader will note that Continental money was acceptable in payment for the lands advertised. After the land was sold, but before the commissioners had paid the debts, the legislature repealed the tender law, and the rapid depreciation of the currency rendered the proceeds of no value. "Thus," in the words of Stirling's grandson, "both the estate and the purchase money were lost, while the debts remained in force."

Stirling is best known in history for his war services and seems always to have enjoyed the confidence of Washington. He was made a brigadier-general in 1776, distinguished himself at Long Island and at Trenton, and was made a major-general in February, 1777. He fought at Short Hills, Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. It was he who exposed the Conway Cabal and presided over the court-martial of General Lee. He later sat on Major Andre's Board of Inquiry. By the end of the war he had commanded every brigade in the Continental Army except those of Georgia and South Carolina.

We are fortunate, at this anniversary time, to have received this momento of Hunterdon's association with the Alexanders, who, with James fashioning the concepts of liberty and defending them in court and council and William pursuing the same ends on the field of battle, did so much for the cause of Independence.

—N.C.W.—





Book Review

NEW JERSEY'S REVOLUTIONARY WAR POWDER MILL by Fred and Isabel Bartenstein, Morris County Historical Society, 1975, 194 pages, maps, illustrations, bibliography, index. Available from Morris County Historical Society, P.O. Box 170M, Morristown, New Jersey 07960 for \$8.00 plus tax.

For years the curiosity of historians has been piqued by the question "Exactly where was Jacob Ford's powder mill?" that was built in Morristown during the Revolution.

In 1969 the Morris County Historical Society requested Mr. and Mrs. Bartenstein to study the documentary evidence on the location of the powder mill to determine, if possible, the exact site. The mill was believed to have been built on the Whippany River to the rear of the Jacob Ford property, but the actual location was uncertain. Since the operation of the mill was reported to have been of great importance to the Revolutionary effort, the history of Morristown seemed incomplete without this information.

Few documents exist on the history of the mill. Much of its tradition is based on stories written after the Revolution. Jacob Ford, Jr., took his first steps to

build the mill in April 1776. Fighting in the Revolution was then spreading from Massachusetts to New York. As the War progressed and Washington's troops occupied the Morristown area, the location of the mill became a guarded secret.

After four years of study the Bartensteins completed their research pinpointing the location of the mill on the Whippany River as it flows past a particular section of what is now Patriots Path located at the rear of Acorn Hall, the present home of the Morris County Historical Society.

Following completion of the historical research, Edward J. Lenik, archeologist, was engaged to conduct exploratory excavations at the site indicated by the Bartensteins' report. An extensive reconnaissance survey was conducted first in surface evidence of the powder mill and then in an actual dig, which brought to light remnants of the mill and proved its exact location.

All of this fascinating information is covered in detail in the story told by the Bartensteins as they report on their four years of effort to fill in this gap in the history of Morristown's contribution to the American Revolution, and by Edward Lenik in his report on the archeological investigations.

HUNTERDON'S LAST VETERANS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Jacob Johnson

The first in the series of Hunterdon County men who served in the Revolutionary War, and who were listed as pensioners in the 1840 census, is that of Jacob Johnson, a resident of Bethlehem Township. Readers are asked to forward corrections and/or additions if any should be noted.

**He periled his life for American Liberty
and died a Christian Patriot.**

So reads the epitaph on Jacob Johnson's tombstone, located in the old Bethlehem Presbyterian cemetery in Union Township. A native and lifelong resident of Hunterdon County, Jacob was among the first of the County to serve in the American Revolutionary War. Actively involved at the age of twenty, Jacob had a sporadic military career spanning the first four years of the War, attaining the rank of Lieutenant. At the close of the War, he took up farming, raised a large family, and became a leading member in the church in whose yard he was buried at the advanced age of ninety-two.

Jacob Johnson was born March 23, 1754, at New Market, Amwell Township (now Linvale, East Amwell Township), Hunterdon County, New Jersey. He was the third son of the seven known children of Benjamin Johnson and his wife, Agnes Swallow. On August 20, 1774 Jacob married Sarah Garrison, who was born October 18, 1752. They had ten known children, born during the years 1775 to 1793.

Before the start of the Revolutionary War, Jacob was among those who formed "the upper regiment of [the] Hunterdon County Militia". At a meeting held at Abraham Bonnell's in Bethlehem on January 19, 1775, for the purpose of forming the regiment, Jacob was elected a major. Shortly after the Declaration of Independence Jacob was called into military service as a "drafted militiaman" of Amwell Township. Under Captain Joshua Kershaw, Jacob made his first tour of duty, when, about August, 1776 his Company marched from "Ringo's Town" through New Brunswick to Perth Amboy.

Upon the completion of this tour, Jacob was appointed a Second Lieutenant in the Company commanded by Captain Cornelius Hoppach. About the Fall of 1776 Jacob marched to Woodbridge, where he remained for one month "guarding the public magazine located at this place". Late in the Fall of 1776 his

Company marched to Haddonfield, and during the winter of 1776-77 to "Elizabeth Town."

During 1777 Jacob served variously, one month each, at Bound Brook, "Smith's Farm", and "Steel's Gap". He started for Germantown, Pennsylvania, just before the battle there, but "was taken sick on the route and obliged to return." Also in 1777 it is said that Jacob "piloted the commander-in-chief [Washington] among the Sourland hills," in Somerset and Hunterdon Counties.

In the winter of 1777-78 Jacob served at "Hopewell meeting house". In the summer of 1778 he participated in the Battle of Monmouth. During the winter of 1778, while in the Company under Captain Nathan Stout, Jacob "engaged the British at Van Veghten's bridge and took from them seventy nine waggons loaded with plunder".

Jacob also served in the "waggon service". In the winter of 1778-79 he carted provisions for "the American Army" for four months.

Though a Lieutenant in the 3rd Regiment of the Hunterdon County Militia, and engaged in the Battles of Monmouth, Bound Brook and "Van Veghten's Bridge", Jacob never received a written discharge. He did not apply for a pension until August, 1832, when he was seventy-eight years old. After giving an account of his service in the War, his application was granted, and he received a pension up until his death in 1846.

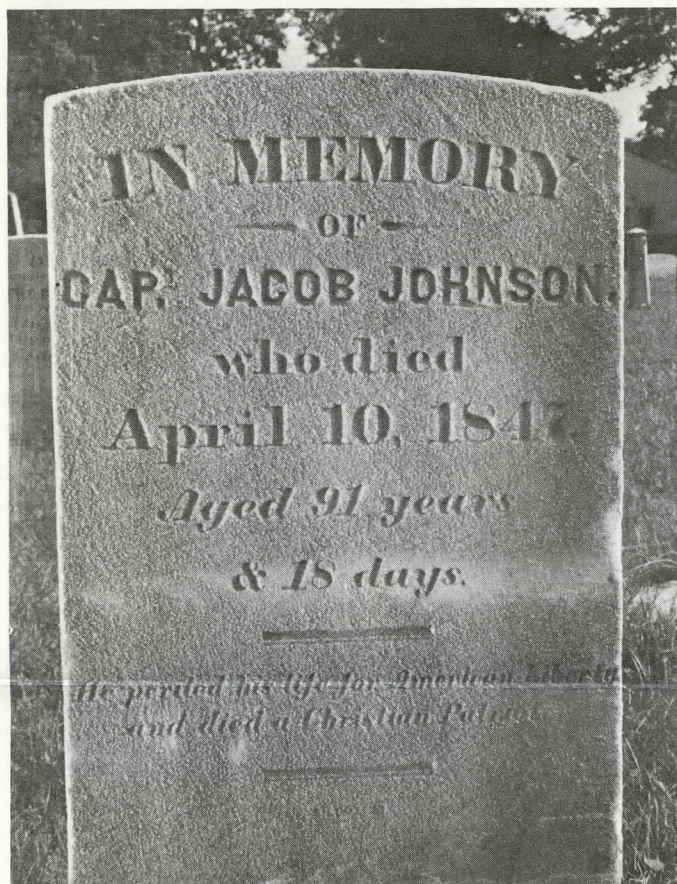
Jacob noted, in later life, that he often came near to starving while out on duty. Likewise, the destruction of property by the British and Tories was so bad that Jacob's wife is recorded as having taken the feather beds out of the house during the day and hiding them among the rocks and covering them with boards.

After the War, Jacob settled down to farming, and on April 4, 1796 bought the "plantation" originally owned by his father in Amwell Township. The land, containing 203 acres, was located near Klinesville, bounded by the South Branch of the Raritan River, Tunis Hummer and Jacob Huffman. He resided here until about 1825 when he moved to Bethlehem Township. There he had a 32 acre farm, which he sold to his son, Jacob S. Johnson on April 15, 1837. Jacob and his wife spent their remaining years with their son on this farm.

For many years Jacob was a ruling elder of the Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem. He consistently attended this church until within a short time before his death. Accordingly, he retained possession of his faculties to the last. In an obituary written at the time of his death it is noted that "about ten or fifteen minutes before he died, he opened his eyes and reaching out his hand to the person attending him, said: 'Well, I am going, I bid you farewell!' He then asked for his

beloved wife . . . and bade her an affecting farewell."

Sarah Garrison, Jacob's wife for almost seventy-two years, survived her husband for six more years, and died on November 3, 1853, at the age of 101. She is buried beside her husband in the Old Bethlehem graveyard.



Jacob Johnson's tombstone in the old part of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Cemetery, though in excellent condition after 130 years, still attests to two mistakes: he was not a captain in the Revolutionary War, and he died in the year 1846.

THE FAMILY OF JACOB JOHNSON

JACOB JOHNSON, the son of Benjamin Johnson, was born March 23, 1754, at New Market, Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; died April 10, 1846, at Hamden, Clinton Township, Hunterdon County; married, on August 20, 1774, SARAH GARRISON, who was born October 18, 1752, and died November 3, 1853. The children of Jacob and Sarah (Garrison) JOHNSON:

1. AGNES JOHNSON, born February 6, 1775; died April 22, 1839; married, July 5, 1795, Henry Tunison, born circa 1768; died September 23, 1839. The children of Henry and Agnes (Johnson) TUNISON:

- i. CORNELIUS TUNISON
- ii. SARAH TUNISON
- iii. TUNIS H. TUNISON
- iv. MARY TUNISON
- v. JOHNSON J. TUNISON
- vi. CHAMBERS TUNISON
- vii. ELIZABETH TUNISON
- viii. REBECCA TUNISON

2. MARY JOHNSON, born August 6, 1776; died March 6, 1875; married Samuel Lair, born March 6, 1777; died July 12, 1841. The children of Samuel and Mary (Johnson) LAIR:

- i. PHILIP D. LAIR
- ii. WILLIAM LAIR
- iii. GARRET LAIR
- iv. SARAH LAIR
- v. SAMUEL LAIR
- vi. JOSEPH B. LAIR
- vii. ELIZABETH LAIR
- viii. JOHN LAIR

3. JAMES JOHNSON, born September 13, 1778; died January 25, 1847; married, February 13, 1800, Susan Tunison, born June 9, 1774; died June 15, 1842. They had children.

4. RACHEL JOHNSON, born November 1, 1780; married, November 21, 1799, John Bellows.

5. JACOB S. JOHNSON, born March 18, 1783; died 1876; married and had children.

6. BENJAMIN JOHNSON, born February 10, 1785.

7. ISAAC JOHNSON, born July 13, 1787.

8. WILLIAM JOHNSON, born May 22, 1789; married Elizabeth Moore, born October 8, 1791. The children of William and Elizabeth (Moore) JOHNSON:

- i. JOHN H. JOHNSON
- ii. JACOB H. JOHNSON
- iii. MARY JOHNSON
- iv. SARAH E. JOHNSON
- v. CHRISTOPHER K. JOHNSON

9. MAHLON JOHNSON, born June 12, 1791.

10. PERMELIA JOHNSON, born November 12, 1793.

11. (perhaps) SARAH JOHNSON, who married Joseph Cogle, and had a son, Joseph B. Cogle.



Date

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

Find enclosed check for:

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

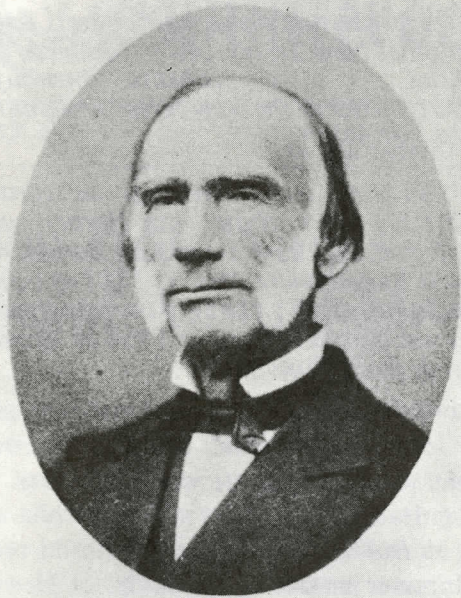
From:

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*



Henry Race, M. D.

Of the distinguished men of Hunterdon County in the 19th Century none was more versatile than Henry Race. He was a physician, a farmer, an author and a historian and in each of these fields he left a record of attainment that brought to him renown far from the strictly rural community in which he lived a full and useful life.

Born February 28, 1814, Henry Race was the son of Jacob and Sophia Hoff Race. His place of birth was in Kingwood Township although the Township of Franklin has since been formed and it was in Franklin that he lived most of his life.

Henry Race as a youth chose to study medicine and had as his preceptors Dr. H.H. Abernethy and Dr. Henry Southard. He showed such promise that they encouraged him to attend medical college and he entered the College of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Following his graduation and achievement of the Doctor of Medicine Degree he returned to his home community and set up practice at Pittstown. This was in March, 1843. He continued to practice there the rest of his life, with the exception of the two years from 1849 to 1851 when he was in California.

Dr. Race married Miss Ada Louisa Woodruff of Milford on May 6, 1857. At the time of his death he was survived by his wife and three children, Ida, wife of Eli Oakes; Miss Edith W. Race and Paul Race.

In addition to meeting the demands of a wide general medical practice, Dr. Race actively pursued research in local history and wrote many articles which are a most valuable contribution to the recorded history of Hunterdon County. He contributed valuable material on Moore Furman, who was a deputy quarter-

master general at Pittstown during the Revolutionary War.

Dr. Race was a charter member of the Hunterdon County Historical Society which was founded on September 11, 1885. He prepared and read many papers for the Society's meetings, some of which were published in historical journals. Among these should be mentioned:

*Bethlehem Township, When Constituted,
Why So Named*

Colonial Naturalization List

Contributions to Hunterdon County History

The First Years of Frenchtown

Historico-genealogical Sketch of Col. Thomas

Lowrey and Esther Fleming, His Wife

History of the Presbyterian Church of Kingwood

Journal Of A Visit To The Moravian Settlement

At The Forks Of The Delaware, 1751

*The Parish Register Of The German Reformed
Church of Alexandria*

*A Sketch Of The Pittstown Branch Of The
Rockhill Family*

The Two Colonels, John Taylor

Unrecorded Hunterdon Wills

*West Jersey Society's Great Tract In Hunterdon
County*

Dr. Race owned and operated a farm and followed with deep interest scientific developments in the field of agriculture. In 1891, when he was 77 years old, he experimented with crimson clover as a cover crop and an abundant source of nitrogen and green manure.

Dr. Race's writings were outstanding for their clarity, their careful documentation and accuracy. In his published obituary the writer commented: "His presentation of facts was as clear, analytical and accurate as his language was pure, logical and critically correct".

Dr. Race died at his home in Pittstown April 20, 1901, and is buried in the cemetery of the Alexandria First Presbyterian Church at Mount Pleasant.

Dr. Race's interest in history and his gift for inspiring others to do research in that field may have been awakened when as a young man of 22 he taught in the district school (which is probably now a part of a residence north of the Friend's Meeting House, Quakertown) for three terms in 1836-37. This was prior to his entrance into medical college. Thus, in addition to his interests in farming, in medicine and in writing and historical research he served also as an educator. He had the gift of the student, the scholar and also that of the teacher who was eager to have others know and understand the heritage which abounds in the County of Hunterdon.

Editors Note: *Henry Race, M.D.* was written by the late D. Howard Moreau in 1960, when Mr. Moreau was President of the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

Membership Report

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

Mrs. Patricia Burton, Mercerville, N.J.
 Mrs. Jack Byrd, Houston, Texas
 David F. Conover, Oshkosh, Wisc.
 Gordon E. Cooper, Gibbstown, N.J.
 Mrs. George Courtney, Wenonah, N.J.
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Espencheide, Flemington, N.J.
 Mrs. Norman Harrison, Pittstown, N.J.
 Frank Hendershot, South Amboy, N.J.
 *Walter J. Macak, Stockton, N.J.
 David S. Nivison, Los Altos, California
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Poppel, Flemington, N.J.
 Mrs. Beverly Brown Smith, Lebanon, N.J.
 Kenneth M. Turi, Lambertville, N.J.
 Mrs. Paul R. Weaver, Jensen Beach, Florida
 Mrs. C.A. Zwiebel, Sidney, Ohio

*LIFE membership

Mrs. George E. Carkhuff
 Membership Secretary



ADDITIONS TO THE HUMMER GENEALOGY

Through the generosity of Mr. Hank Jones, P.O. Box 8341, Universal City, California 91608, the compiler of the Hummer Genealogy, (which appeared in the Fall issue of the *Newsletter*,) has learned of the baptism of Harbert Hommer (1697-1766), the progenitor, in a church in the Palatinate area of Germany. From the baptismal entry, the name of Harbert's father has been ascertained, as well as a closer approximation of Harbert's date of birth.

Mr. Jones has been extremely helpful to the compiler in his endeavors to obtain information on the Hummers, particularly in Europe. Mr. Jones is presently working on a genealogical and historical study of the Palatine families who arrived in the 1709-1710 migration to America, some of whom eventually settled in Hunterdon County. He would appreciate any help from those interested, and invites *Newsletter* readers to write him at the above address.

The chief investigator working for Mr. Jones in Germany found the following entry from the church-books at Honnefeld, near Neuwied:

Harbert, the son of Simon Hommer, was baptised at Honnefeld on November 14, 1697. The sponsors were Herbert Hommer . . . uxor, and Hermann Neitzert et Anthoni . . .

As Mr. Jones noted in his letter accompanying the above entry:

"This is fascinating since the Neitzerts came to Colonial New Jersey too . . . Indeed, the 'Anthoni . . . ' is probably Anthony Neitzert, father to the New Jersey emigrants".

Mr. Jones further added:

"As you can see, there was an earlier Harbert Hommer whom your Harbert was named for; this man stayed in Honnefeld and was buried there May 9, 1715 as being 'from Hummerich'. Harbert the emigrant's father was buried in June of 1704 as 'Simon Hommer from Hummerich'."

It also should be noted that one of our members, Mr. Wayne V. Jones, of Houston, Texas, points out that the German word *Grafschaft* means *County*. In the account of Harbert Hommer's Bible, this word is translated at *Dutchy*. Therefore, it should read that Harbert Hommer was of the *County* of Neuwied in the Parish of Honnefeld, etc.

It has also been found that the Hunterdon County Historical Society is in possession of a parchment deed detailing the conveyance of 225 acres in Readington Township, Hunterdon County, from Joseph Hankinson and Allen Ross to "Herbert Hommer, of Somerset County, New Jersey". This property was sold for £315, and was acknowledged before Jacob Mattison in November, 1750. A deed has also been found, dated May 4, 1773, in which George and Nathan King sold to Tunis Hummer, of Amwell Township, 239 acres of land in Kingwood Township.



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: _____