

Hunterdon Historical Record



**HUNTERDON
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

hunterdonhistory.org

Coming Events Around the County

April 5, 2:00 pm

Guided 1-hour walking tour
of Historic Lambertville
Meet at Marshall House,
60 Bridge Street
Free; donations appreciated
No reservations needed
609.397.0770

April 19, 12:30-4 pm

Retro Ride on Landsdown
Trail & Catered Picnic
fundraiser
Red Mill Museum Village,
Clinton - Call
908.735.4101
for ticket price & availability

April 25, 10:30 am-2 pm

7th Annual Cemetery
Meet, Greet, & Lunch
Keynote address by
Dr. Joseph Adelman
at Bethlehem Presbyterian
Church, 2 Race St., Pittstown
\$10 registration
required by April 20
See Society's website
for full details

May 1, 10 am-4 pm

30 Flemington Fine Artisans'
Spring Show & Sale
Stangl Factory
50 Stangl Road
Flemington

Meeting March 15, 2:00 pm—Open to the public

History of Medicine in NJ is Topic

Dr. Gary Grover will speak on *The History of Medicine and Drug Discovery in New Jersey* at the annual spring meeting Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 pm in the Flemington Presbyterian Church, 10 East Main Street.

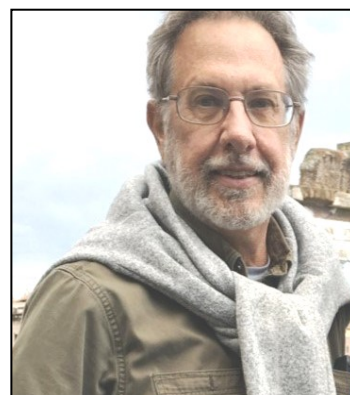
A cardiovascular pharmacologist, Dr. Grover is Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy and a Professor of Cell Biology at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, Stratford, NJ.

Dr. Grover knows his subject well from broad experience as a researcher, instructor, and pro bono mentor to medical students, which has earned him wide respect in his field. For his research in developing drugs, he produced 20 patents, 10 book chapters, and over 200 peer-reviewed publications. He also was named a Cardiovascular Fellow of the American Physiological Society.

He has worked in research at Bristol-Myers Squibb, as a professor at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and as Director of Pharmacology for Eurofins Product Safety Labs working on cardiovascular disease and metabolic disease, aging, and cancer.

He was asked to join editorial boards and study sections for the American Heart Association and National Institutes of Health. He also served numerous charities, including the Science Olympiads, Read Across America, and the Rotary Club.

Dr. Grover earned a PhD degree in physiology from Albany (NY) Medical College. Over three years as a post-doctoral fellow, he studied the pharmacology and physiology of myocardial ischemia and coronary circulation, and also taught at Rutgers Medical School. His BS and MS degrees are from Rutgers University College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, New Brunswick, NJ.



Gary Grover, PhD

David J. Harding Is New Administrator

David J. Harding of East Amwell Township has been named the Society's Administrator. A Hunterdon resident for 19 years, he has developed "a deep-rooted love for the County's history".

He will be in the office on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Dave will apply his passion and experience to continue the Society's growth and expand its influence. He has proven success at writing grant applications and appealing fundraising letters, and is experienced in conducting popular history programs and events. Computer savvy, including in website management, he also is an accomplished photographer and videographer. He works well with volunteers.

Dave is a former Trustee of the Society, co-author of a local history book, and has a decade's experience on East Amwell's Historical Society and Historic Preservation Committee. A man about the county, Dave also is Director of Outreach for the Hunterdon Land Trust.

He earned a BS degree in journalism from Bowling Green (Ohio) State University and a mini-MBA in digital marketing and social media from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.



David J. Harding

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL RECORD

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Lora Jones, John Kuhl, Stephanie Stevens
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Acquisitions

Artifacts and documents on the history of Hunterdon County and the families who resided here are welcome additions to the Society's Collections. Donations may not be available for research until they have been processed, a continuing activity. The Society thanks the donors for these recent acquisitions.

Armstrong, Janice: 1 book. *The Franklin Park tragedy: a forgotten story of racial injustice in New Jersey* / by Brian Armstrong.

Baer, Sherry F.: Various publications of the Palatines to American German Genealogy Society including *The Palatine Immigrant* journal. Dates of issue 1991 to 1999.

Boyle, Gregory A. St. Joseph Church, High Bridge, New Jersey: Our Parish history, our genealogy. Gift of the author.

Burkman, Sarah W.: Family Bible of James H. Rodenbough (1843-1923) and Mercy V. Osmun (1845-1922). HCHS Bible Record CS597.

Bush, Pamelyn: 1 book. *The Art of Pauline & Dan Campanelli* by Pauline and Dan Campanelli.

Campanelli, Marty: Description and photographs of the glass plate negative images in the Willis W. Vail collection, part of the Society's holdings.

Carroccio, Charles: The Sam Carroccio Collection of maps and surveys of Alexandria, Kingwood, Holland, and Frenchtown, ca. 1970-2010.

Cornelius, Donald: 1 book. *New Jersey in Focus: four centuries of Monmouth County women*, Monmouth County Archives; a division of the Office of Monmouth County Clerk.

Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, c/o Joe Donnelly: 4 Ledgers (Toll Ledgers and Stockholders Dividends) of the Alexandria Delaware Bridge Company, 1843 -1880.

DeRosa, Richard: A collection of 26 deeds, mortgages, and bonds from Delaware, Kingwood, and various other Hunterdon County municipalities, 1833-1916.

Dilts, Thomas: 1 book. *Ancestors of Harold Dilts (1921-2006)*. Compiled by Thomas Dilts.

Fisher, Charles: 1946 Student Voice and 1947 Echo Yearbooks; and a scrapbook, ca. 1925-1965, of Flemington policeman and band leader Ernie Adams.

Franklin Township Archives, c/o Lora Jones: Items include Swarthmore College BS Diploma of Willis Vail (1889), P.S. #3 certificate of perfect attendance of Marjorie Barrick (1937), and property description and deed research by John Peterson, Jr.

Glen Gardner Historical Committee: 1 book. *Celebrating the history of Glen Gardner*. Gift of the Committee.

Hauck, Joseph: A collection of 30-40 photographs of Hunterdon County family images purchased at estate sale, ca. 1891-1924. Collection includes other items such as news clippings, obituaries, and correspondence.

Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum, c/o Kenneth Cummings: 46 volumes; diaries, visit records, and cash books of Dr. Morris Leaver of Quakertown, N.J., ca. 1863-1951.

Jensen, Christine: Ledger of the Overseer of the Poor of Amwell Township, 1777-1819, as well as a transcription of the ledger, and mathematics and penmanship exercise books from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Jones, Susan B.: A collection of materials concerning Sergeantsville, NJ, including a logbook of Sergeantsville Mill, 1833-1855, and other items.

Kintzel, Joyce A.: 1 book. *We the People...* Photographs and narrative regarding the quest for information about Jacob Cole, Private, 30th New Jersey regiment. Photos and narrative by Dennis Graney, US Navy veteran and Joyce Kintzel, great-great granddaughter of Private Jacob Cole.

Kromrey, Marilyn: 1 book. *Compilation of genealogical research on the Appelman/Appleman family of New Jersey and Pennsylvania*. Researched and compiled by Marilyn L. Kromrey.

Welcome, New Members

Mark Agin, Gurnee, IL
 Richard Birch, Flemington, NJ
 Gaetano DeSapio, Pittstown, NJ
 Douglas Dixon, Hopewell, NJ
 Kathryn Doyle, Piedmont, CA
 Charles & Phyllis Eichlin, Frenchtown, NJ
 Philip & Lucy Fleming, Flemington, NJ
 Dennis B. Graney, Wantage, NJ
 Joyce Kintzel, Columbus, NJ
 Connie Lawrence, Calabasas, CA
 Ann Liakos, Murphy, NC
 Vickie Sloss, Barefoot Bay, FL
 Mitchell Speert & Elizabeth Perez, Flemington, NJ

Upgraded to Life Members

Steven Gruenburg, Milford, NJ
 Frances Holmok, Flemington, NJ

In Memorium

Lt. Col. James A. Horn, Green Valley, AZ

Research Requests by Mail or Phone

\$25/query for 2 hours by our volunteers with collection resources. For more info: www.hunterdonhistory.org/facilities/research-library/.

THANK YOU, Year-end Donors

Year-end, tax-deductible donations by these members totaled \$12,189. Three were matched by corporate programs. Thank you all.

Mary Anne Adams	Herman & Mary Kiser
William C. Apgar, Jr. in honor of Pat Millen	John Kuhl
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Marion Harris	Anne Thomas
Cowles W. Herr	Steven & Elaine Van Camp
Deborah Hoskins	Juli A. Wilson
Maurice & Lora Jones	
John E. Kinney	

Maxwell, Richard: Appointment of Augustus Hunt as Justice of the Peace, Raritan Township, 1850, by Daniel Haines, Governor of New Jersey.

Miller, Melinda; Putnam County (NY) Historian: 1 ledger, Day Book, possibly of M. Rittenhouse & Brother, Commission Merchants, New York, 1870-1871.

Munson, Polly: True Copy of the Will of John Hall, 5 Sep 1819.

Musconetcong Watershed Association: Photographic images in print and CD-R of the Asbury Graphite Company Laboratory, Asbury, NJ, 2018.

Olsen, Lora L. and Dee E. Williamson: Family Bible and a Signature quilt owned by Joseph D. Case (1841-1943) and wife, Lucretia Willson (1846-1920). HCHS Bible Record CS606. Includes additional family genealogical information. *Gift given in memory of Marion T. Williamson.*

Oxman, Phyllis: "Scottswood, Hunterdon County, Kingwood Township, New Jersey, An Historic Structure Report." Phyllis Oxman, 1980, in partial fulfillment of the MS Degree in Historic Preservation, Columbia University.

Robinson, Pamela: 2 books. *Manhood enslaved: bondmen in eighteenth- and early nineteenth- century New Jersey* by Kenneth E. Marshall; *Military bounty land, 1776-1855* / by Christine Rose.

Sands, Ms. Patricia: A songbook (8 disc recording vinyl set) of Welsh Traditional Songs by Thomas L. Thomas, Hunterdon County resident and internationally known tenor.

Scholl, Don: 10 large framed black and white photographs, with captions, of historic views and structures of Hunterdon County.

Sheets, John: 1 Diary, 1918, of George W. Sheets of

Pittstown, N.J.

Smith, Joseph C.: 42 volumes; diaries of Simpson S. Stout of Ringoes, N.J., 1840-1899.

Society Purchase: 7 books and 1 book set. *Farming Pleasant Valley: 250 years of life in Rural Hopewell Township, New Jersey* by Larry Kidder; *In the Beacon Light: 1860 to 1900, Lambertville, NJ* by Sharon Bisaha; *New Jersey artists through time* by Tova Navarra; *New Jersey goes to war: biographies of 150 New Jerseyans caught up in the struggle of the Civil War...* edited by Joseph G. Bilby; *Pennsylvania Vital Records: from The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine and The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, in 3 volumes*; *Peoples of the River Valleys: the odyssey of the Delaware Indians* by Amy C. Schutt; *Runaways of Colonial New Jersey: indentured servants, slaves, deserters, and prisoners, 1720-1781* by Richard B. Martin; *The history of diners in New Jersey* Michael C. Gabriele.

Soldavin, Mary Ellen: 1 map; "Bi-Centennial Map of Union Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey" by D. Stanton Hammond, 1977; and 1 book, *Oldtime days in Mountainville and surrounding towns: pictures, maps, and historical reports of yester-year* compiled by Robert P. Stevenson with Meta Potter.

Somerset County Historical Society: 6 Photographic Images of Califon, NJ, ca. 1949-1960 (Cleveland Residence and RR Bridge and Gorge).

Stewart, Lois: Church Directory of the Amwell Church of the Brethren, January 2000.

Stothoff, Richard: A collection of items from Raritan Township and Flemington Borough including records of the Flemington library, sewage treatment plant,

When There Were Trolleys in Hunterdon

By John W. Kuhl

Hunterdon has had a rich railroad history. The Central Railroad came from the East into Whitehouse in 1847, only 19 years after the first railroad chartered in the U.S. By 1852, it had pushed on to Easton. The Belvidere-Delaware Railroad (later the Pennsylvania) came from Trenton into Lambertville in 1851 and in three more years had reached north to Phillipsburg. By 1854, its one major branch extended from Lambertville to Flemington.

The Delaware & Lackawanna crossed the Musconetcong River into Changewater and on into Hampton by 1857. Once its mile-long tunnel carved under Jugtown Mountain was opened in 1875, the Easton & Amboy line (a.k.a. Lehigh Valley) ran unimpeded through Hunterdon from the Somerville-Manville area west to Phillipsburg.

Branches of the Central ran from Flemington to the main line at Raritan in 1864 and another routed north from High Bridge to Morris County in 1875. Branches of the Lehigh Valley went from Flemington to Flemington Junction in 1884 and others from Landsdown to Clinton in 1882 and in 1890, the opposite direction to Pittstown. The locally-owned and somewhat

substandardly built Rockaway Valley Railroad ran north from Whitehouse to near Morristown as early as 1888. The chief motive for the bigger railroads was coal hauling, that of the branches, the moving of passengers, peaches, milk, and other local products. All these roads but one have either been abandoned over the years or else serve today under the banner of a conglomerate, the Norfolk & Southern Railroad. The one local exception is the Black River & Western. Operating officially since 1970 it carries freight and excursions on the old Central branch southwest of Flemington to Lambertville (which it is currently endeavoring to rehab) and east to Three Bridges where,

since 1977, it connects with the main line of the Norfolk & Southern. Also there were many additional rumored rail routes that never were completed.

Reading all this, one might think that the above were rails enough for our small Hunterdon land area of only about 437 square miles (20 by 22 miles if you wish). But for some, there was still too much space between these rails. If you were fortunate to live along the above routes, you were probably happy enough. But too many more still wanted to see the rails running by their front door. They too, wanted the prestige and convenience enjoyed by others. Looking at it ob-

jectively, all these rails were actually too much to coexist economically, and eventually reality resulted in their partial abandonment. But that did not stop those who were deprived from urgently wanting what they didn't have.

Could trolley systems be the answer?

Pulled by horses or mules, trolleys had been serving New York City as early as 1832. They soon spread out through suburban New Jersey but the distances involved with Hunterdon's rural expanse just made it impractical for horse drawn trolleys.

But the coming of engine-driven trolleys as the 1900s ap-

proached, changed all that. For twenty years from 1896 on, the local newspapers were full of trolley reports touting routes under consideration, coming soon, or about to be built. But one after another, they all failed somewhere in the financing and design process. Railroads are expensive to build. The once hopeful smaller outlying towns like Lebanon Township, Sergeantsville, West Portal, and Cherryville, were all sooner or later disappointed and denied. It was not until 14 June 1905, that Hunterdon finally got its first (and only) trolley. Powered by overhead electric lines, its route ran from Trenton, crossing the Delaware to Morrisville (PA) and then up the Pennsy side of the



Above, a Lambertville trolley car. Below, Lambertville terminus of the trolley line. Images from the Society's postcard, collection.



river to New Hope. At that point it crossed the new steel bridge that had just replaced the old wood covered structure washed away in the flood of 1903. So that meant that the rails in Hunterdon actually covered only a thousand feet or so from the center of the bridge into Lambertville where it ended just over the river near that town's railroad station. It would come to operate 15 to 20 trips daily in each direction. The one-way fare covering the entire distance throughout most of the line's existence was 25 or 30 cents. It was cheaper with a more convenient schedule than the competing Pennsylvania Railroad (on the old Bel-Del) but could not match the speed of the railroad and its shorter route. The trolley was operated for almost twenty years before being forced by declining revenue to cease operations on 21 September 1924, the victim of a newer transportation phenomenon. In its obituary of the line, *The Lambertville Record* of 25 September 1924 announced: "*It is unlikely that any more electric railways will be built in this section, so long as 'flivvers' can be bought for as little as \$5 down, while a first class electric railway would cost at present anything from \$75,000 per mile up, instead of less than half that sum twenty years ago.*"

And so ended the abbreviated trolley portion of the Hunterdon transportation saga. The passenger railroads would largely fade from the scene by the 1950s and sporadic bus service would

spring up to help fill the gaps. Several interstate bus companies run through the county but are restricted as to local service. Today we are left with our own personal automobiles and the county's Link bus service that, however efficiently it might serve some of our present public, is not complete enough to satisfy our current impatient and spoiled well-to-do residents.

Postscript. For sometime after, trolleys lived on in the metropolitan areas of our state, and some still survive in a newer form at the shore and other special areas, but the trolley as we once knew it ended service in New York City on 6 April 1957. Motor buses have pretty much taken over what trolleys used to do. But I still remember riding the clang-clanging city trolleys in the late 1930s and early 1940s when we visited my mother's parents once they had moved off their farm at Millstone. For a country kid it was an unforgettable experience!

Sources: The Society's Collection of Local Newspapers 1896-1924, including the Milford Leader, Lambertville Beacon, Lambertville Record, Hunterdon Republican, Hunterdon County Democrat, Hunterdon Gazette of High Bridge, Clinton Democrat, and Home Visitor of Flemington.

Editorial Writers Had Their Opinions

Pittstown-Frenchtown Trolley

Hunterdon Republican, 26 February 1896

A Pittstown correspondent of the Clinton Democrat says: From all reports it will not be long before we will have the much-talked-of trolley line in operation between Pittstown and Frenchtown. Several of the interested parties, together with surveyors, have recently visited both places, and from the drawings and plans in their possession, work on the line will soon begin.

That a trolley system between these two points would pay, there is but little doubt. From Frenchtown to New York on the Pennsylvania Railroad, the excursion ticket costs \$4.55; while from Pittstown, \$2.55 pays for a round trip to the same point. Thereby parties using the trolley from Frenchtown to Pittstown and proceeding to New York or different points on the L.V. RR. Would save almost one-half the fare. A trolley line would also increase business to both towns, as the number of passengers carried would no doubt surprise the most skeptical.

Several wealthy and influential men, well-known in Hunterdon County are interested in the work, and we anxiously await the day when Frenchtown and Pittstown will be connected with the very latest means of electrical transportation.

Shall We Have Trolley Lines?

Home Visitor of Flemington, 8 July 1896

While trolley lines are talked of in various sections of the state, and many have been completed and in successful operation, perhaps none could be made to pay better in the country districts than lines between Flemington and Whitehouse, Flemington and Lambertville and Flemington and Clinton. We understand a line between Whitehouse and Flemington has been given some consideration but nothing definite has developed.

When the great increase in travel that would result and the convenience of these lines to the people are considered, capitalists should not hesitate to look into the scheme as a paying investment. Business men would feel the effects in an increase in their revenues and in other ways the communication between these places would prove a benefit. A car for the purpose of carrying freight could be added for the accommodation of farmers and others.

Who knows but what these lines will soon be built and in successful operation? Strange things are happening every day.

New Jersey: The Garden State — Forever!

By John W. Kuhl

Don't you ever wonder about some of the more ordinary things surrounding us every day? Garden State. Most of you carry this old slogan around on your car's license plate every day. It might first seem to be a modern Madison Avenue slogan. What, New Jersey, a garden state? Not to those experiencing it as they drive up the Jersey Turnpike amidst the tank farms, container piers, and Newark Airport, plus the even grimmer industrial slums along its northern section. They are seeing the necessary muscle of our state but have totally missed what we in western and southern New Jersey feel when we hear the term, Garden State.

What a difference a little time makes. Up through World War II just about everyone had a garden. Our family had well over an acre of garden; we canned peas, string beans, tomatoes, corn, lima beans, beets, and all the other usual vegetables. We canned gooseberries, strawberries, blueberries, rhubarb, currants, and a host of other fruits supplemented with wild blackcaps, elderberries, blackberries, and of course cherries. We made our own sauerkraut. We winter stored our own potatoes, carrots, and onions. We killed ten or so pigs every year, plus a steer, a veal calf, and of course, chickens along with their eggs. I still remember the delicious canned pork loin Mom put up until freezing came along, and my dad's dry cured hams and bacon smoked by his own hand. On top of this we had our own dairy cow for milk and cream for our own home-made ice cream. During the war when butter was rationed, we churned our own. Our cellar jar racks were full by fall. In the absence of fully stocked produce racks in the handy grocery stores of today, most of the people in our little town of Three Bridges did the same, all this within the memories of my lifetime. Garden meant garden.

Of course the application of the term Garden State comes more from the huge truck crop industry of Central and South Jersey, firms like Seabrook Farms, Campbell Soup Company, Wakefern, and Safeway to mention only a few of the firms that exist under the blanket of "Jersey Fresh". But home gardens have always been significant to the term.

The total climate has all changed so much that some now wonder if the term "Garden State" is appropriate for us today. But a little investigation finds that the term is not just some recent ad man's brainstorm.

The "Egg State"

A group of Monmouth and Ocean County egg producers want New Jersey officially to take on the name "Egg State" instead of "The Garden State". They want auto license plates to be adorned with the figure of an egg, or the words "Egg State" and they argue that New Jersey eggs brought twice as much as New Jersey vegetables in 1952.

On the latter grounds, there would be good reason for calling New Jersey "The Factory State" or "The Chemical State" and these appellations would prove as attractive to prospective residents, certainly, as the term "Egg State". This is not intended to disparage the importance of the poultry industry, in which our own county stands well up toward the top among New Jersey agricultural counties.

Let's keep "The Garden State" and not forget that not too many years ago New Jersey was called "The Mosquito State" more than anything else. Having lived that down, New Jersey had better keep the name she has. Moreover, how would it sound to drive to the seashore over the "Egg State Parkway"?

Hunterdon County Democrat 8 January 1954

Variations abound but the *Delaware Valley News* of 8 December 1950 traces it to a printed poster issued in Scotland way back in 1684 to attract settlers to what was then called New East-Jersey. It promised nature's abundancy seemingly without limit and was probably the first to refer to New Jersey by the term so commonly used today. Over the years our state has been a leader in the growing of tomatoes, sweet corn, cranberries, blueberries, potatoes, apples, and peaches, to name a few. Recently, we even took the lead in growing eggplants.

Almost as a postscript, it all could have been different. Sixty-five years ago the editor of the *Hunterdon County Democrat* defended against change in his column of 8 January 1954 (insert.) The Egg State! It must be explained to today's readers that Hunterdon had been since the 1930s, amongst the top of all counties in national egg production. By the early 1960s, the poultry business was severely reduced here and after a few more years, totally finished locally. But it might have been and your license plate could now have an egg on it! How would that suit? In any event, the Garden State motto is far more enduring and descriptive and deserves its longevity over present and future competitors. Long may it live!

Curator Cornelius Offers Winter Whimsies

I presume that almost everyone has seen the movie “Forrest Gump.” And I am equally sure that everyone has also quoted (or misquoted) that movie’s most famous line: “Life is like a box of chocolates, you don’t know what you are going to get?” Or, something like that.

Processing archival material is that proverbial box of chocolates. One of the best parts of our job here at the HCHS Archives is opening the next box, or looking through the next folder, and finding something unexpected, awe-inspiring, comforting, uncomfortable, or downright humorous. I thought we would use the column in this issue to lighten up and share some winter whimsies with our readers.

Volunteer Karen Riedeburg does double duty for our archives program. She coordinates data entry for collections that other volunteers have processed, and when not busy with that, Karen catalogs photo images from our collections so that they are available online. Karen was busy with this activity when she asked me, out of the blue, did I know about Tewksbury’s whaler? Imagine my reaction—probably a bit like yours right now upon reading this. As Karen explained, The Hunterdon Historical Society’s photo collection includes this wonderful picture of James Drake, circa 1893. Drake, holding a small dog and sitting in the doorway of a rough frame home, is identified as “Tewksbury Township’s whaler.” Why landlocked Tewksbury would have been home to a whaler is not entirely clear, though the whaling industry in New England and down the mid-Atlantic coast would have been quite active when Drake was younger. By the 1890s, whaling had declined considerably in the Atlantic, so perhaps this picture shows Drake in his retirement. If anyone has information about Mr. Drake or Tewksbury’s connection to whaling, please let us know!

Volunteer and Society Trustee Patti Christie is spear-heading a new effort for the Archives. We are re-processing some of our “most valuable collections” from before the computer age so that they will

be available online in our catalog. Patti is starting with Collection 1, The Grandin Papers, which contain family records of some of Hunterdon’s early settlers and one of the most influential families from the first two hundred years of the county’s history.

Nestled in the middle of this collection is folder 76, containing “Miscellaneous Recipes, social, invitations, etc.” Part of re-processing is to remove the concept of “miscellaneous”. That is a dirty word for archivists; we exist to eliminate miscellany and replace it with accurate description. In this case, the folder proved to contain a small amount of material from

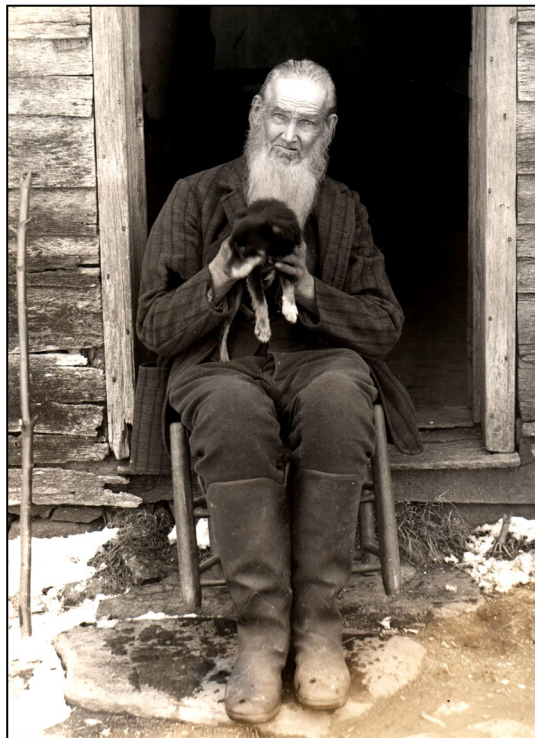
various temperance organizations from the first part of the nineteenth century. And, in delicious irony, the recipe in the folder proved to be for *cider wine*. Yes, that was good for a few laughs around the old processing table that night.

John Matsen has processed many archival collections for the HCHS in the ten years he has been a program volunteer and HCHS Trustee. One of the more interesting, and humorous, collections he worked on seemed innocuous at first. Collection 185, the Stangl Stencils, is filled with pencil and charcoal line drawings, with perforations, that were used as patterns for the artisans at the Stangl Pottery. The collection is filled with tracings of the famous Stangl birds, flowers, and other patterns of everyday and fancy ware. What we did not expect to see, however, were certain pages of tracings and drawings of a slightly risqué nature, which we all hoped did not make it onto some pottery somewhere! What were those people doing, anyway?

These are just a few examples of some of the funnier moments we encounter when processing archives. We have found money, dried plants, fossilized creatures (mostly unintended), and hundred-year-old candy wrappers. We found images of comedy, tragedy, and every day life. Letters of hope, despair, love, and humor. Just as in life, it is in humor that we find our greatest joy in the archives. And especially in the sometimes tedious job of processing!



Above: A Stangl stencil
Below: James Drake, Tewksbury
Township’s whaler, c. 1893



Spotlight on Collections: A Surveyor's Compass

By Janice Armstrong

In his 1851 *Treatise on Land-Surveying*, considered the standard authority, William Gillespie wrote, surveying "is perhaps the oldest of the mathematical arts." The surveyor's compass was invented in 206 BC in China.

There was huge demand for both surveyors and their equipment to establish boundaries for land grants, villages, and roads in the early days of settlement in North America. Two tools were required, the Gunter's chain and a surveyor's compass.

A Gunter's chain consists of 100 links, each measuring 7.92 inches, for a total of 66 feet with brass rings at every 10 links to facilitate partial measurements. The chain was stretched out along a path and secured to the ground with steel pins. The measurement was recorded and the process repeated until the surveyor reached the endpoint.

The surveyor's compass is an instrument in a circular housing containing a magnetized pointer that shows the direction of magnetic north and

bearings from it over 360 degrees. A wooden arm extends from the compass and includes sights located at north and south. The 1883 True Meridian Obelisks located in front of the Historic Hunterdon Courthouse in Flemington were required by the state to be in every county seat to assure

that consistent measurements were used to survey boundaries. The surveyor could calibrate his compass to true north by placing it on the post.

The Society's collection includes a compass housed in a wooden box hand carved from a single block of wood. Unfortunately, we have no information as to whom it belonged or who donated it. The compass is brass with a minute and second measuring device at one end. Its lid sticks when shut, but can be opened with difficulty. A similar surveyor's compass and chain, used by John Schenck Higgins (1828-1894), was pictured in an early HCHS newsletter. Higgins was a farmer and surveyor who lived near Flemington and helped lay out early roads.



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