



# Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

VOL. 4, NO. 2

Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

FALL, 1968

## October Meeting Features Historical Pilgrimage Bus Tour

The Fall Meeting of the Society, Saturday, October 26 will feature an historical pilgrimage bus tour to Washington's Crossing Park, N.J., the Old Barracks, the Archives and History Department of the State Library and the William Trent House in Trenton. Time permitting, William Penn's home, Pennsbury Manor, near Morrisville, Pa. will also be included.

Departure will be by advance reservation from the Society's Building at 1 Maple Ave., Flemington, at 11 a.m. Luncheon will be served at the historic Lambertville House, at Lambertville, N.J. at 11:45 a.m.

Following a visit to the McKonkey Ferry Tavern at Washington's Crossing, the party will proceed to the Archives and History Department of the State Library where State Archivist, Kenneth Richards will be our host.

Costumed hostesses will conduct us through the Old Barracks Building and the Trent House, home of Trenton's founder, William Trent.

Time permitting, we shall also visit Penns-

bury Manor. The return trip, via Lambertville, will terminate at Flemington at 6 p.m.

Notices are being mailed to all members: final date for reservations is October 18. Cost of the tour is \$6.50 which includes transportation, admissions, luncheon and gratuity.

Reservation, with payment, may be mailed to the Society at 1 Maple Ave., Flemington.

## Tour-Map Guide to Hunterdon Historic Sites



Freeholder Kenneth V. Myers, the Society's long time treasurer is Committee Chairman of the Freeholders' forthcoming Tour-Map Guide to Hunterdon historic sites.

Mr. Myers speaking at the recent dedication of a state historical marker at the Lambertville House, Lambertville, N.J. pictured here maintains that the best form of historical preservation is that achieved by private enterprise with the added security of State and County recognition of the site's historic significance.



◀ Railroad passenger coach painting by Lambertville artist, Thomas Van Camp, car painter at the Penna. Railroad Car Shops at Lambertville.

Shown here, one of three panels presented to the Society by Dr. Alfred G. Petrie. These decorations were in a coach constructed in 1875 and first used for trips to the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. Recently restored, courtesy of our member Marie Williams, of Stockton, N.J.

Also of railroad interest is a gift from the Hiram E. Deats heirs: an elephant size lithograph of "Assanpink", a famous PRR locomotive built in Trenton in 1860 at the Trenton Locomotive Works. (Alph. Bigot, del. T. Sinclair, litho., Phila.)

### HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

Published Fall, Winter, Spring By The Hunterdon County Historical Society, 1 Maple Ave., Flemington, N.J.

Edited by the Publications Committee.

The Library of the Society is open Tuesday and Thursday, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, by appointment: Tel. 201-439-2126.

A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY AND THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY

## Progress Report

Our membership continues to grow. However, out of state memberships continue to increase more rapidly than Hunterdon County memberships. Perhaps our Hunterdon members through personal contact can reverse this trend. Total membership to date: 336 including a new life member, R.P. Van Culin.

Shortly, the Society will launch a drive to secure funds for new and larger quarters as expansion has been restricted at our present location. This will be the first such campaign in our 83 year history.

Our quarters are now air-conditioned which added greatly to the comfort of library users during summer months. Over 120 researchers used the Library since May.

Our Library has added many new books and other material through gift and purchase. 3600 books have been accessioned to date. The cataloging project has been slowed considerably to receive this new material and to make it available.

President Norman Wittwer has volunteered to make the library available on Saturday or Sundays by advance appointment. (Tel: 201-439-2126).

## New Members as of September 15, 1968

- Daniel E. Alleger, Gainesville, Florida
- \*Guy R. Bell, New York, N.Y.
- Robert C. Bogart, Flemington, N.J.
- Charles H. Burkman, Princeton, N.J.
- Mrs. Wm. Cotton, Stockton, N.J.
- Mrs. T.M. D'Autrechy, Pennington, N.J.
- Mrs. C.M. Davenport, Annandale, N.J.
- William E. Drost, Elizabeth, N.J.
- Mrs. Wm. H. Frey, Califon, N.J.
- \*Mrs. Barbara W. Gill, Flemington, N.J.
- John W. Haines, Medford Lakes, N.J.

- Mrs. Leslie V. Jones, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Reynier V. Jones, Pittstown, N.J.
- Mrs. F. Benson Leedom, Phillipsburg, N.J.
- Mrs. Robert Fechner, Clinton, N.J.
- \*Lawrence H. Little, Urbana, Ohio
- \*Mrs. William R. Reading, Flemington, N.J.
- Mrs. Joseph R. Russo, Flemington, N.J.
- Winifred Hathaway Schamp, Columbus, Ohio
- Charles E. Strauss, Frenchtown, N.J.
- Nellie Thatcher, Detroit, Mich.
- Russell P. Tyndall, Cranford, N.J.
- \*\*R.P. Von Culin, Life Member, Pottersville, N.J.
- Marie E. Williams, Stockton, N.J.
- Percy Suydam Wilson, Glen Ridge, N.J.
- \* Contributing \*\* Life membership

## Unpublished

### Cemetery Inscriptions

ST. ANDREW'S BURYING GROUND, Route 202, Ringoes, N.J. "St. Andrew's Amwell" founded 1724 by the English Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

During the Revolution its clergy were silenced and dispersed. After years of neglect the Parish Church was re-established in 1845 at Lambertville, N.J.

Copied by H.E. Deats and Theodore Bellis, October 29, 1922. The graves cover an area about 100 by 125 feet. Old residents say the yard originally covered 2 or 3 acres.

- Craven, Elizabeth, dr. Dr. Gershom & Rebecca, Aug. 16, 1805, in 27th year.
- Craven, Dr. Gershom, May 3, 1819, in 75th yr. (Surgeon in Revolutionary War)
- Craven, John, son Dr. Gershom & Rebecca, June 1, 1790, 15 yrs.
- Craven, Rebecca, wf. Dr. Gershom, Mar. 5, 1856, in 80th year.
- Craven, Titus, son of Dr. Gershom & Rebecca, Sept. 5, 1794, 6 years.
- Frazer, William Bard, son of Rev. William & Rebecca, 1-22-22.
- Hill, Bath, Oct. 17, 1788.
- Hill, Charles.
- Hill, Eliza.
- Hill, Joseph. (IOSE x HILL)
- Hill, Paul.
- Hill, Phebe.
- Hill, S., March 5, 1788. (All the Hill graves are surrounded by an iron fence.)
- Larason, Andrew, Oct. 28, 1800, 61-8-26.
- Larason, Benjamin, son Andrew & Levinah, June 5, 1779, 17-6-0.
- Larason, Levinah, wf. Andrew, Jan. 19, 1821, 79-11-16.
- Porter, Elizabeth, Apr. 21, 1755 (?), 30 (?) yrs.
- Thompson, Benjamin, Mar. 17, 1888, 24-2-1.

## Flemington's First Water Supply

FLEMINGTON'S FIRST WATER SUPPLY. BY Theodore Bellis. Paper read before the Hunterdon County Historical Society, December, 1920.

Previous to the beginning of our last century, the people of Flemington depended altogether on wells, springs and hogsheads and barrels at the corner of the house for water.

During dry seasons water would be scarce and hard to get. On this account, December 24, 1807, the citizens of Flemington met and organized "The Flemington Aqueduct Company", a stock company of 32 shares at \$25 each, taken as follows: George C. Maxwell (8 shares); Alexander Bonnell, 8 shares; Jonathan Muirhead, 2 shares; John Finley, 2 shares; Dr. William Geary, 2 shares; George Rea, Jr., 2 shares; William Case, 2 shares; Peter Haywood, 1 share; Asher Atkinson, 1 share; Thomas Williams, 1 share; John Hall, 1 share; Nathaniel Saxton, 1 share; Jeremiah King, 1 share. Total: \$800.

George Rea, Jr. was elected President; George C. Maxwell, Alexander Bonnell and George Rea, Jr. were elected managers. They appointed Asher Atkinson treasurer with a salary of \$5.00 per year.

The length of the main pipe was 320 rods. The managers made an agreement with John Hughes to bore and lay down in a complete and workmanlike manner, the main pipe from the spring in Isaac Grays (now Amos Thatcher's) meadow to a post opposite John Finley's house, for the sum of \$233.67. The work was to be finished by the 15th of April, 1808.

Hughes was to cut the places for the cross-logs as he laid the main pipe without additional charge, and to bore and lay the cross-pipes to the different houses at the same rate per rod as he gets for the main pipe.

It was expressly understood that the said John Hughes was to make no charge for his board, lodging or liquor, and was allowed \$1.00 a day for time employed looking out for and cutting down timber for the Aqueduct.

The logs were to be poplar or butternut; the main pipe bore was to be 2 inches for at least one-third of the distance and the remainder not less than 1 3/4 inches.

The company was to cart the timber to a place in the street near the Court House, there to be bored, and when done, to cart the same to the proper places along the ditch.

On June 4, 1808 John Hughes received of Asher Atkinson, Treasurer \$237.53 being the whole amount of his charges against the company.

The ends of the logs were connected together

by the usual nipple and socket, or round mortise and tenon, with an iron band around them. The iron bands were made by Thomas Carhart for 6 1/4 cents apiece, the company finding the iron.

At three places they had an upright piece of log connected to the main log and standing about 4 feet above the ground with an iron band around the top. The hole in this upright did not go all the way to the top but was met by a hole bored in to meet it on the side. By putting in a small wooden spout with a hole through it, the water was carried into large tubs for the horses and cattle to drink from.

Main Street had 3 public fountains, water free of charge, 112 years ago. Tradition says one was at Asher Atkinson's where the pipe line first entered the street, another at Court House, and the other up toward the Central Railroad. Two of the upright hydrants were kept as relics for a long time, one in the barn at 155 Main Street, now owned by Joseph Alvater, and one by John Capner, 1 Main Street, but today, both have disappeared.

The price of water varied from \$2. to \$8. per year according to amount used. Each man holding stock was allowed 7% interest on the money invested, which was deducted from his water rent.

Jonathan Muirhead, for example, owned 2 shares. At 7% the interest was on \$50. was \$3.50. His water rent was \$8. After deducting the interest it left \$4.50 due the company.

The first settlement of \$5. per share was due January 1, 1808 and all paid up. The first record of settlement with the Treasurer was approved by George C. Maxwell, President, March 20, 1811, showing a balance of \$15.06 in the hands of the treasurer.

The settlement of March 31, 1812, approved by Joseph C. Chamberlain, President, shows a credit of money received \$100.78, and balance on hand of \$6.50, some additional logs having been bored and put down. A memoranda dated May 1, 1812 says that there would be a balance of \$76.74 on hand if all had paid up to date.

On April 18, 1812 by order of the President, George Read, Esq., was fined 50 cents for wasting water at his hydrant; also, on July 13th, Alex Bonnell was fined \$1.00 for the same offence. These fines were remitted March 31, 1814.

In 1814 there were 29 persons using the water paying \$113. The Aqueduct worked very well for a while, but roots would get in and stop up the passage, which would cause considerable annoyance. Parts of the logs were taken up and cleaned out. John Hughes received \$30. cash to buy timber for repairs on December 26, 1817.

In 1808 the company paid 3 cents per running foot for their logs, except 4 small lots they paid

4 cents. One lot of 71 feet they paid Paul Cool 3 1/2 cents. In 1808.

The stockholders lived in 1808 at what is now the same addresses. Asher Atkinson, 26 N. Main; George C. Maxwell, 142 Main; Jonathan Muirhead, Hotel at front gates of Presbyterian Churchyard; Dr. William Geary, 181 Main; Peter Hawood, 156 Main and Nathaniel Saxton at 115 Main Street.

In 1823 the company started in with some new stockholders and 33 shares of stock at \$25. per share. New stockholders were Joseph Bonnell, William Maxwell, Charles Bonnell, Neal Hart, Elnathan Moore, Joseph P. Chamberlin, John T. Blackwell, Samuel D. Stryker, George Forker, John Hughes, J.F. Clark and Thomas Capner. \$825. additional capital was received.

Expenses for 1823 were 25 cents for New Book, \$50. for logs and John Hughes, for boring, \$108.

In 1824 the company was still in existence. January, 1824 seems to have been the last payment of dues. However, the books were never balanced. First one and then another of the public watering places stopped running. The last one by Asher Atkinson's ran on until about 1830 and I think the Aqueduct was given up about this time.

After this the people again carried water from a spring in John Capner's meadow, now covered up by Park Avenue, and from J.F. Clark's well east of town and other smaller springs until the present water supply was introduced in 1860.

In 1823 stockholders lived at the following addresses (locations by present street numbering): Joseph Bonnell, 49 Main St., William Maxwell, 11 Main St., Neal Hart, 74 Main Street.

Elnathan Moore, Hotel at front gates of Presbyterian Church yard; Joseph P. Chamberlain, 80 Main St.; John T. Blackwell, 60 Main St.; Asher Atkinson, 26 North Main St., Peter Howard, 158 Main St.; Samuel D. Stryker, 97 Main St.; George Forker, 118 Main St.; J.F. Clark, Sr., 180 Main St.; and Thomas Capner, 1 Main Street.

In dry time water was hauled from the South Branch by Elisha Bird, of 55 East Main, who did public carting for a certain price per barrel for general use.

Billy Clark, a stocking weaver, living at now 177 Main St., used to sit down when he got tired and stop weaving. Then his wife would say "Now Billy, for a resting spell you can go down to Clark's (half a mile away) and bring a turn of water"!

The first brick cistern in Flemington was built by Samuel Hill in 1827 at his home (now 145 Main St.). The bricks were burned on his farm in the western part of our Borough, west of the Pennsylvania engine house.

Previous to the organization of the Aqueduct Company, water was obtained from the spring and well at the Flemington Tavern (on Bonnell St.), probably the best source of supply. Then the spring in the Capner meadow now covered over by Park Ave., near the Empire Cut Glass Company plant; also the spring on the J.F. Clark farm on the Reaville Road, east of the Baptist Church. These places were always able to supply drinking water in dry times but water for general use was hauled from the South Branch.

For a better supply during the Revolutionary war, barrels were sunk in the Capner brook below the spring to fill up and the women who washed for the soldiers would take the clothes down there. I have two pieces of staves from the barrels procured years ago, but will now present them to the Hunterdon County Historical Society together with the old account books used by the company.



FUNDS NEEDED FOR RESTORATION OF Portrait of Mrs. Daniel Bray (Mary Woolverton), 1756-1840, wife of Hunterdon's hero of the Revolution, Capt. Daniel Bray who gathered the boats for Washington's historic crossing of the Delaware enroute to the Battle of Trenton, turning point of the War for Independence.

Painted by Clinton artist William Bonnell in Mrs. Bray's 68th year (1824). Through ravages of time, the painting requires restoration for which arrangements have been made with the Brooklyn Museum restorer. Contributions invited.

## Book Review

**CLOCKS AND WATCHES OF NEW JERSEY.** By William E. Drost. Elizabeth: cop. 1966. 8 vo, 291p. Prof. Illus. Available from the H.C.H. Society @ \$15.00 plus tax.

Mr. Drost's book on New Jersey timepieces is a significant contribution to our knowledge of an important field of New Jersey history.

Heretofore, this information has not been gathered together in one volume. We are all indebted to the author for his valuable effort.

The material is arranged in alphabetical order by name which has the advantage of making it possible to readily look up an individual or company. Whether the book would have been even better had the information on watches been kept in a separate section from that on tall clocks, and tall clock data been presented in chronological order for each of the various New Jersey Clock making schools, is a matter of individual preference.

Members of our Society doubtless know that Hunterdon County had several able craftsmen in the tall clock field, constituting one of New Jersey's important early clock making schools.

Mr. Drost discusses Joakim Hill's work in some detail and makes lesser mention of Michael Hacker, Richard Hooley, and John Laashe (Lawshe), George Rea, Joseph Stillman and Thomas Williams together with a Jonathon Lawse.

It seems possible to this reviewer that the Jonathon Lawse to whom the author assigned two surviving clocks, may be John Laashe (Lawshe) of Amwell Township to whom Mr. Drost assigns only one known clock where as your reviewer knows of four John (Lawshe) clocks but has no record of any Lawse timepieces.

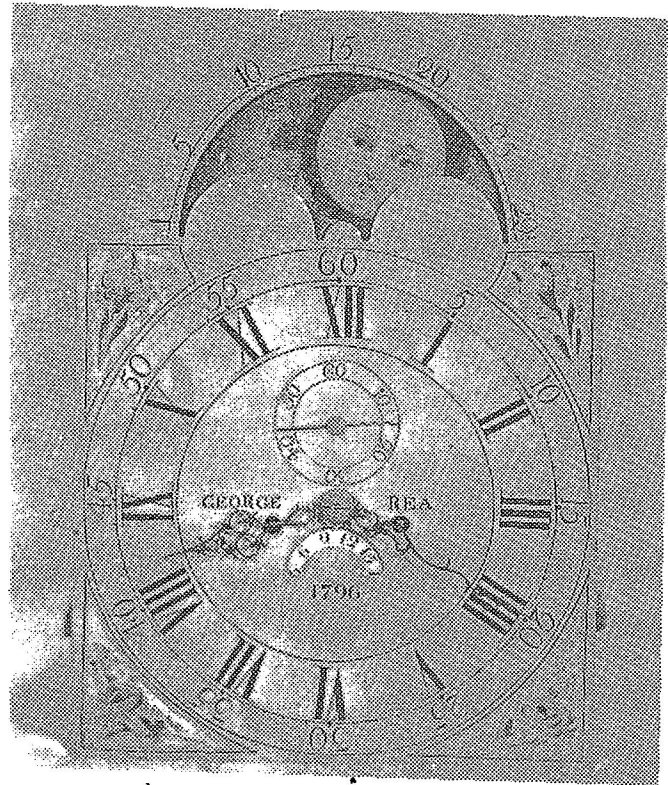
A George Rea clock is illustrated showing an unbroken arch in the pediment. For some of us there is the probability that the clock was originally a broken arch type. The sawcuts visible on each arch and the finials point to the above conclusion.

The author devotes considerable, and well deserved, time and space to the Brokaws and to Isaac Pearson and the Hollingsheds who were important New Jersey clock makers. His research and findings here will be of great interest and help to all scholars.

However, Boston and Philadelphia, perhaps, could dispute successfully, Mr. Drost's claim that Isaac Pearson was the first known American clock maker. There is no disagreement, surely, that Mr. Pearson was one of the best.

Mr. Drost's book is recommended reading in an important field and is a timely, informative, interesting and very worthwhile accomplishment.

--John F. Schenk.



George Rea, born in 1774 at Pittstown, died in 1838 and is buried in the Flemington Baptist churchyard. He worked at Trenton, and Princeton. At Flemington, 1795-1815. (Photo of Clifford E. Snyder, clock, 1937)

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE: in addition to Mr. Drost's book: "Joachim Hill, Clock maker" by Alex B. Allen (HCHS Paper, 1904. Pub. in the Jerseyman. vol. 11, no. 2, 3 pp. \$1.50).

### HOW TO JOIN

Please enroll me as a \_\_\_\_\_ member. Annual, \$4.00 per year; Contributing, \$10.00; Sustaining, \$25.00; Institutional, \$25.00; Life, \$100.00; Patron, \$1,000.00; Student, \$1.00 (18 years old or younger)

For which I enclose \_\_\_\_\_

.....

.....

.....

## Notes &amp; Queries

Address correspondence to Mrs. Ray C. Wilson  
and Edwin W. Huff, Jr.

- RITTENHOUSE:** John W. Haines, 134 Apache Trail, Medford Lakes, N.J. Wanted: name of Rittenhouse who m. Rebecca, dau. of James Bray, born March 17, 1759.
- YAWGER:** Mrs. Clayton Young, RD2, Cayuga, N.Y. Wanted: name of father of Philip Yawger, b. May 22, 1753 (wife Catherine).
- TEEPLE-SHIPMAN:** Mrs. Alvira Jones, 2170 Logan Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah. Wanted: info. on Teeple-Shipman family records, 1710-75.
- LAMBERT-WOODWARD:** Marian S. Lambert, 149 West Dennick Ave., Youngstown, Ohio. Data on Josiah Lambert, b. 1742, of Hopewell, Mercer Co., N.J. who m. Joanna Woodward of Hunterdon County, July 5, 1766.
- GRIGGS:** M.S. de Lacey Neill, 320 2nd Ave., NYC. Wanted: descendants of Daniel Griggs and Emiline J. Johnson. Did ancestors of Gov. William Griggs (NJ:1895) hold office in Colonial times?
- SCHAMP:** Winifred H. Schamp, 116 West Royal Forest Blvd., Columbus, Ohio. Wanted: info. on Capt. David Schamp and early Schamp family history.
- YARD-YAWGER:** Mrs. R. Tyndal, 37 Burchfield Ave., Cranford, N.J. Wanted: Line of William C. Yard (1828-95) or his wife, Sarah T. Yawger: m. Oct. 16, 1851, Hunterdon County.
- WELSH-DEAN:** Richard M. Welch, P.O. Box 201, Durand, Mich. Wanted: marriage record of David Welsh and Mary (Polly) Dean, m. Sept. 25, 1824, Hunterdon County.
- TAYLOR:** F.P. Van Duzee, 2544 Neptune Place, Port Hueneme, Calif. Wanted: Parents and wife of Isaac Taylor, b. Feb. 1, 1756, Hunterdon resident in Revolutionary times.
- HENRY-HENRIE:** Wanted: name of Hunterdon genealogist working on Henry-Henrie family. (C.N. Sergt. Oscar R. Henrie, OL 56970th Sp. T, Box 95, APO, San Francisco, Calif. 96239)
- SERGEANT:** Mrs. John A. Muller, 2921 Mere Drive, Columbia, Tenn. Wanted: Progenitors of Joseph Sergeant, who. m. Jane Quick, b. 11-8-1770; d. 1-25-1851. M. by the Rev. Grant Joseph Sergeant, 1769-1848: Children: William Quick, Gershom Craven (m. Charity Ann Howell), Mary Catherine; Tunis, John Phillips.
- BURROUGHS:** (See: 3-2-4) Should read: Hulda, dau. of James and Mary Burroughs, m. Garret Johnson.

## Recent Acquisitions

## MANUSCRIPTS:

- Grandin Family Papers: including part of diary of Dr. John Forman Grandin, U.S. Navy Surgeon, 1782. Gift of Miss Elizabeth Grandin, Clinton, N.J.
- Lambertville, N.J. G.A.R. Post 20 (Major C. A. Angel Post). Record books. Gift of Dr. Alfred G. Petrie, New Hope, Pa.
- Account Books: Fisher & Son, General Store, Oldwick, N.J. and other local business enterprises, 78 vols., 1832-1908. Gift of Walter C. Farley.
- Ringoes Seminary Society. By-laws and minute books, 1870-75. Also known as the "Hyperion Society". Gift of Theodore Whittelsey, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
- DEED: parchment: Rachel White to Joseph Capnerhurst, Sept. 27, 1788. (Gift of Col. Cleon E. Hammond, Hopewell, N.J.)
- DEED: John and Sarah Runkle to Trustees of School Dist. No. 5, Stanton, formerly Mt. Pleasant, Land for school house. (Gift of C. Ryman Herr, Jr.)
- BOOKS: John Reading's Latin School book: Hool's "A century of epistles, English and Latin" London: 1687. Insc. "John Reading, His Book 1698/9" (Gift of Estate of Nan Ewing Fisher).
- Whitehouse, N.J. Rockaway Ref. Church. 175th anniversary history. (1967) Gift of Robert D. Saums, Lebanon, N.J.
- McClees, Ann Augusta, Alexander Low and his descendants in America 1939 (Moreau line) (Gift of Mrs. D. Howard Moreau.)
- Bound Brook Ref. Church, South Bound Brook, N.J. Directory and church history. (1946) Includes "A fruitful 100 years" by Frank E. Burd. (Gift of the author.)
- Wacker, Peter O. The Musconetcong Valley: a historical geography. (1968) Gift of the author)
- Bailey, Rosalie F. Dutch system in family naming in New York and New Jersey. 1954. Purchase.
- National Geneal. Society. Index to revolutionary war pension applications. 1966. 1324p. Purchase.
- Rau, Charles. Prehistoric fishing in Europe and North America. 1884. Gift of Charles T. Deats.
- Stryker family data: Samuel Davis Stryker (1790-1836); James Davis Stryker (1800-83) (Gift of Emily A. Nordfeldt and Henrietta Van Syckle, Lambertville, N.J.)
- PRINTS: View of Lambertville, 1883. Litho. (Gift of Dr. Alfred Petrie)