

Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

Vol. 2—No. 1

Spring 1966

SPRING MEETING

Saturday, May 21 at 2 P.M.

Free Public Library - Second Floor

118 Main Street at Maple Avenue

Entrance: 1 Maple Avenue

Early Clock Makers Topic of May Meeting

“Early American Clocks and Clock Makers” will be the topic of an address by Edward F. La Fond, Jr., Field Curator of the Penna. Historical and Museum Commission at the May Meeting of the Society.

Mr. La Fond, a former Winterthur Fellow, for the past 10 years has been studying clocks based on their cabinet and movement characteristics.

Last October, Mr. La Fond took part in the Pennsbury Americana Forum where he spoke on “American Clocks: The First Century, 1650-1750”.

Mr. La Fond will discuss Hunterdon's early Clock makers including Thomas Williams, “at Flemington, 1792-1808”; Richard Hooley (at Flemington 1796-1840); Joachim Hill (b. 1783, d. 1869); George Rea (c. 1796) and Richard Hart.

Clock made by Joachim Hill (b. 1783 - d. 1869) of Flemington and Copper Hill. Formerly in the Sutphin Family, the clock was presented to the Hunterdon County Historical Society by the Kuhl Family.

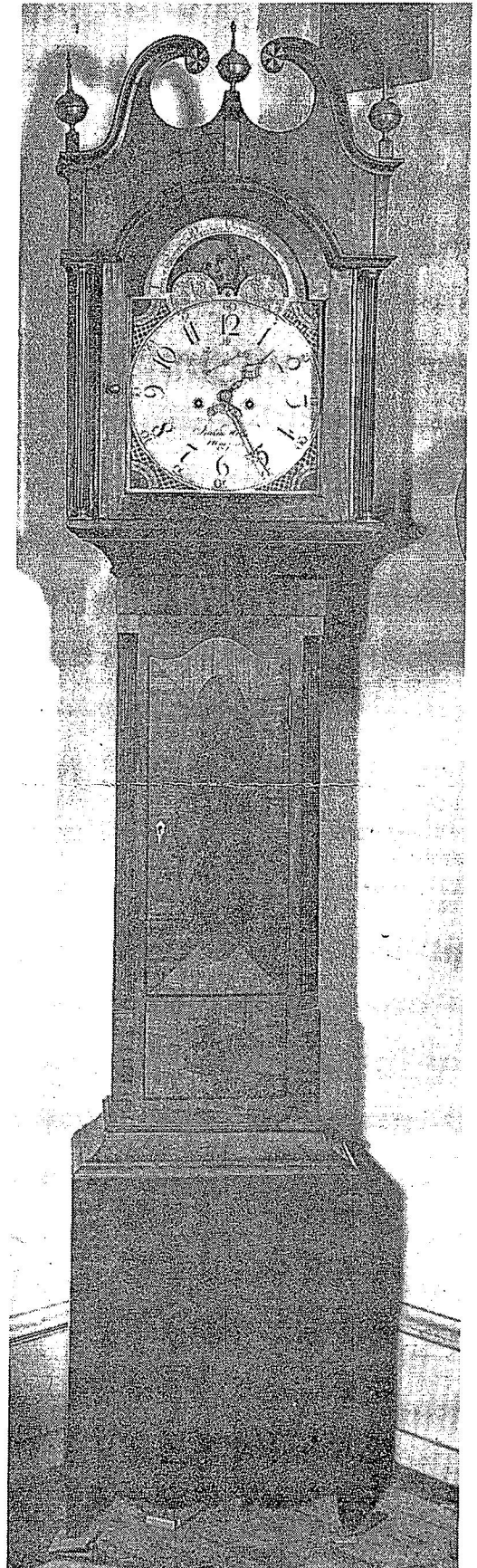
Moreau Bequest Received

A bequest of \$1,000 from the estate of D. Howard Moreau has been received for the continuation of the cataloging of the Society's collections.

Mr. Moreau, President of the Society (1955-1963) inaugurated the Deats Cataloging fund in 1962 in honor of Hiram E. Deats, Secretary and Librarian of the Society (1905-1955) and a member for 77 years until his death in 1963.

With the help of Mr. Deats and Mrs. Ray C. Wilson, Mr. Moreau revived the Society in 1955 serving as its President until his decease on June 7, 1963.

To date, Librarian B. A. Sorby, the Deats Fund Cataloger, has accessioned a total of 2054 volumes from the Deats Bequest of 1963.



Joachim Hill Clock

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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

Editor Mrs. Marian B. Godown

The Library of the Society is open Tuesday and Thursday, 1 to 3 p.m.

A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY

Ganging Up

A League of New Jersey Historical Societies was formally organized at a meeting at the Nassau Inn, Princeton, N.J. on April 16.

Forty eight delegates representing New Jersey's historical societies meeting in March at Cherry Hill, Camden County unanimously favored the establishment of the federation.

Mutual assistance in the preservation of historic sites and landmarks; interchange of historical information and related material; encouragement of sound historical research and publication; and in general the promotion of New Jersey history are among the stated purposes of the new association.

Pennsylvania has had such an association for 61 years.

Clinton Historical

Museum Reopens

Featuring "live" demonstrations of old-time arts and crafts, the Clinton Historical Museum located in the Old Red Mill reopened in April for its second year.

Hours of opening are 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

While the Museum was closed, our President, Norman C. Wittwer and Museum Curator, Mrs. Dorothea Connolly, completed the task of identifying and cataloging the many farm implements, tools, household utensils and other material which the Hunterdon County Historical Society received from the Deats Bequest of 1963 and which is on permanent loan to the Old Red Mill Museum through the lack of adequate exhibition space at our Society's quarters in Flemington.

Motor Bus Outing to Stenton And Pennsbury Manor Proposed

An all day outing by charter motor bus to William Penn's Manor at Pennsbury, near Morrisville, Pa. and to "Stenton", the Philadelphia home of James Logan, Penn's Secretary and founder of the Loganian Library of the Library Company of Philadelphia, and to Hope Lodge, an 18th Century country house at nearby Whitmarsh is proposed for Sunday, June 18th.

Final details as to price of the tour and as to whether members favor a box lunch or a restaurant meal remain to be worked out.

Inquiries are invited: please contact the Corresponding Secretary.

Hunterdon Historical Series

For Sale

1. Vosseler, Elias. A sketch of the copper mining enterprise near Flemington. 1891. 21 p. \$.50
2. Race, Henry. The Two Colonels, John Taylor. 1892. 13 p. \$.50
3. Sterling, Edward B. Historical & genealogical sketch of James Sterling. 1893. 27 p. \$.50
4. Fleming, John. History of the Readington School (Holland Brook) 1804-1897, 1898. 15 p. \$.50
5. Vosseler, Elias. Tucca-Ramma-Hacking. 1901. 21 p. \$.50
- LARISON, Cornelius W. The Ancient Village of Amwell, 1955. 22 p. \$ 1.00
- DEATS, Hiram E. The Hunterdon County Militia, 1792. 1936. 37 p. \$ 1.50
- SCHMIDT, Hubert. Flax Culture in Hunterdon County, 1939. 10 p. \$ 1.00



Lacking in Our Library

Scattered issues of THE CHRONICLE OF THE EARLY AMERICAN INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, 1945 to date.

HISTORY OF SUSSEX & WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY by J.P. Snell. (Phila. 1881)



Notes & Queries

BRAY, Susan. Grand-daughter of Daniel Bray. Wanted: Christian name of her husband ? Bateman and place of her burial. (Col. Robert H. Bayne, "Edgehill", Culpeper, Va. 1-3-1)

STEVENS-STEPHENS, John, who m. Eliz. Alexander. (Miss Helen R. Predmore, Historian Chester, Orange Co., N.Y. Historial Soc.) 1-3-2

LAMBERT, Andrew, who settled on the Catawba River in North Carolina, prior to his arrival on the Ogeechee River in Georgia in 1765. Wanted: his possible descent from Lambert Family of Lambertville (Below) 1-3-3

STUDDIFORD, DR.----MS. History of Lambertville cited by Mott: p.21, "First Century". Was it printed & whereabouts of original MS. (Wallace Lambert, 37 Park Ave., Newman, Ga.) 1-3-4

INGHAM FAMILY. Information on the family in Trenton in 1705 & Bucks Co., Pa., in 1730. (Ronald M. Schelkopf, 866 Hawthorne Dr., Pittsburgh, Pa.) 1-3-5

PHILHOWER, Harmon (1831-1890) Wanted parents' names. He is buried in Flemington Presby. Churchyard. (Mrs. Fred Lebbing, R.D. 2, Martinsville, N.J.) 1-3-6

FISHER, Tunis, husband of Mary La Rue (Mrs. Robert C. Clark, State chairman, Pa.) DAR Lineage Committee, Myerstown, Pa. 1-3-7

WATERHOUSE, James, postmaster at Quakertown, 1832 & George Waterhouse, postmaster, (ibid) 1841, who donated lot for Quakertown Methodist Church in 1842. Wanted: maiden name of Mary, wife of James & children of James & George. (Carmack Waterhouse, Box 3258, Oak Ridge, Tenn.) 1-3-8

RITTENHOUSE, Sarah, daughter of Moses & Sarah Wood Rittenhouse who m. -----Major. (Col. Joseph R. Darnall, 3209 Duval St., Austin, Texas) 1-3-9

WOOD, Aaron. Ancestry of, father of Sarah Wood Rittenhouse who m. Moses Rittenhouse (ibid) 1-3-10

JORDAN, Frederick, descendant of John Jordan, who arrived Phila. in 1737. (Mrs. Robert Libke, 314 Spring St., Sparta, Wisconsin) 1-3-11

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

Recent Acquisitions

Recording: FIREMEN'S CENTENNIAL PARADE. . .incorporating the music of 16 marching bands of Hunterdon County at the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Union & Fleetwing Fire Companies, Lambertville, N.J., 1964 (N.Y. Folkways Records, Album #FH 5120, \$5.95. Recorded by Amelia & Frederic Ramsey, Jr., of Raven Rock.) Purchase.

Photographs:

THE JOAKIM HILL CLOCK, property of the Society. (Gift of the Hon. John Schenk, Flemington.)

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Long Valley, N.J. (Gift of Christian Lanner, R.D. 2, Washington, N.J.)

Books & Data

KECK, Caroline K. A Handbook of the Care of Paintings. (Pub. by the American Assoc. for State and Local History, 1965. Purchase.)

HEUSSER, Albert H. The Forgotten General, Robert Erskine (1736-1780), Paterson, N.J. cop. 1928. (Gift of Norman C. Wittwer)

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY, New Series, Vol. 34, N.Y.: 1965, Contains biographical sketch & photograph of Hiram E. Deats. (Gift of Deats Estate)

PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, 1957-1964. (Gift of Miss Rebecca M. Glover, 107 Briarcliff Court, Haddonfield, N.J.)

PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE, 1952-1955. (Gift, ibid)

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Long Valley, N.J., Bicentennial Celebration. (Gift of Christian Lanner)

RINGO FAMILY data. (Gift of Mrs. Irving C. King, 916 Allard Ave., Eureka, Calif.)

JORDAN FAMILY data. (Gift of Mrs. Robert M. Libke, 314 Spring St., Sparta, Wisc.)

SIMCOE, Nathan (b.1797) Family Bible Record. Phila: 1853. Typewritten copy (Gift of Edna E. Liddle, 2504 Grand St., Williamsport, Pa.)

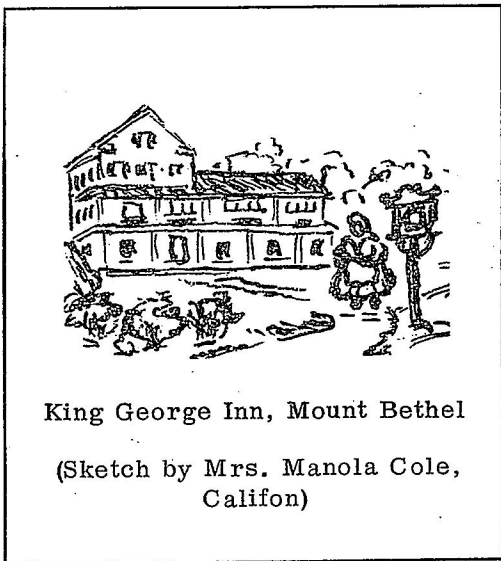
WATSON, John & Euphemia Ingham. Photostat of marriage certificate, dated June 20, 1795. (Gift of Cecilia W. Colaw, 115 N. Parkwood Lane, Wichita, Kansas)

SPEAKING OF BOOKS

HISTORIC SOMERSET

Compiled by Col. J.H. Van Horn, U.S. Army, Ret. 221 p., 35 illus.

Have you ever wondered who Betty McCoy was? Do you know what inn in Somerset County, said to date from 1692, is still serving guests?



King George Inn, Mount Bethel
(Sketch by Mrs. Manola Cole,
Califon)

You will find the answers to these and other intriguing questions in **HISTORIC SOMERSET**, an attractive and well-written book published last year.

This work is the fulfillment of a long-cherished dream of Col. Van Horn who was disturbed because no attempt had been made to bring the history of Somerset up-to-date in over 75 years.

He enlisted a group of amateur researchers to write the history of the area each knew best. Their work was reviewed by professional historians at Rutgers. Many hitherto un-

published photographs and drawings illustrate the text. The result is a delightfully readable history, printed on excellent paper.

The history of the county is traced from the time the first Dutch settler made his way up the Raritan to today:

How the first churches and schools were established, the part played by early preachers such as Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen and James McCrea, the homes which were slated to become historically famous and why, the story of inns as rallying places for the patriots. All this and more is related.

We learn about Somerset's stirring part in the Revolution: from Hendrick Fisher's reading of the Declaration of Independence to the assembled people of Bound Brook until Washington's delivery of his Farewell Address to the Army at Rockingham.

Lord Stirling, Baron von Steuben, John Honeyman and the luckless General Charles Lee become much more than mere names.

In the fore part of the last century we see the coming of the Delaware and Raritan canal, soon to be followed by the railroads. We find how shortly after 1900, industry began its rapid development so that the quiet rural area, - almost overnight, it seemed - changed into a suburban industrial community.

The postscripts and anecdotes appearing at the close of each section add a touch of human interest too often overlooked. They seem to put a little flesh on the dry bones of history, which sometimes can be very dry indeed.

We suggest that an index might have been helpful to the reader not familiar with the county's history.

Thanks to Col. Van Horn and his co-laborers for a job well-done; we are in their debt. As we lay down the book, we can't help but feel that local history can be presented in such a way as to be as fascinating as fiction.

Frank E. Burd

Welcome New Members

- Walter J. Young* Annandale
- Theodore C. Merritt* Flemington
- Dr. Joseph R. Darnall* Austin, Texas
- Mrs. Oscar R. Burden. Wichita Falls, Tex.
- Mrs. Earl L. Mohr. Bloomington, Minn.
- Ronald M. Schelkopf* Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Mrs. Ruth Perry Stevens. Pennington
- Mrs. Stephanie B. Stevens. Whitehouse Station
- Miss K. N. Stryker* Stewartsville
- Augusta C. Foss* Stewartsville
- Mrs. Byron J. Dial, Sr. Trenton
- Roxanne K. Carkhuff. Hopewell
- Roy W. Peet. Mount Airy
- Mrs. Roy W. Peet. Mount Airy
- Mrs. Jane W. Waller. Lebanon
- Dr. Heber C. Donohue. Clinton
- Mrs. LeRoy Bellis. Flemington
- Mrs. F. Raymond Pidcock* Flemington
- Miss Jessamine Goddard. Lambertville
- Col. Robert H. Bayne. Culpeper, Va.

*Contributing



Form of Bequest

(This form is recommended for use in making a bequest of personal or 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 _____

Inquiries Hail from 27 States

A total of 78 inquiries from 27 states and as far away as England had been answered last year, Corresponding Secretary Mrs. Ray C. Wilson reported. There were 277 visits to our Library. Assistant Corresponding Secretary Edwin W. Huff helps Mrs. Wilson in performing this volunteer "labor of love", of answering the queries.

At last count, our membership had grown to 257, including 25 contributing members. Members hail from 21 states, including our 50th state, Hawaii, as well as New Jersey.

A reminder: We hope each of you will act as a one-man membership committee in introducing our Society to those interested. All members receive the Newsletter three times yearly. Membership dues are our principal source of income.

Also, we'd like to remind you to get a copy for our Library of any pamphlet, program, paper, or photograph (past-time or present-day) relating to Hunterdon you think has historical interest.

An enrollment form is found below. We hope it will bring us new friends.

You will find enclosed with this NEWSLETTER, our by-laws which have been revised for the first time since 1901. Following the practice of the previous edition of the by-laws, there is appended a list of names and addresses of all Society members as of the calendar year 1964, with additions to March 1966.

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 _____

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.....
.....



Place Names . . . Stanton

(It might have been a Williamsburg)

An early settler at present-day Stanton was one Jacob Housel. The locality was originally named after him, "Housel's. By the early 19th Century, the Housel home (now the home of Mrs. George Brightenback) had come into possession of William Waggoner and the place name became "Waggoner's" or Waggoner's Hill".

When the Reformed Church was established in 1833, the settlement and the church took the name, "Mount Pleasant". A post office opened either here or at Rowland's Mill in 1848, bearing the name, "Williamsburg". (possibly using Waggoner's given name). Mount Pleasant would have been rejected by the Post Office Department because there was another hamlet by that name in Hunterdon County.

In 1849, the name, "Williamsburg" was discontinued and the post office reopened with the name, "Stanton". The name probably pays tribute to either or both the noted reformers, Henry Brewster Stanton and his wife, Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Mrs. Stanton had held the first Woman's Rights Convention in her Seneca Falls, N.Y. home in July, 1848.

Edwin M. Stanton, Lincoln's secretary of war, was - in 1849 - an obscure lawyer, living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. N.C.W.



Dr. Best's Niece

Donates Manuscript

Three portrait-photographs of Dr. George N. Best, Hunterdon physician and botanist (1847-1926) and a manuscript of an address he read before the HCHS on December 2, 1885, were recently donated to our Society by his niece, 91-year-old Mrs. George Robinson of Flemington.

The hand-written manuscript, clearly legible after 80 years, is entitled, "The Scope and Work of a Local Historical Society".

"With Heritage So Rich"

In the January issue of our Newsletter, Robert M. Lunny (whose name was inadvertently omitted) described the re-survey of some 750 New Jersey structures - including 15 in Hunterdon County - which had been listed by the Historic American Buildings Survey during the past 30 years.

The report of this recent survey, done under the auspices of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service with a grant supplied by the Ford Foundation, was published recently by Random House.

The book, entitled, "With Heritage So Rich", is "a sumptuous volume" of 246 pages with 115 illustrations, (29 in full color). Copies may be obtained at \$8.00 each from the New Jersey Historical Society, 230 Broadway, Newark, New Jersey 07104.

WANTED

A PHOTO-COPYING MACHINE!!!

for use in our Library reference work
and in answering queries.



President	Norman C. Wittwer
Vice-President	Charles T. Deats
Vice-President	Frank E. Burd
Secretary	Edward H. Quick
Treasurer	Kenneth V. Myers
Assistant Treasurer	Miss Edith L. Jones
Corres. Secretary	Mrs. Ray C. Wilson
Ass't Corres. Sec.	Edwin W. Huff
Trustee	Mrs. Fred A. Abegg
Trustee	Edwin K. Large, Jr.
Librarian	B. A. Sorby