



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

VOL. 3, NO. 1

Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

SPRING, 1967

Vigilant Societies

Topic of Spring Meeting

Early Hunterdon vigilant societies "for the detection of horse thieves" will be discussed at the Spring Meeting of the Society, Saturday, May 27 at 2 P.M. at Locktown Baptist Church.

This historic meeting place has been made available by the New Jersey Baptist Convention of East Orange, N.J. which recently took title to the building.

Anthony Nicolosi, Rutgers University graduate student, will tell of the vigilant society movement in New Jersey during the 19th century.

Recently Mr. Nicolosi did research on Hunterdon vigilant societies and found the manuscript records in our Library most valuable.

In our collection we have:

Alexandria Township Vigilant Society, (est. ? ; ceased ?) Constitution and Minutes, 1818-27.

Delaware Township Vigilant Society, (est. 1839; ceased 1943) Minutes, 1839-1943.

Flemington Vigilant Society. (est. ? prior to 1820; ceased 1935) Minutes, 1822-83; 1895-1932. Membership roll: 1840-60; 1870;1880; 1924-35. Ledger, 1910-29.

Lacking in our Library are the following records which we wish to obtain:

Bloomsbury Vigilant Society. Est. 1867.

Kingwood Vigilant Society. Est. 1835.

Lambertville Vigilant Society. Est. ?. Minutes, 1837-1922 and later.

Mt. Airy Vigilant Society. Est. 1873.

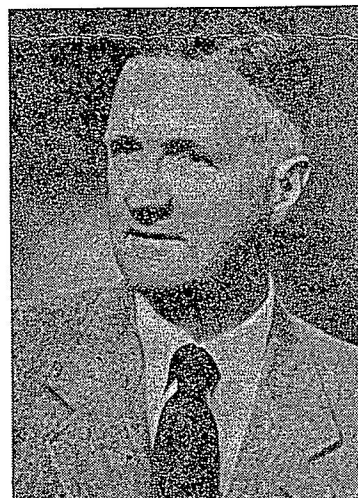
Information on the above or gifts of their records will be gratefully received by our Library.

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HUNTERDON CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS
IN 1967

Frenchtown Boro, July 1-4.
Stockton, N.J. Presbyterian Church.

SPRING MEETING
 Saturday, May 27, at 2 p.m.
LOCKTOWN PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
 Locktown, N. J.
 On Delaware Township Road 2 miles south of
 N.J. Rt. 12, 3 miles north of county road 10
 (Stockton-Flemington Road)



D. HOWARD MOREAU
(1897 - 1963)

The third printing of Mott's "First Century of Hunterdon" is dedicated to the memory of D. Howard Moreau in recognition of his accomplishments in the promotion of interest in the study of Hunterdon County local history through the medium of historical articles published in his newspaper, the Hunterdon County Democrat, and through publications by his Democrat Press.

As President of the Hunterdon County Historical Society (1954-1963), he inaugurated the Society's Historical Publications Series.

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.

A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY

Progress Report

Considerable progress has been made in the past three years:

MEMBERSHIP: from 192 to 279 members including 5 life members. Institutional membership continues to lag. Dues increased from \$2.00 to \$4.00 in this period have enabled the Society to act more effectively in carrying out its responsibilities in the care and maintenance of our Library and Museum.

PUBLICATIONS: Our NEWSLETTER, inaugurated in Autumn, 1965 is sent to all members, other interested persons and institutions. The Library of Congress, the N.Y. Public Library, the N.J. State Library and Rutgers University receive the NEWSLETTER at their request.

Our first major publishing effort since 1961, the newly released 3rd printing of Mott's "First Century of Hunterdon" has been put on sale in a limited edition of 250 copies at \$4.00. Funds for the 2nd printing in 1961 were the gift of Miss Winona Hurd, (a Kase family descendant) of Chicago, Ill. who gave \$250.00 for the establishment of our Publications Fund.

LIBRARY: As of April our library totals 3290 volumes. This includes the accessioning of 2033 volumes from the DEATS BEQUEST since Oct. 22, 1963. This represents the bulk of this material.

The Manuscript Collection has been listed in a check-list for a State wide survey of "Library Resources in New Jersey History" being compiled by Bernard Bush of the N. J. State Library Bureau of Archives and History. This has been a lengthy undertaking but will provide a useful guide to our Manuscript holdings, newspaper collection, tape recordings, etc.

The Library book binding program is underway. Two lots of books have been reconditioned

and rebound: the first rebinding work to be done in 15 years.

The newspaper binding program is being delayed through lack of funds. Due to the high cost of rebinding our 75 year backlog of county newspapers, we are studying alternative preservation methods. We may decide to microfilm the unbound copies and file the originals in special flat newspaper storage boxes.

Our microfilm library has been given \$350.00 toward the purchase of a reader and copies of original manuscript material relating to Hunterdon County. Unfortunately the Recordak MPE-1 reader which sells for \$735 has been priced out of our market. We are considering acquiring a reconditioned machine at \$375. Contributions for this purpose will be most welcome.

SALES CATALOGS of books available through our Society have sold a substantial number of publications. The proceeds will be used to supplement our publication program and for the acquisition of material needed by the Library.

MEETINGS: The success of our recent meetings has been reflected in excellent attendance. First-rate speakers and timely topics such as the preservation of Hunterdon's architectural heritage and Flemington's Mahlon Fisher buildings have both increased interest in our meetings and have aided the preservation of Hunterdon's historic heritage.

Publication of a series of photographs from our Historic American Buildings Survey file attracted favorable comment as did a full page article in the Trenton Times ("Main Street Acropolis: Flemington's Greek Revival Heritage.") Other papers carrying the photograph series were the Hunterdon Democrat, Lambertville Beacon and Easton Express.

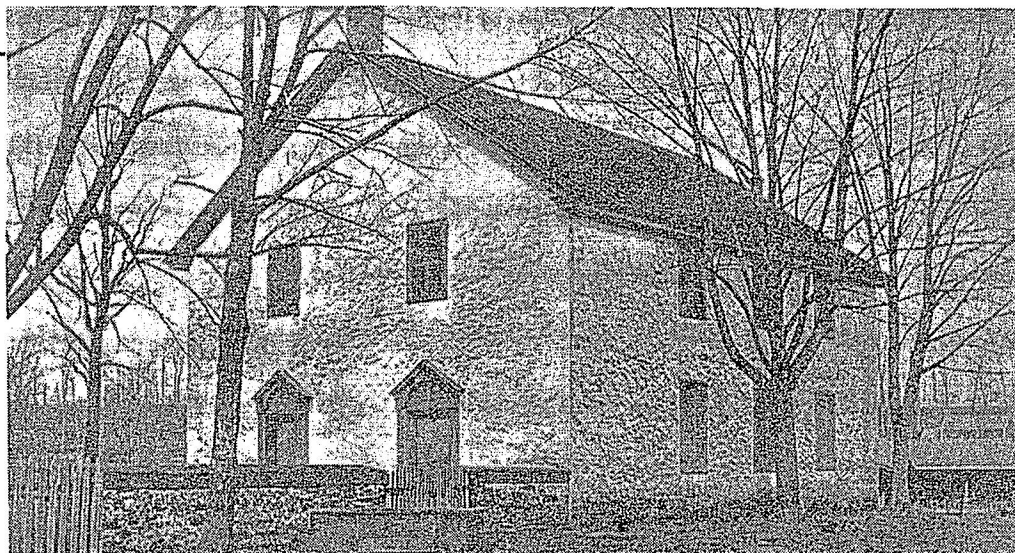
Letters to the Editor:

"Publications such as the January NEWSLETTER makes us appreciate the fact that our ancestors settled in New Jersey. We have read and re-read it" (Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Shoemaker, Anderson, Indiana.)

"The NEWSLETTER contains valuable information on the preservation of historical buildings not obtainable through other sources. We would like very much to have all future issues" (The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.)

"The January NEWSLETTER was a dilly" (Hubert G. Schmidt, Rutgers University.)

The Baptist Church of Kingwood at Locktown



The Locktown Baptist Church, organized 1819, was an offshoot of the Mother Church at Baptistown founded 1745. The growing Baptist congregation from the Locktown area resulted in the organization of the Locktown Church.

On May 29, 1819 Daniel Rittenhouse conveyed by deed to Thomas Lequear, Thomas Sherman, Adam Williamson, Uriah Sutton and George Opdyke "Trustees of the Baptist Church and Congregation of Kingwood", one lot for the church building and an adjoining lot for a burial ground. The stone church building bears the date 1819 over the exterior of the chancel window.

The Rev. David Bateman, first pastor, was buried at his own request under the church floor. A marble slab on the communion table is inscribed: "Sacred to the Memory of Rev. David Bateman. . .September 10th, 1832, in the 55th year of his age."

"Locktown Got Its Name as a Result of a Church Quarrel" wrote Egbert T. Bush in an article in the *Hunterdon Democrat* (May 22, 1930). He states that dissention divided the church into two factions.

Old residents stated that things got so warm that one faction padlocked the church door against the other.

The tavern keeper on an adjoining lot "whose artistic eye detected lack of harmony" decided that three locks would harmonize better than two. He secured the biggest padlock that could be found and fastened it between the other two, and painted locks on the tavern sign. A local wag promptly nicknamed the place "Locktown" and officially it has remained so to this day.

According to Hubert G. Schmidt's "Some Hunterdon Place Names" (Flemington: 1959) (HCHS \$1.00) a more likely explanation for the village name is that it came from the Lockatong Creek on which the village is located.

However, contemporary manuscript evidence (The Church Record Book 1842-92) in our Li-

brary indicates that up to July, 1852 the village apparently had no name. The first use of the name "Locktown" in the Church Record book was July 31, 1852. This was 12 years after the "lock-out". In 1856 when the post office was established the name "Locktown:" was officially recognized.

Unfortunately, the historic lock that gave rise to the village name, was removed a few years ago by some antique loving "preservationist". Today, only the old key survives. It is hoped that the lock will be restored to its rightful place.

The original Old School Baptist congregation of the Locktown church dwindled in numbers until the few survivors held but one service a year.

In March, 1967, Howard Johnson of Sergeantsville, as sole surviving Trustee, transferred ownership of the Church building to the New Jersey Baptist Convention of East Orange, N.J., whose courtesy in making available the Church premises for our May meeting is gratefully acknowledged. Previously, Mr. Johnson gave custody together with the remaining church funds to the Locktown Grange to ensure the upkeep of the nearby Church burial ground. Here early church members of the Rittenhouse, Miers, Sutton and Swallow family rest in peace.

B.A.S.

Bibliography

Bush, Egbert T. (opus-cit) Curtis, William. Century old history of the Baptist Church at Kingwood. Trenton: 1833 (Reprint, 1944, available from H.C.H.S. 50 cents.

MSS: (in our Library)

Church Record Books (1742-1823; 1824-94; also 1839-44, 3 vols.) Also photostatic copy of the original first 2 vols.)

The Cherry Family Cemetery

"Abandoned burial ground on the Sidney Johnson farm near Raven Rock (on Federal Twist Road, now owned by Arleigh Emmons, Ed.) About 75 by 130 ft.

"There are a large number of graves marked by unlettered stones. The farm was owned by James Cherry at one time. There is no mention of it in deeds." (Copied by Egbert T. Bush Nov. 17, 1917)

CHERRY FAMILY BURIALS

Catharine, dau. Thomas and Catharine, Nov. 20, 1815.

Hannah A., dau. Thomas and Catharine, Oct. 17., 1858.

James. Jan. 15, 1814. 75 years.

Mary, wife of James. Feb. 4, 1834. 63 yrs.

HALL FAMILY BURIALS

Elizabeth, wife of Jacob Hall. March 2, 1845. 85 years.

Jacob. May 28, 1830. 74 years.

STRIMPEL FAMILY BURIALS

Elizabeth, wife of John. Oct. 28, 1856.

UNIDENTIFIED FAMILY BURIALS

P-----,S. 1781

R-----,T. Oct. 11, 1766

W-----,M.

"There are some other stones which cannot be deciphered. One is probably "DE 1801 K D" and another "DBIb. 1787 FSDCW 32 Y A." E.T.B.

The Kuhl Family Cemetery

"On the farm of Joseph B. Johnson, recently sold by H.O.S. Van Doren. This burying ground of 1 1/2 acres is reserved in the will of Paul Kuhl, May 22, 1783". Copied by H.E. Deats and T. Bellis, May 26, 1918.

KUHL FAMILY BURIALS

Ann, wife of George. Feb. 22, 1837.

C(atherine, dau. of Leonard and Catherine) 1795. A(ugust) 21.

George. Jan. 14, 1806, in 26th yr.

L(eonard) (died Aug. 27, 1793)

Mary, dau. Paul and Hannah. Jan. 20, 1799.

Sarah, dau. Paul and Hannah. Apr. 10, 1814.

William G. Apr. 17, 1849. 47 yrs.

UNIDENTIFIED

S-----, A.

For Sale

The above unpublished tombstone inscriptions supplement "TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS FROM HUNTERDON CEMETERIES" by H. E. Deats. Flemington: 1917. 8 vo. 72p. unbound \$5.00

The Carman Family Cemetery

"On farm of James J. Higgins, 1 mile s.w. of Flemington on Sergeantsville Road, opposite Valley School #69, Raritan Township. See deed book 80, p. 412: John Higgins, Sr. to James Carman, Aug. 29, 1843.

"Some old stones, mostly unmarked are outside to North of stone wall. Those visible show unreadable weathered markings."

Copied by H.E. Deats, April 29, 1918. (Ed. note: this neglected burial ground still exists but the tombstones and surrounding stone wall are falling down)

CARMAN FAMILY BURIALS

Aaron, son of Elijah and Jane, no date.

Elijah (son of Samuel and Mary) Nov. 8, 1841.

Jane (James), widow of Elijah, July 4, 1854.

COAT/COATES FAMILY BURIALS

Lucy, Aug. 30, 1878. In 84th yr.

Sarah, wife of Robert, March 22, 1852. Stone broken.

JAMES FAMILY BURIALS

Jane, (SEE: CARMAN, Jane.)

John. 1787.

Mary, (widow of John) Sept. 1804.

PETTIT FAMILY BURIALS

Amos, son of Jesse, b. Nov. 7, 1805; d. 1810.

Jesse. April 5, 1814. In 64th year.

PHILLIPS FAMILY BURIALS

Hannah. (SEE: ROCAFELLOW, Hannah)

ROCAFELLOW FAMILY BURIALS

Hannah, wife of David Philips

UNIDENTIFIED FAMILY BURIALS

"1788 R P ND. HEAR LIES THE -----
AG 59 BODY DS 29 NOV."

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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.....
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Welcome New Members

- * Charles F. Colligan, Stockton, N.J.
- Mrs. Frank Cregar, Jr., Flemington, N.J.
- Mrs. Kenneth Dalrymple, Stockton, N.J.
- Mildred L. Ervin, Flemington, N.J.
- David Faris, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Geoffrey Fisher, Flemington, N.J. Student
- Sadie K. Flemings, Royersford, Pa.
- Mrs. Alda B. Heath, Clinton, N.J.
- Ray S. Heath, West Liberty, Iowa.
- Mrs. Jane E. Henderson, Stockton, N.J. Life
- * Viola L. Logan, La Mirada, Calif.
- * Theodore R. Manners, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Mrs. James R. Marsh, Pittstown, N.J.
- George B. Melick, Oldwick, N.J.
- Mrs. Theodore C. Merritt, Flemington, N.J.
- Mrs. Robert W. Osborne, Bernardsville, N.J.
- Anthony J. Pietruszkiewicz, Readington, N.J.
- Helene E. Potts, Ft. Washington, Pa.
- Mrs. John W. Schomp, Stanton, N.J.
- * Mr. and Mrs. W. Luther Stothoff, Jr.,
Flemington, N.J.
- O. Clif. Winans, Paris, Illinois.

*Contributing.

Membership Chairman, Mrs. Frederick Stothoff, reports that the Society has 224 paid up members. As of March 25th a total of 56 members, 20% of our total membership, were delinquent in payment of their 1967 dues. All members who have not met their obligation are respectfully urged to do so at their earliest opportunity.

Members are further urged to interest other people in the Society. Enthusiasm for the Society's purposes and aims cannot fail to evoke responses from friends. Perhaps the Society's Membership motto might be "Each one reach one!"



Slide Collection Begun

To make our historic buildings survey photographs more useful we are making photographic slides of pictures in our collection and are borrowing slides from Hunterdon collectors so that we may duplicate their collections.

Shortly we hope to have duplicates made of the Hunterdon Historic Sites Survey photographs on file in the N.J. State Historic Sites Division which were made for our Society in 1961.



Miss Edith Jones

Miss Edith Jones, our Assistant Treasurer and Membership Secretary and Trustee died unexpectedly Thursday, Feb. 2, at her home in Three Bridges.

She faithfully performed the duties of her offices since 1961 and her genial presence added to the pleasure of our meetings.

Her time was freely given to the Society: in addition to her official duties she also did volunteer work at home. One of her projects was compilation of a scrap book of Egbert T. Bush's local history articles which appeared in a Hunterdon Democrat series in the 1930's.

The Edith Jones Memorial fund initiated by her family and friends will be devoted to the purchase of microfilm records of original research material: early census records, etc.

Mrs. Frederick B. Stothoff of Flemington has been appointed to succeed Miss Jones as Membership Secretary and Asst. Treasurer.

Richard Stothoff of Flemington has been elected a Trustee of the Society.



Notes & Queries

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

- WALDRON FAMILY: Mrs. E.W. Matson, Buck's Mill Road, Colts Neck, N.J. Information offered on Resolvert and Joseph Waldron. Information wanted on Josef Waldron line. 3-1-1
- LARISON, ALBERT b. 1781?; later lived in Morgan Co., Ohio (Thomas R. Larison, Griffith, Indiana.) 3-1-2
- VAN BUSKIRK FAMILY: Contacts wanted with all members of the family for genealogy (1654-1967) now being compiled. (Mrs. R.W. Shoemaker, 929 Winding Way, Anderson, Indiana.) 3-1-3
- MORGAN, ISAAC. Ancestors of, wanted. (F.M. Doyle, 405 Compton, Laurel, Md.) 3-1-4
- COLEMAN, JOHN who m. Hannah Farnsworth. (Mrs. Alfred B. Stiles, Shoals, Indiana.) 3-1-5
- SMITH, ELIPHELET and wife Anna of Amwell in 1700's. (Donald D. Smith 7380 East Nebraska, Selma, Calif.) 3-1-6
- STRYKER, JOHN and Sarah. Parents' birth and marriage dates. (Mrs. J.C. Brook, Stronghurst, Ill.) 3-1-7
- KITCHEN-THATCHER-BELLIS FAMILIES allied to Rockefeller family. (Mrs. Earl T. Potts, 303 Washington Lane, Ft. Washington, Pa.) 3-1-8
- TAYLOR, THOMAS. b. Amwell. Rev. soldier. Parents' names wanted. (Major R.D. Taylor, 321 Park Ave., Fayetteville, N.C.) 3-1-9
- RUNYON, VINCENT. Wanted parents' names of Vincent and his wife Mary. (Miss Lucia Runyon, 115-0, Sanger, Calif.) 3-1-10
- CROESEN, DERRICK and Elizabeth Van Nuys. Marriage date wanted. (Mrs. Clarence Kresson, 228 S. Chancellor St., Newtown, Pa.) 3-1-11
- WRIGHT, EZEKIEL AND PHOEBE. Marriage date wanted. (Mrs. James R. Brown, 545 Whitehall, R.D., Bloomfield Hills, Mich.) 3-1-12
- KOTTER, BERNARDUS and Elizabeth Lawrence. (David Faris, P.O. Box 8574, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101) 3-1-13
- STITES-LITTLE FAMILY: Wanted parents of George Stites who m. Mary Little. Cape May Co. Jan. 27, 1809 (Mrs. D.H. Ferrin, 501 N. 11th St., Cherokee, Iowa.) 3-1-14

Recent Acquisitions OBJECTS:

SWORD WALKING STICK, belonging to Emmanuel Thompson (d. 1905). (Gift of Miss Helen P. Thomson, Clinton, N.J.)

SOMERSET AND RARITAN RAILROAD track section found near Frog War scene, Hopewell, N.J. (Gift of Ernest S. Baldwin, Trenton, N.J.)

MANUSCRIPTS:
CRAIG, John E. of New Germantown, N.J. (Oldwick). Account book, 1841-72. Grain, cattle feed, genl. merchd. (Gift of his gr.gr. grandson, George B. Melick of Oldwick, N.J.)

SHANGLE, Andrew E. of Oldwick, N.J. Account book; work done 1881-92; 1896-1902. 2 vols. (Gift of Lois Nash Earle, Oldwick, N.J.)

DILLEY, John. Shoemaker's acct. books: 1839-89; DORLAND, Eugene V. Watch repairman's memorandum book, 1861-67. (Gift of Mrs. William H. Stryker, Oldwick, N.J.)

STRYKER LINES, typescript. (From Edwin H. Huff, Jr., Neshanic Station, N.J.)

KINGWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH at Baptist town. Church record books: 1742-1824-92. (Gift of Howard Johnson, Sergeantsville, N.J.)

HOPEWELL, John B. and Annie M.F. Crater. Marriage certificate, May 17, 1866. (Gift of Katharine Higgins Bamber, Flemington, N.J.)

(BOOKS. . .)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNA. Guide to the manuscript collections. Phila. 1940. 350 p. (Purchase)

HUGHES, Howard L. Public Libraries in New Jersey, 1750-1850. 1965. 87p. Purchase.

LE ROY, N.Y. HISTORICAL SOCIETY Annual report, 1957-66. (Gift of B.F. Dewey, Le Roy, N.Y.)

HONEYMAN, Peter N. of Oldwick, N.J. Original tales and sketches written under his own name and pseudonyms. Mounted clippings from Warren and Hunterdon County newspapers, c. 1854-1911. 2 vols. (Gift of Mrs. William H. Stryker.)

DARNALL, Joseph R. "Carl Rogers Darnall, M.D. (1867-1941), a biographical sketch by his son. Photo-copy, 5p. (Gift of the author.)

SCHELKOPF, Ronald M. "Samuel D. Ingham Family", photocopy of article in Michigan Heritage, Winter, 1966. (Gift of the author)

FAMILY BIBLE RECORDS

STIRES, John (1784-1851) and Sarah (1784-1851) (Gift of K.H. Bamber.)

SMITH, John H. (d. 1891) and Mary Trimmer (d. 1896)

TRIMMER FAMILY RECORD, 1 sheet, ms. (Gifts of Howard S. Sutphin, Trenton, N.J.)

SMITH, Mahlon, of Copper Hill, N.J. Records children's births c.1850) (Gift of Mrs. Hannah Dial, Trenton, N.J.)

PHOTOGRAPHS

SUTTERS MILL, California. 3 color slides. (Gift of Albert M. Reading, Stanton, N.J.)

MAHLON FISHER BUILDINGS AND HOUSES, Flemington, N.J. 9 color slides. (Gift of Mrs. Albert E. Bloomquist, Ringoes, N.J.)