



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

VOL. 4, NO. 1

Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

SPRING, 1968

Revolutionary General

Frelinghuysen

Topic of May Meeting

Frederick Frelinguysen, "Raritan's Revolutionary Rebel" will be the topic of the Spring Meeting of the Society, Saturday, May 25 at 2 p.m. in the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church Parish House, Grandin.

H. Kels Swan of South Bound Brook, the speaker, is historian of the Revolutionary Memorial Society and secretary of the Somerset Historical Society. He is author of "Raritan's Revolutionary Rebel: Frederick Frelinghuysen, Fatherless Protege of Dirck Middagh", a publication of the Frelinghuysen Chapter, D.A.R. Somerville, N. J.

Major General Frelinghuysen began his military career in 1775 as a captain of Somerset County "Minute Men". As a volunteer in the N. J. State Troops, he was with Washington in the retreat across the Delaware. He commanded militia detachments from New Jersey counties and became a colonel and later, major general. He retired from military service in 1794.

Preceding the meeting, a complete beef dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. in the Church basement by the Ladies of the Church.

DINNER RESERVATIONS: accompanied by a \$2.50 check payable to the Historical Society should be mailed to Mrs. Frederick Stothoff, R.D. 5, Flemington, N.J., by Monday, May 20.

BETHLEHEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: organized 1730. In the picturesque old cemetery are the graves of Revolutionary War heroes

Fractional Currency Exhibition

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY from his collection will be exhibited by Charles T. Deats at the Spring Meeting. A paper telling of the steps leading to the issuance of fractional currency due to difficulties in maintaining ample supplies of fractional denominations will be distributed at the meeting.

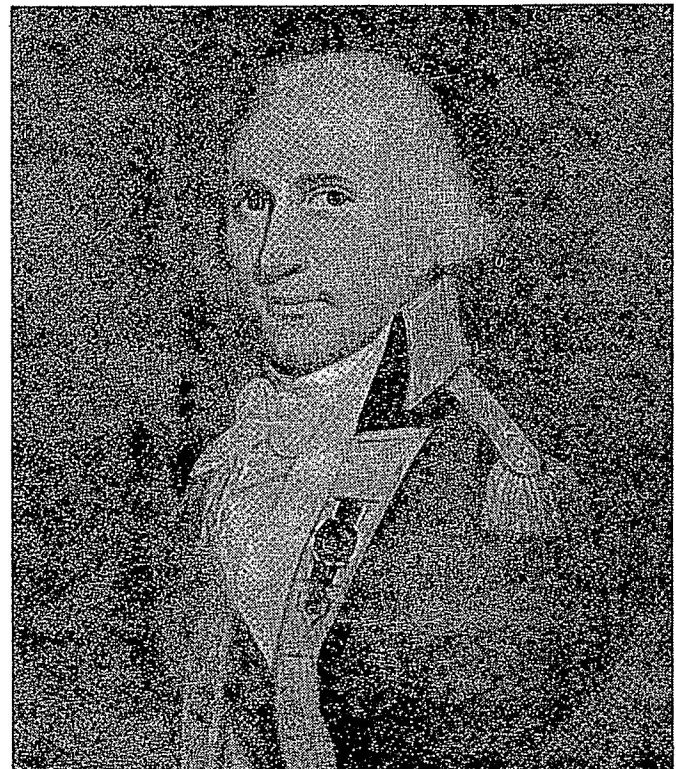
SPRING MEETING

Saturday, May 25, at 2 p.m.

BETHLEHEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
GRANDIN
Route 513, between Clinton and Pittstown

DINNER: 12:30 p.m. By Reservation.

Captain Jacob Johnson and Colonel Charles Stewart, and members of the Leigh, Bonnell, Taylor, Coxe, Wilson and Runyon families. Come early and browse around the church and burying ground.



Major General Frelinghuysen, painted ca. 1795-1800, by an unknown artist.

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 AND THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY

Progress Report

Our membership growth is most encouraging. However, out of state memberships increase more rapidly than memberships of Hunterdon County residents. We need greater local support!

Excellent service provided by the Genealogical Committee: Mrs. Ray C. Wilson, Frank E. Burd and Edwin Huff, Jr. has resulted in financial support and memberships from distant states.

Our Library has added many new books and other items by gift and purchase. We now have a copy of Snell's "Warren and Sussex". Our book binding program is progressing satisfactorily as funds are made available.

We badly need a good photocopying machine to expedite genealogical correspondence as well as an air conditioner for the summer months when our library is unbearably hot. Improved lighting is also needed.

Additional space, however, continues to our greatest need and the prospects for even a temporary solution seem very dim. Lack of space handicaps our library researchers and prevents

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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us from utilizing the full extent of our reference collection.

A temporary solution seems as remote at present as that distant day when we may have sufficient means to acquire our own building.

Unpublished

Cemetery Inscriptions

QUICK and VAN LIEW FAMILIES

On Farm of J.H. Voorhees, at Van Liew's Corner, East Amwell Township. About 25 by 40 feet. Copied Nov. 5, 1922 by Theodore Bellis and Hiram E. Deats.

- Quick, Abigail, dr. A.&R. July 16, 1823, in 20th yr.
- Quick, Abraham. Aug. 31, 1822. In 43rd yr.
- Quick, Jacob. Sept. 15, 1800. 86 yrs.
- Quick, Jacob. Nov. 7, 1816. 67 yrs.
- Quick, Jane, dr. A.&R. Apr. 17, 1823. In 8th yr.
- Quick, Jerusha. Mar. 1, 1822. 75 yrs.
- Quick, Mary, dr. A.&R. Oct. 19, 1831. 14th yr.
- Quick, Permelia. See: VAN LIEW.
- Quick, Rachel. Wf. Abraham. Dec. 26, 1863. 87th yr.
- Van Liew, Permelia Quick. Wf. Richard, Dec. 14, 1805-May 9, 1887.
- Van Liew, Richard. Jan. 1, 1880. 64-10-14.
- Van Liew, Theo. H., son A.Q. & Catharine, Oct. 7, 1871. 4-9-24.

RITTENHOUSE BURYING GROUND, near Prallsville, Stockton, N.J.

Copied Aug. 2, 1917, by Egbert T. Bush and Hiram E. Deats.

- Bake, John. Dec. 9, 1826. 47-0-2
- Cavanagh, Ann, wf. John. Dec. 24, 1810. 20-6-4.
- Cavanagh, Hannah, wf. John. Feb. 24, 1814. 22-10-5.
- D-----, H.R. May 9, 1798.
- H-----, A. Sept. 29, 1820. 86-0-2.
- H-----, M.
- Lambert, "In memory of Jacob and Leah Lamson, born Jan. 15, 1815 and died same day."
- R-----, A. Sept. 23, 1823. 69 yrs.
- R-----, C. 1778
- R-----, S. (Two stones, same initial).
- R-----, W. 1767
- Rittenhouse, P. 1720-1791.
- Rittenhouse, P., son Elisha & Isabel, 1798-1804.
- Rittenhouse, Sarah, wid. Peter. May 16, 1811. 76th yr.
- Rittenhouse, Stachys. Apr. 11, 1827. In 22nd yr.
- I W D C D C 1732.

Last Primitive Houses

LAST PRIMITIVE HOUSES NEAR HOWELL'S FERRY. (Stockton, N.J.). By Dr. George H. Larison (1831-92). A Paper probably read in the 1880 era before the Hunterdon County Historical Society and presumably not heretofore published. (Edited for publication from original MS.)

In order to come to some conclusions of the primitive houses once erected in the clearings scattered over our County, I refer directly to those yet standing as samples near Howell's Ferry as late as 1830 and some after 1840, all of which were doubtless much over 100 years old.

On the Jersey bank of the Delaware, on the west side of the road leading to the old ferry stood a log house about 20 feet square, one story high, on lands of John S. Wilson, demolished about 1837. Built of logs, covered with shingles, it had a door in front with a small window front and back. Probably erected as early as 120 years before, it perhaps dated back to 1715 or 1720.

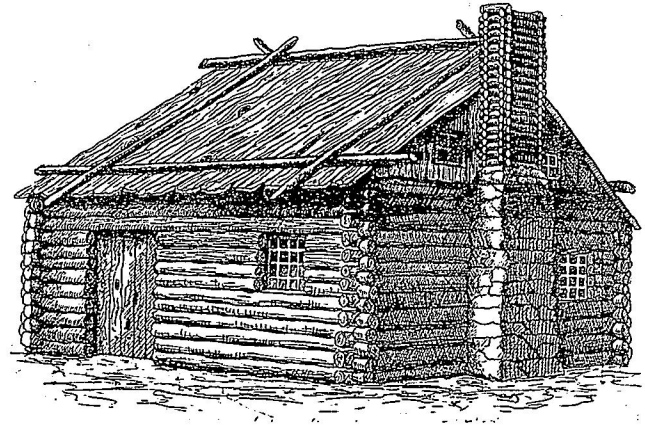
On the west side of the creek half a mile east of this cabin about 200 yards from the river at Brookville stood a log house about the same size which was demolished about the same time as the other.

On a bluff over-looking the river on the west side of this creek known as "Pincushion Hill" was another primitive cabin. John Clawson, its last inhabitant, lived there as late as January, 1841. It was demolished shortly thereafter.

Up the same creek, or "Butterfosses Hollow" one-half mile stood another loghouse of the same size and structure. It was occupied as late as 1838 by Ezekiel Everitt, a mason by trade, who replaced it with a stone structure.

The largest log house to survive until about 1840 was on Jacob Howell's farm, one mile north of the Ferry, on a branch of the creek which joins the Delaware at Prallsville. Mrs. Lambert T. Warman is the present landowner. The old log house stood about 50 feet in front of the present dwelling. It was demolished shortly after Jacob Howell's death in 1840. It is not known if this house was used as a dwelling after 1820. Later it was a carpenter shop. It was 35 feet long, 20 feet wide, one story in height with a front door and a small window each side of it, with another door in the opposite side. From all appearances this house was over 100 years old. The fireplaces of all these houses were built on the inside of stone with clay mortar.

On the lands of the late Benjamin Bodine (died 1875, Ed. note) half a mile south of the large Howell cabin, at the top of the river hill, one mile on the road from the Ferry to Flem-



ington, was a more modern cabin as the logs were hewn and square joined close together making a neater structure. Additions were added in later years and the logs covered with weather boards. Taken down in 1849, it was replaced by the large stone house now occupied by S. Reading Bodine. (ca. 1880, ? Ed. Note)

At the foot of Cut Hill, better known as "Bordentown", a similar log house stood until about 1843.

The last of these primitive log houses erected in these early clearings was still standing after 1860 on the north side of the road between the Ferry and Butterfosses Hollow. Until about 1865 it was tenanted by William Swezey.

To all appearances this house had been built about 1750 as the doors and windows were larger and unlike the earlier structures, had a second story.

These primitive houses built of logs knotted at the ends, were laid up like a crib. Other logs were later split into small pieces and pinned into the crevices which were then filled with clay mortar to even up the insides, and plastered over again with clay.

Before saw mills were erected in the area, floors were made of halved logs, split side up, and hewn with a broad axe to make a smooth floor.

Rooms were partitioned off when wanted by a rope drawn tightly and a curtain attached to it. These primitive houses had no cellars and none were more than a story high. The logs were of uniform size and length and projected at the corners of these houses about 6 to 8 inches beyond the notch cut in at each end, both to fasten the logs and to cause them to lay close together. The logs usually used were oak saplings about 8 to 10 inches in diameter.

Doors were always hung on wooden hinges and latched with a wooden latch lifted by a string fastened to the latch which ran through a hole in the door. The latch string

when pulled lifted the latch and unfastened the door. Doors in the early days were made of split timber and dressed down to suit.

Barns were built in the same manner as cabins and some were seen standing as long as the primitive houses.

As early as 1750 these primitive log houses began to be replaced by good commodious structures of a larger size. A few are still standing (ca. 1880? Ed. Note) and many were taken down early in the present and up to the middle of this century when they began to be replaced by stone structures of a larger size. These new stone houses were usually 36 to 40 feet long and 20 to 24 feet wide laid up with clay mortar and pointed with lime and sand in broad style and plastered inside with clay mortar and whitewashed with lime. Nearly all these houses were built 1 1/2 stories high with rooms above and below with cellars underneath the whole building. More and larger windows were used and joists were large and hewn. Floors were of heavy sawed boards, usually of oak or yellow pine.

Fireplaces were built in each room for household heating.

George Wilson built one of these houses in 1755 on the farm now occupied by John S. Larison (Ed. Note, ca. 1880) about a mile east of the Ferry. It was demolished in 1845. On an adjoining farm to the north of this house Albertus Ringoes built another in 1760 which was demolished in 1847. Another house similar to these is still standing (Ed. Note, ca. 1880) about 500 yards from the Ferry landing on the hill just above Clark Hunts.

Some improvements were found in the earlier log houses built after the primitive era. About 1740 and later, hewn logs with square corners were used and after the erection of local saw mills, these log houses were covered with boards and to the casual passerby would be taken for a more modern frame house.

All these early houses were warm in winter. Fire was kept up on the large cooking hearths with plenty of the best wood of those days. Each householder lived almost independent of all others as each one raised his own products and built his own house.

In these crude buildings were raised that generation of men that made up the Continental Congress and the American army which for about 8 years endured continual hardship in the war for our own American independence.

See SNELL, J.P. History of Hunterdon and Somerset. Phila., 1881. Stockton, p. 375; Prallsville, p. 376; Brookville, p. 377. ROBESON, Elmer. The Centre Bridge (Stockton, N. J.) Flemington: 1928. 10p. \$2.00 from the HCHS.



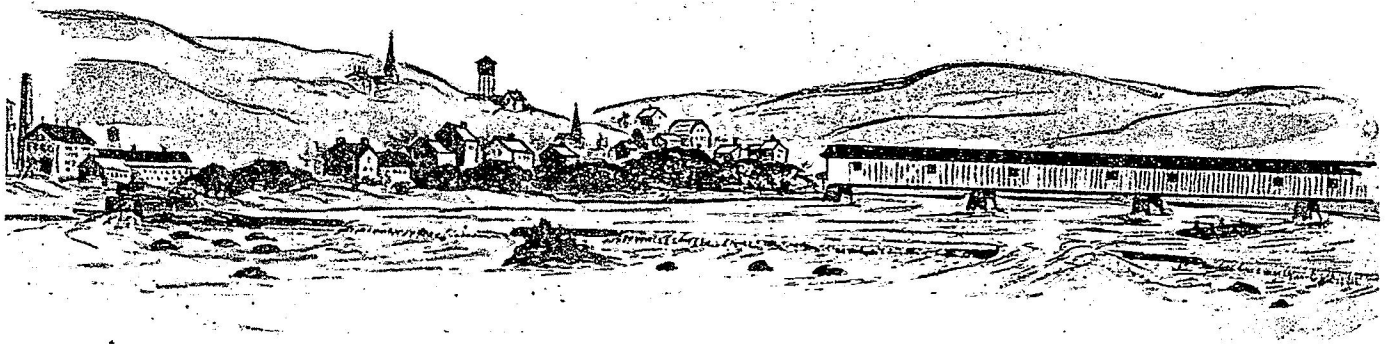
Portrait thought to be of Samuel Stryker, the first donor to establish the Lambertville Public Library in 1882. Long unidentified this portrait is being researched by two of our members: Emily Nordfeldt and Henrietta Van Sickle, of Lambertville.

The artist is believed to have been William Bonnell of Clinton; early Hunterdon portrait painter.

Recently restored by Marie Williams of Stockton, the painting is a very good example of Bonnell's type of portrait work.

For Sale Sales tax-add 3% Postage add 10¢

LARISON, Cornelius W. The Ancient Village of Amwell. 1955. 22 p.	\$1.00
MOTT, Ed. S. First Century of Hunterdon Co. 1967, 60p. illus.	\$4.00
DEATS, Hiram E. Hunterdon Co. Militia, 1792-1936, 10p.	\$1.50
Deats: Marriage records of Hunterdon Co., 1795-1875, unbound, 337p.	\$7.50
Deats: Tombstone inscriptions from Hunterdon cemeteries, 72p. unbd.	\$5.00



The Delaware Canal: A Picture Story

New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1967. xv, 112 p. Illus., maps, diagrams. (Available from the Hunterdon County Historical Society, \$7.50).

The old Delaware Canal quietly flows through 60 miles of peaceful landscape not far from this country's most densely populated and heavily industrialized area. Completed in 1831, principally to bring Pennsylvania's coal and other products to coastal markets, it was one of the earliest of the great American commercial arteries.

Twenty years ago New Hope artist Robert J. McClellan, who had no intention of becoming a writer, set out to paint a picture series celebrating the Canal's peak years (1850-1900). Facts were scarce and he found in checking the remaining locks, gates, barges, cable cross-

ings, aqueducts, bridges, and other details of operation that his best sources of information were the surviving bargemen and lock tenders, and their children who had grown up on the Canal, many of whom still live on its banks.

With remarkable memories, and eager to talk, these men and women not only contributed missing data, but recounted amusing anecdotes about canallers. The result is the only book of its kind, beautifully illustrated, complete drawings detailing the mechanics of barge operation as it was almost a century ago, in addition to typical Canal scenes and portraits of the surviving bargemen.

Chapters on the history of the Canal, an imaginary barge trip from Easton to Bristol, and life on the Canal are included in the book as well as a glossary of canal boat terms, a sampling of the schedules and rates, maps, both early and modern, and other documents and correspondence.

This book can be used for identification purposes, as the Canal has been considerably restored and further restoration is in progress. The 60 mile Canal today is one of Pennsylvania's most delightful and best known State Parks.

New Members as of April 4, 1968

- Mrs. C.W. Apgar, High Bridge, N.J.
- Mrs. Curtis Benton, Tifton, Ga.
- Robert Laning Clifford, Princeton, N.J.
- Harriet M. Conover, Clinton, N.J.
- Mrs. Raymond W. David, Lemon Grove, Cal.
- Mrs. C.T. Dodson, Austin, Texas
- Mrs. Robert E. Hulsizer, Springfield, Ohio
- *Hunterdon Co. National Bank, Flem., N.J.
- Rear Adm. Caleb B. Laning, Falls Church, Va.
- Mrs. Myrtle Sharp Lewis, Audubon, N.J.
- Warren Little, Stockton, Cal.
- Mrs. Joseph Patocka, Flemington, N.J.
- Mrs. Gerald Price, Concordia, Kansas
- Mrs. Jack Ringo, Berkeley Hts., N.J.
- Mrs. Nellie R. Sharp, Audubon, N.J.
- Mrs. W. B. Terribery, Hampton, N.J.
- *Charles H. Tatcher, Los Angeles, Cal.
- Théodore W. Bozarth, Titusville, N.J.

* Contributing.

Mrs. Frederick S. Stothoff, Membership Chairman, reports that there are now 312 members in the Society.

HUNTERDON MARRIAGES 1876-1900

Compiled by

FRANK E. BURD

(Hunterdon County Historical Society Vice President)

A record of 10,000 names of Hunterdon residents with the date of their marriage and name of the officiating clergyman or magistrate. Weekly installments, will appear, beginning in May, in *The LAMBERTVILLE, N.J. BEACON*. (Annual subscription \$4.50 directly from the Publisher.)

Notes & Queries

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

- VAN CAMPEN: A.P.S. Sweet, 41 Old Post Road, Fairport, N.Y. Wanted: data on Major Moses Van Campen, Revolutionary Rifle Ranger. (4-1-1)
- BRITTON: Jean B. Richter, 400 East 58th St., NYC. Parents of Anne Britton (?), w. of Emanuel de Belleville, m. Hunterdon County, Jan. 10, 1780. (4-1-2)
- PICKLE: Mrs. E.T. Langlois, 5231 Brook Bank Road, Downers Grove, Ill. Is Mathias Pickle (d. Hunterdon Co., 1819) same as Mathias Pickle, pension applicant of Morris County, 1833? (4-1-3)
- BUTTERFOSS-HOLCOMBE: Mrs. Robert Guyton, 506-28 3/4 Road, Grand Junction, Cal. Wanted: Parents of Catherine Butterfoss, (1785-1851) wife of George Holcombe (1781-1855). (4-1-4)
- LEWIS: Mrs. Ben A. Fich, Kelley, Iowa. Parents and birth record of Samuel Lewis, b. N.J. Jan. 22, 1800. (4-1-5)
- STEVENSON: Mrs. Curtis Benton, 201 Fulwood Blvd., Tifton, Ga. Was Grace Stevenson, who m. James Iliff Sept. 5, 1797, the dau. of Samuel Stevenson who d. 1811. (4-1-6)
- COLE: Miss Catherine A. Reinard, 335 Jefferson St., Bloomsbury, Pa. Information on Ezekiel Cole and his 1st wife, Rebecca Coleman. He was son of Benjamin and Gertrude Corson Cole, b. Readington, N.J. May 24, 1756. (4-1-7)
- APGAR: Mrs. Lyman C. Willard RD 1, Red Bluff, Cal. Ancestry of Louisa Apgar, b. Sept. 14, 1837, dau. of Peter Apgar, who m. Aaron Hoffman. (4-1-8)
- WESTBROOKE: William E. Westbrooke, 2101 40th Ave., San Francisco, Cal. Do Readington Dutch Reformed Church records contain Westbrooke family entries? (4-1-9)
- JENNINGS: Dave W. De Money, 214 East Jack-St., Columbia City, Ind. Information about Jonathan Jennings, 1st Governor of Indiana, b. 1784 in Hunterdon County. (4-1-10)
- LIVINGSTON: Marion D. Neece, 13719 Sylvan St., Van Nuys, Cal. Wanted: Family records of William Livingston, Gov. of N.J. 1776-90) and data on Niel Livingston, Hunterdon County property owner in 1754. (4-1-11)
- JOHNSON: T.W. Bozarth, RD 2, Titusville, N.J. Data on Asher Johnson who built part of the present Stockton Inn. (4-1-12)
- FRITTS-WATERS-LOMERSON-JOHNSTON-ABEL: F.B. Emery, 1519 Highland Drive, Concordia, Kansas invites correspondence on these Hunterdon families. (4-1-13)

Recent Acquisitions

MANUSCRIPTS:

- ACCOUNT BOOK: Postmaster, Frenchtown, N.J. (1867-1888) Gift of Paul Cronce, P.M.)
- GENEALOGICAL TYPESCRIPTS: Descendants of Johannes Stires. By Alfred B. Justice. (Gift of Edward J. Fisher, Philadelphia, Pa.)

BOOKS:

- Sinclair, D.A. Bibliography of the Civil War. New Brunswick: c. 1968. 186p. (Gift of the author)
- N.J. Library Assoc. New Jersey and the Negro, a bibliography, 1715-1966 Trenton: 1967. 196p. (Purchase)
- Sandy Ridge Baptist Church. Sesquicentennial, 1818-1966. (Gift of the Pastor)
- St. John's R.C. Church, Lambertville, N.J. 125th anniversary book. (Gift of the Church)
- McCosker, M.J. Historical collection of Insurance Company of North America. Phila.: 1967. 213p. (Gift of the Company)
- Jago, Frederick W. 12th N.J. Volunteers (1862-65) Woodbury, N.J.: 1967-?) Gift of the Gloucester County Historical Society)
- Reading, Ada. Our first 100 years (1867-1967). The Stockton, N.J. Presbyterian Church. (Gift of the author)
- Newman, Eric P. Early paper money of America. Racine, Wisc. c. 1967) (Gift of William Brown, Jr., Lambertville, N.J.)
- National Hist. Pub. Commission: Writings on American History, 1968. (Gift of the Commission)
- Mathews, Prich. Delaware Valley historic guide book. Whitehouse: c.1965. 2 copies. (Gift of R.P. Van Culin, Pottersville, N.J.)
- Hunterdon County Planning Board. Master Plan 3: Natural characteristics. (Historic Sites, pp. 53-66, no. 1-45.) Gift of the Commission)
- Stevenson-Iliff family records: 5 typewritten pp. of data. Gift of Mrs. Curtis Benton, Tifton, Ga.
- Westbrooke, Wm. E. Ancestry and family of Johannes Westbrook of Ohio. Typewritten. (Gift of the author.)
- Lanning-Holcombe genealogy. Typewritten. Compiled and given by Robert Laning Clifford.
- MARRIAGE RECORD: James Iliff and Grace Stevenson, Sept. 5, 1797.) Gift of Mrs. Curtis Benton)
- PHOTOGRAPHS: Tombstones of Mahlon Fisher (1810-74) and his wife, Mary A. Stires, (1811-73) Gift of Edward J. Fisher, Phila., Pa.