



# Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

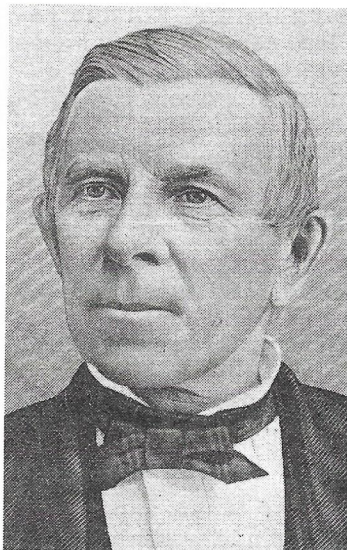
VOL. 2, NO. 3

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WINTER, 1966

## Hunterdon's Architectural Heritage Topic Of January Meeting

Hunterdon's diminishing heritage of historic and architecturally notable buildings documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey will be discussed by two noted architectural historians at our January meeting.



**Mahlon Fisher  
(1810-1874)**

Flemington's Hopewell house is described in Mr. Maas' book as "an Italian stone villa . . . translated into wood".

"Nineteenth Century Townscape" will be Mr. Maas' topic.

The importance of preservation of architecturally notable buildings which give a town its distinctive character will be stressed.

\*Members of the Society will recall Mrs. Albert E. Bloomquist's delightful paper: "Mahlon Fisher, Flemington carpenter, a provincial genius" which was presented at one of our previous meetings.

John D. Milner of Philadelphia will discuss the work of Mahlon Fisher\*.

In 1963 Mr. Milner was employed by the National Park Service to document Flemington's rich heritage of Greek Revival buildings.

Co-speaker, John Maas, is Visual Presentation Director of the City of Philadelphia, author of "The Gingerbread Age" (NY: Rineheart, 1957), an appreciative study of Victorian architecture.

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
 Sunday, January 15, at 2 p.m.  
**FLEMINGTON METHODIST CHURCH**  
 2 Maple Ave., Flemington, N. J.  
 Talks—Slides—Refreshments

## Society's Microfilm Library Founded

An anonymous gift of \$350.00 toward the purchase of microfilm copies of historical research material and for the acquisition of a microfilm reader have been gratefully acknowledged by the Trustees.

Under "Recent Acquisitions" are listed 6 reels of microfilmed records, another recent gift, which are a valuable addition to our research material.

We welcome such additions to our library and hope shortly to acquire by gift or purchase, copies of the early Hunterdon census records.

**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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## 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.

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A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY

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## 1966 a Year of Progress

Your Society has made memorable progress this year:

Many new members have been added to our roll. The total is now 273.

Books, manuscripts and objects have been given to our collection; our Family Bible Collection continues to grow.

The \$1,000 Moreau Bequest was received as well as Mrs. George Robinson's gift of \$500 and, more recently, an anonymous gift of \$350. was made to establish a microfilm library.

Our first publications book list, issued in October, has already netted several hundred dollars which will be used to finance new publications of Hunterdon local history material. The success of this venture was assured by the generous gift of several hundred copies of books printed by Hiram E. Deats which were given to the Society by his son, Charles T. Deats, our Vice-President.

The third printing of Mott's "First Century of Hunterdon" (1878) is at the printers and will soon be in print at \$4.00. The second printing is sold out.

We have initiated the acquisition of a large post card collection of old Hunterdon views. We welcome additions.

A photocopying machine was given to the Society and shortly we expect to have our microfilm reader in use.

A 75 year backlog of binding of our valuable early county newspapers is under way. A backlog of rebinding of damaged books is also in progress.

The support of the membership which has made this progress possible is gratefully acknowledged!

## Book Review

THE CALIFON STORY by Mrs. Helen Haggerty Geist, 1966. 8vo, 169p., 50 photos. \$3.00 available from the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

Many have wondered at the name "Califon". Some have even attempted to explain its origin without reference to (and perhaps without knowledge of) the earlier name, California, from which the present name was derived. Early in "The Califon Story" Mrs. Geist tells of one Jacob Neighbor, who fared well in the gold rush, and returned to his home and erected the mill and general store around which the village grew and prospered. The name "California" struck the fancy of the townspeople and was adopted in honor of their enterprising miller. For the reduction to its present, the reader may choose between two stories: one concerning two inebriated sign painters, the other about the railroad station signboard which was too short for the ten letters of the former name.

So the village was named Califon. "Interesting," you might say, "but trivial." What were the factors affecting its situation and development? Who were its people, and how did they keep pace with sociological and technological progress? More importantly, because of the broader application of such information, what were the details in the actual day-to-day life of the average townsman of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?

Mrs. Geist handles all of these aspects of village life in an interesting and warmly readable manner, and, in so doing, makes of Califon a microcosm of rural America.

Forty odd years ago, Freeman Leigh prepared his "Notes on Fairmount." With the "Califon Story," we have a complementary work which gives fairly complete coverage to that region of northeastern Hunterdon. How fortunate we are to have had two who were able to remember and to collect their history and traditions put them into permanent form.

In closing, we wonder if, had it not been for Jacob Neighbor, Mrs. Geist's title would have been The Peggy's Puddle Story.

N.C.W.

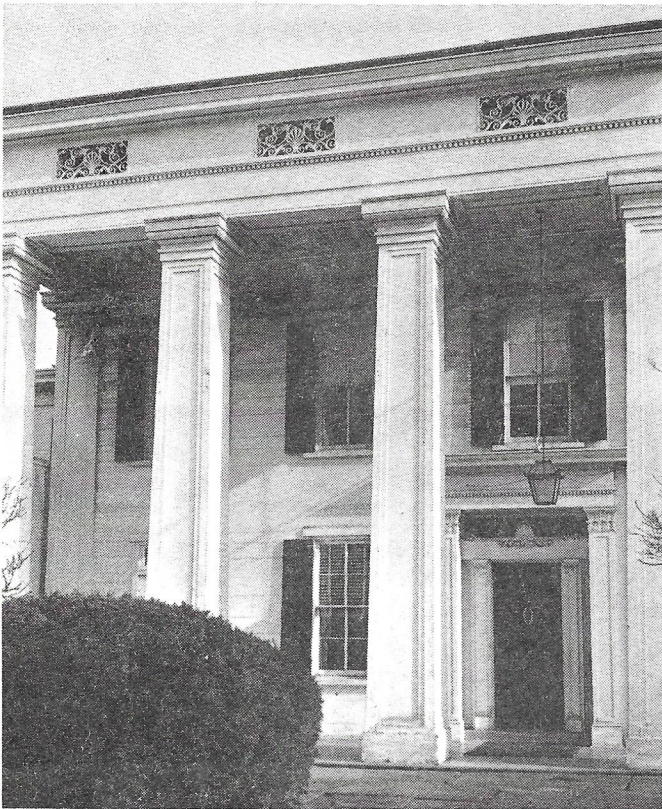




# FLEMINGTON'S ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

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"Mahlon Fisher (1810-1874), Flemington carpenter, A PROVINCIAL GENIUS"\*



## THE DORIC HOUSE

Fisher's home, built 1845-1846, 116 Main Street.

◀ Owned by Flemington Methodist Episcopal Church.

See Building Contract #32 in our Society Library.



## ▲ THE READING (LARGE) HOUSE 119 Main Street

Built for James N. Reading, c. 1847.

Present owner: Edwin K. Large

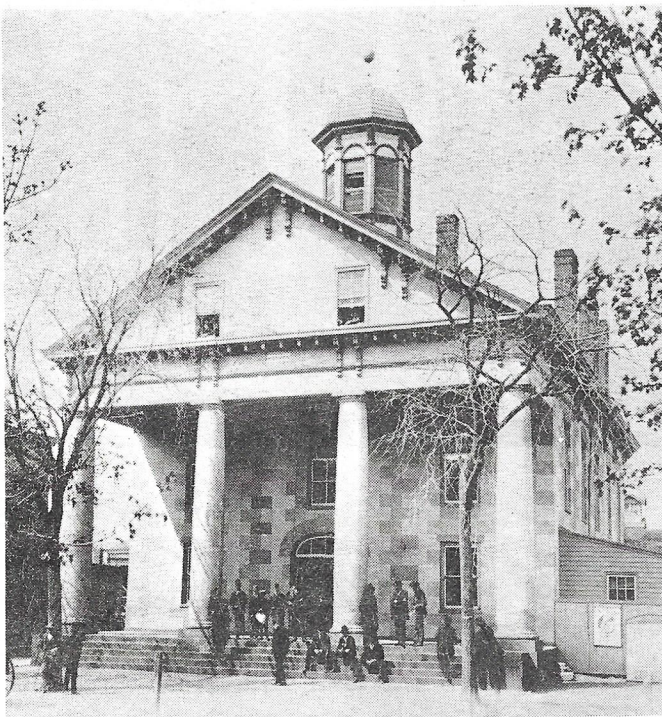
"One of the most elaborate of the Greek Revival dwellings. . .by Fisher" (Historic American Buildings Survey No. NJ-396)

In 1854 a masonry vault was constructed in the basement and it served as the first home of the "Hunterdon Bank".

## HUNTERDON COUNTY COURT HOUSE Main and Court Streets

◀ Erected in 1828, it is said to be Fisher's earliest work in the neo Greek style.

See building accounts in our Society Library.



\* Title of a paper by Mrs. Albert E. Bloomquist read before a meeting of the Hunterdon County Historical Society.





THE ALEXANDER WURTS LAW OFFICE  
59 Main Street

Owned by Hunterdon County.

Erected by Samuel S. Southard, in 1811: U.S. Senator, Governor of New Jersey and Secretary of the Navy.

Occupied 1817-1819 by Peter D. Vroom, later Governor of New Jersey. Also said to have been occupied by Nathaniel Saxton, noted Chancery reporter and author of Saxton's "Reports". Occupied by Alexander Wurts, 1820-1881. Occupied currently by County School Superintendent.

THE MERRITT COMPANY OFFICES  
21 Mine Street

Erected ? for ?; once the home of Richard S. Kuhl, Flemington lawyer.

Owned and occupied by the Merritt Company.



THE JOHN G. READING HOUSE  
151-153 Main Street

Erected c. 1845 for John G. Reading. Present owner: Alfred A. Dorf.

"A representative example of a Greek Revival double houses". (Historic American Buildings Survey No. NJ-731).



## Notes & Queries

- FRANCIS, Jacob (d.1836) Flemington Rev. War Veteran whose sons, Jacob and Abner H. were notable in Calif. and British Columbia history from 1850 onward. (J. Abajian, Librarian California Hist. Soc. San Francisco. 2-3-1
- EMERY FAMILY in N.J. and Hunterdon. (Dr. F.B. Emery, 1519 Highland Drive, Concordia, Kansas) 2-3-2
- PYATT, Rachel and Lewis Dunn marriage record info. Jay Thornall 74 Spear St., Metuchen, N.J.) 2-3-3
- YOUNG, Peter b. 1800-1810 who married Rachel Ables b. 1825-1830. (Donald L. Sprague, 1389 Monomy St., Aurora, Illinois) 2-3-4
- HIXON, Andrew of Amwell, whose dau. m. David Ott Servis; name of Andrew's father wanted. (Marquis E. Shattuck, 1815 Oak Drive, Detroit, Mich.) 2-3-5
- APGAR, Mahlon (1814-1832), son of Frederick (1753-1832, who m. Elizabeth Philhower. Names of descendants wanted (Mahlon Apgar IV, Gallatin B-32, Harvard Business School, Soldier's Field, Boston, Mass.) 2-3-6
- ELY, John b. Hunterdon Co. 1732 said to have married a Hutchinson in 1760. Info wanted by Mrs. Ray E. Cryder, Morris, Ill. 60450 2-3-7
- ALLEGER, Thomas (1782-1867) who m. Rebecca Cole (Daniel E. Alleger, RD 4, Gainesville, Fla.) 2-3-8
- BRAY, Andrew of Hunterdon. (Mrs. Don D. Kirk, 1226 Ferry Loop, Kennewick, Washington.) 2-3-9
- DE HART, William, Rev. War soldier, who m. Katie Voorhees (Mrs. Robert M. Libke 314 Spring St. Sparta, Wisc.) 2-3-10
- HARTLEY, Amos. gr. son of David and Mary Baker Howell (of Flemington) (Mrs. Elbert Ross, 31 Morland St., Holliston, Mass.) 2-3-11
- FLEMING, Samuel: wanted names of his sons and his descent. (Miss Sadie K. Flemings, 530 Green St., Royersford, Pa.) 2-3-12
- BRUNER, Peter family of c. 1775-80 (Mrs. C. H. Zerkle 411 8th Ave., St. Albans, West Va. 2-3-13

STATISTICS: There have been 22 visitors to the Library in Oct-Nov. or 160 since January. Mrs. Ray C. Wilson has answered 23 inquiries from 13 states in October and November.

## Wanted

An automatic slide projector for showing slides copied from old photographs in our collection for use by members filling speaking engagements on behalf of the Society.

## Recent Acquisitions

### MANUSCRIPTS:

McALOAN, Thomas of Raven Rock and Mary C. Heath of Rosemont. Marriage certificate, Nov. 18, 1876 (Gift of Gertrude Blair, Stockton, N.J.)

DEATS, Hiram (1810-1887) of Pittstown and Flemington, N.J. 7 boxes of personal and business papers, correspondence, etc. in connection with his business enterprises including manufacture of the Deats Plow. (Charles T. Deats, Plainfield, N.J.)

FLEMINGTON CHOIR SCHOOL record books 1899-1959 (Gift of Frederick S. Stothoff, Flemington, N.J.)

DEED: May 25, 1759 between John Child (and others) for West Jersey Society and John and Phillip Grandin, waterfall rights on South Branch of the Raritan. (J.R. Johnson, Clinton, N.J.)

MICROFILMS: Oldwick Zion Ev. Lutheran Church. 1749-1922 Records, accounts, baptisms, births, deaths, marriages, membership records etc. 3 reels TAX RATABLES: Hunterdon, Salem and Somerset Counties, N.J. 3 reels. (Anonymous Gift)

1760 FAMILY BIBLE: THATCHER FAMILY Amos Thatcher (1704-1798) and Lydia; Job and Rebekah Thatcher; Josiah Prall and Sarah Thatcher. (Hugh N. Thatcher, Flemington, N.J.) BOOKS: Genealogical research: a guide to source materials in the Archives and History Bureau, N.J. State Library, July: 1966. (N.J. State Library, Trenton, N.J.)

THE BARRETT FAMILY (1966-?) 119 leaves, mimeo. (From the author, Dr. Frederick Barrett Emery, Concordia, Kansas)

WESCOTT, Glenway. Images of Truth (NY:c. 1962) for "Hunterdon Authors Collection" (From B.A. Sorby)

### PHOTOGRAPHS:

480 post card views of old Lambertville scenes (From George Kline, Lambertville, N.J.)



## Welcome New Members

Benjamin F. Dewey, LeRoy, N.Y.  
 Dr. F.B. Emery, Concordia, Kansas  
 Mrs. Helen H. Geist, Califon.  
 Mrs. Melville Godley, Flemington.  
 John R. Inscho (Student) Clinton.  
 Mrs. James R. Johnson, Clinton.



## The Johnson Family Cemetery

On the Lloyd Wescott farm, near Rosemont.  
(75 by 125 feet, enclosed by a stone wall.)  
COPIED BY EGBERT T. BUSH, October, 1917.

Formerly owned by Gardiner Johnson and previously by his father William Johnson who received it by the will of Martin Johnson. "Originally known as the Reading burying ground". (Snell, p. 384)

### JOHNSON FAMILY BURIALS

Asher, July 27, 1884

Charles, s. Asher & Mary A., Apr. 5, 1848.

I.F., s. Asher & Mary A. Jan. 15, 1846, 14 days.

(infant) s. A. & M. A. no date.

Joseph, s. Asher & Mary A. Co. K, 15th Regt. N.J. d. at Baltimore, Md. Hospital Dec. 8, 1864.

Mary Ann, wife Asher. April 16, 1881.

Mary Hannah, d. Asher & Mary A. July 16, 1843. 16 months, 4 days.

(infant) s. Elias & Sarah S. . no date.

KUGLER, Lucy, wife of William, Sept. 27, 1847

### OPDYCKE FAMILY BURIALS

Amy, Sept. 3, 1858.

Amy, d. of Joseph R. & Sarah, Jan. 1, 1841-July 27, 1843.

George, 5 weeks.

George, Dec. 31, 1831, 54 years.

Nancy, d. George & Amy, June 1, 1828.

Margaret, d. Joseph R. & Sarah, Jan. 1, 1841-July 13, 1843.

Theodocia, d. George & Amy Reading, Nov. 21, 1818-June 30, 1901.

### READING FAMILY BURIALS

Ann, March 28, 1843. 58 years.

Elisha E., Aug. 18, 1821. 49 years.

Elisha Emley, son of George J. & Eliza T. Sept. 13, 1847.

Elizabeth Sergeant, w. William. 1793-1873.

Hannah S., wife Charle S. March 21, 1845. 26 years.

John, (stone down) Nov. 12, 1871. 82 years.

Joseph, March 11, 1810. 50 years.

Lucy, Aug. 5, 1831. 69 years.

Martha, wife John. April 25, 1883.

William, April 22, 1831.

RITTENHOUSE, Hannah Reading, wife of Edmund, May 19, 1794-Sept. 11, 1854.

ROMINE, George H., son of John R. & Lucy, Jan. 16, 1856.

ROMINE, Lucy, wife of John, Feb. 14, 1845. 35 years.

SERGEANT, Elizabeth (SEE: READING)

SERGEANT, Lowman, Apr. 21, 1852.

CHR-----, Ann (Stone broken) April 17, 1847. 90 years.



The joint meeting of the Lambertville and Hunterdon County Historical Societies on October 30 at Lambertville, to commemorate the State of New Jersey's acceptance of the boyhood home of California gold discoverer James Wilson Marshall was most successful: over 100 persons attended. Photo: Left to right: B.A. Sorby, Librarian, and Norman C. Wittwer, President, of the Hunterdon County Historical Society; speaker Jack Boucher, Head of the State's Historic Sites Department, and Mayor Harry Shepherd, Jr., President of the Lambertville Historical Society.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_