

Hunterdon Historical Record



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on the resumption of
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Township's oldest documented structure

New History Revealed in Franklin

By Philip Fleming

In researching his old stone house in Franklin Township "new historian" Philip Fleming uncovered three pieces of "new history." This article summarizes those findings, which are told in detail in his new book: 1729 – Pre-Revolutionary War – King's Mill.

New Fact 1: "a good stone dwelling house"

In 2018, King's Mill was recognized as a historical site, originally containing a grist/saw mill and a stone house.

As recently as 2000, the house was believed to have been built in 1845, but has been discovered to be much older. A 1769 advertisement in Benjamin Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette*, revealed that the original owner was Joseph King Sr., who bought 954 acres of property in 1729 and built a grist/saw mill and house.

My research on the property's history prompted Society member Peter Kinsella to suggest a historical marker for the site; Lora Jones, Franklin Township Historian, secured the Township's authorization to place the marker. Lora also established that the stone house is the Township's oldest documented structure.

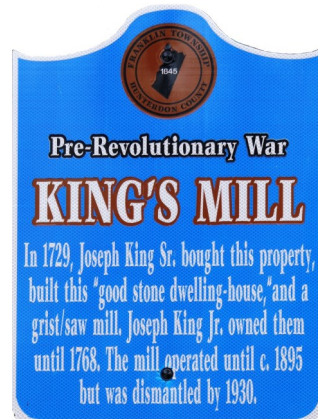
Referring to the marker, someone wryly asks: "Did George Washington sleep here?" The answer surprises them: "No. He hadn't been born yet." Washington was born in 1732. The house has history.

As a child, Society Trustee Richard "Dick" Stothoff remembered seeing an early oil painting owned by his father that portrayed the house at an early date. Remarkably, after a long search, Dick found the lost painting and it was photographed, as seen here.

Research revealed that it was painted ca. 1848 by an itinerant artist, John C. Tanner. The painting portrays the family of Peter Riesel Young and how the house looked over 170 years ago. How different is it now, from the time it was first built? If Joseph King Sr. or Peter Young were standing outside of it today they would regard it as largely unchanged. They would note, however, that it is no longer clad with white lime stucco, prized in their day.

During the 1930s, Samuel Stothoff Sr., dismantled the mill and restored the house. Fortunately, he and all subsequent owners have respected it with an eye towards historic preservation. Subtle conversions for modern conveniences have not compromised the character of the original house: it still has its large fireplace and cooking crane, its stately curved staircase, its original (age-worn) window sills inset in its 18-inch thick walls, and scenic views of the South Branch of the Raritan River from the top floor rooms, to name a few features.

A stone house has its own special, aesthetic appeal. There is something special about sitting in a comfortable chair, in front of a fire, and reading a book in a parlor that is almost 300 years old. Perhaps as many as ten generations have lived in the house



Historical marker



Oil painting of King's Mill property, ca. 1848.

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Acquisitions**Artifacts and documents about Hunterdon's history are always welcome.**

Antracoli, Alexis. Collection of Correspondence (41 letters) of the Craig-Kline Family of New Germantown and Clinton, NJ, 1860-1875, all incoming to Sarah "Sallie" E. Craig, later Sarah E. Kline.

Bushnell, Judith R. 1 Scrapbook: Old Higgins School Scrapbook, including news clippings, photographs, and notices, ca. 1894-1985.

Case, Stephen H. Wooden radio set custom built in the early 1920s by Horace Brokaw for Edwin Case, donor's father.

Chianese, Michael. Lindy, The New Flying Card Game. Created by Parker Bros. Salem, Mass., 1927.

Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum. A group of farm notebooks, account books, and scrapbooks, as follows: 65 notebooks of Paul L. Holcombe, Lambertville, NJ, Beekeeper and Deputy Bee Inspector for NJ, ca. 1934-1963; Account Book, unknown, ca. 1889-1929; oversized scrapbook of photographs, records, and news clippings of the Holcombe family, Lambertville, NJ, ca. 1850-1940; 1 farm account book of Robert M. Manners, R.D. 1, Ringoes, NJ, 1943; a pamphlet, "Marihuana: Its Identification." US Treasury Department, Bureau of Narcotics, July, 1938, and accompanying glass enclosed botanical specimen; a day book of an unidentified business or farm, 1/1916-7/1917; a collection of pages from a scrapbook by D.C.R. Huff in ca. 1880, and loose papers from another scrapbook made ca. 1889; a photographic album, Christmas Present to Mrs. Barber from Mrs. Rusling, 1879; Day Books, Account Journals, and ephemera of George H. Barber, Trenton, NJ, ca. 1885-1900; and a collection of original agricultural newspapers, 1849-1906.

Huff, Peter. Combined donation of museum objects and archival materials, as follows: Afghan crocheted with Afghan hook, monogrammed C. E. Williamson; framed signature sampler square (album) with 65 Hunterdon County surnames; background information concerning Mary Rodenbock, "Hunterdon County Professional Quilter" (including subjects of album quilt, wedding quilt for Rachel Ann Case), color photographs from a Reaville exhibit on Mary Rodenbock's work, and index cards on family members; black and white photographs and portraits of individuals and buildings, some captioned with subject and photographer; a set of 5x7 glass plate negatives.



Afghan described at right.

Lentine, Debbie Manners. *The Village where the Manners family established its roots in America* / by Deborah Manners Lentine (2019). Gift of the author.

Robinson, Pamela. *The Whole World in His Hands: A Pictorial Biography of Paul Robeson*, by Susan Robeson (1981).

Society Book Purchases:

- ◇ *A Brief Account of the Descendants of Capt. Cornelius Van Horne, of White House, Hunterdon County, New Jersey* (1996 Reprint)
- ◇ *Along the Delaware River*, by Richard C. Albert and Carrie E. Albert (2002).
- ◇ *I Knew Them in Prison*, by Mary Belle Harris (1936). Autobiographical account of the experiences of the author as an institutional administrator at New York/New Jersey correctional institutions including the Clinton Farms, State Reformatory for Women, Clinton, NJ and the State Home for Girls, Trenton, NJ
- ◇ *More Grist Mills* (Warren County Chronicles, no. 12) by Frank Dale (2000).
- ◇ *New Jersey Women in World War II*, by Patricia Chappine (2015)
- ◇ *New Jersey Marriages as published in the Christian Intelligencer of the Reformed Dutch Church from 1830 to 1871, Vols. 1-2* (in one volume) (1997 Reprint).
- ◇ *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of New Jersey, 1914.*
- ◇ *Shippen Manor and the Village of Oxford: An Eighteenth-Century History*, Susan P. Morgan (1994).
- ◇ *200 years of Hope, New Jersey, 1769-1969: Observance June 27 and 28, 1969*, compiled by Hester Harris Hartung.

Sahyun Genealogy Library, Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. A Book: Fisher, Ben. Van D. "The Runkle Family, Being an Account of the Runkles in



Old Higgins School (1875-1895), Delaware Twp.

continued next page

Acquisitions continued

Europe, and Their Descendants in America." 1899. Also inclusions, 1 letter by book author (Fisher, Ben. Van D.) to cousin, 1899; photograph and notes concerning the Runkle House, n.d.

Stevens-Kagan, Nancy. 1 Scrapbook and 1 Folder: records, pamphlets, brochures, and news clippings concerning CHADCO (Child Advocacy Coalition of Hunterdon County), 1980-1985.

Verity, Joan. 2 scrapbook binders created by donor, including postcards, pamphlets, news clippings, bulletins, and photographs. Most relate to the Sergeantsville Methodist Church and the surrounding area, ca. 1938-2006.

Walters, Elaine. Photographs of Milford Elementary School, School students, some named, others unidentified, ca. 1944-1955; Milford School Bulletins (4): Vol. 5, No. 5 (1955); Vol. 7, No. 5 (1957); Vol. 8, No. 5 (1958); Vol. 12, No. 3 (1962).

Zeng, Tom. A collection of items, ca. 1933-1988 as follows: First Aid Scrapbook compiled by Wilda Holcombe; Books: *Early New Jersey* by Adaline P. Hagaman (1963); *New Jersey Geography and History* by Harley P. Milstead (1960); Holcombe Family programs; Hunterdon County and Flemington Agricultural Fair ephemera; and photographs: a school class photograph and an auction market photograph, undated.



Milford Elementary School students JoAnn DiMaggio, Michael Kratzer, and Rosemarie Dilello in a play, 1958.

THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Patricia Barber, Glen Gardner, NJ

Stephen Case & Margaret Ayres, Bethesda, MD

Robert & Dolores Ellwood, Phillipsburg, NJ
in memory of William Van Natta

Daryl Hoffman, Hampton, NJ

Margaret Hylan, Flemington, NJ

Peter & Linda Mahler, Newton, NJ

James Murray, Bridgewater, NJ

Chris Pickell, Pickell Architecture, Flemington, NJ,
in-kind service donation

Sherry Smith, Warrington, PA

Welcome, New Members

Susan Apgar, Ringoes NJ
Donald Case, Philadelphia, PA
Beverly Kirby-McDonough, Milford, NJ
David Peterson, Oldwick, NJ
Patricia Piretti, Flemington, NJ
Sharon Daye Rider, Flemington, NJ
Diane Weber, West Harrison, IN

Life Members

Patricia Christie, Lebanon, NJ
Floyd Saums, Flemington, NJ

CASE FAMILY QUILT DONATED TO SOCIETY

A **SIGNATURE QUILT** created c. 1874-76 for Joseph and Lucretia Case by family members has been donated to the Society for safe keeping by Lora L. Olsen and Dee E. Williamson, 2nd great granddaughters of the Cases.

Joseph and Lucretia married December 23, 1865. Lucretia was the daughter of Samuel Willson and Amanda Swallow; Joseph, the son of David and Susan E. Pierson Case of Ringoes, founding members of the Cherryville Baptist Church. The first Case family settlers in Hunterdon County came in 1738.

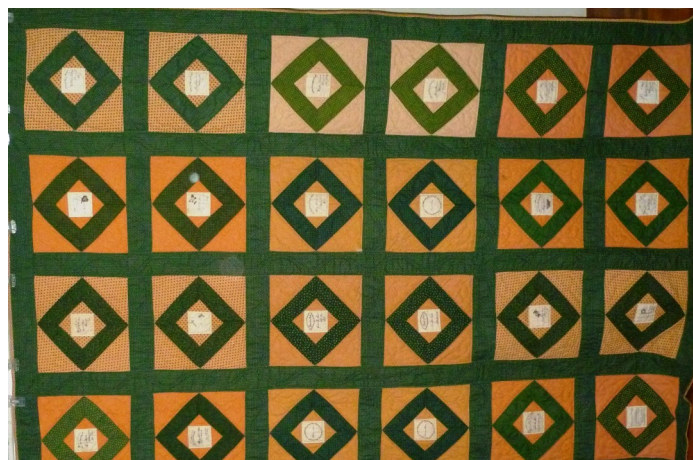
The quilt, which became a family heirloom, was most likely a departure gift when Joseph sold his blacksmith business in Cherryville in January of 1875 and moved his wife, son Willson, and daughter, Minerva, that spring to a farm he bought in Delaware Township from George and Elizabeth Young.

There are 30 squares in the quilt, all with an inspiring message, its maker's name, and the date completed, as in the sample seen here. Other messages include Do Good to All, Remember Me, and Trust in God. The "Framed Square" quilt pattern is deemed by one expert to be unique to the Case quilt—except there is another of the same design and using the same fabrics still in the Case family. It is believed that Mary Rodenbach, "Hunterdon County Professional Quilter," partially stitched that one and that Rachel Ann Case completed the job. Mary may have quilted the one now in the Society's collection; the fourth block in the third row is signed with her name.



Be Kind to All
Elizabeth Case
January 15, 1872.

A big, but still partial, view of the Joseph and Lucretia Case quilt, now in the Society's collection of more than 60 Hunterdon quilts.



The Deats/Thatcher Native American Collection Online

By Russ Lockwood

Dr. Greg Herman could be featured in a TV commercial for Apple Inc., for he completed an exhaustive photographic record of the Deats/Thatcher collection of Native American artifacts using an iPhone. With help from Mark Zdepski and Roger Stone, and facilitated by former Hunterdon County Historical Society (HCHS) Executive Director Pat Millen, he painstakingly photographed the original collection as it appeared circa 2017-2018 in multiple cabinets on the second floor of the Flemington Public Library.

Greg, a retired geologist and current faculty member at Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC), held an interest in Native American artifacts while growing up in Ohio. In 2016, while performing a geologic mapping survey roughly from Flemington to High Point, he recorded various Native American sites for his hobby of geo-archeology and photographed private collections of artifacts in the Hunterdon County area. Once aware of the Deats/Thatcher collection, he figured a photographic record might add to the knowledge base of archeologists and enthusiasts.

He and his group photographed the artifacts in each cabinet and created six down-loadable Portable Document Format (PDF) files—now available on the HCHS website. Each PDF contains about 40 to 50 pages, with each page holding multiple photos—some of the entire cabinets' contents and most of detailed close-ups of specific artifacts.

Deats/Thatcher Collection

Hiram E. Deats was an avid collector who obtained thousands of individual Native American items, many from beyond the borders of Hunterdon County. Flemington resident John Thatcher's collection added hundreds more items to an already impressive collection. Most remain on display at the Library, but some of the most fragile artifacts were removed for preservation to the climate-controlled storage of the Archives.

On the one hand, preservation is an important part of the Society's mission. On the other, artifacts in the Archive are not readily available for public viewing. Greg's online photographic record offers views of such artifacts and preserves the original display—a valuable time capsule in itself.

More Web Viewing

Yet Greg's cabinet photos form only part of HCHS's online photo gallery of the Deats/Thatcher collection. Thanks in part to a grant from the Astle-Alpaugh Family Foundation, Project Manager Bob Sands, with academic assistance from Dr. Richard Veit, Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Department of History and Anthropology at Monmouth University, and intern Matt Dellaguzzo, created a photographic and searchable catalog linked to the professional PastPerfect database system. Five links lead you to five categories: Personal Artifacts (29 artifacts), Tools/Equipment (43), Projectile Points/Armament (26), Religious/Ceremonial (three), and Unclassified Objects (13).

Each entry includes multiple photos of each artifact (enlargeable for better viewing and with a centimeter ruler for sizing), cataloging data, and a short description. It took over a year to sort, research, photograph, catalog, and design the web pages with Phyllis Hartzell, the HCHS webmaster, to highlight those selected artifacts.

Future Plans for the Collection

Currently, the preliminary plan is to reconfigure the collection into seven LED-lit cabinets to create "Hunterdon's Buried Past," a chronological and representational display of Hunterdon-centric artifacts from the Archaic to the Woodlands periods augmented by illustrations of Native American life to be crafted by the RVCC art department. An eighth cabinet will house Thatcher's local artifacts and a ninth cabinet will feature a rotating exhibit of HCHS's other artifacts.

The Library room housing the collection is an active multipurpose room used for civic meetings, story times, and other library activities—ready-made audiences for upgraded cabinets and expanded displays. Of course, momentum for these plans shuddered to a halt as the coronavirus pandemic erupted.

Like museums, HCHS can only display part of its collection. The web site offers the public the ability to see more treasures from the past than can be displayed in the Library room and HCHS' Doric House. You are invited to visit <https://hunterdonhistory.org> and view the local Native American treasures we call the Deats/Thatcher collection.

From the left, a sampling of artifacts in the Native American Collection: Large projectile point with bifurcate base cut in rough stone. A pair of child's animal skin moccasins decorated with green and pink seeds and a tongue with a notched pattern. The belt is made from plant material adorned with white beads in a zigzag pattern and fringed on the ends.



Looking to the Future of the Doric House

By David Harding

No doubt a place with such a fascinating past as the Doric House deserves an exciting future. And making sure that happens is exactly what The Hunterdon County Historical Society has been working on lately.

Thanks to a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust, HCHS hired a consultant to research and prepare a report so it can evaluate ways to expand its audience and public programming. HCHS felt having this report would be vital in its efforts to find a more vibrant use for the Doric House that would attract new and younger audiences.

This Doric House Adaptive Use Plan assessed the house's current conditions and offered an array of suggestions for future uses, which our Board of Trustees is in the early process of studying.

Perhaps most interesting, the report also synthesized the history of the house and its homeowners, uncovering some fascinating new information in the process. Trips to historic repositories and research on ancestry.com and newspapers.com helped fill in the stories of the home's inhabitants.

For those unfamiliar with our historic Greek Revival style home, let's start at the beginning. The building now known as the Doric House Museum was built by self-taught architect Mahlon Fisher in 1845. Fisher left an indelible mark on downtown Flemington, having constructed other homes including the John and Philip Reading House at 151-152 Main Street; and the Kuhl House at 51 Mine Street, and the stunning Greek Revival Reading-Large house at 119 Main Street, now the newly renovated headquarters of the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce. He also renovated the Wurts Law Office, 60 Main Street, by adding a four-columned portico and decorative frieze.

As the report notes: "Within a space of a few years, Fisher built four houses in the Greek Revival style and renovated one. This is a significant impact in a small town like Flemington especially in the 1840s before architecture was an established field for common buildings."

Fisher lived in the home with his family until 1848 before

selling it to Jacob and Hannah Farlee for \$3,500. Eleven years later, they sold it to Harriet Foster. The report notes the interesting – and unusual fact – that Foster purchased the property as a single woman in 1859.

Consultant Margaret Newman's trip to the New Jersey State Archives helped unravel the mystery of what happened to the property after the death of Catherine Williamson in 1889. With the discovery of her will which granted life-rights to her niece Caroline Combes, the 20th-century history of the house became clearer. Williamson's in-depth inventory also gave some suggestions as to the original plan

of the house as well as some ideas how it changed in the Williamson's tenure.

Skipping ahead, the house served as apartments to several tenants in the 1930s, most notably Elizabeth Vosseller, co-founder of the Flemington Children's Choir School in 1895. Vosseller became a nationally known and respected figure in the world of choir schools. The building also housed two businesses: Polly's Beauty Shop and the Doric House Restaurant. Among those who ate at the restaurant was former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The building even served as headquarters for a local Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge. In 1970, the Society purchased the Doric House from the neighboring Flemington United Methodist Church to use as a library and museum.

Through the years, HCHS has cared for the historic Doric House and nurtured its collections ensuring generations can enjoy our historic legacy. Bequeaths from members helped grow our archives so that Hunterdon now has the largest collection of primary source materials in any New Jersey county.

You can help plan our future! Think for a moment about how many people through the years have stepped into the home's gorgeous front entryway: whether to visit the Fisher family, to attend an Odd Fellows meeting, or perhaps to dine on classic American fare. Now, what role do you think the Doric House should play in our future efforts to fulfill our mission to preserve Hunterdon County's rich history? Please send your ideas to us by email at hunterdonhistoryadm@gmail.com or call us at 908-782-1091. We'd love to hear from you.



Welcome to the Doric House.

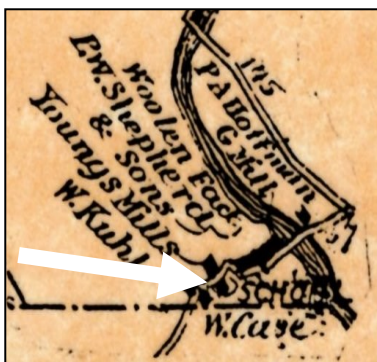
New History Documented in Franklin — continuation from front page

since Joseph King Sr. bought his property and started building his house in 1729. No one will ever know of all the events that took place in it. But all that human activity has resulted in a house—a home—that has character. Some call it charming.

NEW FACT 2: SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL

There is another building at the King's Mill site with a past that has been recently discovered: Sunnyside School, built in 1854. It had been on the property as long as anyone could remember, its origins unknown. It was felt to be unimportant and was used as a storage shed for decades. In 2019, its origin as a school was identified via an obscure notation on a map of Franklin Township in the 1873 F.W. Beers Atlas. The map pinpoints the location of the school building directly across Old Clinton Road (commissioned in 1819) from the front entrance to Young's (previously King's) Mill. Franklin Township abandoned the school in 1899. It was used briefly in the 1920s for an entrepreneurial venture by the local Community Power and Light Company and then abandoned again, this time to be used as a storage shed. In 2005, it was rescued, its original exterior retained and its internal structure rebuilt as a guest cottage.

The location of Sunnyside School, in the eastern-most corner of Franklin Township, is interesting because it is closely bordered on one side by the boundary line demarking Raritan and Clinton Townships. That is the original, unchanged Amwell Township line of 1710, which was based on a 1704 survey. It thus predated Joseph King Sr.'s purchase in 1729, and ran through his property. The line is clearly shown in the 1873 F. W. Beers Atlas running next to Sunnyside School and terminating at the South Branch of the Raritan River.



Franklin's Sunnyside School (1854-99) is on King's Mill property. The white arrow shows the school on an enlarged detail of an 1873 F. W. Beers map. The 1710 Amwell Township boundary is seen as a dot and dash line directly below the word "school."

NEW FACT 3: 1700S "R" STONE MARKER

During the 1930s, an unusual stone engraved with an old style "R" was found on the King's Mill property. The who and where of its discovery have been lost to history, but it is clear they recognized the stone as having importance and cemented it into a stone stairway to display it. It was removed from the stairway in 2020 and placed in a protected environment at King's Mill. It is shaped like a post with a single smooth side, or "face." Thus, it could only be used for an inscription on one side, and indeed, there was only one: the "R." Most people conclude that it was a kind of "sign," intended to convey a message. It took time and effort to carve the "R," meaning that the message

was meant to last. The style of the incised "R" with serifs, suggests that it is old, as from the early 1700s. Several experts who have examined the "R" stone photographs and reviewed the research think it is a survey marker.

In late 17th century England, establishing the boundaries for huge tracts of land in the wilderness of New Jersey was of immense importance for political and business interests. Surveying was important. A carved stone survey marker would designate an important place.

Colonel John Reading was a member of New Jersey's oldest and most prominent families. He also was a surveyor. Research uncovered that the Amwell Township line was most likely delineated by Colonel John Reading's survey of 1704. His son John may have participated in that survey. Colonel John Reading was the first major landowner in Hunterdon County. John Reading Jr. was the first Provincial Governor of British New Jersey.

Surveyors marked boundaries in the 1700s and still do so today. But, it is interesting how they were



1700s "R" stone survey marker.

marked. In this case, the letter "R" is of historic significance. The use of an "R" by a surveyor is set forth in John W. Lequear's 1957 book, *Traditions of Hunterdon*, in which he describes how John Reading Sr. received a warrant from the Council of Proprietors in 1702 and thus "...received one twentieth of all the land in West Jersey; and by a survey of 325 acres, 'in the West Division of the Province of New Jarsie the place

of beginning was designated by a letter "R," upon a tree with seven notches..."

In 1708, the Township of Amwell and its boundary lines were officially recognized by Queen Anne with a royal patent. Those lines, previously established by Colonel John Reading's survey of 1704, included the terminus of the township's easternmost extremity at the South Branch of the Raritan River. It would have warranted a permanent sign there; e.g., a stone marker. And, to paraphrase an old expression: "R" marked the spot. It is located close to the site of King's Mill; in fact, it lies only 500 feet from it. That same terminus, unchanged since 1704, is now marked with a modern concrete post.

SO THE "NEW HISTORY" DISCOVERIES that surfaced through my research and fresh assemblage of documented information for my book, *1729—PreRevolutionary War—King's Mill*, provide a new perspective of the history of King's Mill. When combined, the data have revealed an inspiring story about brave people in a fascinating place who achieved the American Dream almost 300 years ago.

Curator: Archiving Continues at Home During Pandemic

There is an old Chinese curse that states, “May you live in interesting times.” We are indeed living in interesting times, and they have set the world of cultural institutions like ours upside down. We hope that all of our members, friends, and patrons are safe and healthy. We also hope that everyone is practicing social distancing, sanitary health measures, and following the advice of our health professionals.

The HCHS has been practicing these measures along with other cultural institutions. We closed to the general public on March 19, and have cancelled all of our scheduled events since the Governor’s order to do so. We also cancelled our volunteer activities. As you can see from the accompanying photograph, our processing work area is rather empty and forlorn. Our archival volunteers are staying home and practicing social distancing, too.

Given the challenges we all face these days, a few months without processing the documents in our archives does not seem a major concern. But it does lead to an interesting question. Like our volunteers, the staff of the HCHS is staying away from the Society and working from home. How is this possible? After all, our job is mainly to work with our collections, organizing them, preserving them, and storing them. The answer is that even if we cannot work on the materials themselves, we can work to make them more accessible to our users.

Through the magic of the internet, the staff of the HCHS has been able to work on several data entry projects that benefit the Society by increasing the availability of our collections. Most of our collections processed after 2013 were completed using a software system that feeds directly into online search capability using keywords for subjects and people. But this is only a small percentage of our holdings. All of the collections processed between 1978 (when the archives program started) until 2013 was *before* we had the capability of putting material on the internet. That is a

lot of information. Sadly, that already-processed material cannot become available on the internet unless someone sits in front of a computer for long stretches of time performing manual data entry.

Pam Robinson, the Society’s Librarian, has worked diligently to make sure that file and folder lists for archival collections between Numbers 81 and 116 are entered into our online catalog. Along with improved subject and name keywords, she has made these collections more easily searchable. This represents a large increase in the quantity of archival records that the public can find in our holdings. Sadly, we cannot take archival materials home to scan them. But, getting these collection file lists online is the *next step closer* to actually scanning some images and making them available as well.

In my job as the Society’s Manuscript Curator, I have been adding other collections to our online material. Collection 75 (Bartles Papers II) and Collection 17 (Hunterdon County Manumissions) are now available in our online searchable catalog, and Collection 19 (HCHS II) will follow shortly. More scrapbooks have been added to the catalog as well. In addition to these, now another large collection also is available. For the first time, a portion of the HCHS Corporate Archives will be available in the online catalog. This includes the early minutes, correspondence, and papers presented before the Society from 1885 to the late 1960s.

Once again, we want to stress that the safety and health of our members, families, and friends is paramount in these times. Achievements in the archives are a tiny matter compared to the struggles that people are enduring. Still, we feel that our members and friends deserve to know that the staff of the HCHS is still working to ensure that the collections of our Society are maintained, preserved, and especially, *shared*.



Manuscript Curator Don Cornelius

says, “Instead of the hum of up to 12 volunteers busily processing archival material, the area shown here now only echoes with emptiness while we all shelter at home in the battle against the Covid-19 virus.”

Spotlight on Collections: Tea Time!

By Janice Armstrong

This teapot is part of a 25-piece collection of lusterware on display in the dining room of the Doric House. It was donated to the Society in memory of Miss Primrose Woolverton and Mrs. James D. (Dorothy) Allen, sisters and members of the prominent Woolverton family, one of the first to settle in Hunterdon in 1714.

The technique for making this popular porcelain can be traced back to the seventh century in Iraq. The application of an opaque copper-salt glaze to the pottery's surface creates the effect of iridescence. Platinum was used for a silver luster; gold produced colors from deep bronze to pale copper, pink, purple and more. Designs in relief appear on some pieces while on others the designs are painted, usually in pink and green. Most pieces do not have maker's marks.

Lusterware first became popular in English Staffordshire pottery during the nineteenth cen-

tury having spread from the Middle East. It also was used by Josiah Wedgwood to make a pink and white lusterware that simulated mother of pearl in dishes and bowls cast in the shapes of shells. Wedgwood also introduced a silver luster in 1805.

Tea sets, including pots, sugar and creamers, and tea-plates, were in great demand here and abroad. Lusterware was imported and sold in shops in the United States until 1900.



The Woolverton sisters, Primrose (1886-1987) and Dorothy (1895-1976), grew up in the family's homestead in Stockton, the grand house now known as the Woolverton Inn. Primrose graduated from Vassar with honors in 1906 and taught physics there, ran YMCAs in several cities on the East Coast, and came home to teach English at the Reading Academy. Dorothy and her husband, James, developed and ran the largest fruit farm in Hunterdon County in the 1930s.

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