

Hunterdon Historical Record



**HUNTERDON
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

hunterdonhistory.org

HCHS GETS COVID RELIEF GRANT

The Hunterdon County Historical Society received a little COVID-19 relief through a \$5,000 grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

NJHC's one-time supplemental grant aims to proactively support local history organizations and practitioners during this crisis and to help create stronger and more viable institutions in a post-pandemic environment.

HCHS will use the funding to pay for cleaning the library and for purchasing additional personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer to protect researchers, volunteers and others visiting the library. We also will purchase a laptop computer to help us continue to work on our collections, acquire a Zoom license to cover virtual programs, and to help cover other expenses.

HCHS extends its deepest gratitude to the New Jersey Historical Commission for this grant, which will greatly help our organization as we continue to deal with the effects of this pandemic.

SIGN UP: Fall Meeting and Free Tours Fill Calendar

Mark your calendars and don't miss this slate of fascinating upcoming events.

HCHS Annual Fall Meeting -Sunday, Nov. 14—2:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join our annual fall meeting to hear Stephen Kaufman, PhD in archaeology, discuss "The Peopling of the Americas: How and When Did Native Americans Come to Hunterdon County?" Dr. Kaufman recently retired as a full professor from Raritan Valley Community College after chairing the Department of Humanities for several years and teaching classes in anthropology, archaeology, and racial diversity. Dr. Kaufman and his wife, Phyllis, also ran a travel agency, giving him the opportunity to conduct trips to many of the world's major archaeological and historical sites. Venue for this free event to be determined. Visit our website for updates.

HCHS is partnering with the Hunterdon 300th for events listed below. For more information, visit <http://www.hunterdon300th.org>

Downtown Flemington History Walk -Saturday, Oct. 16— 10:30 a.m.

Walk through historic downtown Flemington, hear stories of the buildings, the people who built them, and how the scene has changed and adapted over 300 years of settlement. Janice Armstrong, president of the HCHS Board of Trustees, a lifelong Hunterdon resident, and local history lover, will be your guide.

Downtown Ringoes History Walk—Saturday, Nov. 6, 10:00 a.m.

Discover Ringoes' fascinating history with tour guide Dave Harding, HCHS Administrator, founding member of the East Amwell Historical Society, and author of a self-guided walking tour of Ringoes. Hear about John Ringo's early 1700s arrival, how he became a reluctant tavern owner, and the legend of his buried treasure. Learn about the Sons of Liberty meeting at the tavern of "the second" John Ringo, and the Henry Landis House where the Marquis de LaFayette convalesced after falling ill, and much more.

Both walking tours are free, but reservations are required and limited to 20 participants. Only those holding reservations will know the starting location. There is no rain date; in case of cancellation, Eventbrite will notify you. If you are closed out of this event and wish to be on the Waiting List, please email 300info@co.hunterdon.nj.us or call 908-788-2030 and leave a message.

Doric House Museum Tours— Sunday, Nov. 7.—1-3 p.m.

The Doric House Museum is reopening for tours. Join us to learn all about this beautiful Greek-Revival home and the people who lived there. Don't miss the second floor Astle-Alpaugh Gallery, featuring an exhibit of historic 1889-1905 Main Street Flemington photos from the estate of John F. Schenk.



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Acquisitions

Artifacts and documents on the history of Hunterdon County and the families who resided here are welcome additions to the Society's Collections. Donations may not be available for research until they have been processed, a continuing activity. The Society thanks the donors for these recent acquisitions.

Archives:

Chiromeras, Nicholas, and the Trustees of the Locktown Christian Church: Records of the Locktown Christian Church, including General Minutes, Minutes of the Woman's Missionary and Aid Societies, Treasurer's Records, Cemetery Association Records, Sunday School minutes and records, Registration ledger, and Guest ledger, ca. 1874-2009.

Franklin Archives, c/o Lora Jones: A ledger; Franklin Telephone Company Stock Sales and Transfers, 1910-1919.

Gorman, Elaine: A volume, *Tariff of Rates*, Hunterdon County, 1906.

Hoskins, Deborah: A collection of approximately 40 postcards, half from the Flemington area (see below) and the other half from other Hunterdon County locations, ca. 1905-1976.

Krauss, John: A program from *Good News: A Musical Comedy*, 1944 at Flemington High School.

Lamendola, Russ: A collection of programs and photographs from the Flemington High

School, ca. 1948-2009; and a further donation of material concerning the 1927 football team and a group of photographs of the marching band and cheerleaders, 1951-1953.

Matsen, John: Two letters and poems received by Susan Melick, 1848.

Middleton, Michael: By-Laws of the Flemington Auction Market Cooperative Association, 1933, and the Hunterdon County Farmers Union Cooperative Association, 1946.

Somerset County Historical Society: An invitation to the funeral of Caleb Farley Fisher, 1892.

Stewart, Lois: A photograph from the 200th Anniversary of the Amwell German Baptist Church, Sergeantsville, NJ, 1933.

Objects:

Stewart, Lois: Several Flemington artifacts including a Parker Agency glass ashtray, one Flemington National Bank Thermometer, a Farmers' Mutual Commemorative plate, one Orville's Barber Shop comb and canvas aprons from local businesses (Flemington Lumber and Teresko).

Thomas, Howard: A ceremonial sword presented to William S. Buchanan from the Knights of the Golden Eagle, Flemington Castle No. 41.

Books:

Bedford, John. *Old English Lustre Ware* (1965).

Brasher, J. Lawrence. *Bright Liberty's Forgotten Sword and the Battle of Princeton* (2020). Gift of the author.

Delaware Valley Regional High School. 8 yearbooks: 1981, 2014-2020. Gift.

DeLong, Thomas A. *Paul Whiteman, King of Jazz* (1983).

Dilts, Thomas. *Ancestors of Harold Dilts* (Revised, 2021). Gift of the compiler.



Continued next page

How One Antique Quilt Made its Way Home

By Bernadette Suski-Harding

Ellen Reed, Vice President of the Henniker Historical Society & Museum in Henniker, NH, wasn't quite sure what to make of the antique quilt gifted to them at the passing of Hattie Edmunds, a lifelong resident of her community.

Constructed of squares appliqued, pieced, and signed by the young women who created them, the names proved a dead end—at first.

"One of our volunteers tried to link the names of the students written on the quilt to families in New Hampshire or Vermont, with no success," Ms. Reed wrote. "I then took a couple of the more uncommon names and did a wider search via Ancestry.com, and was able to link them to Kingwood" in Hunterdon County.

As Ms. Reed dug a bit more, she discovered that Mrs. Edmunds was gifted the quilt by her friend, Grace Dunning. Her grandmother, Mrs. William Wagner, lived in Kingwood Township and was the quilt-maker. Some of the names on the quilt are: Charlotte, Emma, Martin, Mary and Wesley Bellis; Ann, Caroline, Nancy and Sallie Brink; Charles and Emma Fisher; Mary and Hannah Lebold; Caroline Maxwell, Elizabeth Opdycke, Aaron, George, Harriet and Thomas Rittenhouse; and William Wagner.

Completed in October of 1857, the quilt somehow made its way to Henniker, NH, and while the details of its journey remain sketchy, its origin is now clear, thanks to the

persistence of Ms. Reed.

Before sending the quilt to the Hunterdon County Historical Society, Ms. Reed had it appraised by Gerald Roy of the Quilted Threads Quilt Shop in Henker. He confirmed that the fabric in

the blocks with names is consistent with fabric available in the 1850s, though the blue sashing material and the backing may have been added in the 1870s or 1880s. He also said that the quilt was constructed by hand and machine, and that parts of the blocks were not actually pieced, but appliqued, an unusual technique.

Mr. Roy said the quilt was "in excellent condition for its age," and added that it was "obvious it had never been washed. The colors are still bright and the writing dark and legible". When Ms. Reed told Mr. Roy that she was able to trace the quilt's provenance, "He was delighted—as he believed its true value

was in its history. It's not often we find such old quilts in as good a condition and as well identified."

Ms. Reed also was thrilled to be able to return the quilt to New Jersey. "I hope this will be a valuable addition to your collection, and we at the Henniker Historical Society are thrilled to pass it on to you at the Hunterdon County Historical Society, where its history will be truly appreciated."



Top: Detail of a square for Emma Fisher. Bottom: Henniker (NH) Historical Society volunteers and board members Ellen Reed, Kristen MacLean, and Sue Fetzer display the quilt.

Fleming, Philip Somers. *1729: PreRevolutionary War King's Mill* (2021). 2 copies. Gift of the author.

Fulper Art Pottery: *An Aesthetic Appreciation, 1909-1929 [Exhibition] March 21-May 30, 1979* / text by Robert W. Blasberg with Carol R. Bohdan; Jordan-Volpe Gallery [1979].

Gesner, Michael. *Adam Eshback of Walpack, Sussex County, NJ* (2009).

Gesner, Michael and Harriet Elaine (Resh) DeRosa. *George E. Labar and his descendants* (2016).

Green, Betsy J. *Discovering the History of Your House and Your Neighborhood* (2002).

Kovel, Ralph & Terry. *Kovels' New Dictionary of Marks: Pottery and Porcelain 1850 to the Present* (1986).

McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses (Revised): The Definitive Guide to Identifying*

and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture (2015).

Paradis, John and Joyce. *The House of Haeger, 1914-1944: the Revitalization of American Art Pottery* (1999). *Pennsylvania German Church Records of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Etc., Volume II* / From the Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses (2001).

Pepper, Cary and Susan McKelvey. *The Signature Quilt: Traditions, Techniques and Signature Block Collection* (1995).

Polak, Michael. *Antique Trader Bottles: Identification & Price Guide, 7th ed.* (2012). Gift.

Sloane, Eric. *A Museum of Early American Tools* (2002).

Taylor, Hal. *The Illustrated Delaware River: The History of a Great American River* (2015).

Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women

By Janice Armstrong

Not far from the charming town of Clinton, just across the road from ShopRite and Walmart stands the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women. Originally called Clinton Farms, it is probably a place most of us know only from the exit sign on I-78. A recent donation to the Society from an inmate brought back a childhood memory from the 1960s. My mother and members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) worked with the Clinton Farms Superintendent, Edna Mahan, to recognize the inmates who earned their high school diplomas, and offered scholarships to help them further their education. It prompted me to research Edna Mahan and I found both she and her work to merit widespread recognition.

cealing a birth, bigamy, and highway robbery. Their occupations were listed as housekeeper, factory worker, waitress, and, most unusually, tobacco stripper. Most had a fourth-grade education; six inmates were illiterate and five had attended one year of high school. A hospital report showed they received dental and medical care, including vaccinations. The major illness they suffered was bronchitis. No adults died that year, but ten babies did.

The last statistic set the value of fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and meat produced by the farms from July 1, 1921 to June 30, 1922 as \$14, 822.55.

Edna Mahan Arrives

Edna Mahan left a legacy of prison reform that broke down racial barriers and redefined gendered confinement.



Edna Mahan (1900-1968)

U. S. Women's Prisons

The history of housing women in separate correctional facilities from men began in the 1870s with the opening of the Mount Pleasant Female Prison in Ossing, New York. Previously, women and men were kept in the same prison, first in the general population and later in their own section. Due to the lack of resources available to women at men's prisons, the women were often sexually abused, neglected, and degraded. At the turn of the century, women's prisons took on the role of indoctrinating women in traditional female roles. A totally new approach--to rehabilitate the women so they could return to a better life--was the mission at Clinton Farms.

Clinton Farms Opens

Clinton Farms opened January 8, 1912. The Society has copies of *Annual Reports of the Managers of Clinton Farms from 1916, and 1921*, that offer a snapshot of the early years of work to reform the prison system.

The 1921 report provided statistics about the women's prison population. Over the nine years since its opening, there were 525 white and 148 black inmates, ranging in age from 16 to 60 with most between 20 and 30. Infants cared for numbered 98. Escapees totaled 37; 30 were returned. Charges against the women were adultery, larceny, heroin use, fornication, neglect of children, con-

Edna Mahan spent her early years in Yreka, CA near the Oregon border. She graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1922 and worked

six years in social work, criminology, and criminal justice in Los Angeles and Boston. Mahan was mentored by Miriam Van Waters, an internationally known female prison reformer. She arrived August 1928 at Clinton Farms to an institution in disarray and lacking leadership.

"When she first arrived, she couldn't have been blamed if she was in shock," said Sarah Davis, a recent administrator of the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women. "Back then, it wasn't unusual for women to be locked up for petty crimes and even moral crimes. And at the time, the most basic needs of the women often weren't being met."

Mahan was guided from day one by her belief "in human dignity, in trust, in worth of all individuals and that change can most easily be effected in an open atmosphere". When Mahan arrived the building of Conover Cottage was underway. She recommended no bars on windows and the Board agreed. Within a year all bars were gone from the buildings. There was a fear in the community of mass runaways but that didn't happen.

Mahan continued her reforms with a desegregated nursery greeted by a reluctant Board. The Harriet Beecher Stowe Cottage's leaky porch was where the "colored" babies were housed. The new Wittpenn Cottage for Mothers and Infants was built and a registered nurse was hired to look after all the mothers and babies. Mahan continued her push for desegregation, which was finally achieved in the mid-1940s.

Reminiscent of the current Covid crisis, many of the inmates participated in vaccine trials. A New York Times article from September 4, 1950 stated that 200 women prisoners were infected with viral hepatitis (infectious jaundice) to help prepare a vaccine for the U.S. Army. A 1956 *Life* Magazine photo featured a doctor and nurses at Clinton Farms vaccinating babies for polio.

Mahan believed in education for all. She worked with the AAUW to provide scholarships for the women and organized elaborate celebrations of their achievements. Among those recognizing Mahan for her achievements was Eleanor Roosevelt, who visited on June 2, 1956 for the commencement of 16 women receiving eighth grade certificates and vocational awards.

Reforms Lauded by Eleanor Roosevelt

Roosevelt wrote in her diary: *"It is interesting how, in visiting this type of institution, one almost immediately feels a change in atmosphere. But the atmosphere at Clinton Farms is not that of a prison. No girl is locked in. All go about freely. I was told that as many as 400 are allowed to go on a picnic on a hillside with only one attendant in charge."*

"The inmates are given opportunities to learn, and they sense the value of education, in character training as well as in academic achievement. Those who have not finished the eighth grade are encour-

aged to do so, hard as they may find it to stick at schoolwork."

"Everyone learns a skill. There is a course in domestic science. The girls are taught to use power machines and to sew. They are taught to be beauticians and are given state licenses as operators when they earn them."

"They do the work of the institution and they do it well. The buildings are clean and attractive and our lunch was delicious."

"But the remarkable thing was the feeling of all the girls for the superintendent. When her name was mentioned, she was cheered—a reaction that is not always accorded the warden of a penal institution."

Other well-known people were invited to visit including Margaret Mead, Frances Perkins, and Marian Anderson, who gave the Commencement speech in 1963.

I was recently reading *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline, the story of women prisoners exiled from England to Australia in the 1800s. In her remarks at the end, Ms. Kline talked about teaching a memoir writing course to women at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility. She read these lines from a Maya Angelou poem to the 12 maximum-security inmates, *"You may trod me in the very dirt/But still, like dust, I'll rise."* More than one inmate "wept with recognition."

Edna Mahan passed away of colon cancer in 1968 and was buried on the grounds of Clinton Farms.

Sources

Mary Q. Hawkins, *Excellent Effect: The Edna Mahan Story* (Laurel, MD: American Correctional Association, 1994)

Max Schuman, *Making History Edna Mahan- A Correctional Trailblazer Inside Corrections* (Newsletter of the New Jersey Department of Corrections March 2020)

Annual Reports of the Managers of Clinton Farms from 1916, and 1921. Hunterdon County Historical Society 3.002.1562 and 1567

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The Society has 500 members who live in 3 other countries and 36 U.S. states, plus Washington, DC; 293 live in New Jersey and 216 of those in Hunterdon County.

Aaron Lewis Helped Prosecutors Link Killers to Crimes

by Rick Epstein

A KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP FARM BOY grew up to be the dean of an emerging branch of forensic science—the examination of questioned documents. It would involve him in several high-profile murder cases, including Hunterdon's own Lindbergh trial.

Aaron Rittenhouse Lewis (1857-1940) was the son of Samuel and Eliza, who had a farm near Baptiststown. Eliza was a sister of Frenchtown's first mayor, Samuel Hudnit.

Aaron showed early talent in pen-and-ink drawing, which he developed while still farming. He and wife Catherine started their family in Frenchtown. He so admired the work of the Spencer brothers in promoting the Spencerian style of script that he gave their firstborn son the middle name of Spencer.

The Lewises moved to Manhattan circa 1884, where Aaron worked as an illustrator. Building on his ink-and-paper skills, he helped develop new methods to detect forgery and became the dean of this new science.

In 1928 in establishing his bona fides as an expert witness, he testified in court, "I am a handwriting expert; examiner of questionable and forged handwriting, ink and typewritten matter." He said he had applied his expertise to documents in a million-dollar matter involving the signature of steel magnate Charles M. Schwab; and in these three high-profile New York City murder cases:

KENNEDY-REYNOLDS – In 1898, dentist Samuel J. Kennedy was charged with bludgeoning an attractive young patient named Emeline "Dolly" Reynolds with a lead pipe in a room in Manhattan's Grand Hotel.

Lewis' expertise was applied to two items of evidence. First: A torn-up sheet of paper found in the hotel room. Kennedy had allegedly written on it: "E. Maxwell and wife, Grand Hotel" – the name he wanted her to use in registering. Second: A \$13,000 check that Kennedy had allegedly forged as part of a horse-race gambling scheme. It had been found in Reynolds' corset. Police theorized that Kennedy had killed her in an unsuccessful effort to recover the incriminating check.

The dentist was convicted and installed on Sing Sing's death row, but procedural errors in the investigation resulted in a second trial. The jury voted for acquittal, 11-1, so it was declared a mistrial. A third trial produced an 8-4 vote for acquittal. At that point, the justice system gave up and let him go.

MOLINEAUX-ADAMS – Also in 1898, a feud at New York City's Knickerbocker Athletic Club turned deadly.

It started when member Roland Molineaux, who had great skill on the horizontal bar, was injured after the club's athletic director, Harry Cornish, had purchased inferior equipment. After several altercations, Molineaux allegedly anonymously sent him a package containing cyanide disguised as Bromo-Seltzer. Cornish let his landlady, Katherine Adams, use some and it killed her.

Lewis was one of several experts who were called in to see whether Molineaux had addressed the package. Molineaux was convicted, then retried and acquitted.

PATRICK-RICE – In 1900, attorney Albert Patrick conspired with Charles T. Jones, secretary to 81-year-old millionaire William Rice, to rewrite Rice's typewritten will. Rice had made his fortune in Houston, but had relocated to Manhattan in his old age.

The forged will left the bulk of Rice's \$7 million fortune to Patrick. Jones was left out of the new will to avoid suspicion, but Patrick promised him \$10,000 a year.

Letters were also forged, faking evidence of a close friendship between the millionaire and Patrick. Patrick also forged Rice's name on checks and other documents so investigators could later compare those signatures with the forged signatures on the will and the letters. With Rice planning to spend \$2.5 million to reconstruct a mill in Texas, Patrick decided to kill him to protect his anticipated legacy. He got Jones to feed Rice mercury pills to weaken him, and then Patrick finished him off with chloroform.

Patrick was found guilty and did time on Sing Sing's death row, but was pardoned by the governor in 1912.

HAUPTMANN-LINDBERGH – Lewis was called back to Hunterdon County by lawyers trying to prove Bruno

Hauptmann had not kidnapped Charles Lindbergh Jr. But, after comparing the ransom notes with samples of Hauptmann's handwriting, Lewis decided they had been written by the same person. So he was not called to testify in the 1935 Trial of the Century. Hauptmann was executed the following year.

Lewis is buried in Rosemont Cemetery.

Rick Epstein, Frenchtown Borough's Historian, conducts walking tours of the borough when the weather allows.

Catherine and Aaron Lewis moved from Hunterdon to New York City where he became a leading expert on questioned-document examination.



CURATOR CORNELIUS DETAILS DIGITIZATION PROCESS

One of the most challenging aspects of an archivist's work in this 21st century is the ever-increasing demand of the public for online access to an institution's collections. The ease with which many researchers can access documents from online powerhouses such as Ancestry.com and Family Search fuels this demand. The growth of online research into genealogy and other research topics has only increased with the isolation required by the Covid-19 pandemic. Simply to have a group of historically important and valuable manuscripts available for public research at the archive is not enough anymore. The desire of all archivists is to not only collect and preserve materials but also to share them with those who are interested in using them. Indeed, that is one of the three tenets in the mission statement of the Hunterdon County Historical Society: to collect, to preserve, and to share our county history.

But how do we accomplish this? Unlike the behemoths of the online genealogy world, the HCHS does not possess the army of data entry specialists, scanning machine operators, specialized equipment, or the presentation software required to undertake such large scale projects. Nor do we have the funds required to outsource such projects on any kind of scale our end users would no doubt like to see. Our in-house team of volunteers are dedicated, but the limited amount of time they can give us does not approach that which is required to scan large collections of manuscript material.

Imaging manuscripts takes a long time; every single document must be scanned individually on a flat-bed scanner in a systematic way that produces a quality image that can be read in a software format. Imagine how long that takes for a collection of 10,000 pages! And that is only the first step—the images must then be cataloged in a software system that requires data entry for every image to make the collection searchable by end users. The data must then be stored in a system that is linked to a front end—an interface the public can connect to so they can see and use the end product. All of this takes time, equipment, and money, and it is easy to understand how daunting these projects can be for a smaller institution.

That being said, it is important to note that the HCHS has taken the first steps toward making some of our content available online. Through the work of our volunteers, the first 1,500 photographs of our Photograph Collection have been imaged and are available for viewing in the "online catalog"

portion of our Society's website. Additionally, photographic images from many of our more recently processed manuscript collections can be viewed. We are making headway on providing images for individual items such as certain scrapbooks, maps, and bound volumes. And, our first fully available imaged manuscript collection was recently posted: Collection No. 17, Slave Manumissions, Hunterdon and Mercer Counties, 1805-1830.

These were small but significant steps. But now I am pleased to relay that we are in the process of making our first truly large manuscript collection available in imaged, digital format. Through the generosity of the Astle-Alpaugh foundation, HCHS has received a grant enabling us to outsource the imaging of one of our most significant manuscript collections: the Capner Papers (Collection No. 31). This collection includes

- ◇ correspondence (1755-1820) between members of the Capner, Choice, Exton, Hall, Hill, Suydam, and allied families;
- ◇ personal and business correspondence, financial records, and legal documents (1811-1826) of Thomas Capner, farmer and justice of the peace;
- ◇ financial records and legal documents (1834-1866) of Hugh Capner, sheep rancher and businessman;
- ◇ correspondence (1785-1803) of Hugh Capner's great uncle, John Hall with Thomas Paine and others;
- ◇ diary (1804) of Peter Hayward;
- ◇ records (1846) of Flemington Copper Company;
- ◇ bridge records (1821) of Hunterdon County Board of Freeholders;
- ◇ and architectural and mechanical drawings, maps, surveys, printed materials, and other papers.

Over 8,000 images in all, this collection is now digitized and is being cataloged into our online system so that it will be available for us to share.

This is a large step for our Society, and one that will be followed in the future with increasing online content. We will continue to pursue funding opportunities so that we may image more of our important collections, and we will continue to work in-house to make others available as time and resources allow. So, please be patient with us; the HCHS recognizes the need for electronic access. We are doing our best to make sure that we can share even more in the digital future.

Capner House sketch showing "the front of our house." From the Capner Papers, Collection 31.



Spotlight on Collections: Knights of the Golden Eagle Ceremonial Sword

Some say the pen is mightier than the sword. But you'd be hard pressed to find someone who would say a pen could be more elegant than this Knights of the Golden Eagle (KGE) ceremonial sword.

Flemington resident, William S. Buchanan, was presented this sword by fellow knights of Flemington Castle, No. 41. The sword is 35 1/2-inches long overall and etched with the words "Knights of the Golden Eagle on one side of the blade and "Presented to P. C. Wm. S. Buchanan by Flemington Castle No. 41" on the other. The name of the manufacturer "Louis E. Still & Bro. Philadelphia PA" is seen near the hilt. There's an eagle atop the pommel that appears ready to take flight, and a chain that runs from the eagle's beak to the cross-guard. Predominantly of brass, the scabbard also features symbols of the Crusades upon it.

KGE was founded in 1872 in Baltimore. Membership was open to white males over the age of 18, who were con-

sidered to be of good moral character. Local lodges were called "castles," statewide structures were considered "Grand Castles," and the overall lead structure was the "Supreme Castle."

Membership in the early 1920s was estimated at 73,340 in 26 states. Membership began declining in the 1930s, and by the late 1970s the organization had seemingly disappeared from existence.

In 1917, KGE named Buchanan a Past Grand Chief, which could be when he received this sword. The son of John and Katharine Buchanan, he was born on May 7, 1849 and married Kate Deats on Dec. 27, 1870. Buchanan also served as a past secretary of the Flemington Lodge No. 94 of the International Order of Odd Fellows. A life-long Flemington area resident, Buchanan died on March 13, 1918, at the Bonnell Street home of his brother Mathias and is buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery.



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