

# Hunterdon Historical Record



HUNTERDON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

[hunterdonhistory.org](http://hunterdonhistory.org)

## Grant Will Help Care for Artifacts

A \$2,000 grant from the Holt Charitable Foundation will go a long way toward caring for precious objects in our textile and artifact collections.

The grant enables us to purchase various sizes of textile boxes, multi-divider boxes, and nesting storage boxes, along with polyethylene foam rolls and acid-free tissue paper. All boxes are designed to meet conservation standards.

Combined with our state-of-the-art archives facility, this grant will help allow us to ensure our objects will be maintained under the best possible conditions so they can be enjoyed for generations to come. We thank the Holt Charitable Foundation for its generous support!

## Don't miss Our Spring Meeting!

A fascinating discussion on dating early houses using the science of dendrochronology will be featured at the Hunterdon County Historical Society's annual spring meeting on Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m.

Marilyn Cummings and Michael Cuba will team up for this presentation. Dendrochronology -- or "tree-ring dating," as it is sometimes called -- offers valuable insights into a building's history by revealing the year when the timbers used in its construction were felled. Cummings will begin by providing general information on and clues to visually dating early houses, and Cuba will delve into the science of dendrochronology.



*Michael Cuba*

Of particular interest, the program will spotlight the duo's research into three important early Hunterdon County buildings. "I don't want to tell too much here, but our results . . . will change history," Cummings teased.



*Marilyn Cummings*

The program is free and open to all; reservations are not required. It will be held at the Flemington Presbyterian Church, 10 E. Main St. Before the talk, HCHS members will vote on new organization bylaws and will approve a new Board of Trustee member.

Cummings taught at Purdue, Mississippi State and Colorado State universities before arriving in Hunterdon County in 2003. She began documenting historic homes shortly after starting the Delaware Township Historical Society. Since that time, she has documented more than 100 homes, and with Cuba's expertise, numerous barns and outbuildings. She also is the driving force behind the History Mapping website ([www.historymapping.org](http://www.historymapping.org)).

Cuba began his career in restoration timber framing at the Institute for Social Ecology. He is a co-founder of Knobb Hill Joinery, which focuses on preservation and restoration timber framing. As owner of Transom Historic Preservation Consulting in Bucks County, Cuba has specialized in the documentation and analysis of historic timber-framed buildings.

**HUNTERDON HISTORICAL RECORD**

Copyright © 2022

US ISSN-0018-7850

Published Winter, Spring, and Fall by the  
Hunterdon County Historical Society  
114 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822

Editorial Board:

Dave Harding, John Kuhl, Pamela Robinson

Layout: Dave Harding

**TEMPORARY LIBRARY HOURS**Open by appointment only on  
Tuesdays, 12 to 4 pm (except for second Tuesdays)  
and on Thursdays from 12 to 4 pm.  
Email us to make an appointment.**TELEPHONE: 908-782-1091****EMAIL:** hunterdonhistoryinfo@gmail.com**WEBSITE:** www.hunterdonhistory.org**OFFICERS & TRUSTEES***President:* Janice Armstrong (2023)*Vice President:* Kenneth Cummings (2022)*Treasurer:* Patricia Christie (2024)*Recording Secretary:* John Matsen (2022)

Roger Ahrens (2024)

John F. Allen Jr. (2022)

Suzanne Bennett (2024)

Steven P. Gruenberg, Esq. (2024)

John Kuhl (2023)

Bob Leith (2023)

Pat Fisher-Olsen (2023)

Christopher Pickell (2023)

Raymond Simonds (2024)

Richard H. Stothoff (2022)

Howard Thomas (2022)

**STAFF**

David Harding, Administrator

hunterdonhistoryadm@gmail.com

Don Cornelius, Manuscript Curator

hunterdonhistory@gmail.com

Pamela Robinson, Librarian

hunterdonhistoryinfo@gmail.com

**Become a Member**Dues payable annually on the calendar  
year, January to DecemberSeniors/Students—\$20 Business—\$150  
Individual—\$30 Sustaining—\$200  
Family—\$50 Life—\$500Please send us your name, address, phone  
number, email address, and tell us if you would  
like to volunteer in the library, the archives, or  
the museum. Mail the information with your  
check to:

Hunterdon County Historical Society

ATTN: Membership

114 Main Street

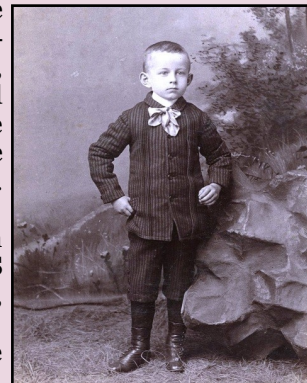
Flemington, NJ 08822

**Or join online with a credit card at:**

www.hunterdonhistory.org/membership

**Acquisitions**Artifacts and documents about Hunterdon County history and the families who resided here  
are welcome additions to our collections. Donated materials may not be available for  
research until they are processed. The Society thanks donors for these recent acquisitions.Bastanzi, Denise. A folder of records from Camp James J. Wilson, the  
Trenton Boys Camp of the Trenton YMCA, Frenchtown, 1924-1929.Holcombe-Jimison Farm Museum. A group of items including  
correspondence of the Housell, Richardson and Jones families, a  
series of 30 ferrotype unidentified images, postcards, and farm-  
related journals, pamphlets and publications, ca. 1860 – 1930.Jones, Lora. A major series of scrapbooks documenting the history of  
Franklin Township, NJ, through news clippings arranged in a series  
of subjects from local publications, ca. 1846-2019.Kuhl, John W. 2 boxes; The Kool-Cool-Cole  
Family Genealogical Collection, ca. 1875-  
1991; 7 boxes; a collection of research,  
scrapbooks, photographs, clippings, and  
other material documenting Three  
Bridges, NJ; 43 images from the  
photographic album of Harvey E.  
(Ezekial Hawley) Cole, 1880-1890.Lamendola, Russ. Photos of the Flemington  
High School Class Trip of 1953, FHS  
rings, pins, letters, tassels, and pennants,  
and St. Magdalene church pamphlets.Moore, Kyle. A folder of records from the  
DeMott family of Lebanon, ca. 1787-1879.Morel, Kathy. Seven original deeds from  
Kingwood/Franklin Twps., 1837-1867.Morris, Carol Reading. Two photo albums of May E. Kugler, daughter of  
George W. Kugler and Emma Elizabeth Bodine (including scanned  
images on a storage device), and the family Bible of David Manners.Myhre, Dorothy. A collection of photographs and other documents of the  
Race Family, ca. 1870 – 1990.O'Hara, Ramona Hillier. A folder of mortgages, correspondence, and  
receipts of Gershom Lambert and the Lambert Family, ca. 1808-1856.Shannon, Dorothy A. Photograph of the students and teacher of the  
Baptistown one-room schoolhouse, 1937.Stevens, Stephanie. A folder of records from the Round Valley Reservoir  
file of Bill Young, of Readington Township, 1954-1963; and poster  
boards from various lectures presented by the donor including  
approximately 40 storyboards on various historical subjects.Stewart, Lois. Flemington High School Yearbooks, photographs of the  
Flemington area, and various objects from political campaigns.Van Horn, Mary. Fifteen postcards and photographs from Bellewood  
Park, 1907-1908.**Library Acquisitions and Purchases:**Aquila Yearbooks, 1963-1967. South Hunterdon Regional High School,  
Lambertville, N.J. Donated by Donna Holcombe Baumgartner.Bockstruck, Lloyd DeWitt. *American settlements and migrations: a  
primer for genealogists and family historians* (2017).Bockstruck, Lloyd DeWitt. *Revolutionary War Pensions: Awarded by  
State Governments, 1775-1874; the General and Federal  
Governments prior to 1814; and by private acts of Congress to 1905*  
(2011).Boggess, Bill and Louise. *Identifying American Brilliant Cut Glass* (2009).Connors, Richard J. *New Jersey and the Great War* (2017).Darrow, Carol Cooke and Susan Winchester. *The Genealogist's Guide to  
Researching Tax Records* (2007).Delaney, John. *Nova Caesarea: A Cartographic Record of the Garden  
State, 1666-1888* (2015). Gift of John Matsen.

continued next page



Louis Case, Ca. 1890

**Acquisitions** *continued*

Hurst, Kyle and Albert J. Zdenek, *Ancestors of Albert James Zdenek, Sr. and Rose Marie Mildred Prince* (2021). Gift of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. (Albert J. Zdenek, Jr. was a Flemington councilman and police commissioner in the 1990s.)

Iorio, William L. *The Empire Cut Glass Co. Flemington, N.J. Rich Cut Glass* (1980, catalog reproduction).

Lentine, Deborah Manners. *Meet Six Generations of Haver Family Descendants of Peter and Rachel Haver in Hunterdon County, New Jersey* (2021). Gift of the author in honor of Peter and Rachel Haver.

Setnik, Linda. *Victorian Costume for Ladies, 1860-1900* / photography by Daniel Worthley (2000).

Taylor, Hal. *Before Penn: An Illustrated History of the Delaware River Colonies, 1609-1682* (2019).

Williams, Carl M. *Silversmiths of New Jersey, 1700-1825: With Some of the Clockmakers Who Were Also Silversmiths* (1949).

Wright, Giles R. *Journey From Home*. New Jersey Ethnic Life Series, no. 2.

**Objects:**

Chromeras, Nick. Two painted signs from the Locktown Christian Church. One sign lists church deacons and the other ministers.

Robinson, Pamela. Four pieces of 1960s Stangl Dinnerware; Sculptured Fruit, 10" dinner plate, creamer and sugar bowl w/ lid; Apple Delight, gravy boat w/o underplate.

**Welcome New Members**

Phyllis Bookspan, Philadelphia, PA

Stacy Cullen, Middleburg, FL

Russell Donhauser, Flemington, NJ

Judith Everitt, Camillus, NY

Ruth Ann Farlee, Lambertville, NJ

Thomas Fisher, Flemington, NJ

Charles Hildebrandt, Oldwick, NJ

Jean Hunt, Flemington, NJ

Kenneth MacRitchie, Rockville, MD

Dorothy Myhre, Bayville, NJ

Dr. John Petrocelli, Bridgewater, NJ

Dr. Charles Posner, Sudbury, Suffolk, United Kingdom

Robert Rittman, Clinton, NJ

Bob Wilson, Clovis, CA

Penelope Wintermute, Hampton, NJ

**Lifetime Member:**

Sheila Borders, Santa Clara, CA

Nancie Craig, Milford, PA

**Sustaining Members:**

Janice Armstrong, Milford, NJ

Constance McDonald, Kensington, MD

Diane Weber-Hampton, West Harrison, IN

**Society Loses True Friends**

Mary Ellen Soldavin

**Mary Ellen Conover Soldavin** (1950-2021) passed away on May 22 in Quakertown, Pennsylvania after a brief, but intense, battle with glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer.

Born in Princeton, New Jersey to Frances Terhune and Alvah "Bud" Beekman

Conover, she grew up in Blawenburg, New

Jersey, graduated from Princeton High School, and attended Robert Morris College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mary Ellen married Marc R. Soldavin in 1970; their son, Aaron Conover Soldavin, was born in 1978. The family lived in Belle Mead, Mount Pleasant, and Frenchtown in New Jersey before moving to Quakertown, Pa. in 2020.

Well-known for her extensive volunteer work, Mary Ellen served on the Society's Board of Trustees from 2010 to 2020, where she was active on the membership, building and grounds, and accession committees. Her unique contribution, however, was in organizing and directing an annual fundraising sale of old, out-of-print, rare and fascinating books, posters, and maps that were either duplicates or subjects outside the mission of the Society. A bibliophile by nature, she had honed her book-selling skills as president of Friends of the Hunterdon County Library, where she chaired Special Collections for that organization's annual book sale for 10 years.

Her community work included service as a founding member and president of the Alexandria Township Historical Society. She also was an Elder of Bethlehem Presbyterian Church (BPC) in Pittstown, New Jersey.

Mary Ellen is survived by her husband Marc, son Aaron, daughter-in-law Kelly, and several extended family members. She was interred in Unionville Cemetery, Belle Mead, New Jersey.

\*\*\*\*

The Society wishes to pass its deepest condolences to the family of **Susan Dilts**. Ms. Dilts, 74, passed away on November 1, 2021. Susan was the wife of the Hon. Thomas H. Dilts. Both were longtime members of the Society and frequent visitors to our Deats Library.

\*\*\*\*

The Society also extends its sympathies to the family of life member **Henry Kuhl**, 91, who passed on Jan. 29, 2022. Mr. Kuhl was President of Kuhl Corporation and was active in a variety of organizations.



# How Some County Railroad Plans Got Off Track (Part 1)

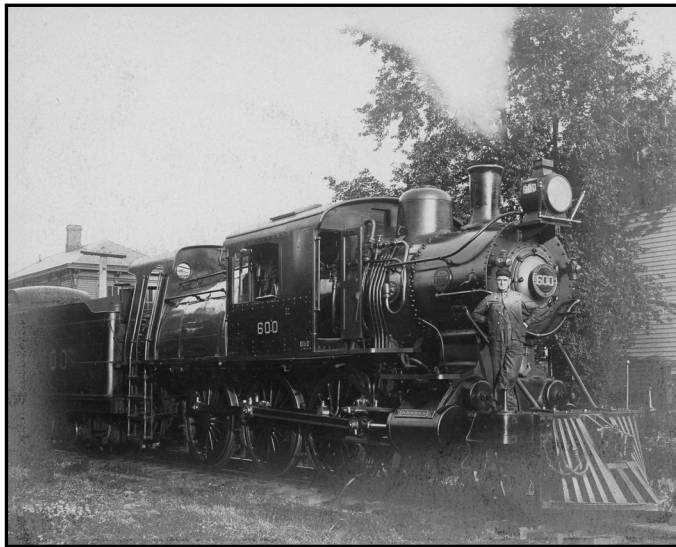
By John Kuhl

*For those lucky enough to be on her online mailing list, Society member and historian Marfy Goodspeed recently laid out a remarkably detailed multi-part history of the Delaware & Flemington Railroad, a line that was never built. This and all our county's rail history is a complex story that is not easy reading and demands the close attention of anyone who wishes to gain some sense of it. Complicating the story was the fact that separate stockholders of small segments multiplied the numbers of rail companies, even those that interconnected. Local lines did not have access to national rail fortunes and depended somewhat precariously on money from landowners and other citizens along its route. Everyone wanted the prestige and convenience of a railroad near their home. In the end, more Hunterdon rail capacity was planned or even completed, than could be supported financially. The resulting fiscal starvation snuffed out many grand dreams. Most proposals died in the financing and planning stage long before the first spike could be driven. In too many cases, wishful thinking overwhelmed logic, both economic and topological. This account will attempt to spotlight some of our rail phantoms.*

In 1864, the Central Railroad completed what it called its South Branch line that connected its main line at Somerville west to Flemington where it met the destination of the Flemington Railroad & Transportation Company. The F.R.&T. Co. was a branch of the Belvidere Delaware RR that opened in 1854 from Lambertville. (It became the Pennsylvania RR in April of 1872.) The Bel-Del's main line along the Delaware from Trenton to Phillipsburg ran through Hunterdon. That is where Marfy's Delaware & Flemington railroad history attempted to fill in the gap that existed between the Central and the Bel-Del. Competition between the railroads was intense -- their survival depended on it.

Officially or not, the Delaware & Flemington RR with its own stockholders was to be part of the South Branch RR. The Central RR had long looked westward. By 1866, it was petitioning the Senate for authority to extend its road from Flemington to the Milford vicinity. Denied that, the South Branch agitated for permission to roughly parallel and run a path a mile or so to the northwest of the already existing line between Flemington and Lambertville. It would push past Sand Brook and Sergeantsville over Sandy Ridge, and on to Prallsville to connect ultimately to new construction coming east from Doylestown.

Calling the old Bel-Del branch to Lambertville "poorly operated and ineffective," the *Hunterdon County Democrat* of 27 December 1871 quoted from the *New York Tribune* to advocate the new line. Seeing it as unwanted competition, both the influential Camden & Amboy RR and the Bel-Del RR choked off state support for this new upstart. In the end, not enough local money was raised and on 8 June 1875, the *Hunterdon County*



*Train engine, circa 1900, near Turntable Junction.  
(HCHS Collections, PX 592)*

*Democrat* announced the "obituary" of the South Branch's proposal. Buried, it said, but with hopes of "resurrection."

And the idea did persist. From the beginning in 1864, as soon as Flemington had been connected from the east by the Central, came multiple schemes to extend to the Delaware, cross that river, and meet proposed new construction to Doylestown, Harrisburg, and west. Unfortunately, neither state segment of the new road was any good without the other, despite several attempts. The needed but expensive Delaware River bridge was a roadblock neither state could overcome.

As early as 1867, the Passaic Valley & Peapack RR was authorized by the state to extend its line west from northeast New Jersey to the Delaware at any point between Milford and Frenchtown. In 1870, this evolved into the New Jersey West Line RR. Some sections of the West Line actually got into use but the Panic of 1873 killed off any hopes of its reaching the Delaware. Early surveying in Hunterdon was its only trace.

The Lehigh Valley Railroad was also looking. One of its proposed routes with different northern and southern options would run from Barton's Station (Flemington Junction) through Sergeantsville to Prallsville on nearly the same route as the now defunct Delaware & Flemington. But, no go. Rumors in the mid-1870s that the railroad was still looking westward brought petitions from Pittstown, Quakertown, Cherryville, Everittstown, and Frenchtown, all hoping to be included. It is hard to imagine that the gradients of Cherryville and Quakertown would allow efficient rail access, but even that would be a tough climb equal to the steepest grade in U.S. standard rails, over 200 feet per mile. (*More in our next issue.*)

## Thank You for Supporting the Society!

Edmund Abegg  
Linda & Roger Ahrens  
Teresa Anderson  
Marlene Apgar  
William Apgar Jr.  
William Allen  
Victoria Allen  
Sherry Baer  
Richard Davis Barber  
Patricia Barber  
Lynn Becker  
Dennis Bertland  
Erin Brennan  
Lynn Burtis  
Stephen Case  
Patricia Christie  
David & Kathleen Cofield  
Lewis Compton  
Debby Cullen  
Kenneth & Marilyn Cummings  
Dorothy Jeanne Denes  
Mervin Dilts  
Thomas Dilts  
Charles Eichlin

Stefan Firtko  
Patricia Fisher-Olsen  
Nancie Craig  
Noel Goecke  
Doreen Grieve  
Robert & Barbara Herder  
Ryman Herr  
Daryl Hoffman  
William Hunnell  
Debra Jaeger  
Marjorie Gelb Jones  
Gloria Kendall  
Wilton Kimmer Jr.  
John Kinney  
Joyce Kintzell  
Jon Kornacki  
John & Catherine Langley  
Norman Douglas &  
Samran Lilyroth  
Karen Lindley  
Susan Mangus  
Gerald Matcho  
John & Sandy Matsen

Bruce & Linda Meier  
George & Norma Melick  
Marilyn Reed Miller  
Dr. Robert Moore  
Craig Murphy  
Carol Parks  
Christopher Pickell  
Karen Pidcock Price  
David Rubin & Melanie  
Gray  
Douglas Rockafellow  
Peter & Mary Rockefeller  
Elizabeth Schmid  
Karen Sheridan  
James Smith  
Mitchell Speert &  
Elizabeth Perez  
Lois Stewart  
Verna Stothoff  
Janet Thompson  
Steven Van Camp  
Richard Williamson Sr. &  
Mary Williamson

Juli Wilson  
James Zdepski  
J. Mark Zdepski

### In Memory of Mary Ellen Soldavin:

William & Susan Athas  
JoAnn Glowacky  
Karen & Bruce Harrison  
John Kuhl  
David Lambert  
Nancy T. Landuyt  
Robert Leith  
Alan and Peggy Querec  
Jean Terhune  
Karen Terhune  
Deborah Wolfgang

### In Memory of Mary Ellen Soldavin and Norm Stevens:

Richard & Priscilla Stothoff

## HCHS Wish List: Be Our Secret Santa

By Roger Ahrens

Back before the holidays, a friend of mine in Florida asked her grandchildren if they each had a wish list of what they wanted for Christmas. One of her grandsons, a recent graduate from a well-known Midwestern university, provided her with an extensive list that included lots of expensive electronic equipment and airline tickets to exotic destinations. While I don't know what the grandson got for Christmas, I suspect he wasn't disappointed.

Unfortunately, the Society doesn't have a well-heeled grandmother in Florida who can provide much-needed items from our wish list.

While membership fees, donations, grants and income from our modest endowment help us cover essential costs, there are some wish list items that the Society would dearly like to have, but which our limited budget will not allow. These items would permit our small staff to better serve our members and the general public and would also allow us to safeguard our important collections for future generations.

In this and future issues of the Newsletter, we will list a few items in the hope that an angel or Secret Santa will come forward and help provide one or more of these much-needed items. Here are a few of the items on our current wish list:

**Storage for 900 Glass Plate Negatives.** The Society was recently given 900 glass plate negatives,

known as the Asher Stryker Collection, which shows scenes of Flemington and its residents from the 1880s through the 1920s. These delicate images must be stored in special sleeves and boxes to preserve them for the future. In all, we need 60 boxes and 600 sleeves, at a total cost of \$1,100 or \$18.50 per box with its sleeves. These boxes are desperately needed to preserve this priceless, fragile collection.

**Wireless Portable Color Printer.** The Society would like to buy a Canon TR150 wireless portable color printer for the Library to better serve its members and visiting researchers. The total cost of the printer is \$230. It will replace a broken printer and help better serve our researchers. Despite the need, the Society just could not include this important piece of equipment in this year's budget.

**Subscription to Video-Editing Software.** The Society is looking for a benefactor to cover the cost of a one-year subscription to Lightworks Create video-editing software to improve our YouTube video offerings, which highlight our collections and activities. The one-year cost is \$120.

We at the Society realize that you can't always have everything you want, but we are hoping that someone will help provide one or more of these important things that we desperately need. For more information or to make a donation, please call Dave Harding, our Administrator, at 908-782-1091. All donations are gratefully accepted, whether from an angel, a Secret Santa or a generous grandmother in Florida.

# Tuccamirgan's Pipe of Peace: Scanned and 3D Printed

By Russ Lockwood

On October 19, 1925, the Case family donated a Native-American pipe made of soapstone to the Hunterdon County Historical Society (HCHS). Indeed, members of the Wickcheoche Tribe and Wickcheoche Council attended the donation ceremony at the Lenape Chief Tuccamirgan's grave in the Case family cemetery on Bonnell Street in Flemington.

The pipe had been presented in the mid-1700s by Chief Tuccamirgan to Johann Philip Case (Kaes) as a token of friendship. Oral tradition relates that Tuccamirgan said he had lived in peace with his 'blue brother' and wanted to be buried in peace near him.

The pipe, known as a 'monitor' or platform type, measures about three inches long at the base with a bowl three inches tall. This type of pipe is believed to be from the Middle Woodland period -- about 410 - 1180 AD. Thus, the pipe was possibly old before Tuccamirgan gave it to Case.

**The idea** of making a 3D replica of the pipe started with HCHS Trustee Roger Ahrens, who was taking classes at Raritan Valley Community College and contacted RVCC Program Coordinator Conrad Mercurious, who oversees the 3D lab as well as professional development and community service activities for the college. They first tried a spearpoint, but while it came out well enough, the differences between original and replica were plain to see.

Mercurious put Ahrens and fellow HCHS trustee John Allen in touch with Cimquest, Inc., a value-added retailer of 3D scanners, printers, and software with headquarters in Branchburg, NJ and a half-dozen 3D printing facilities across Eastern and Midwestern US.

As Cimquest has state of the art 3D equipment, Ahrens and Allen worked with 3D Printing & Scanning Engineer Damon Johnson and Application Engineering Team Manager Jimmy Barrera on a plan to scan and 3D print Tuccamirgan's pipe.

**Johnson noted** the scanning and printing process proved routine except for the delicate handling of the artifact. Due to the age and fragility of the pipe, Barrera and Johnson opted for a Shining 3D Einscan HX blue light laser hand scanner that works well in scanning dark colors.

Johnson scanned the pipe four times, turning it gently in between each scan. The process took about an hour to generate the data, which was fed into Geomagic DesignX 3D software and massaged in post-processing stages. It needed about an hour to generate the final file needed for



*Tuccamirgan's peace pipe (top) and its two 3D replicas made with a 3D printer.*

The scan is accurate to 50 microns - that's 1/2000th of an inch, or, put another way, a human hair is about 70 microns wide, although thicknesses vary among individuals. Fifty microns is also the threshold for eyeballing differences in objects.

The scanning was so accurate, it copied the hole and the partial hole at the ends of the pipe bowl. Inside the bowl, you can see the irregular surface caused by the original carver. The bowl's serrated edge was faithfully reproduced.

**No one realized** the black-colored pipe with gray mottling sported a hairline crack. Only after it printed in blue did they notice the crack.

Johnson fed the final 3D data into a Hewlett Packard Multi Jet Fusion which is HP's version of powder bed fusion printing technology -- faster than other powder bed fusion technologies like selective laser sintering or direct metal laser sintering. He printed the pipe as part of a batch of other printed objects on a mass-printing machine -- not as a single object like home 3D printers.

Cimquest founder and CEO Rob Hassold presented the replicas and returned the original to Ahrens and Allen. The two replicas were sent to Gary Fogelman, noted author and expert on Native-American artifacts, who matched the color and painted the pipe.

The original pipe is back in the archives. One replica is destined for display in the HCHS's second-floor museum in the Flemington Library. The other could be used for various show-and-tell events.

## Tuccamirgan's Legacy

Chief Tuccamirgan remains relevant to this day. Tuccamirgan Park comprises 12 acres at the corner of Bonnell St. and Shields Ave. in Flemington and stretches northeast to the Reading Fleming School.

A little way from the Park's main entrance on Bonnell St. is a historical marker that reads: "Lenape Chief Tuccamirgan helped early settler John Kase (Case) and his family survive the wilderness. Their respect for each other and the earth inspires all who walk here."

On the opposite side of Bonnell St. resides the 1925 memorial obelisk marking the Chief's burial site.

And Tuccamirgan Rd. is down Shields Ave. and across Capner St.



## Curator Cornelius Marvels at Influx of Donations

I have commented before in this space about the amazing number of donations that keep flowing into the HCHS Archives during the past year. I can only surmise that folks have been using the Covid-19 related downtime to clean out their attics, basements, and closets. The plethora of donations did not stop in the summer and fall of 2021; if anything, the pace quickened!

Several different family-related photograph albums were donated. Carol Reading Morris donated two albums that had belonged to Mary E. Kugler, the daughter of George W. Kugler and Emma Elizabeth Bodine. The albums are full of identified images of the Kugler, Bodine, and related families. Longtime Trustee John Kuhl donated the album of Harvey E. (Ezekial Hawley) Cole. The album, originally given to the donor by Shirley Kuhl Brokaw, illustrates the portrait work of several Flemington, Lambertville, and Philipsburg photographers from 1880 to 1890. Many Kuhl, Cole, and Brokaw family members are identified therein.

**Speaking of Mr. Kuhl**, this album was not the only thing he donated. He also contributed his Kuhl-Cool-Cole Family genealogical collection, which includes genealogical reports, notes, research papers, published books, correspondence, legal papers, and scrapbooks. Also, people who know Mr. Kuhl are aware that he frequently gives historical talks and tours concerning the Three Bridges area. Mr. Kuhl has donated a large collection (7 filled boxes!) of his research on Three Bridges. It is full of scrapbooks on fire companies, mills and bridges, the post office, grange, churches, railroads, and other subjects. There are also photographs, postcards, news clippings, notes on village homes, transcripts of oral histories, and research on property titles, deeds, and maps; a scrapbook by Miriam Hipple and her mother, Mrs. Charles Case; records and notes of the Three Bridges School; two ledgers from the International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge 259; and a copy of the Three Bridges Reformed Church Vol. I: Baptisms, Deaths, and Membership.

Franklin Township is also well represented in a donation by former Trustee and Franklin Township Historian Lora Jones. Her donation is a superb collection of 31 scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, meticulously curated and indexed by subject, that document township history from 1846-2019. There was also a donation of seven original deeds from Kingwood/Franklin Townships from 1837-1867, made by Kathy Morel.

If anyone feels geographically slighted, they shouldn't; donations were received concerning almost every part of the county. Kyle Moore donated a collection of materials concerning the DeMott family of Lebanon including genealogical notes, births, surveys, deeds, tax records, receipts, accounts, certificates, correspondence, and estate distributions, ca. 1787-1879. A set of correspondence from East Amwell families (Housell, Richardson, and Jones) were included in a donation of



*A group gathered for this Camp Wilson photo around 1925.*

records from the Holcombe-Jimison museum that also included an interesting set of tintype photographs and farm related journals and publications. Dorothy Shannon donated an interesting class photograph of the students and teacher from the Baptistown School, 1937. A donation from Denise Bastanzi includes photographs, postcards, newsletters, and other records of Camp James J. Wilson,

the Trenton Boys Camp of the Trenton YMCA, from 1924 to 1929.

**And that is not all!** We received other donations concerning the Flemington Fire Company, the construction and community effects of the building of the Round Valley Reservoir, records of Gershom Lambert and the Lambert Family, a collection of photographs and documents concerning the Race family, records and photographs from Flemington High School, mementoes and ephemera from various county political campaigns, and more photographs and postcards documenting Bellewood Park in Pattenburg. Whew!

Finally, looking ahead, we have received what could be the first installments of two major donations. A huge donation of genealogical research into the Farley and Jones families has arrived; and it's possible that more could be coming in the future. Similarly, longtime county resident and historic preservation expert Dennis Bertland has decided to donate his highly detailed and organized collection of historic preservation records with the HCHS. The first two installments (15 boxes) have arrived; the rest will come sometime in the future. I look forward to detailing these huge donations, along with any other new material we receive, in future articles.

In the meantime, please know that we deeply appreciate all of our donors who assist in our mission to collect, preserve, and share the history of Hunterdon County and its people. Keep it coming!

# Spotlight on Collections: Old-Time Radio

By Dave Harding

Horace R. Brokaw fell in love with radios while a student at Flemington High School in the early 1920s. He began making crystal sets and studying wireless codes. Upon graduating in 1922, one of the first things he did was travel into New York City to get a Ham Radio license.

“People thought I knew everything about this new method of sending music and news over the air. They came to me with questions, and requests for receiver sets,” Brokaw told a *Hunterdon County Democrat* reporter in the summer of 1972. “I’d been building my own vacuum tube sets up till then, so I figured I’d start building sets and selling them.”

One of these early sets built by Brokaw in the early 1920s is now preserved in the collections of the Hunterdon



County Historical Society. It was donated by Stephen Case; the radio was built for his father, Edwin.

A longtime resident of Centerville, Brokaw talked to people from all over the world for 78 years. He was a member of the American Radio Relay League and earned a Golden Anniversary Award from the Quarter Century Wireless Association for more than 50 years as a distinguished member.

As the *Democrat* article notes, “He learned the secrets of vacuum

tubes and tunes and frequencies out of plain curiosity, and turned that interest into a satisfying lifetime business.”

Brokaw met his wife Florence Miller when they were both teenagers. They married at the Readington Reformed Church on May 26, 1926 and were together for 67 years until Florence passed in 1993. Brokaw died in 2000 at the age of 98.

HCHS received an operating support re-grant from the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, with funds from the NJ Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

NEW JERSEY  
*Hunterdon*  
COMMISSION

HUNTERDON COUNTY  
CULTURAL HERITAGE  
COMMISSION



Hunterdon's History  
Sharing  
Preserving  
Collecting  
Since 1885

08822  
Flemington, NJ  
114 Main Street  
Hunterdon County  
Historical Society

