

Hunterdon Historical Record



HUNTERDON
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

hunterdonhistory.org

HCHS Book Sale Oct. 15

Is there a better example of serendipity than prowling rows of books and finding that one (or two or three!) that you can't wait to take home to read?

If you love histories and biographies, then you won't want to miss the return of the fabulous HCHS Book Sale on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the Doric House Museum, 114 Main St., Flemington.

Among our offerings you will find an eclectic collection of rare and unusual books, along with a few popular favorites thrown in for good measure. You'll find a treasure trove of books about townships and counties in New Jersey and various state histories. You'll also find first editions, and reproductions of historic maps and posters.

Since this is our first book sale since the pandemic, we are stocked with hundreds of books. So don't miss out! Arrive early for the best selection.

All proceeds benefit HCHS's mission to preserve, protect and share our county's history.

HCHS Ushers in Busy Fall!

Nov. Program Focuses on Carlisle Indian School

Gina Sampaio and Robbie-Lynn Mwangi were combing through some files last year at the Lebanon Township Museum when they happened upon some curious notes from the 1980s written by former students of the New Hampton School.

The students were sharing memories of life in New Hampton in the early 1900s, and several notes referenced "the Indian boys" going to school or working on farms there. One note in particular caught their eye. It read, in part, "Indian boys from the Carlisle School went here."



Gina Sampaio and Robbie-Lynn Mwangi

That sparked the duo to research more, and they'll share the fascinating results of their efforts at our annual fall meeting on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. The program is free, and everyone is welcome. The venue will be announced soon.

As a teaser, we can tell you they discovered that between 1892 to 1918, Carlisle students were sent to live and work on white-owned New Hampton farms as part of an "Outing Program" from the school in Pennsylvania.

The goal of the Carlisle Indian School was to "Kill the Indian to Save the Man" and the Outing program was designed for further immersion into Western culture," said Sampaio, the curator of the Lebanon Township Museum. "The student would be sent to live with and work for white families where they'd be expected to speak English, attend Christian church and Sunday School, and dress in Western-style clothing."

"We believe that all parts of our history, even the shameful parts, *must* be taught," Sampaio said. "It's also imperative that we realize that United States history never *only* happens in one state, it's the collective history of our nation and we're often connected in ways we don't realize."

Deats/Thatcher Native American Exhibition to Open Oct. 22

Join us on the top floor of the Flemington Public Library on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the opening of the Deats/Thatcher Archaeological Collection of Native American Artifacts exhibition.

The event will be an open house, where visitors can stop by and view the collection, which comprises a rich and varied collection of Native American artifacts and ethnographic pieces reflecting the interests of its collectors: Hiram E. Deats and John C. Thatcher.

The Thatcher component of the collection features several thousand pieces collected largely on the Thatcher farm, west of Flemington. The Deats collection was principally gathered on the Flemington Junction farm of the long-time secretary of the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

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

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Acquisitions

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

- Cummings, Marilyn. A series of electronic files and manuscripts comprising Delaware Township Historical Society; research conducted by Marilyn Cummings, 2003-2022. Includes research on antiques, barns, outbuildings, deeds, photographs and more.
- Fisher, Bob. Deeds and photographs of the Welsh Family (1854-1892) and allied families (Huff, Fisher); genealogical notes and research; spoons from the Welsh and other families; the Family Bible of John V.D. Welsh and Keziah Fisher; and flax grown on the family farm.
- Flemington Presbyterian Church, % Pam Watkinson. Two slides of Flemington churches, plus five editions of the yearbooks of The Hunterdon Council of Churches, 1957 - 1963.
- Kline, Deb. A box of materials including photographs from the Worthington family, an unidentified photograph album, genealogical information concerning the Case, Worthington, Kline, and other families, diplomas, and various publications. Donated in memory of John & Adelia Curtis Kline.
- Matsen, John. A box of records concerning Adam and Henrietta Siodlowski of Oldwick, NJ, including legislative and gubernatorial citations, obituaries, photographs, a veteran's project video and oral history, a veteran's medal, and various plaques and certificates, ca. 1980-2010.
- Riddle, Charles. A box of original research concerning various subjects of the Revolutionary War Period and later suitable as historical syllabi for teaching; also, several volumes for the library collection.
- Sautner, Zenobia. 11 boxes of records that document the Baptistown Baptist Church from 1844 to 2013. Includes church records, Mission Society minutes, church minutes, financial ledgers, Deacon's council, newsletters, annual reports, bylaws, business meetings, Sunday school records, and much more. Donated on behalf of the Search and Fleming families.
- Subourne, Mary Lee. Two framed aerial photographs of Greentree Farm in Franklin Township, a series of photographs by Thurston R. Miller taken around Pittstown and Franklin, and a Tricentennial Celebration Quilt, ca. 1995. Donated in memory of George and Mary Lee.
- Library:
- Branin, M. Lelyn. *Early makers of Handcrafted Earthenware and Stoneware in Central and Southern New Jersey* (1988). Society Purchase
- Cohen, David Steven. *America the Dream of my Life: Selections from the Federal Writers' Project's New Jersey Ethnic Survey* (1990). Society Purchase.
- Cramer, Frederic M., compiler. *Subject Index, Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey: Volumes 36 through 70* (1998). Donated by Pamelyn Bush.
- Genealogical data from New York administration bonds, 1753--1799; and *hitherto unpublished letters of administration* / abstracted by Kenneth Scott (1969). Donated by Pam Robinson.
- Collection of Hunterdon County and New Jersey publications belonging to Helen B. Young of Lebanon Borough. Donated by Linda Kennedy.
- Indian Yearbooks, 1945-1948. Clinton High School* (belonging to Martha E. Krause); *Echo Yearbook, 1940, Flemington* continued next page

Acquisitions *continued*

High School. Donated by John Sheets.
Life in Rural Ringoes: Recollections of Pauline Sutphen Bond, 1900-1998. Donated by Dave Harding.
Rose, Christine. Courthouse indexes illustrated (2006) and courthouse research for family historians (2006). Donated by Pam Robinson.
Wenzel Lynn and Carol J. Binkowski. New Jersey's Remarkable Women: Daughters, Wives, Sisters, and Mothers who Shaped History (2016). Donated by Pam Robinson.

Correction: John E Kinney is the nephew of the late Anna Kinney Niece, not a grand nephew as stated in our Spring 2022 newsletter acquisitions. His father, Earl Rutledge Kinney was Anna Crouse Kinney brother.

Objects:
 Stevens, Stephanie. Three bags for Tiger's Prepared Buckwheat, Wheat and Corn Flour manufactured by the H.G. Geist mill of Califon. The bags could hold five pounds of flour.

Note: Because of space considerations in this newsletter, we will publish our donors and new members in our next issue.

When the Circus Came To Town

So, how crazy was it in Flemington during the Lindbergh baby kidnapping trial?

Find out on Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. when author Jim Davidson discusses his new book *When the Circus Came to Town* at the Hunterdon County Library's main branch, 314 Route 12 in Raritan Township.



Jim Davidson

Davidson will weave together a fascinating collection of tales featuring an array of colorful characters. He'll tell you about everyone from locals like Sheriff John Curtiss, Defense Attorney C. Lloyd Fisher (who represented Bruno Hauptmann), and jurors Charles Walton and Verna Snyder to the hordes of newspaper and radio reporters, photographers, sketch artists and idle curious who swarmed the town in January and February of 1935.

The program is free but space is limited. Email hunterdonhistoryadm@gmail.com to reserve your seat!

In Memoriam

Anne Moreau Thomas, 92, passed away on September 11, 2022. Ms. Thomas was a leader in numerous Hunterdon County professional, civic and charitable organizations. Her invaluable contributions to the Hunterdon County Historical Society, on which she served as a trustee from 1983-1999, will always be remembered.



Ms. Thomas was a lifelong pillar of the community and broke barriers to lead organizations such as the New Jersey Press Association and the Rutgers Board of Governors.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family.

The announcement of Ms. Thomas's passing arrived just as this newsletter was going to press. We hope to have a more fitting tribute to her in our next issue.

* * *

We pass along the sad news of the passing of **Russ Lamendola**, a longtime HCHS member and frequent donor of local memorabilia on June 9. Our condolences to his family.

We also note the passing on Aug. 21 of lifetime member and former volunteer **Peter Crowl** and extend our sympathies to his family.

Bring Rachel Home!

HCHS asks for your help to bring Rachel Wolverton Bonnell home.

A generous donor has offered to gift us this oil on canvas painting of Rachel Wolverton Bonnell, painted by Clinton artist William Bonnell around 1825. The owner is the great-great-granddaughter, several times over, of Abraham Bonnell, Rachel Wolverton's father-in-law. The painting has been in her family for generations.



California to New Jersey. We also are seeking donations so we may properly conserve the painting so it can be enjoyed for generations to come. The estimated costs for shipping and conserving the art could run several thousands of dollars. Donations can be made by check to HCHS at 114 Main St., Flemington, 08822 or via PayPal on our website.

HCHS has a few other William Bonnell paintings in its collection, and we would love to bring Rachel home. Please make a donation to help us cover the shipping cost of crating and transporting the painting from

Meet HCHS's First Woman President

By Janice Armstrong

Miss Emma Ten Broeck Runk and I have some history in common. No, we are not related. Emma was the first woman to serve as president of the Hunterdon County Historical Society's Board of Trustees (1905), and I am the second (2021-present). One big difference is I knew I was elected, but it was a surprise for Emma. Here is her story.

Emma's lineage stems from a long line of prominent Hunterdon families. Her parents, married June 4, 1845, in Rosemont, were Peter Ten Broeck Runk, son of the Hon. John Runk, and Emma Ten Broeck; and Fanny Barcroft, daughter of Ambrose Barcroft and Anna Woolverton. Emma was born in Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County on Oct. 27, 1849. She was the middle child and only girl having two brothers who led short but interesting lives. There is little information about her childhood and schooling. Her father took the family to Plum Creek, Armstrong County, PA where he owned "mills and other businesses." The 1861 Pomeroy's Map shows Runks and Barcrofts in the area. Her father died from causes unknown when Emma was 11 years old. She and her mother moved first to the Philadelphia area and then back to Lambertville to be closer to family. Did her father leave the family financially secure? I could not find a will, but it seems either he left them money or local family members supported them since it does not appear that Emma or her mother were ever employed.

With little information on Emma's early years, her meticulous works conjure an image of a studious young lady with a passion for genealogy. It's possible she traveled to England after her father's death to research the Woolverton and Ten Broeck families or maybe she used family Bibles and documents. Her mother must have been pleased to have such a quiet, caring daughter as her sons did not fare so well.

Harry Barcroft Runk (1853-1873), Emma's younger brother, passed away due to a "delicacy of his constitution that led to pneumonia and tubercular trouble." According to Rev. John Wiley Faires, founder of the Classical Institute in Philadelphia where Harry was a student, Harry was sent to the institute as an "old-fashioned notion of methods to correct too high youthful spirits." Harry went on to work in the well-established wholesale dry-goods business of Barcroft & Co. where he "had the support of family companionship and sympathy." Harry was just 20



Emma T. Runk

years old, and Emma was 24.

William Mentz Runk (1846-1892), Emma's older brother, committed suicide by shooting himself. He had embezzled money from the family dry-goods company Darlington, Runk and Co. where he worked. William used some of the money to buy a huge life insurance policy with the plan that after he committed suicide there would be money for his wife and children. William was 46 years old, and Emma was 43.

After so much loss you wonder how Emma and her mother Fanny coped. By 1896 they were living in a duplex at 5 Jefferson St., Lambertville. Emma was a member of the Col. Lowrey Chapter of the D.A.R., an active member in the Episcopal Church, the Kalmia Club, Stryker Library Association (Lambertville Public Library) and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Emma joined HCHS in 1896. By 1901 she became a vice president. In a letter to Elias Vosseller March 14, 1901, she wrote "Honored to be VP." Her research caught the eye of Hiram E. Deats, the Society President and in a letter dated October 1903 he thanked Emma for copies of her books and offered her Pa. magazines to borrow from his collection.

Here's where the story takes a strange twist. Emma missed the 1904 HCHS annual meeting and unbeknownst to her was elected president! An interesting exchange of letters takes place between Emma and Deats. Being a great saver of all things, Deats kept the letters, and they are available in the HCHS archives.

Deats' letter to Emma, January 16, 1905 -- "I regret that you were not here on Saturday but take the pleasure of notifying you of your election as President of the Society."

Emma's letter to Deats February 6, 1905 -- "In reply to yours I would say that after speaking with Mr. Vosseller I decided to do what I could for the Historical Society of my own County for the one year— as President but you can understand my surprise when (?) your letter."

Continued on Page 6

For Frenchtown Merchant, Retail Was a Holy Crusade

By Rick Epstein

“LADIES – you may regret wedlock, but you will never regret buying a carpet from O.R. Kugler.” – Frenchtown Star, 1890

Oliver R. “Oll” Kugler (1863-1933) came to Frenchtown at age 18 and learned enough clerking in J.S. Manners’ general store to open his own store in 1886 at what is now 24-26 Bridge Street.

Kugler’s wares, as advertised in ‘89, included lamps, stoves, tubs, pails, brooms, and silver and plated ware. In 1892 he took Carl Bellis as a partner. Bellis was probably an in-law. Kugler’s sisters had both married Bellises.

Kugler & Bellis sold dry goods, notions, boots and shoes, gloves, hats, underwear, carpets, groceries, wallpaper, shotguns, sleds, skates, lamps, hardware, window shades, and bicycles. You could pay with cash or produce.

Their end-of-year ad raved, “Had we the time to express – had we the ability to convey to the general public our heartfelt thanks and best wishes, we would do so cheerfully: but our rapid strides toward the goal of our ambition almost daze ourselves, so we are not yet able to sufficiently collect our thoughts.”

A cash register was acquired in 1897. Hopefully it helped them sort out their emotions.

Bellis seems to have been a lesser partner, and soon it was back to being all Kugler.

In 1901 Kugler advertised shoes, clothing, carpets (of course), window shades, oil cloth, bed blankets, wallpaper, corsets, hardware, clothes wringers, tea, coffee, soap, baking supplies, and canned goods. If time traveling, don’t miss the March closeout sale of 100 derby hats!

He must’ve made a new-year resolution for 1905 because he came out swinging with big ads in the Star every week, each one something to marvel at.

He announced, “I have decided to give the public some new things to think about for the coming year of which I will speak through the papers from time to time, but for the present I shall devote the time to what is usually called a cut price sale. This I am doing to destroy the greatest enemy that the storekeeper has – the accumulation of old stock which means that the money I should have in the bank or in seasonable goods is tied up so I can only look at it and sigh.”

In denial about Britton Bros.’ grand department store down the block, he boasted that his store “with more departments than any other store in this county, shall come to be the best patronized store, for the reason that every



Where Oliver Kugler once lifted storekeeping into the realm of heroic adventure, the Junto Emporium and Sunbeam General's Hidden Treasures continue the quest at 24-26 Bridge Street.

power I have shall be bent to serve you with the best goods in every line that the market affords, and that the prices shall be as low, and in many instances lower, than is asked at other stores.”

As you read this next sample, you’ll want to admire the length of its opening sentence: “I am the man that is selling Hams for 11c, the best you ever saw at any price, and I am the man that sells Picnic Hams for 8c a pound, as well as the man that has the nerve to sell the entire stock of Wall Paper that was carried over from last year for 10c a double roll, and the number of customers that have been fitted out from this stock would astonish the old time storekeepers and make them say that it could not be done in February or even March, but it is so; and I am pushing out the Hardware at a lively gate (sic), for the farmers know that they have not had such an opportunity to get these goods at this price for some time past. Think of it, NAILS for \$2.20 per keg and Barb Wire at \$2.90 for the month of March.”

Here’s a bit of Kugler’s business theory (along with a nice metaphor):

“Competition isn’t the wild-eyed hyena coming along at a two-forty clip (a fast trotter could do a mile in 2:40) to take away business life. Rather than this, it is a powerful lever, jacking us up to our very best, that we may meet success and share the laurels. Competition may cause a merchant to reorganize, to be more modern; but do not these in themselves result in better conditions for the trade (the customers)? Certainly they do, and the business usually feels the impulse and bounds upward. Seldom indeed, is competition in itself the cause of downfall.”

Kugler insisted that a merchant ought to set his prices so low that he could not reduce them even if a

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Frenchtown Merchant *continued from Page 5*

customer were to find a lower price elsewhere. "If a merchant has an advantage that he means to share with the trade, he ought not be ashamed to tell of it; but he should never, never resort to the mean caper of asking his customers to humiliate themselves with the despicable practice of peddling prices from one place to another."

Kugler captivates me. The oratorical tenor and heroic pretensions of his ad copy make it sound like the script for a one-man play.

In May he presented "THE MOST DARING ADVERTISEMENT that ever was attempted by a Merchant in Hunterdon County." Here's the deal: Every customer that month would get a coupon upon which was written the amount of the purchase and the day's date. At the end of the month, bank president A.B. Haring would announce the lucky day for May, and everyone who had made a purchase on that day could present the coupon for a full refund.

Another ad presented the banker's day-choosing methodology, which for its detailed weirdness, deserves space here. Haring wrote, "I hung a large calendar about five feet from the floor, and then stepping back twelve feet, closing my eyes tightly, I made three revolutions of my body, as near as I could estimate, and then threw a wet paper ball at the place where I supposed the calendar to be. The first time the ball struck immediately under the calendar. On the second attempt, I threw about five feet to the right on a line of the lower part of the target, but on the third trial, the ball struck the figure 12 squarely. I therefor decided that May 12th should be the day. No other person was present, and nobody but myself has any knowledge of the date selected." The date was sealed in an envelope and locked in his vault until the end of May. (It was a Friday. If it had been a Saturday, when all the farmers from miles around were

in town spending like drunken sailors, Kugler would have suffered a big loss.)

Kugler announced that he'd repeat this promotion in June, but then he closed the weekly window into his mind. Apart from a few, small, traditional ads for clothing, Kugler fell silent. Was the ad campaign a failure? Did his muse desert him? Was his commercial zeal exhausted? Or was he just too busy?

He had a lot of other involvements even before he sold his retail business to Edwin T. and Joseph Roach in 1914.

In 1897 he was importing carloads of cattle from New York State and selling them here. He was active in the Hawthorne Literary Society, and was its president in 1908 and maybe other years, too.

Kugler was elected Hunterdon County clerk in 1910 and served five years. He was Frenchtown's postmaster in 1916-20 and a prime mover in an early attempt to free the bridge of tolls. He was an advocate for building the second Hillside Academy and then got the contract for dismantling its predecessor. He also pressed for establishing a municipal power plant, of which he was named superintendent in 1911.

Kugler and his wife spent the late 1920s in Zanesville, Ohio, but they moved back in '30.

Roach Bros. continued Kugler's diverse offerings with "dry goods, groceries, hardware, paints, and merchandise of various kinds," according to Frenchtown Uptodate, a 1916 business publication. According to Roach family lore, Kugler saw them prospering and raised their rent so high they gave up.

I have no idea what Kugler looked like, and I don't even know if he was a decent person. His daughter cried a lot in school, according to Raymond Fargo's 1906 diary, but maybe that wasn't his fault. Nevertheless, I would be the first to donate \$20 to anyone who wants to erect a statue of O.R. Kugler on Bridge Street. Perhaps wearing armor and a plumed helmet.

Emma Runk *continued from Page 4*

Emma's letter to Deats Jan. 8, 1906 -- "May I request that Vice President -- or a Chairman pro tempore preside at the meeting of the Historical Society called for 13. The train schedule does not get me in Flemington in time for the opening. I feel that I can be of very little service to the organization, owing to my place of residence, and that it is not fair to the working members that my name should stand as an officer."

Deats' letter to Emma January 10, 1906 -- "You have been a member for years and quite regular attendant and we thought that it would induce some of the ladies to join the Society if a woman should be among the list of officers."

This was not the end of Emma's involvement with "the Society" as she became HCHS Library Committee chair and served three terms.

In 1911 her mother, Fanny Barcroft Runk, passed away at the age of 92. She was buried next to her husband in the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Lambertville. Emma was 66 years old. She continued to live in Lambertville until

1918, when she sent a change of address letter to HCHS saying she was moving to the Delmar-Morris in Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood.

For about the last 20 years of her life she resided in Washington, D.C. near family. According to her obituary in the *Lambertville Beacon* on January 7, 1937, her only living relative was a nephew, Lewis B. Runk, of Germantown. Emma died at age 87 and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery alongside her parents. It's so hard from these brief findings to know what she was really like, but if she were a heroine in a novel I would see her as a kind, caring, intelligent person whose first half of life was filled with tragedy and upheaval. For the times she lived in, she was well-informed and involved in her community. Hiram Deats may not have been the stodgy straitlaced gentleman I pictured him to be. He appreciated Emma's knowledge, recognized her leadership qualities, and encouraged women to participate in the Hunterdon County Historical Society. I hope by telling Emma's story that ladies like her will be remembered for their work as pioneering keepers of our history.

From the Desk of HCHS Curator Cornelius

In recent editions of the *Hunterdon Historical Record*, I have been using this space to highlight many of the wonderful donations that have been gifted recently to the Society. Those donations continue to come in, for which we thank you! But for this edition, I want to discuss something different, and highlight a new addition to our bound manuscript record group: four volumes of church records of the Asbury and Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Church. These volumes were donated to us in 2013, and cover a date span of 1863-1920.

Savvy genealogists often consult church records to see if they can glean information not recorded in the vital statistics of the state. Indeed, if you are looking for records prior to 1848 (the year New Jersey began recording births, deaths, and marriages), church records may be your only source. Even throughout the rest of the 19th century, reporting to the state was often spotty or incomplete, and church records can still round out family information. Those of you readers who conduct research using our collections likely know that we have some fascinating records from churches throughout the county. We are happy for everyone else to know it now, too!

The latest group we are adding to those available for research are the records of the Asbury and Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Church. The first volume of these four ledgers is absolutely fascinating. It is entitled, "Record of the Asbury & Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Church, Recorded by Fletcher Lummis, 1864..." From there, the volume has an unfortunately empty section intended for recording the history of the church. After that is the section for recording probationers. In this section, the names of probationary members are followed by their "state of life" and subsequent changes, residence, date when received, by whom, as well as when and how baptized, and when and how disposed of (meaning did they drop, withdraw, become full members, etc.). Of immediate note is the fact that the records begin in 1863, not in the cover indicated 1864. A few other notations are very interesting

– particularly the notations of the word "colored" next to a few of the names in the list. It is often unpleasant to see

Probationers				
	Names.	State in Life.	Residence.	When Received.
Dropped	George Howell	m	Asbury	July 11
	Jacob C. Stewart	m	"	1864
	John W. Smith	s	"	"
	Wm J. Kinney	m	"	Removed to F.C.
	Ellen Kinney	m	"	"
	Mary M. Leahy	s	"	"
	Isabella Ferguson	s	"	Dropped
	Femina Ferguson	s	"	"
	Kenneth L. Lumsden	s	"	"
	Margaret Daily	s	Removed to Broadway	1864
	Caroline M. Lumsden	m	"	"
	John M. Leahy	m	"	"
	John J. Chamberlain	m	"	"
	Christopher Thibault	s	"	1864 March
	Andrew Snyder	m	"	"
	Mary Jane Stewart	s	"	"
	Andrew Am. Stewart	s	"	"
	Susan M. Miller	s	"	"
	Mary K. Hoffman	m	"	"
	Sarah E. Kinney	s	"	"
	Wm. W. Wainwright	m	"	"
	Anna J. Kinney	m	"	"
	Anthony Kinney	m	"	"
	Catharine A. Kinney	s	"	"
	Wm. S. Kinney	s	"	"

such things in a historical record, but the fact it is recorded can be helpful to some families tracing their roots. The next section includes Class records – records of the Church Sunday School. It records the class number, the leaders' names, when the class met, the pupils names, their "state of life," residence, and remarks, which vary widely. Next comes the Members in Full Connection, listed alphabetically (although it does jump around), listing the "state in life" when received, how received, by whom, and then remarks, which are very interesting. For example, Sarah E. Alpaugh, a fully connected member, died on July 27, 1872. Charles S. Bailey was removed, by certificate, to Bristol, Pa.

After these sections come the Chronology of Official Members (leadership positions) and the Pastoral and Statistical Records. After that comes the juicy parts – Baptisms, and Marriages. Marriages indicate the date, the names of the parties, their residence, (sometimes) place of birth, ages, occupation of the male, and the officiating minister. The Baptisms begin with the date, the name, adult or infant, the date of birth, names of parents, mode of baptism, place of baptism, and officiating minister.

Even when not conducting family research, it is easy to lose yourself in these types of records. C. Wyckoff Smith, a married member of the Sunday School Class No. 2, found himself in U.S. Hospital at D.C. in 1865 – presumably as a soldier, but who knows? What did Joseph Bowlby do to be "discontinued because unworthy" in 1874? The answer to these questions can only be discovered with more research, of course!

I hope that you enjoyed this more detailed foray into one of our more recently made available manuscripts. I also hope it inspires you to examine our holdings for all of the different churches from throughout the county that have made their way into our collections. Who knows – maybe you might find your own ancestor in one of them!

Spotlight on Collections: A Grand Old Flag

By Anna Robison

Though the United States flag may be one of stars and stripes forever, overall the flag's design has changed drastically over time. One such flag, of 35-stars, resides in the Hunterdon County Historical Society's collection, and represents both another design and an important time in U.S. history.

June 14, 1777 marks the codification of the first U.S. flag by the Continental Congress. Congress stated, "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation."

More stars were needed in the field of blue to account for the U.S.'s growing land absorption, however. Initially, the flag wasn't regularly updated.



The 35-star flag in the Hunterdon County Historical Society Collections.

For example, though Tennessee was admitted in 1796, the state was only represented in 1818 with the 20-star flag. By the time of the 35-star flag, new flags were officially adopted on the next July 4th following the state's acquisition.

The 35-star flag was adopted on July 4, 1863, just around two weeks from the time when West Virginia was admitted into the Union. Though Virginia had seceded, many in West Virginia shared pro-Union sentiment and willed to secede from Virginia in turn. Thus, West Virginia along with Nevada, represented the only states to be admitted into the United States during the Civil War.

The 35-star flag waved for two years before being replaced with the 36-star flag, when Nevada was added. Though Nevada's star was adopted in 1865, the state itself was admitted on October 31, 1864. For a flag that was only in use for two years during wartime, the 35-star flag represents a unique time and entry in the nation's history.

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.



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