

# Hunterdon Historical Record



HUNTERDON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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

## Upcoming HCHS 'Collections' Programs

We have been teaming up with Hunterdon 300th all year to bring you a series of programs centered around HCHS's collections. The below events will be held in the main branch at the Hunterdon County Library on Route 12 on Sundays at 2 p.m. Registration and a \$5 donation are suggested. Visit [www.hunterdonhistory.org](http://www.hunterdonhistory.org) to register and see the full slate of offerings.

**Faces of Hunterdon: A History Through Portraiture on Nov. 19.** HCHS staff and trustees discuss portraits of Hunterdon County residents in our collections and the artists who created them.

**Early Medicine and Medical Equipment on Dec. 10.** Dr. Gary Grover explores the interesting and sometimes disturbing medical practices of the 19th and early 20th centuries using items found in the HCHS collections.

## The Other Lindbergh Trial in Flemington

By Jim Davidson

### Part 1 of 2

*"This (trial) is the most abominable blot on justice in the history of the state. There wasn't a person in the courtroom, including the judge, who knew what the case was about."*

Lloyd Fisher – July 3, 1932

Everyone knows about the famous Charles Lindbergh-Bruno Hauptmann Trial of 1935, which supposedly put Flemington on the map. But there was another trial in Flemington in the summer of 1932 with Lindbergh and John Hughes Curtis, which at the time was billed as the greatest trial in Hunterdon County history.

It centered around John Curtis, a well-established ship builder in Norfolk, Virginia, and a pillar of Norfolk society. He had been asked to serve as an intermediary by the supposed gang that kidnapped the Lindbergh baby. Thus began a three-month saga between Lindbergh and Curtis which didn't end -- even when a baby's corpse was found just outside of Hopewell.

On March 1, 1932, the baby of famed aviator Charles Lindbergh and his wife, Anne Morrow, was kidnapped. Every lead the New Jersey State Police followed proved to be a dead end. In early March, John "Jafsie" Condon of the Bronx emerged as an intermediary.

Meanwhile in Norfolk, on March 9, John Hughes Curtis, President of the Norfolk Country Club and former Commodore of the Norfolk Yacht Club, was leaving a board meeting at the country club at 10 p.m. when a man identifying himself as Sam stopped him in the parking lot and said they needed to talk. Sam said kidnappers had the Lindbergh baby on a boat off the Virginia Capes. The gang had asked Sam to approach Curtis to act as an intermediary to get the baby back to the Lindberghs.



**John Hughes Curtis with his daughter Constance.**

*Continued on page 6*

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Dave Harding, John Kuhl, Pamela Robinson,  
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Layout: Dave Harding

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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. Donated materials may not be available for research until they have been processed, an ongoing activity. The Society thanks our donors for these acquisitions.**

**Archives:**

Abegg, Edmund. A large collection of photographs of the Deats and Taylor families from ca. 1890-1940, and Edmund Abegg's latest book, *A Deeper Look: A Rational Philosopher Writes on Culture and Nature*.

Case, Joan Miller; Barbara Miller Livingston; and Ida Miller. A folder of 15 whimsically illustrated Lindbergh Kidnapping Trial Envelopes, 1935 (right).

Donation in memory of the Case and Miller Families.

Carpenter, Mary T. A photograph album of images of members of the Apgar, Alpaugh, Farley, and Lambert families, 1894.

Castagna, Robert M. Program from the HCHS Anniversary

Luncheon and 90th Birthday Celebration of H.E. Deats, 1960.

Donation in memory of Kenneth V. Meyers.

Dilts, Thomas H. Two school exercise books of Lizzie Lant, 1884 and 1896; and an Underground Railroad publication, NJ Historical Commission, n.d.

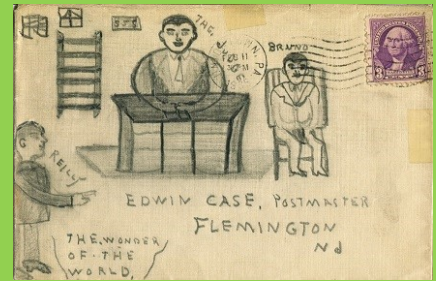
Johnson, Myra. A series of class photographs from 4th grade Franklin Township School (Quakertown) through North Hunterdon H.S., 1949-1957.

Karrow, Marcia. Invitation to the 10th Reunion Picnic, Class of 1928 Flemington H.S. (1938)

Leeds, Curtis. A folder of the estate folders of Martha Krause, 1963-1986. Donation in memory of Martha E. Krause.

Stevens, Stephanie. A major donation of items including photographs, publications, ledgers, research notes, maps, and postcards concerning subjects in Readington Township, 1891-2003.

Stewart, Lois. An assorted collection of materials including local school programs, booklets, ephemera, and a series of photographs of Rosemont, NJ, by Willis Carver, ca. 1930-2011.

**Library:**

Barber, John Warner and Henry Howe. *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey: Containing a General Collection of the most Interesting Facts, Traditions, Biographical Sketches, Anecdotes, etc. Relating to its History . . .* (Reprint of 1999 publication.) Gift from Debbie Hoskins.

Bye, Edwin Arthur. *A Friendly Heritage along the Delaware: The Taylors of Washington Crossing and Some Allied Families in Bucks County* (Reprint of 1959 publication.) Society Purchase.

Delaware Valley Regional High School. *The Valley ('22-'23 Version) Del Val Terriers*. Vol. 64. Gift from DVRHS.

Kelly, Arthur C.M. *Names, Names, and More Names: Locating your Dutch Ancestors in Colonial America* (1999). Society Purchase.

Lane, Francie. *The Martin Family history, Volume I: Hugh Martin (1698-1761) of County Tyrone, Northern Ireland & Hunterdon County, New Jersey, his Parents, Siblings and Descendants* (2014). HCHS purchase.

Mastai, Boleslaw and Marie Louise D'Otrange. *The Stars and the Stripes: The American Flag as Art and as History from the Birth of the Republic to the Present* (1973). Society Purchase.



# Photographer Takes a Grave Approach to Her Art

By Dave Harding

**S**ome photographers love capturing life's precious moments. Cheryl Jackson has taken her passion for photography in a completely different direction. Jackson photographs death, or more precisely, cemeteries in the Hunterdon County region, finding a stark beauty among the gravestones.

That interest expanded, and before long Jackson grew fascinated with the art and symbolism of gravestones, their carvers and the types of stones they used, and in the history of the cemeteries she visited.

Jackson will share her cemetery explorations at the Hunterdon County Historical Society's annual fall meeting on Sunday, November 12 at 2 p.m. in the Flemington Presbyterian Church. The program is free, everyone is welcome, and refreshments will be served.

Jackson always loved photography, and even as a small child carried around a 126 instamatic camera given to her by her parents. She was the envy of her college photography class when she showed up with her dad's vintage Zeis Ikon camera. And while her career path led to work as a graphic designer and studio manager, Jackson had been bitten by the camera bug and could never shake it.

"I feel something missing when I don't get out with my camera, so I often head out with my boyfriend to visit different cemeteries," Jackson said. "My son once said, 'You're going to another cemetery? You're going to end up there one day anyway.' I told him, 'Then bury me with my camera!'"

Her "unusual" photo journey began almost a dozen years ago. Jackson began photographing cemeteries, old vintage dolls (you can see examples of her doll photos in the Oct. 2015 issue of *Weird NJ!*) and abandoned places.

"I've stuck mostly with the cemeteries," Jackson said. "In years past, I always liked to search out the oldest stone in



***Our annual fall meeting features photographer Cheryl Jackson. Photo by Mary Galiota.***

the cemeteries that I visited. I started out photographing cemeteries trying to get a different, unique shot – times of day, seasons and weather. I then started becoming interested in actual facets of cemeteries themselves. Now, I've developed a presentation and share my knowledge with others."

Jackson's respectful treatment and appreciation of cemeteries will be on display during this presentation. Prints and card sets of her work also will be available for sale.

"I often get incredulous looks from folks who say 'you take pictures of what...??,' but cemeteries aren't creepy, dark places. They are places of solace, peace, beauty and history," Jackson said.

"I love how your historical society has a cemetery committee! With the age of many of the cemeteries in our area, and the art and symbolism that can be found on the stones, they are really, free museums to walk around," she added.

## Acquisitions *continued*

### Bibles:

Horvath, Donna. Two family bibles which belonged to the donor's mother.

-- Bible of Frederic Lunger (1780-1845) m/ 1808, Margaret Bodine (b. 1787).

-- Bible of John J. Hall (1852-1922) m. 1878, Anna Mary Kelly (1854-1911).

Morris, Dave and Charlotte. Two family bibles.

--Bible of Samuel A. Morris and Ellen Hawk, m. 1874, Phillipsburg, N.J.

--Bible of John Park (b. 1834) and his wife, Mary Ann Dennis (b. 1836-1917) .

## Donors & New Members

### **Thank You Donors:**

Janet Smith  
Raymond & Juli Wilson

### **New Members:**

Thomas Britton  
Sandra Hook  
Marianne Konopack  
Annabelle Lupo  
Gary Schotland

**In Memoriam:** HCHS is sad to note the passing of Ronald Schultzel, our former manuscript curator. Mr. Schultzel passed on Aug. 17, 2023. Our condolences to his family.

# Did a 'Black Widow' Kill Her Bootlegging Husband?

By Dave Harding

**I**n the spring of 1932, the nation's attention was focused on Hunterdon County after the kidnapping of Charles and Anne Lindbergh's son, and the trial of John Curtis (see Jim Davidson's page-one article). As the first Lindbergh trial was ramping up in the county court system, another crime, the murder of bootlegger Julian Winterstein in Whitehouse Station was competing for space on the front pages of our local newspapers. Julian's widow, Pauline, would be charged with the crime, thus becoming the first woman in Hunterdon County tried for murder, according to several newspapers.

On April 18, 1932, Julian Winterstein, 42, stepped outside the home of his friends, Lewis and Anna Gonet, and into the chilly night air. A waxing gibbous moon beamed down, casting eerie shadows across the Gonets' neighborhood, just east of the Catholic Church in Whitehouse Station. Winterstein had spent the evening playing cards and listening to the radio with the couple until 10:30 p.m., after which he headed home, a borrowed bottle of milk cradled in his arm. Winterstein hopped in his car, and within 15 minutes was sitting in the parlor chatting with his wife of seven years, Pauline, while the radio played "some witch songs," Pauline later told police.

Minutes later, a knock interrupted this picture of domestic tranquility. Julian rose to answer, and Pauline could hear the hushed voices of two men chatting with her husband, she later told police.

"I didn't hear what was said. I was so interested in the radio. Lots of people come here, asking where somebody lives," Pauline told police as recorded by *The Hunterdon County Democrat*. "Then somebody gave him a shot."

The story that eventually emerged was that Julian rushed back inside his home and into the kitchen, his assailants fast on his heels, firing their guns as Julian grabbed his revolver, a .45 caliber Colt automatic. Now, it was the two intruders' turn to run. They charged out of the house, Julian in hot pursuit.

Pauline claimed at the Coroner's Inquest that the men shot her husband first in the outside doorway, then a



**Julian Winterstein's grave in Rural Hill Cemetery, Whitehouse Station.**

second – and perhaps a third time – in the dining room. Julian ran outside, and Pauline followed, arriving just in time to watch as her husband tumbled down the steps and fell in the grass. The gun dropped from his lifeless hand, she said.

Police believed, and a subsequent autopsy later confirmed, that Julian had been shot four times with a 38-caliber revolver. The first bullet, fired from the front, passed through the right side of his chest. To guard his head, Julian flung up his right arm, and the next bullet shattered the bone. A third bullet entered the left shoulder from the front, tearing the main muscles and breaking the bone at the joint so the arm hung useless at his side. The final shot, likely occurring while Julian was running out of the house, pierced his left lung. Doubts percolated about Pauline's testimony; how could Julian carry a revolver with both arms shot up?

Sixty-nine-year-old Henry Galick lived just 200 feet away. He heard two shots and presumed that Julian was shooting to scare away a few dogs. His wife, Eva, raised a window and saw Pauline running around outside, screaming for help.

**M**r. Galick rushed over. He approached the lifeless body, bent over, and shook it. When Julian failed to respond, he told Pauline to go the home of neighbor Adam Smigylski and fetch a doctor. The next neighbor alerted was John Passerello, who, after likely rubbing the sleep from his eyes, hurried to the nearby Emmett service station to phone police.

Soon, Dr. F. G. Clark, Coroner John Brokaw and state police were tramping about the Winterstein lawn and home. Pauline told her story to police. With all the confusion, she said, she could not describe her husband's murderers, just saying one was small and the other large and "full in the face."

Julian's gun could not be found until a neighbor noticed it under the front porch. Later, Pauline told the State Troopers something that must have raised their eyebrows. "I moved the gun . . . I was afraid someone might step on it. I put it under the lattice work of the porch."



This wasn't the first puzzling detail police would learn about this crime.

### Eastern European Roots

Julian Winterstein was born on August 12, 1890 in Bolrinsk, Russia, and arrived in the United States from Germany a few months before his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Julian became involved in bootlegging – remember, this was the era of Prohibition – and on July 16, 1922, police raided his home and found a still. On March 7 1925, Julian was slapped with concealed weapons charges.



**Julian  
Winterstein**

Julian and a business partner purchased a quarter-acre lot in Whitehouse Station around 1919 where he raised chickens and goats while defying prohibition laws by bootlegging. He also took on carpentry jobs and worked on the Central Railroad. Pauline appeared at Julian's six years later. She was born in Jasło Galicia (southeastern Poland). Though she told police she was only four years older than her husband, census records show Pauline was born in 1874. Her maiden name was Bodjewski. According to the *Review*, Julian was seeking a housekeeper and his brother, Abram, introduced him to Pauline. A few days later, on June 10, 1925, the Rev. Tunis Prins married the couple in the Whitehouse Reformed Church parsonage.

### Police Discoveries

**B**ack at the crime scene, police were yanking open closets and cupboard drawers that concealed a veritable cache of bottled booze. A trap door under the kitchen sink was stocked with hooch. Guns were found throughout the house. Pauline, at first, sat calmly with her hands folded before her, then protested weakly to the inevitable confiscation, newspapers reported. The source of the liquor puzzled law enforcement until the next day when Trooper Lester Johnson took pity on Julian's hungry goats and, while searching in the goathouse for feed, stumbled upon a 50-gallon still. Police also found "a crystal gazing ball and equipment of mysticism" belonging to Pauline.

Whether it was because they thought she tried to hide Julian's revolver, the cache of booze, or the interviews of neighbors (their testimony would be revealed in court later), police took Pauline into custody. Reporters were told Pauline was there for her own safety in case the gunmen returned. Meanwhile, behind closed doors, police grilled Pauline in an attempt to get her to confess to the murder. But she didn't waver.

Investigators soon discovered that this wasn't the first time Pauline grieved over a dead husband's body. During her years in Bayonne, Pauline had married John Manko, who was said to have died of tuberculosis. A short time later, she married her dead husband's

brother, whose name was either Vincent or Mike, and he, too, died from tuberculosis. She collected insurance on both. Some of her Bayonne neighbors considered her a black widow, and said she hexed three men. She gave one a headache and "held him under her mystic power for 10 years," *The Democrat* noted. One man even left town to escape her "evil machinations."

Police traced several lines of inquiry in an effort to pin the crime on the widow. "Clues of jealousies, revenge, rum war and gun men have all been followed to the end. The names of several women had been found in the dead man's wallet," the *Review* relayed in its May 23 1932 issue.

Pauline hired an attorney to defend her, while new Prosecutor Anthony Hauck continued building his case. On Monday, May 30, a Grand Jury indicted Pauline for her husband's murder. She would plead not guilty.

The trial was delayed several times because of the Charles Lindbergh-John Curtis trial. When it began on July 26, it took 90 minutes to seat the jury. Eva Galick testified that she had not seen anyone running from the Winterstein home after opening her window. Her husband said he had come into the house for a smoke after watering his horse when he heard the commotion. He, too, saw no one. And he said his dogs always barked when anyone was around; that night they were very quiet.

**H**auck placed 16 witnesses on the stand. When he finished, Lloyd Fisher, Pauline's attorney, moved that the court direct the jury to acquit due to insufficient evidence. Attorney Ryman Herr, allied with the defense, argued that the testimony of two key state witnesses was too conflicting for the jury to understand. Judge Adam O. Robbins agreed ending the trial in a half day. Hauck blamed the acquittal on several witnesses changing their testimony from what they told the Grand Jury. In particular, he pointed to the testimony of Bessie Naperkowski who had unwittingly altered her story not due to perjury but because of her difficulties with the English language (her native language was Polish). She initially said that while riding to the funeral, she said to Pauline, "Too bad they say you shot your husband," to which the widow responded, "Yes, I did shoot him." This exchange was in Polish. Then, Pauline supposedly corrected herself in English by saying "Two men came to the house and shot him." In court, Naperkowski only repeated Pauline's comment about two male shooters, and then speaking in broken English and appearing confused, struggled over this point with prosecutors for 45 minutes.

Not finding the murder weapon also proved an insurmountable obstacle to the prosecution.

### Afterwards

Pauline smiled, thanked the jurors and left. She packed a few belongings and left town with Abram Winterstein and his wife to Kerhonkson, New York. Less than two months later, she married husband number four, Mike Worotylo, who reportedly left her when she attempted to insure his life for \$5,000. Pauline died on Feb. 17, 1934.

*Special thanks to Stephanie Stevens, Suzanne Bennett and Pam Robinson for their help preparing this article.*

## The Other Lindbergh Trial (continued from page 1)

Curtis really didn't believe this story but could not sleep that night wondering if this was a scam or whether he should even get involved. The next day Curtis phoned Admiral Guy Burrage, a Lindbergh friend, and a well-known Episcopal minister, Dean Peacock, a friend of the Morrow's, to get their opinion as to what he should do. Burrage sent a letter to Lindbergh suggesting a meeting in Hopewell on March 23. The three men arrived at 7 p.m. and had a long discussion with Lindbergh as to whether Curtis should get involved.

Lindbergh told them to pursue any leads they had, but before he would get involved he needed to see some proof that this gang actually had the baby. Lindbergh still thought the best chance to get his son back was through John Condon, who, in New York, was receiving ransom notes from the kidnappers. Lindbergh's interest piqued however when Curtis said he was told that the gang in New York was asking for \$50,000, but they had the baby in Virginia and would give him back for \$25,000. No one but Lindbergh and his close associates knew that the ransom notes were demanding \$50,000.

**M**eanwhile in Virginia, Sam again contacted Curtis and asked to meet the next day in a restaurant in New York City. After their meeting, Sam drove Curtis to Newark to meet several gang members. They then drove him to Cape May where he met yet another gang member and his wife.

On the way, they told Curtis how the kidnapping had been accomplished. This was their story: They had met a member of the Lindbergh household several months earlier at a local roadhouse near Trenton. That Lindbergh employee provided a plan which was fine-tuned over several months. The gang arrived in two cars, one with three persons and a ladder, which was parked at the end of Lindbergh's driveway. The second vehicle pulled into nearby Featherbed Lane with two members of the gang serving as lookouts.

One person climbed the ladder and into the baby's bedroom, chloroformed Charlie, and exited through the front door with the help of the unnamed household member. The baby was taken down the Delaware River to a boat along the coast. A German nurse, who had written all of the ransom notes, was caring for the baby on board the boat.

Later, the kidnappers showed Curtis detailed floor plans of the Lindbergh house given to them by the unnamed employee.



**Charles Lindbergh and Admiral Guy Burrage aboard the USS Memphis.**

One of Lindbergh's stipulations was that Curtis would not entertain dealing with this group unless they provided some proof that they actually had the baby. Upon hearing this, "John," one of the kidnappers, said he would provide what Lindbergh had requested. A few days later he met Curtis with a letter addressed to Lindbergh by the nurse, who was caring for the baby. This letter gave a full description of little Charlie. "John" said he was willing to travel to Hopewell with Curtis and personally give the letter to Lindbergh.

Curtis could barely contain his emotions. He had met the kidnappers and learned how they pulled off the crime. Now they were willing to go to Hopewell to meet Lindbergh and give him the documentation he desired.

Curtis called the Hopewell house and, using the code word "Memphis," asked to speak to Col. Lindbergh, who said over the phone that he would meet them at about 7 p.m.

Driving up from Cape May, Curtis and "John" reached Trenton and called the house only to be told that Lindbergh was not there but would be returning later. They called every hour, but by 10 p.m. "John" was

getting nervous that a trap was being set. After a call at 11 p.m. found Lindbergh still not home, they returned to Cape May, where "John" destroyed the letter. Incredibly, Lindbergh had been called away that night because John Condon had been contacted to make the \$50,000 ransom exchange at St. Raymond's Cemetery. The date was April 2, and Lindbergh paid the money but did not get his son back.

Over the next few weeks, Condon placed numerous classified ads in the New York newspapers trying to contact the gang, while Lindbergh searched the sea by boat and plane, to no avail.

Finally, toward the end of April, Lindbergh contacted Curtis in Virginia, now his only hope, about contacting the gang, who he assumed was the same group that had received the ransom money in New York. Curtis had maintained contact with the gang, meeting them numerous times in Newark and the Cape May area.

Lindbergh traveled to Cape May and for the next three weeks aboard a boat, he and Curtis tried to make an exchange at sea.

**Continued on Page 7**

**The Other Lindbergh Trial (continued from previous page)**

Each time an exchange was arranged something happened to ruin it – two strong gales came up at sea, a boat broke down, a time frame was not met. Four attempted rendezvous failed to take place.

On the night of May 12, 1932, another rendezvous had been arranged, one which Lindbergh and Curtis were optimistic. While at sea, Curtis and Lindbergh were informed that a baby's corpse had been found near Hopewell. Both men, traveling separately, arrived in Hopewell in the early morning of May 13. Curtis refused to believe that the body found was Lindbergh's baby. He had met with the gang numerous times and not only were they determined to give the baby back to Lindbergh, but also said the baby was in good health and being well cared for.

**The Inquisition**

At this point Col. H. Norman Schwarzkopf Sr., the first chief of the New Jersey State Police, took over the investigation and had Curtis give several statements telling all about his meetings with the kidnappers.

Curtis described each gang member in exacting detail, the boats he had been on, the cars they used (including license plate numbers), and the houses in Newark and Cape May he was taken to. Gang members had even shown Curtis several bills from the ransom money.

**O**ver the next two days Curtis was taken to Newark to locate the houses he'd visited, but found only blocks and blocks of row houses that all looked the same. In Cape May, the State Police only wanted to get home, so they barely checked anything Curtis suggested. They were convinced from the beginning that Curtis was leading them on a wild goose chase.

When Curtis got back to Lindbergh's home, Schwarzkopf had had enough. He literally kidnapped Curtis, placing him under an armed guard, even making him sleep in a basement laundry room where clothing of the Lindbergh baby was hanging from the walls. Curtis, whose wife was gravely ill, needed to be home, but was being held illegally in Lindbergh's home.

Now the serious interrogation began. Using different State Police teams working in shifts, the troopers grilled Curtis day and night about his meetings with the gang. For days, Curtis told the same story. After little food, no comforts of shaving or clean clothes, no contact with his ill wife, and days of sleep deprivation, the State Police told Curtis that if he were to just sign a "confession" that his story was all a hoax he could go home to his family, and no one would ever hear about it again. At 4:30 a.m. on May 16, Curtis signed a confession that was dictated to him by the State Police.

The very next day Curtis was arrested and taken to the Hunterdon County jail on the misdemeanor charge that he had hoaxed the State Police and Lindbergh. All the national newspapers had banner headlines calling Curtis a "hoaxer."

Schwarzkopf and the State Police had no leads as to who kidnapped the Lindbergh baby and were being portrayed in the press as "Keystone Cops." Arresting Curtis was a monumental feather in their cap, even though the charge was minor and still had to be proven in a court of law. Over the next six weeks Schwarzkopf issued a steady stream of press releases excoriating Curtis.

**Incarceration**

Curtis arrived at the Flemington jail on May 19. Hostile crowds had already gathered. When the police saw how chaotic the situation had become, they took Curtis around back and through the rear door of the jail. The crowds followed, and the police and Curtis had to fight their way inside. Prosecutor Anthony Hauck Jr., under orders from Schwarzkopf, ordered a 24-hour guard on Curtis, even though in the next cell was Pauline Winterstein, an alleged murderer of her husband, with no guard. (See article on page 4.)

**Schwarzkopf placed him under an armed guard, even making him sleep in a basement laundry room where clothing of the Lindbergh baby was hanging**

**B**ail was set at a whopping \$10,000 while Winterstein's bail for a murder charge was only \$1,000. Schwarzkopf continued giving interviews describing Curtis as a low-life hoaxer, whipping the public into a frenzy.

Curtis contacted his attorney, William Pender, in Norfolk who came up to Flemington and interviewed local attorney Harry Stout. Stout was well-known throughout the state as a great defense attorney and an even greater orator. His cases were not limited to New Jersey, taking one case as far away as Chicago.

After interviewing Curtis five or six times with Pender present, Stout said this was an obvious trumped up case by the State Police and believed there would be no trouble getting Curtis acquitted.

He laid out the whole defense strategy as well as the witnesses he would use. Stout thought he was a shoo-in as the main defense attorney. Then Pender interviewed young Lloyd Fisher of Herr and Fisher and decided to go with Fisher. Harry Stout was furious.

*Jim Davidson is the author of 'When the Circus Came to Town.' This is a synopsis of his upcoming book "The Other Lindbergh Kidnapping Trial," which is expected to be published at the end of this year. Photos courtesy of the author. Part 2 of this article, covering the trial, will be in our next issue.*

**Don Cornelius' curator column will return in our next newsletter.**



## Spotlight on Collections: A Stitch in Time

By Janice Armstrong

Located in a second-floor bedroom of the Doric House sits a treadle sewing machine in a nice wooden table with all the attachments. It's often overlooked due to other things in the room like a beautiful quilt, a hand-painted window shade, needlework samplers and tiny silk wedding slippers. However, our interest piqued when a recent open house visitor became quite excited to see a Willcox & Gibbs Machine.

In the early 1850s, James Edward Allen Gibbs saw an engraving of the top part of a sewing machine and set to work figuring out how it functioned. He came up with a way to create a hook that allowed the machine to produce a chain stitch with a single thread. A few years later, he saw a Singer sewing machine in a store and thought it too big and expensive so he decided to create his own prototype and patented the design in 1857. Once partnered with James Willcox, they began producing machines under the Willcox and Gibbs name in late 1858 in NYC.



The first Willcox and Gibbs sewing machines operated with a hand crank and later updated to a treadle version in a cabinet. They were made of cast iron in an arched shape that formed the letter G for Gibbs and used an adjustable glass tensioner for the thread. The machines were small and compact compared to a full-sized Singer machine.

Hunterdon County Historical Society's automatic sewing machine was purchased in Newark in 1888 by Robert L. Craig [1815-1892] of New Germantown (Oldwick). The machine cost \$75 (more than \$2,000 in today dollars) but due to the fact he had a trade-in the final price was \$60.

Robert lived on Craigmar Farm, which was passed down to him by his father Moses Craig in 1757. Over the next two centuries, it was owned and farmed by a succession of Craig descendants -- William, Robert, Richard, Marshal, and Miller Craig. The 46-acre farm situated on a hillside on the north side of Homestead Road, has been permanently preserved through a partnership between New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the State Agriculture Development Committee, Hunterdon County and Tewksbury Township.

Made possible with funds from the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey Historical Commission.



Hunterdon's History  
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