



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

MARCH - APRIL 2004

## Hightstown, New Jersey And Some Hight Family Connections

by Richard S. Hutchinson

### Continued from the January-February 2004 issue

[James Thompson Hight, was the son of Samuel Hight born 3 January 1803 "in Hightstown", Middlesex County, New Jersey. The following family information comes from a descendant-Jeff Palmer of Kingfisher, Oklahoma. The family members in bold indicate Mr. Palmer's descent in the Hight family.]

James Thompson Hight, born 12 March 1842 and died 18 September 1926 in Arkansas City, Cowley Co., Kansas, who married Sarah Jane (Smith), born 17 February 1846 in

Coleraine, Ireland and died 4 July 1930 in Arkansas City, Cowley Co., Kansas, were Mr. Palmer's great-grandparents. They had the following children:

- (1) Edwin Hight, born 10 Feb 1869 and died 1869 in Jasper Co, Indiana;
- (2) Lona Florence Hight, born 16 Apr 1870 and died 1962;
- (3) Anna Louise Hight, born 16 March 1872 and died 1958;
- (4) John Hight, born 24 Mar 1875 and died 1951;
- (5) Lawrence Hight, born 17 Dec 1876 and died 1956; and
- (6) **Philip Kearney Hight, (see photo) born 8 Feb 1879 and died 12 August 1972, in Arkansas City, Cowley Co., Kansas.**

Philip Kearney Hight (1879-1972) and wife Stella Chambers (1879-1975) were Mr. Palmer's grandparents, who had the following children:

- (1) Addie Ruth Hight;
- (2) Blanche Louise Hight;
- (3) Mary Elizabeth Hight;
- (4) Philip Kearney Hight, Jr;
- (5) Helen Catherine Hight;
- (6) **Lorene Esther Hight.**

Mr. Palmer's branch of the Hight family moved into Indiana about the time of the Civil War, left there about 1880 and headed into Arkansas City, Cowley Co., Kansas. His grandfather, James Thompson Hight purchased a farm whose southern boundary lay on the Kansas/Oklahoma line just west from where the Arkansas

River flowed into Kentucky. This farm had stayed in the Hight family until it was sold in 1976.

Mr. Palmer's great aunt, Miss Anna Louise Hight was a school teacher, who began teaching in 1892 after her graduation and she retired in the 1930's. At the time of her retirement, the local newspaper in Arkansas City interviewed her and published her photo and a long article on her career. In the article, she recalled that her teaching career began about 46 years ago with her pay being \$35 per month. She also recalled that being the area was a rural community, the school students were always dismissed from school on days when there was a funeral at a nearby cemetery in order that they could attend the funeral service. In the article, it stated:

*Continued on page 2*



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### MARCH

- 1 7:30 p.m., Business Meeting, Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 23 7:00-9:00 p.m., Caning & Rushing classes begin

#### APRIL

- 5 7:30 p.m., Business Meeting, Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center

## Caning & Rushing Classes

Beginning on March 23rd, the classes will run every Tuesday until April 26, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Sara Hutchinson West Center, with John La Salle instructing. So, dig out those old chairs and bring them with you. For any questions regarding materials, cost, etc., contact Dr. Harold C. Cox, Jr. (Skip) at 609-448-0037. ■

## Hight Family

Continued from page 1

"...she was of good Irish and German lineage, but her family was truly American...Her great -grandfather was in the Revolutionary War, her father on the northern side in the Civil War, an uncle took part in the skirmishes of the Mexican War, and a brother was a trooper in the Spanish-American War and all survived. Miss Hight's mother was born in Ireland, but she lived in Carlisle, England until she came to America when she was 18. On her father's branch of the family tree, the Hight ancestors came from Alsace-Lorraine and settled a community named Hights Town near Trenton, N.J."

Miss Hight recalled that she was born in Indiana and came to Kansas with her parents as a small girl. She recalled that one of the greatest surprises to the family from Indiana were the Indians. Their first experience with the "blanketed people came when one of them rode up to the Hight's back door for a social call. The Indians came to the house often and camped near many times, but they were always peaceful."

Today, many Hight family members from around the country (as well as Hutchinson and other family members of various surnames) are testing their genealogical research by having their DNA tested in various Surname DNA Projects. In a specific area of a male's Y-line DNA, certain "markers" can be tested. These markers, **only found in a male descendant**, will carry the same DNA markers of their ancestor! Therefore, if a present day male descendant has his Y-line DNA tested on these 25 markers (now new testing is available for 37 markers) and compared with another person's 25 DNA markers, they can see if they are related or not. Anything, less than a match on 23 of the 25 markers, indicates that you are not related **in a near time frame before surnames were**

used. The main fact known involving the male's Y-line DNA, is that this particular area of the male's DNA does not change and is passed unchanged to him by his father, who inherited it from his father and so on. **These same 25 markers will be the same as your male ancestor's 25 markers going back as far as you can go in time.** The only reason these markers will not be the same is through a natural mutation (i.e. 23 of 25 match, etc) or due to an adoption and the child being raised as a Hight OR due to an unfaithful wife having another's child and raised with the Hight surname.

Therefore, if any male with the Hight surname or variant spelling believes that they are descended from a specific Hight ancestor **and** they have good research backing it up, they can either prove or disprove their relationship by having their 25 Y-line DNA markers tested. The foremost entity presently doing this DNA testing for genealogical purposes is "Family Tree DNA," out of Houston, Texas, which can be found at "familytreedna.com." They use the University of Arizona DNA labs for the DNA testing. At the present time, they have over 750 Surname DNA Projects with over 10,000 members participating in ongoing testing. One of the present Surname DNA Projects is "Hight" name and its variant spellings. **Many of the Hights already tested are being found to have come from the Alsace-Lorraine area.**

As a founding participant of the "Hutchinson DNA Project" with "FamilyTreeDNA.com" and as a retired police detective, I can attest to its value as both an investigative and a genealogical research tool. Many surprising findings on the local Hutchinson families from the Hightstown area from the early 1700s have been made in less than a year through this DNA testing. Why not

Continued on page 3

HIGHTSTOWN EAST WINDSOR

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Hightstown, New Jersey  
founded 1971

609-371-9580

**To educate, while preserving for future generations, our people and our community's history.**

Editor, Richard S. Hutchinson

Officers for 2003-2004

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**Genealogical queries pertaining to the Hightstown-East Windsor Township area are accepted, but will be printed as space allows.**

Typeset by Cori Hutchinson Quinlan  
Quinlan Processing 609-888-4028

## Hight Family

Continued from page 2

go to the website and see if your surname is involved with a Surname DNA Project? And, if it isn't, set one up and find out what you have been missing!

[In response to the November - December issue of the newsletter, Dr. David Martin wrote to me on November 2<sup>nd</sup> indicating that unknown Hight photos given to Peddie many years ago were in the Peddie Archives and the Hight articles began to make some sense as to what their photos were about. Being very interested in the mere existence of such photos, I asked if it was possible to take digital photos of them for inclusion in the newsletter. This was the first time that I was aware of such Hight photos existing within our area.]

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, Dr. Martin responded to my request with another letter which stated: "Dear Dick - I am writing to inform you that I have obtained permission from the Headmaster to donate to the Society the Hight family photographs I mentioned to you in my letter of November 2. I am not quite sure who to give them to. Please advise..." What a pleasant surprise. This was more than I had ever expected and was elated. Since that date, I received the photos from Peddie, inventoried same and placed them into the hands of Fran Cook, Librarian of the Society, in order to be accessioned. If it were not for the efforts of Dr. Martin and the thoughtfulness of the Headmaster of Peddie, these photos would not be able to tell the Hight family story and although they have been thanked, I publicly thank them both. Below is the inventory of the items received from Peddie.

The Hight Photos were received from Peddie via Dr. David Martin - December 2003, and were inventoried by me for the Society on December 27th.

Peddie received the following items by Will of O. R. Hight based upon a typed, undated, note from "A. Provancher" who stated "This stuff was willed to us...I have had for some time - did not know what to do with it. Please go through it and see if any of the stuff is suitable for the library. At your convenience have the rest returned and I will have it stored. A. Provancher." [Now, knowing when Provancher was at Peddie would probably identify which O. R. Hight donated them - Sr. or Jr.] **Apparently, no one knew anything about them and just put them away into a storage area based upon the following item found with them.** Accompanying the Provancher note is an envelope from Longstreet Library, with the following ink, handwritten note, dated June 3, 1954. "The slip enclosed belongs with the albums and daguerreotypes placed in this compartment. They were found by Mr. Conlon when he removed material from storage. V. C. H." [So, as you can see, it is an amazing find and we are really lucky that they didn't disappear.]

1. One sixth plate daguerreotype, sealed, in broken case with handwritten label pasted on one case half, "O. R. Hight taken in Weston NY by WB Owen 1854 19 years old," with another label on other case half marked, "O. R. Hight, Morris, Ill."

2. One sixth plate "occupational" daguerreotype, sealed, in broken case, of O. R. Hight in apron and hat, with boot in lap and holding raised hammer in right hand with tool in left hand on boot sole, with pasted label on one half of case marked, "O. R. Hight, Morris, Ill and word 'Shoe' written in ink."

3. One sixth plate daguerreotype, sealed, in one-half of broken case, of a woman in dress, cape and hat with arm

resting on draped table, with pasted label reading "Aunt Rachel Hight taken 1854."

4. One sixth plate daguerreotype, sealed, in one-half of broken case, of a woman in dress, cape and hat with arm resting on draped table, with pasted label reading "Mother Phebe Wilson Hight taken 1854."

5. One sixth plate ambrotype in case with broken hinge of two children - older girl in print dress standing next to younger boy sitting in chair with hands folded, with pasted label on case reading "Josie & Zeb Rosenkrans."

6. One large case, 5 3/8" x 4 3/8", with green velvet interior with oval colored portrait of O. R. Hight on white piece of milk glass or marble.

7. One 6" x 5" leather covered album with two brass fasteners in good condition containing approximately 26 carte de visite and tintype photos of Hight family members with some of the carte de visite photos having revenue stamps affixed to rear indicating they were taken during Civil War period.

8. One 5" x 4" leather covered album with one brass fastener, and two oval colored scenic disks, one front cover and one back cover, with three small white buttons missing from front cover, in good condition containing approximately 36 carte de visite and tintype photos of Hight family members.

9. One 5 1/2" x 4" leather covered album with one brass fastener, in poor condition with back & front cover dismounted and pages loose, containing approximately 33 carte de visite and tintype photos of Hight family members.

Continued on page 4

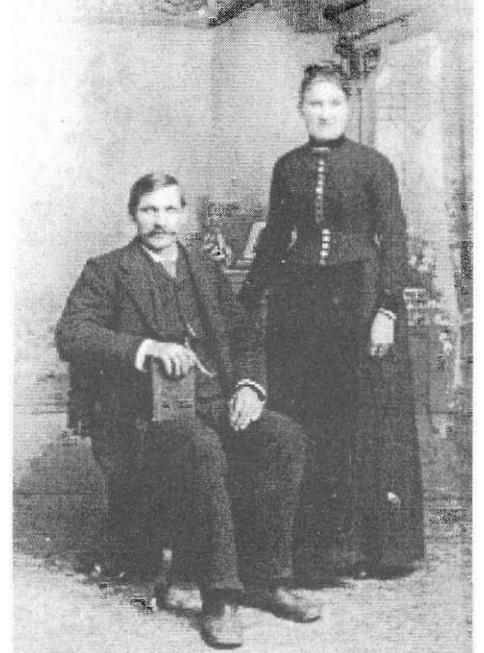
# Descendants of Samuel Hight, born 3 January 1803, in or near Hightstown, New Jersey



*Anna Louise Hight, daughter of James T. & Sarah (Smith) Hight*



*Hight Family Members, taken in 1944 in Wichita, Kansas*



*Jacob and Catherine (Smith) Hight, son of Samuel Hight*



*Samuel Hight, born 3 January 1803, in or near Hightstown, NJ*



*Loren E. (Hight) Palmer, daughter of Philip K. & Stella (Chambers) Hight*



*James Thompson Hight, son of Samuel & Nancy (Thompson) Hight*



*Helen Hight, daughter of Philip Kearney Hight, who worked in theatre*



*Philip Kearney Hight, son of James T. and Sarah (Smith) Hight*

# Descendants of John N. Hight, born in Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ, who moved as a small boy to Windsor Twp., Middlesex Co., NJ



*Orion R. Hight, Jr., born 23 April 1865*



*Susan Rosenkrans*



*George E. Rosenkrans, whose mother was b. 26 June 1831, the daughter of Wm. Savage Hight*



*Orion R. Hight, Sr., born 13 December 1835*



*H.D. Rosenkrans*



*Josephine B. Rosenkrans*



*Susan Rosenkrans*



*H.D. Rosenkrans*



*Phebe (Wilson) Hight, born 26 July 1795, wife of Wm. Savage Hight*



*Orion R. Hight, Sr., born 13 December 1835*

Descendants of John N. Hight, born in Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ, who moved as a small boy to Windsor Twp., Middlesex Co., NJ (Continued from previous page)



*Aunt Rachel Hight, born 30 October 1797, daughter of John N. Hight*



*B. Hight Family*



*E.W. Hight*



*Josie & Zeb Rosenkrans*



*Mrs. O.R. Hight, Sr.*



*Mrs. O.R. Hight, Sr.*



*Orion R. Hight*



*Orion R. Hight*



*Orion R. Hight, Jr. born 23 April 1865*

## Descendants

(Continued from previous page)



Orion R. Hight, Jr. born 23 April 1865

### NOTE

**This will be the last issue for those who have not yet renewed their membership.**

## President's Message

Despite the bad weather, our Historical Society moves forward. I want to thank all who attended our Annual Dinner held once again at the Longstreet Library at Peddie. I wrote a letter to Peddie's Headmaster thanking him for the use of the facility and I want to give a special thanks to the Peddie food service who provided a great meal and was served so nicely. I must also thank Gail Grubb for the lovely table decorations, Milt Cunningham for providing the wine and to all of those individuals who helped to make this event a success. Everyone seemed to enjoy both the speaker and the afternoon.

This spring we will once again be having our popular Canning and Rushing classes so go out there a dig out those old chairs. Mer and Ann Ivins will also be doing another "Antique Roadshow" at the Sara H. Hutchinson West Center. If anyone has any thoughts for a good program, give us a call.

During the past month, the Society has received several donations of items. Our museum and library is always on the search for Hightstown items as well as any historical items. Never forget us. Our museum will soon be making an office in the Lois Groendyke room on the second floor and thanks to our financial donations we will be able to add the proper furniture for the space. Thanks again to EVERYONE for supporting your Society. ■

### Join today, become a member!

Individual Membership  
\$20.00

Family Membership  
\$25.00

Booster/Patron  
Membership  
\$40.00

Sustaining Membership  
\$50.00

Life (individual) Membership  
\$200.00

Life (married) Membership  
\$275.00

### Annual Membership Application (January - December)

- Individual       Family       Booster/Patron  
 Sustaining       Life (individual)       Life (married)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail the completed application, along with a check made payable to the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society to:

Membership Committee  
Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society  
164 North Main Street  
Hightstown, NJ 08520

# This & That

*Hightstown Gazette* - 5 May 1898 - "The antique articles at the William Riggs sale on Saturday caused some spirited bidding. The tall clock, which was advertised as having been in the family for seven generations, brought \$57.50, and was sold to Dr. George H. Franklin."

*Hightstown Gazette* - 16 June 1898 - A sign was posted at the south end of Main street, after many complaints about bicycle riding from the residents of South Main street area. It read:

"Borough Limets - Bickle riding on side wakes postivly for biden under penelty of law."

The *Gazette* responded in reference to the new sign by stating, "That's

pretty rough on bicyclists and Webster."

*Hightstown Gazette* - 31 August 1899 - With the town clock not working properly, the *Gazette* would editorialize about it needing to be repaired. The town believed they owned it as it was purchased by public subscription. Yet, when it came time to pay for the repairs, there was a "fight" between the Church and the Council over who was going to repair it. With that finally settled, the clock still wasn't working and the paper stated:

"Dickery, dickery, dock,  
The mouse ran up the clock,  
The clock struck one,  
And down he come,

because he had an engagement at 8 O'clock and it was then 28 minutes past 7. It isn't safe for a mouse to live in our town clock unless he carries a watch."

*Hightstown Gazette* - QUESTION - A banker found a ten-dollar bill. At home he gave it to his wife, who paid the butcher in settlement of his account. The butcher paid it to the farmer for a calf and the farmer paid it to the merchant, who in turn paid it to the washer woman, and she, owing the banker a note of ten dollars, went to the banker and paid the note. The banker recognized the bill as the one he had found and which up to that time had settled \$50 of debt. On a careful examination he found the bill to be counterfeit. Of course the problem is, who lost in the transactions? ■



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FIRST CLASS  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 21  
Hightstown,  
New Jersey

Hightstown-East Windsor  
Historical Society  
164 North Main Street  
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