



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

MAY - JUNE 2006

## Redford Job, His Land Development Scheme & Cook Street

by Clark J. Hutchinson

The history of a town can be told, in part, through its land subdivisions, and Redford Job (1779-1850), who has been remembered as an owner of the Hightstown mills, made one of the first ones in what is today Hightstown Borough. It gave us the long-forgotten Cook Street, and this is its story.

Redford Job was of West Windsor Township on February 14, 1820, when he purchased approximately 28 acres of land in the village of Hightstown from Dr. Enoch and Delilah Wilson for \$2600.00. This was lot #2 in the division of lands of Captain William Smith (1742- 1791) that had been made to settle his estate in 1798. Improvements on the property included a barn and an

orchard. Excepted out of this tract were a lot previously sold to Asher Applegate (1762-1834) for 2+ acres and a strip of land given to the Bordentown & South Amboy Turnpike Company in 1816. The most valuable feature of the 28 acres was its 1,160.94 feet of frontage along the easterly side of what is today North Main Street. This Turnpike is present day North Main Street, Main Street, and Mercer Street. This tract was bounded on the north by James Reynolds, on the south by the mill lot and millpond (the millpond is present day Peddie Lake), on the east by Anthony Applegate, deceased, and on the west by the Turnpike. On December 11, 1820, Redford Job purchased for \$12,000.00 "the Mills, dwelling house, store house and stables, with all the water rights of the Mill pond up to the head" from John (1775-1858) and Mary (1781-1835) Smith. This is the tract earlier referred to as the mill lot. John Smith was a son of Captain William Smith.

On April 13, 1831, the Camden & Amboy Railroad purchased land from Job for its right-of-way. Additional land to widen the right-of-way was purchased of Job on May 5, 1834. The Railroad ran through this property at a roughly 60-degree angle to the Turnpike. Apparently in 1835, Redford decided to subdivide the remaining land along the Turnpike into lots for resale. This author thinks that the impetus for this was the immediate success of the Camden & Amboy Railroad.

Job teamed up with the most powerful real estate/auction firm in New York City, Bleecker & Sons. A map was produced and at least 61 lots were carved out of this tract. The following streets were laid out on this map: Bleecker, Cook, Job, Smith, and Stevens. The street name choices are fascinating. "Bleecker" after the real estate/auction firm Bleecker & Sons. "Cook" after James Cook, a prominent local businessman, and his son, William Cook, the chief engineer of the Camden & Amboy Railroad. "Job" after Redford Job. "Smith" after the Captain William Smith Family. "Stevens" after Robert Stevens founder of the Camden & Amboy Railroad. Unfortunately, the map has not survived, only a few of the lots were actually sold, and in some instances, the deeds were never recorded.

*Continued on page 2*



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### MAY

- 1 Business Meeting and Election of Officers, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 22 Bob Craig will speak on researching a house history, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 28 Ely House open for visitors, 2-4:00 p.m.

#### JUNE

- 5 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 25 Ely House open for visitors, 2-4:00 p.m.

### In Memoriam

William W. Craig, a long time member of the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society, passed away recently on 28 February 2006. He was a charter member of the Society, founded in 1971, and had served as President and one of the Trustees. Contributions may be made in Mr. Craig's memory to the Society at 164 N. Main St, Hightstown, NJ 08520.

Vinton "Snoop" N. Taylor, 88, a long-time member, passed away April 12th at the University Medical Center at Princeton.

**Redford Job**, continued from page 2

Here is a list of the lots in this subdivision sold by Redford and Mary (nee Mount) Job (1775-1856) that there is a record of: (Organized according to: sale date, buyer, sale amount, notes)

1) Deed not recorded; James Cook; deed not recorded; multiple lots adjoining Clark Silvers lot on the west.

2) 4/19/1836; Clark Silvers of Upper Freehold Township; \$75.00; 45' x 100' lot fronting on the Turnpike.

3) 5/13/1836; Rune R. Forman of East Windsor Township; \$90.00; 60' x 100' lot fronting on the Turnpike.

4) 5/13/1836; Benjamin Reed of East Windsor Township; \$180.00; 60' x 100' lot on corner of Turnpike and Cook Street, 80' x 100' lot on corner of Stevens and Job Streets.

5) 7/7/1836; James Keeler of East Windsor Township; \$150.00; 45' x 200' lot which fronted on the Turnpike next to Clark Silvers lot and ran back to Bleecker Street.

6) 7/18/1836; Hiram Parker of the City of New York; \$60.00; triangular lot bordering the Railroad on the east and was bounded by Cook, Stevens, and Smith Streets. It appears from this description that the Railroad ran down Stevens Street.

None of these streets have survived to the present except Cook Street. On 11/10/1847, Cook Street was officially laid out as part of a new road from Hightstown to Bergen's Mills. This replaced a long indirect route going out Wyckoff's Mills Road to Wyckoff's Mills, then to Applegarth, and then to Bergen's Mills. In 1849, it is mentioned as the "new road to Monmouth called Cook Street." Cook Street is listed as a Borough street in the first minutes of the Hightstown Borough Council in

1853. The name, Cook Street, disappeared when it was incorporated into the Hightstown & Manalapanville Turnpike in 1866. Part of this Turnpike today is known as Monmouth Street. The last mention of this development is found in 1957 when Hightstown Borough vacated Smith and Stevens Streets.

In summary, it is unclear if Cook Street actually existed between 1835 and 1847. At first it existed, like the other streets Redford Job proposed, only as a paper street in his subdivision plan. However, there may have been a physical path, or cartway, or road, never accepted by East Windsor Township the local governing body of the time, which only traversed the limits of Redford Job's land.

(The author thanks Jim Boulden, Robert Craig, Richard Hutchinson, and Timothy Kelty, Esq. for technical input.)

**C. Allen Ely Drafting/  
Field Table Comes To  
The Society**

Charles "Cappy" Stults, Jr., the Society's Recording Secretary, has donated to the Society a drafting/field surveyor's table, owned by his great uncle, Allen C. Ely. It is believed to have been the table of Mr. Ely's father's, C. Allen Ely (1870-1956), who was a surveyor in Hightstown in the late 1800s and early 1900s. His name appears on most deeds from that time period as a surveyor.

Allen C. Ely was an engineer for the NJ Department of Transportation. He married Eleanor Stults (sister of C. Stanley Stults, Carlton Stults and Mildred (Stults) Koblegard) and lived on Stockton Street across from the Methodist Church. They did not have any children.

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*

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## **Genealogical Society of New Jersey Cosponsors Workshop Series**

The **State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB)** will be hosting a series of workshops during the spring and fall. GSNJ is proud to be one of the cosponsors of this year's workshops.

The series will have at least eight workshop topics. Some of these will be presented in both the spring and fall in different places. The workshops will be held in various locations throughout the state. Details are still being finalized for some workshops and locations. All workshops will be open to anyone who wishes to register.

Some workshops will be geared toward societies, libraries, and museums, and others who hold and maintain collections or archives. They may also be useful to individual genealogists and historians with large personal collections. We encourage you to inform other societies to which you belong of this valuable resource.

Other workshops, already scheduled or still being planned, are geared

towards those of us who use the repositories or who would like to know more about making the best use of these resources.

Dates for the upcoming workshops are: June 8, June 10, June 14, October 11, November 6 and November 10. More dates are still being set. Mark your calendars now and watch for more information!

Registration will be \$20.00 for each workshop. Lunch or light refreshments may be included in the price. Pre-registration for the workshops is encouraged, although walk-ins will be welcome. More information on the topics, presenters, and schedule will be found on our website and will be updated as information becomes available.

Gary D. Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist, present two workshops on County Archives. The first, on Saturday, June 10, will be held in Burlington County. The second workshop will be on Wednesday, October

11, at the Monmouth County Archives in Manalapan. This workshop will include a tour of the Monmouth County Archives. Mr. Saretzky's presentation will provide a great deal of information for those of us who use county archives.

Princeton University will be the site for a Wednesday, June 14, workshop on Grants, CAPES, and Fundraising.

**Aimed at societies and repositories, more than researchers, the workshop will be presented by: Ben Primer, Assoc. Librarian, Princeton University; and from the New Jersey Historical Commission: Mary R. Murrin, Director, Grants Program; and Sara R. Cureton, Grants Assistant. This workshop will be repeated on Monday, November 6, at the New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.**

On Thursday, October 10, GSNJ Trustee and Preservation Archivist, Janet T. Riemer, and Joanne M. Nester of the New Jersey State Archives will provide

*Continued on page 4*

### **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: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Workshop Series continued from page 3

a workshop on Preserving Family Pictures and Papers. This workshop will be of great use to genealogists and researchers interested in learning how to protect and preserve their own personal collections.

Thursday, June 8, and Friday, November 10, workshops will be presented on Religious Archives in the New Jersey Area. The June 8 workshop will be hosted at Drew University, Madison NJ. The November 10 location is still being determined. More information on this workshop will be posted on our website when it is confirmed.

Additional workshops are being planned on these topics: Managing Archival Collections; and Exhibit Development, Outreach, and Programming. There will also be workshops on Disaster Preparedness and Recovery, which is particularly timely in light of last year's hurricanes and other recent disasters. More information on these workshops will be added to our

website as it becomes available.

Information on workshops and other cosponsors will be posted on the SHRAB website as soon as the final details are set. See the SHRAB website [www.njarchives.org/links/shrab.html](http://www.njarchives.org/links/shrab.html) for this and for registration forms. SHRAB can be contacted by phone at 609-777-3598 or by mail. Send mail to Barbara Pepe, SHRAB Admin. Assist., 225 West State St, PO Box 307, Trenton NJ 08625.

We hope that the workshops will be of interest to our members, both individuals and societies. We look forward to participating in this series and hope to see you there.

**Ely House, Underground Railroad "Station" - Identified**

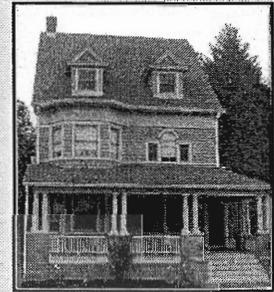
More information in the  
**Sept-Oct 2006 issue**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

## Hightstown House Tour

Sunday, October 15, 2006  
1-5 p.m.

[more information to follow]



216 South Main Street  
Abijah E. Applegate House

[FEATURED ON OUR LAST HOUSE TOUR]



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