



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

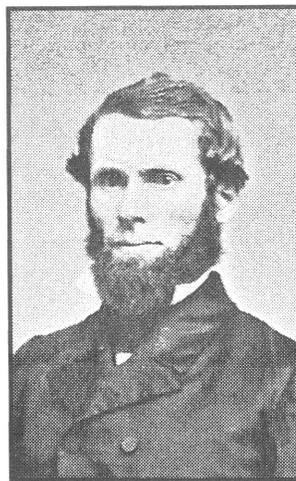
MAY - JUNE 2008

## Some Marriages Reported by East Windsor Twp. - 1861-1862

by Richard S. Hutchinson

The collection of New Jersey's vital statistics records began on 1 May 1848. Prior to this, marriages were recorded in church records or in the personal records of the Church's preacher, which often stayed with the preacher as he moved from church to church. As one can imagine, these early records, if submitted at all, were initially recorded on various pieces of paper with illegible writing and/or spelling or simply forgotten and never submitted at all. The towns and counties where the marriages took place were required to file the information on a form with the State of New Jersey, while the municipality or county offices also maintained the information in their own formats. Again,

this also relied on the marriage information being reported to all entities. So, as you can see, in many cases not all marriages were recorded or even made their way to the State of New Jersey.



Rev. Lewis Smith

Below is my abstract of the information found on one of the above mentioned marriage record forms. This record was found by Charles "Cappy" Stults among the records within his family which we both suspect was probably in the files of his great-grandfather, Walter C. Black, who was East Windsor Twp's Tax Collector for 59 years, while also the Treasurer of Peddie School, and President of the local public school board; all at the same time. Whether this document ever made its way to the state, or whether it was the township's copy, is not presently known.

The printed form, minus the dates which were added by pen and ink by the person making the record, reads "Return of Marriages in the township of East Windsor, county of Mercer, State of New Jersey, from the fourth day of July 1861 to the 26th May 1862." The information reported on this form records twelve marriages performed by Rev. Lewis Smith, of Hightstown, NJ. Smith was the minister of the Baptist Church in Hightstown at this time. Where he was born is not known but he was born 20 July 1820 and came to the Hightstown from a Trenton church on 1 Dec 1857. From the history of the Hightstown Baptist Church, it appears that Smith was not in good physical health as the record states that "he left the pastorate to die." He died in St. Paul, Minnesota on 25 Aug 1864.

SEE LIST OF MARRIAGES ON PAGE 3



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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### MAY

- 5 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson  
West Educational Center
- 19 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson  
West Educational Center
- 26 Stockton Street Porch Tour

#### JUNE

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

# Hightstown, New Jersey and Some Hight Family Connections

## CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE

In my statement of Services to the person who wrote my original Declaration, I am very certain that I stated the fact of being a Sergeant of Militia & that in all my tours of Militia duty except the first tour, I acted & performed a Sergeant's duty. I find it is omitted in the Declaration, & whether omitted by mistake of the writer, or because he supposed it to be of no consequence, I know not. I did not notice the omission when I signed it, or I certainly should have corrected it as an error. Such was the fact that in all my Militia Services except the 1<sup>st</sup> tour under Capt. Peter Gordon, when Long Island, I was an Orderly Sergeant. I was regularly chosen Sergeant in 1776, in Captain John Schenk's company & rec'd from the Company officers a Sergeant Warrant & in all my subsequent Militia tours, I performed Sergeant duty, rec'd Sergeant pay, & was known & acknowledged by the Company & addressed by them as Sergeant Hight. My Sergeant Warrant, I lost or mislaid many years since, thinking it of no value. As stated in my first Declaration, my first tour was under Capt. Peter Gordon & Genl. Heard upon Long Island with a view to disarm the Tories. We Crossed over to Long Island at [?] gate ferry thence marched to Jamaica, to Hempstead & some distance into Suffolk County, disarmed many suspects & disaffected in habitants, & brought away many guns, pistols, swords. We returned home by the same route, through the snow, which was quite deep & I recollect that 2 British vessels of war were lying in the harbor, which I believe were called the Asia & the Phoenix. We went to the Island in December 1775 & returned home late in 1776, & were absent on the tour of duty at the least one full month, & as I believe, as much as 6 weeks. After our return from the tour, Capt. Gordon raised a company of men for the 5

months service if I mistake not & was soon after appointed a Major. John Schenk took the command of the Militia company, which had been Gordon's co. & was elected Captain. Early in May we were ordered on duty under Capt. Schenk & Col. Jacob Heyer before entering when this tour, I had been duly named Sergeant by the company, as I have before stated, & went on this tour of duty with Capt. Schenk as Sergeant, & even afterwards during my service, performed Sergeant's duty. We even stationed along the ferry opposite Staten Island, near Amboy, & Blazing Star ferry performing guard duty & protecting the inhabitants from Tory depredations. We remained on this tour a month, when the company was dismissed & I remained as a volunteer substitute for David Hight, a younger brother, & served a month for him, performing the same duty as before. I am not certain whether during this last month Capt. Schenk remained in command but I incline to believe that Capt. Aaron Longstreet commanded the Co. & Col. Scudder the Regiment. Then 2 months were both performed before harvest. The British fleet from Boston with the British Army took possession of New York & of the island near the City this season & the call for the Militia Service was very urgent & we were ordered out immediately under Capt. Schenk & were again stationed to protect & defend the frontier opposite Staten Island in the vicinity of Amboy & along the Sound; & here I continued in constant & incessant duty till the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. when having become seriously ill of fever, my Captain (Longstreet) under whose command I then was, advised me to return home in a Sutler's wagon which he procured for me. I believe one of these months of fall service was performed as a substi-

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### HIGHTSTOWN EAST WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hightstown, New Jersey  
founded 1971

www.hewhs.org

Library open, Tuesday evenings,  
by appointment, 609-448-1864

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

*Editor, Richard S. Hutchinson*

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Typeset by Cori Hutchinson Quinlan



Quinlan Processing 609-888-4028

# List of Marriages Reported by East Windsor Twp. - 1861-1862

Marriage Date	Last Name	First Name	Age	Status	Residence	Parent's Name	Parent's Occ.	Other Info.
July 4, 1861	Van Morter	Augustus	Blank	Single	Hightstown, NJ	Blank	Laborer	Colored
July 4, 1861	Green	Rachel A.	Blank	Single	Hightstown, NJ	Blank	Blank	Colored
Dec. 4, 1861	Solomon	Levi	41	Widower	Freehold, NJ	Levi/Elizabeth	Farmer	
Dec. 4, 1861	Ely	Ellen	24	Single	Hightstown, NJ	Thomas/Parmelia	Retired	
Dec. 11, 1861	Anderson	Theodore	27	Single	Hightstown, NJ	Jesse/Mary Ann	Farmer	Stone Mason
Dec. 11, 1861	Chamberlain	Sarah	20	Single	Hightstown, NJ	Ezekiel	Farmer	
Dec. 12, 1861	Paxton	John R.	25	Single	Jamesburg, NJ	William/Lucinda	Farmer	
Dec. 12, 1861	Jolly	Letitia	22	Single	Spotswood, NJ	George/Lydia	Farmer	
Dec. 12, 1861	Petty	William H.	22	Single	Spotswood, NJ	Henry/Phebe	Farmer	
Dec. 12, 1861	Jolly	Charlotte	20	Single	Spotswood, NJ	George/Lydia	Farmer	
Jan. 2, 1862	Hulit	Ezekiel	33	Widower	Springfield, NJ	William/Sarah	Farmer	
Jan. 2, 1862	Hulit	Rachel	26	Single	Hightstown, NJ	Ralph/Rachel	Farmer	
Jan. 8, 1862	Cox	George H.	22	Single	Bakers Basin, NJ	Samuel/Ellen	Blacksmith	
Jan. 8, 1862	Embley	Caroline	26	Single	Near Hightstown, NJ	Joseph/Ann	Farmer	
Jan. 15, 1862	Stults	Cornelius	31	Single	Cranbury, NJ	William/Johanna	Mechanic	
Jan. 15, 1862	Silvers	Amanda	24	Single	Hightstown, NJ	Clark/Hannah	Mechanic	
Feb. 13, 1862	Cox	John M.	22	Single	Plainsboro, NJ	Thomas/Phebe	Farmer	
Feb. 13, 1862	Thompson	Ann Augusta	21	Single	Half Acre, NJ	Nelson/Eliza Jane	Farmer	
Mar. 10, 1862	Lambersen	Theodore	35	Single	Mid. Town Point, NJ	James/Catherine	Carpenter	Rec'd Mar. 11, 1862
Mar. 10, 1862	Vaughn	Kate A.	27	Single	Dutch Neck, NJ	Lewis/Sarah	Blank	
Apr. 17, 1862	Mitchel	William	23	Single	Milford [now Etra], NJ	Samuel/Amanda	Farmer	Rec'd - Apr. 11, 1862
Apr. 17, 1862	Wilson	Ann	22	Single	Milford [now Etra], NJ	Benjamin O./Susan	Blank	
May 26, 1862	Applegate	E.T.R.	27	Widower	Milford [now Etra], NJ	Abijah	Farmer	
May 26, 1862	Ely	Lavinia	20	Single	Hightstown, NJ	Thomas/Parmelia	Blank	

## Hight Family , continued from page 2

tute for my brother, David Hight, in Longstreet's company. The Camp Fever, so called, [?] much in the camp near Amboy & I remained at home, unable for duty again till the spring following. Col. Heyer, Major Duryekirk & sometimes I believe Genl. Dickinson were present during this campaign & on this frontier. The fever left me quite [?] & lame for several months, & I believe I did no more active Militia duty, until in the spring preceding the Monmouth battle. I was then ordered into Service under Capt. Samuel Stout in Col. Scudder's regiment. We were marched

through the country toward Phila. by way of Mount Holly, & had some skirmishing with the enemy at Crosswicks bridge & was obliged to retreat before the enemy who were then on their march toward Monmouth. We even engaged in battle & after it was over we were ordered back to Englishtown & remained in Service performing guard duty till after harvest in July when we were dismissed, having been in active duty a little more than two months. In the fall season of 1778, I know that I performed two months militia duty, one under Capt. Schenk & one under Capt.

Longstreet protecting the inhabitants along then frontier upon the Sound between Amboy & Elizbth. town. The first was in September & the last was in Nov. & December under Col Scudder. These tours I believe were not mentioned in my first Declaration & I could not remember distinctly the facts until my arrival here & talking with some old acquaintances. In 1779 & in 1780, I performed Militia duty under Capt. Schenk, Capt. Longstreet, & some under Capt. Stout at Princeton, Amboy, Elizbth. town & Newark. Our calls to

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## Hight Family , continued from page 3

duty I think were more regular as to intervals & periods than when the British lay at New Brunswick & Amboy. My first tour in 79 was in May or June under Schenk, one month; at Princeton I believe guarding prisoners & protecting Courts then sitting there. Our guard room was in the College. I performed another tour of a month under Capt. Schenk in the month of Augt. & Sept. was stationed part of the time at Elizth. town & part of the time at Newark guarding the landing places & protecting the inhabitants. In Novr. & December, I performed another tour of a month under Capt. Schenk, our station was along the shore between Amboy and Elizabeth town. Col. Scudder I believe commanded the Militia on this Station. In May 1780, I was ordered out under Capt. Schenk & Col. Scudder & while on the Amboy station, the enemy overran the County through Essex County & burnt Connecticut Farms & Springfield, after much from skirmishing & from hard fighting. The County was all alarmed & all the Militia were under arms. I recollect Mrs. Caldwell, wife of a Clergyman, was killed at the skirmish in Connecticut Farms. The battle of Springfield & burning of its Churches and village was a few weeks later than that of Connecticut Farms & the enemy had retreated before we reached the place. Genl. Heard & Ens. Winds, I believe were with the Militia on three occasions & Col. Seely, Frelingheysen & Scudder. We were kept out in consequence of then invasions & alarms of the County & were not relieved & discharged till after [?] in July having been engaged in active duty along the lines from Amboy to Elizth. town, Conn. Farms, Springfield & for two entire months at least. I performed another month duty in the fall of 1780 under Capt. Schenk at & near Princeton guarding prisoners & protecting Courts. In the winter following, I was stationed on guard duty one month under Capt. Schenk, on guard duty near Amboy, & another month in the following Spring

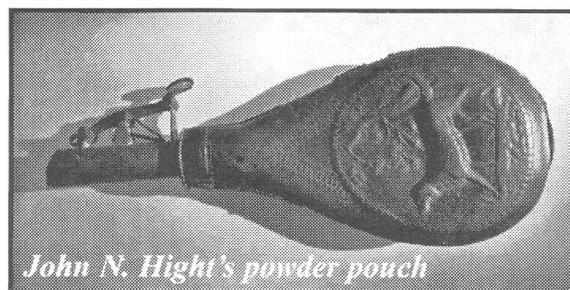
just after farmers began plowing for Spring crops, under the same Captain Stout or Captain Longstreet. I am not certain which.

Besides the Tours which I have stated, I know that I have performed many others which I cannot particularize, with any certainty or respects my commanding officers and or respects the particular month or year. I have performed more tours I am confident at Princeton & along the lines between New Brunswick & Elizabeth town along the Sound which separates Staten Island from N. Jersey, than I have specified. And, I know well that if I count particular all my Militia Services, they would exceed two years. Such as I can most distinctly recollect I have stated according to the best of my knowledge & belief with a conscientious regard to truth, admitting at the same time, that from the frailty of human memory & the lapse of so many years, that in regard to precise dates & sometimes in regard to the names of officers under who I have served, I may have fallen into some mistakes, but still knowing that much remains of my public Militia duties which I never can particularize further than I have now done. In regard to the fact of my duties as Sergeant, I know it to be true, that all my tours except the tour upon Long Island under Capt. Gordon, were performed by me as Sergeant & that the omission in not mentioning this fact in my first Declaration was the omission of the Writer being confident that I mentioned it as distinctly as any other fact in my narration. Sworn & subscribed before me at Morristown, the date first mentioned. John N. Hight." Charles Freeman, M. in Chny.

On the same day, 18 Nov 1834, John N. Hight's two Morristown, New Jersey soldier companions, Hugh Runyan & Richard Runyan, gave their

declarations.

Morris County, New Jersey - "Before the subscriber, one of the Masters in Chancery in said County, personally appear Hugh Runyan & Richard Runyan both aged & respected citizens of said County, well known to me as men of veracity & fair character & having been duly sworn state as follows, viz: Hugh Runyan declares as follows: - I was well acquainted with John N. Hight, the foregoing applicant for a pension in the time of the revolutionary war. We lived in the County of Middlesex in New Jersey as neighbors, & performed Militia service together on the same tours in different years & in different months of the same & John N. Hight was orderly Sergeant in Capt. Schenk's company, afterwards commanded by Capt. Stott. He was orderly Sergeant & performed duties as such in all the tours in which I knew him. I served with Hight on many more tours of duty than I can specify or directly remember but such as I can recollect, I will state. I was with



*John N. Hight's powder pouch*

him on duty at the Monmouth battle in the summer of 78 & afterwards in the same year as I believe at Princeton when I was frequently stationed in 1778, 79 and in 1780, to guard the Courts of the State, which used sometimes to meet there. Prisoners were there also & we sometimes used a room in the College as a guard room. I well know that all these occasions the said John N. Hight always acted as Sergeant & was recognized as Sergeant both by the officers & privates. We were not always

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## Hight Family , continued from page 4

in the same company but were located near together & often saw each other. Hight was most frequently in ~~Stout's~~ Schenk's company, & I was in the company of Captain Schenk's sometimes. At other times under Capt. Snook & N. Stout. I often fell in with Hight going & returning from Militia duties & verily believe that I must have been associated with him at Monmouth, Princeton, near Amboy & along the shore of N. Jersey opposite Staten island & etc. when not less than 8 or 10 different monthly tours of Militia duty & I verily believe that I must have seen him on duty more frequently than I have stated, altho I cannot particularize the exact occasions from the length of time which has passed. I knew Mr. Hight after the war & went to him to school as my teacher." Sworn & subscribed before me at Morristown this 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1834. Hugh Runyan. Charles Freeman, M. in Chny.

Richard Runyan being duly sworn also saith as follows; viz: "I was well acquainted with John N. Hight before & in time of the revolutionary war in Middlesex County where we lived as neighbors near each other, & I knew him until he removed from Middlesex in N. Jersey to the State of New York. I knew him as an Orderly Sergeant in Captain John Schenk's company in Col Scudder's Regiment & he always performed the duty of Sergeant at all times when I knew him. Some of my duties as a soldier were performed at Newark & Spotswood near New Brunswick & at Monmouth & I performed duty toward Mount Holly & Borden town sometimes under Capt. John Schenk & sometimes under ~~his Lieutenant~~ Captain Stout ~~who afterwards became Captain of that Company~~. I have the most distinct remembrance of being with said Hight at the Monmouth battle in the summer of 1778 in which we were un-

der Capt ~~Schenk~~ Stout. I am certain I also saw him on Militia duty in monthly tours several other times at Newark in the neighborhood of Mount Holly & Borden town in N. Jersey & near Amboy, but I cannot tell the months nor the years. A part of my Militia duties were done in the State of Pennsylvania, ~~toward the~~ although principally in New Jersey. I cannot tell at this distant day how many months of duty I have now performed by said Hight but I verily believe that I must have known him & saw him, he was always called Sergeant Hight by all the Soldiers & performed Sergeant's duty." Sworn & subscribed before me at Morris town, November 18<sup>th</sup> 1834. Richard Runyan made his mark. Charles Freeman, M. in Chny.

I here by certify to the Commissioner of Pensions & to the Honbl. Secry. of War, that Charles Freeman Esqr., before whom the preceding supplemental Declarations of John N. Hight & depositions of Hugh Runyan & Richard Runyan were taken, is now, & has been for several years apart, one of the Masters in Chancery in the State of New Jersey & County of Morris, & that the signature of his name thereto is genuine. Lewis Condict, late Repre. in Congress, from N. Jersey.

Hugh Runyan & Richard Runyan, the Deponents above named, are personally well known to me, as citizens of this County & men whose characters for truth & honesty & temperance are un-impeached. They are fully entitled to belief. Lewis Condict, late Repre. in Congress, from N. Jersey.

State of New York, Steuben County - 29 November 1834: "Henry L. Arnold being duly sworn says upon his Oath aforesaid that the Declaration of John N. Hight of Jersey, the name of a

village in Steuben Co., N. York, where the sd. Hight lives, in the sd. County, in order to obtain pension for services as a Soldier in the Army of the Revolution was drawn up by deponent. And, deponent further says that he distinctly recollects that the said John N. Hight stated the all the services by him rendered in the Revolutionary War with the exception of one month were rendered by him as a Sergeant. And, deponent further states that is said facts are not as set forth in the Declaration of the said John N. Hight, it is because they were omitted by mistake. And, further deponent says not." Henry L. Arnold. Sworne & subscribed 29<sup>th</sup> November 1834 before me - Henry Williams, J.P.

State of New York, Steuben County: "I, William H. Bull, Clerk of said County do hereby certify that Henry L. Williams, Esquire, is a Justice of the Peace, in & for said County duly Commissioned & sworn, and that I am well acquainted with his hand writing and verily believe his signature to the above affidavit to be genuine. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office at Bath, this 1<sup>st</sup> Day of December 1834." Signed: Wm. H. Bull.

"I am personally well acquainted with the above named Henry L. Arnold, Esq.. His character is good for truth & veracity & he is entitled to full credit & belief." Signed: [?] Powell, M.C., N. York.

Hon. John Magee: "[?] the endorsed will explain this business. I am informed that your certificate as former member of Congress will be sufficient to the above affidavit. If so, it will save the old gentleman a trifle. You may either forward this to Mr. Condict or return it to me." Yours, S. Arnold.

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Here are several others giving letters on behalf of Hight:

"I have been personally and intimately acquainted with John N. Hight the person mentioned in the within affidavit for and during the last nineteen years during which period he has mounted a high and most excellent moral character. He bears the reputation of being a pious good man and so far as we can judge by a correct deportment none who known him personally can doubt the correctness of this opinion." Signed: John Magee - Bath, Steuben Co., 2 Dec 1834.

There is a letter in his file from Lewis Condict, of Morristown, NJ, dated 9 December 1834, that relates to John N. Hight's appearance in New Jersey before the Master of Chancery:

"Dear Sir: I take the liberty, tho' a stranger to you personally, to [?] to your case, the annexed pension papers of one of your Constituents (J.N. Hight) - - His services having been all performed in N. Jersey, & his witnesses being here, he was induced to come here to have them completed, as the witness, (Runyon) are too aged & infirm to go to Steuben. The papers have been made out before a Master in Chancery, as the regular term of our Co. Court will not be held in till the latter part of Dec. & it was not possible for Hight to remain here till then. As an ex-member of the H.R. I have certified to the official character of the Master - but if it should be objected to in the Pension office, I will [?] to say, that if you will show my Certificate to Serg. Cass[?], he will direct it to be rec'd in cordence[?]. You will observe a Certificate or rather a deposition of H.L. Arnold, whose credibility is omitted to be certified by the Magistrate. If you know him, (as is probable) your own certificate of the fact will be sufficient. The fact to which Mr. Arnold testifies is important to Mr. Hight, as it

will [?] the quantum of his pension. If you can say of your personal knowledge, any thing favorable as to Mr. Hight's moral character & integrity, it will benefit him. If it will not be taking your kindness too much, you will justly oblige me by handing the papers yourself, to Mr. [?] of the Pens. Office, as they have passed through his hand heretofore. My kind regards to him. Whenever a decision shall be had, whether allowed or not, please notify me of the result. I [?] Mr. Magee's letter, for your perusal, which I will thank you to return to me. By it, you will see his opinion of the Claimant and Claim." Very Respectfully, your obt. Sert. & c:  
Signed: Lewis Condict.

"I hereby certify that I have been personally acquainted with Capt. John N. Hight the applicant in the annexed papers named for about fifteen years past and that during all that time he has been and now is respected & esteemed, one of the most respected citizens of the County of Steuben in which he resides. I have never heard his integrity or veracity in any manner questioned and believe that the fullest confidence may be reposed in his exemplary moral character & deportment." Dated: December 12<sup>th</sup> 1834. Signed: P. Howell[?]

### [TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE]



*The photo of the employees of the Native Lace Works, on Monmouth Street, in the last issue has only brought one reply and that was from Joan Tucker (nee Kollmar, dau. of the owner of Kollmar Pontiac, Rt. 130, E. Windsor Twp) of West Windsor Twp. In addition to identifying some of the persons in the photo, she also forwarded another group photo taken at the Native Lace Works. She also submitted some identifications of those within this new photo. I even know one person - second girl from the right in the second row from the bottom was a neighbor of mine - Mrs. Becky Archer, the wife of John W. Archer, of Bennett Place, Hightstown, NJ.*

# The Borough of Hightstown

148 N. Main Street, Hightstown, New Jersey 08520  
609-490-5100

## Stockton Street Porch Tour

Due to last minute changes by the Society for the Porch Tour after the newsletter was printed, the incorrect date for the event was listed as May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**The correct date is now May 26<sup>th</sup> on Memorial Day.**

The Stockton Street Porch Tour will be on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th, and there's still time for you to join in!

We'll be looking for help with:

- Food—would you like to bake cookies or provide lemonade?
- Entertainment—would you like to dress as an historical person during the tour or help us find reenactors to do this? Could you help us find musicians or other entertainers?
- Research—would you like to learn more about Hightstown's past and then share this knowledge with our entertainers, so they can make our town's history come alive during the tour?
- Publicity—would you like to help spread the word about the event?

Help us plan the biggest block party in Hightstown!

Warmly,

Christian Kirkpatrick  
Chair  
Historic Preservation Commission  
[Christian\\_kirkpatrick@yahoo.com](mailto:Christian_kirkpatrick@yahoo.com)  
609-443-3138

Nancy Walker Laudenberger  
President  
Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society  
[nancyw11@verizon.net](mailto:nancyw11@verizon.net)  
609-443-6536

Please respond by email or phone or go to [www.hightstownborough.com](http://www.hightstownborough.com)

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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

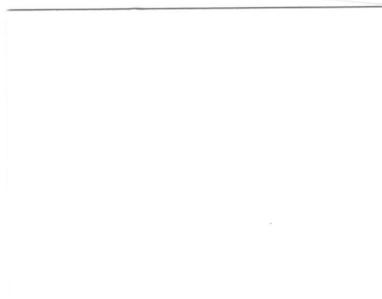
The Hightstown-East Windsor  
Historical Society offers a special

*Thanks*

to all who serve



0861043244



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TRENTON NJ 086  
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