



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

MARCH - APRIL, 1992

## MARCH GENERAL MEETING LIFE & TIMES OF JOHN HIGHT

The next general meeting of the Society will be held at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 17, 1992, in Room SM-6 of the new Swig Arts Center at The Peddie School, located off of Ward Street at the north end of the school's campus in Hightstown. The evening's program will be on the "Life and Times of John Hight", the founder and name-sake of Hightstown, who died 200 years ago. Bob Craig has been researching the Hight family for a number of years and has much new and exciting information to share. The talk will be illustrated by slides. Bob is a former Chairman of the Society's Library Committee, and is presently a historic preservation specialist with the Office of New Jersey Heritage, Department of Environmental Protection and Energy.



The William & Ann Hutchinson Burial Ground (129 Cedarville Road)

## HISTORIC SITES IN HIGHTSTOWN AND EAST WINDSOR

*(The Sixth Installment in a Continuing Series)*

Established circa 1770 - 1801, the William and Ann Hutchinson burial ground is the most outstanding and distinguished of the few remaining private, family graveyards in East Windsor. It marks the final resting place of two members of the first generation of settlers in East Windsor, who in the 1740's created the farm in which they lie buried. William Hutchinson died between 1769 and 1772, and his grave, marked only by a stone with the letters "W H," is the oldest marked grave in East Windsor, while Ann Hutchinson's stone is the finest of the early grave markers in the Township. The elaborateness of her epitaph, including its numeration of her descendants, is a testament to the pride that her family felt for her, one of the remarkable women of her era in central New Jersey. She impressed no less a figure than Francis Asbury, the great missionary who is known as "the Father

of American Methodism," who eulogized her in his journal, even going so far as to paraphrase her epitaph. These  
*cont. page 2*

## SIXTEENTH ANNUAL DOLL SHOW & SALE

The Society is pleased to announce its 16th Annual Doll Show & Sale on May 16, 1992, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., at the Hightstown Country Club on Monmouth Street. This year the raffle doll is called "Serenity - Apple & Spice." She is a beautiful "Lee Middletown" original standing 22-inches tall and retails for \$250.00. Please don't miss this chance to see the many antique and collectible dolls, teddy bears, etc. - and don't forget to bring your children. As usual parking is free and there will be a cafeteria on the premises. Admission will be \$2.50 per person or \$2.00 with an advertising card.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

- 4 Executive Committee (7:30PM)
- 17 General Meeting (7:30PM)
- 22 Freight Station Rehab Committee (1PM)

### April

- 1 Executive Committee (7:30PM)

### May

- 16 16th Annual Doll Show & Sale (10AM - 4 PM)

two graves exemplify an era in the Township before church cemeteries and private cemetery companies were formed, when the first generation preferred to be buried on their own farms. The prestige of William and Ann is witnessed by the fact that, despite having thirteen children, they were able to marry off all their daughters and give their sons that important first foothold. Family gatherings must have been lively occasions given the mixture of professions and interests represented, i.e.: local politics, county politics, merchants, farming, and religion. Two of the children bear special mention: Rachel who married John Kinnan—they would establish the mill that the later village of Milford (now known as Etra) would center around—and Joseph, who established the first Methodist Church in the area at the village of Milford. Some of the children of William and Ann represent the western migration in America after the French and Indian War (ended in 1763). Four of their children moved to the Virginia frontier soon after the death of William. Another moved to the Rome, New York area during the mid-1780's.

William Hutchinson (1697/8 - circa 1770) and his wife Ann (Simpson) (1699-1801) purchased a tract of 1,037-acres on 8/28/1740 from James Alexander and Daniel Donaldson Dunstar, two absentee landholders. William and Ann probably built a house here soon afterward. They raised 13 children, most of whom were born prior to this purchase. In 1746, William was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Middlesex County, which he held until his death. A predecessor of Cedarville Road was opened on 12/8/1749, however, it was vacated on 6/12/1750. On 12/28/1764, William sold to his son, John, 407-acres of his plantation. On 2/17/1769, William sold to his son, William, 370-acres of his plantation. On 3/11/1769, William sold to his son-in-law, Adam Shaw, 40-acres of his plantation known as the "hog field" lying to the north of William's house. William and Ann retained their farm house and 250-acres of the original 1,037. William Hutchinson died between 1769 and 1772. He was buried on high ground near the rear line of his remaining 250-acres. His tombstone is marked with a chiseled "W H." William's widow, Ann, died on 1/4/1801 and was buried next to her hus-

band. Apparently she was living at the home of Robert Wilson, Esquire, at the time of her death. The inscription on her stone reads: "Sacred to the memory of Ann Hutchinson, relict of Wm. Hutchinson, Esq., departed this life, Jan. 4, 1801. Aged 101 years, 9 months, and seven days. She was mother of 13 children and grandmother, and great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother of 375 persons." Bishop Francis Asbury, the early Methodist evangelist, wrote in his journal on 5/23/1802, "Whilst at Milford, I read the inscription on the gravestone of Ann Hutchinson, her maiden name was Simpson; she was born upon Long Island, and married in the county of Middlesex, State of New Jersey. She was the mother of thirteen children, and great great grandmother of upwards of three hundred children; she died aged a hundred and one years, nine months, and seven days, in January 1801. About eighty, she in a great degree lost her sight—about ninety, it returned; her hair changed white to a dark brown. I have seen her, and conversed with her: at this advanced age she did not appear to be weary of the world."

#### **The children of William and Ann Hutchinson:**

1. Robert was born in 1720 in Middlesex County. He married Elizabeth Lawrence of Upper Freehold Township in 1747. They apparently made their home in Upper Freehold Township, raising a family of 11 children. Robert inherited his father's homestead farm between 1769 and 1772. On 6/25/1772, Robert sold the homestead farm to his brother-in-law John Ely, Jr. Robert and his family moved to Virginia in 1774. Apparently he did not take care of his financial obligations before he moved because in 1775 the homestead farm was seized by the Middlesex County Sheriff and the 1772 sale was annulled. Robert died in 1794 in Louisiana.

2. Elizabeth was born in 1722 in Middlesex County. She married John Tindall. John was elected Commissioner of Roads for Windsor Township in 1762 and to the Windsor Township Committee in 1772.

3. William, Jr. was born in 1724 in Middlesex County. He married Catharine Garrison. William was elected Overseer of the Poor for Windsor Township in

1764. They apparently settled on part of his father's plantation by 1769. In 1815, William gave land to the Trustees of the Brick School House. William died in 1818 and is believed to be buried in the Methodist Cemetery in Etra. Four of William's sons, Robert, Sylvester, Aaron, and Ezekiel, were ministers in the Methodist Church.

4. Sarah was born in 1726 in Middlesex County. She married Benjamin Hixon and they moved to Virginia.

5. John was born in 1729 in Middlesex County. He married Sarah Johnson of Perth Amboy. It is not clear if they lived with his parents or settled on part of his father's plantation in 1764. That same year John was elected Tax Collector of Windsor Township. They moved to Virginia after 1771, where John served in the Revolutionary War. John died in 1780.

6. Joseph was born in 1731 in Middlesex County. Joseph married first, Mary Ely, and second, Meribah Cox. He was known as "Father Joseph" by Francis Asbury, who is known as "the Father of American Methodism." In 1786, Joseph moved the Methodist preaching from his brother-in-law's tavern in Hightstown to his home on the outskirts of present-day Etra. He gave land in present-day Etra in 1815 for the first Methodist Church in this area. In 1824, he gave land for part of the present-day Methodist Cemetery in Etra. Joseph died in 1828 and is buried in the Methodist Cemetery in Etra.

7. Ann was born in 1733 in Middlesex County. She married first, James Brooks in 1754, and second, Isaac Wilson. James was appointed Sheriff of Middlesex County in 1763 as well as Sheriff of the City of Perth Amboy. Sarah, a daughter of James Brooks and Ann, married Rescarrick Moore in 1779. Ann died in 1820.

8. Catherine was born in 1735 in Middlesex County. She married first, James English in 1755, and second, Moses Laird. James was a blacksmith in 1755, a tavern keeper in 1756, and a miller in 1758, all in Hightstown. He died in 1776. Catherine died in 1829.

9. Dorothy was born in 1737 in Middlesex County. She married Robert Allen and they moved to Virginia.

10. Lydia was born in 1740 on the homestead farm. She married first, John

Ely, and second, a man named Campbell. John and Lydia purchased the homestead farm from Lydia's brother Robert in 1772. However, the farm was seized by the Middlesex County Sheriff in 1775 and the sale was annulled. John and Lydia moved to Rome, New York after 1777.

11. Rachel was born in 1743 on the homestead farm. She married John Kinnan in 1770. Later that year, John and Rachel purchased 100-acres from Rachel's brother, John, which encompassed much of the present village of Etra. John Kinnan established a mill there by 1773. Rachel died in 1777.

12. Mary was born in 1745 on the homestead farm. She married Adam Shaw. Adam was a merchant in New Brunswick in 1769 when he purchased land from his father-in-law across present-day Cedarville Road from his father-in-law's farm. This land was not part of the 1,037-acre plantation, but land later purchased from the Peters family. Adam and Mary probably built a house on this land soon afterward. During the 1780's, Adam kept a tavern in Hightstown where the first Methodist ministers preached. In the 1790's he kept a tavern in Princeton.

13. Nathaniel was born on the homestead farm. He married Mary Neal in 1773-1774. He died in 1785 and is believed to be buried with his father and mother.

Daniel Johnes (1743-1823) purchased the 250-acre homestead farm at public auction at the house of Benjamin Ward, Inn Keeper, at Hightstown on 7/31/1776. Daniel called this farm "Liberty Hall Farm" perhaps due to patriotic sympathies and in recognition of the year of his purchase. He served in the Revolutionary War. On 10/18/1785, Cedarville Road was opened. Daniel never lived here, but apparently his son Samuel Clark Johnes (1791-1848) did, for part of his life. Daniel and Samuel C. adhered to the Universalist faith, and Daniel was referred to, in one instance, as "Rev. Daniel." Daniel sold some of the farm during his lifetime. He died on 7/15/1823 leaving the remaining farm to his heirs. Daniel was buried in the cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury. Because minors were involved a division of the farm was made on 12/13/1823. The commissioners, as appointed by the Orphans Court, divided the farm into nine parcels. Samuel

C. received the parcel with the house, garden, and barn. Between 1824 and 1834, he purchased almost all of the remaining parcels from his father's heirs. Samuel was a blacksmith by trade and a colonel in the local militia. He married Sarah Bergen and they had seven children. Samuel also sold some of the farm during his ownership.

Isaac Goldy (? -1876) purchased the remaining 124.59-acre farm on 3/31/1846. His name appears on the 1849 map of Mercer County at this location. It is believed that the Goldys were related to the Hutchinsons. By 1875 Isaac had apparently given the farm to his son Samuel because Samuel appears on the East Windsor Township map of that year. Isaac died in 1876 without a will. His

three sons, Samuel, Isaac, and John were appointed administrators. On 11/2/1877, the heirs of Isaac Goldy, deceased, sold the farm to Samuel Goldy (1814-1893), Margaret Goldy (1822-1901), and Martha Jane Goldy (1830-1887)—also all heirs of Isaac. Martha Jane Goldy died on 1/1/1887 leaving her interest in the farm to Samuel and Margaret during their lifetimes and then to her four nieces, Sarah J. White, Permelia H. Snowhill, Caroline S. Goldy, and Cora Swan. Martha Jane was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Samuel Goldy died on 12/3/1893 leaving his interest in the farm to his brother-in-law John Waddy. Samuel was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Margaret Goldy died on 3/15/1901 leaving her interest in

*cont. page 4.*

## GUSTAF A. JOHNSON HOUSE, 161 SOUTH STREET



The lot associated with this house was originally part of a 12.91-acre undeveloped tract owned by Blanche J. Rue, the sole surviving heir of her mother, Rebecca Ward Johnes (1916). Melville Perrine Chamberlin and Elmer B. Chamberlin purchased this tract on 3/30/1916. Melville Perrine Chamberlin (born on 8/7/1869) was a graduate of the Peddie Institute. Later Melville purchased the lumber business of Dey & J. V. D. Beekman. Melville was in the building materials supply business trading under the name of M. P. Chamberlin when he purchased this tract. Elmer B. Chamberlin (1878 -9/23/1931) began his business career as a member of the firm of Chamberlin, Field & Company which ran hay press plants and sold coal, stock, seeds, and agricultural supplies. Later Elmer was a member of the firm of Hightstown Hardware Co., Inc. Elmer was also a director of the First National Bank. Elmer B. Chamberlin purchased the half-

interest of Melville Perrine Chamberlin and Anna H. (Harden), his wife, in this tract of land on 1/4/1917. This house was probably built later that year, maybe as a model home, by Elmer B. Chamberlin. Elmer lived on South Main Street with his wife, Susetta (Lucas), and their two sons: John and Calvin.

Gustaf A. and Ella M. (Ivins) Johnson apparently rented this house for a number of years before purchasing it on 5/10/1922. Gustaf, an immigrant from Sweden, joined the Hightstown Rug Company, where he worked for a number of years. Gustaf Johnson died on 3/3/1953 leaving everything to his wife, Ella. Arthur R. and Carol Ann Sykes purchased the house on 4/1/1964. On 7/2/1969, it was purchased by Robert C., Jeanne V., and Beverlee K. Dunham. Charles T. and Alexandrina Canta purchased it on 6/15/1973. On 7/1/1974, Robert E. and Joan P. Tuleya purchased it.

This house is reflective of the average-sized home during the early twentieth century. It is consistent with the architectural themes of the World War One period: relative simplicity of design to avoid the excessive detailing of the Victorian-era, and a general favoring of Colonial Revival details and ideas. Inside, the wood trim was originally stained a dark color, and the walls were papered. The current owners have worked hard to recapture a sense of how the interior must have originally appeared, after a series of owners during the 1960's and early 1970's removed the original fixtures and wallpaper.

## ITS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME !

The Society has come a long way since it was organized on May 23, 1971. We own and maintain "Ely House" as our headquarters. The "Freight Station" is now part of our museum, and we have steadily increased our membership. At this point in time our needs are basically three-fold: 1) to continue to maintain "Ely House" and restore the "Freight Station"; 2) to improve our Library; and 3) to broaden our offerings within the Hightstown-East Windsor Community and preserve its history. In addition to all the above, a large part of your annual dues goes toward the cost of producing and mailing the Society's newsletter. A great deal of work has gone into improving the newsletter to make it more attractive and informative. In order to continue the Society needs help from its members. Renewal forms have already been sent to you, so please send in your

dues for this year and check the boxes on the application next to the areas in which you would be willing to help. If you are unable to be an active member, mark the Contributing Member box. This type of membership is necessary to the Society as part of our financial income.

## BURIAL GROUND

*cont. from page 3*

the farm to her nephew Clarence M. Waddy. Margaret was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Abraham Ralph and his wife Lydia M. purchased all the interests to the farm on 4/1/1902. That same day they sold the farm to John Waddy and Gertrude V., his wife.

Benjamin Gordon Everett and his wife Lenora (Reynolds) and William Everett purchased the farm on 4/2/1917. Benjamin and William were brothers. Benjamin's grandfather was Benjamin Gordon, whose sister, Caroline Gordon, married William R. Hutchinson the son of Rev. Robert Hutchinson. William Everett moved to Park Avenue in Hightstown in

1930. Apparently after this time, half the farm was farmed by the Everetts and the other half by the farmer (Nurko?) across Cedarville Road. Benjamin and Lenora moved to Summit Street in Hightstown in 1951. After this time, the farm was farmed by (Nurko?) and the farm house was rented by a Tindall.

Ellwood C. Tantum and his wife, Julia C., and Harold A. Mohr and his wife, Dorothy E., and Wiley Miner and his wife, Helen A., purchased the farm on 5/10/1969. This partnership was also known as Princeton Turf Farm. On 7/14/1969, a quarter interest was sold to Mildred M. Seebree. In 1971 the farm house was razed. Apparently the aforementioned Tindall rented the farm house until that time. Between 1971 and 1973, Wiley Miner and his wife, Helen A., acquired all the other interests. Cedarland Associates II, probably an investment group, purchased this land on 3/5/1983. Apparently about this time the land was once again farmed. Park 36 Associates, probably another investment group, purchased this land on 12/29/1989.

**Hightstown-East Windsor  
Historical Society**  
164 North Main Street  
Hightstown, New Jersey 08520

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Hightstown, New Jersey Permit No. 11
--