



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

MARCH - APRIL, 1993

## OPEN HOUSE PROGRAMS

The society is pleased to announce that its headquarters, Ely House, 164 North Main Street, Hightstown, will be open to the public from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. on the following dates and featuring the following programs.

**March 21:** Samplers Old And New

**April 18:** Dolls We Grew Up With

**May 2:** Local Arts And Crafts

If anyone has an item(s) they would like to display, or has an open house program, or would like to become involved in the Museum Committee, please contact Eileen Couturier at (609) 443-3906. ■

## CEDAR HILL CEMETERY TOPIC OF MARCH GENERAL MEETING

The society's next general meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. on Monday, March 15, at Ely House, 164 North Main Street, Hightstown. The evening's program will be a history of Hightstown's old Cedar Hill Cemetery, presented by Richard Hutchinson. Dick will discuss the creation of the cemetery in the 1850's, and will explain its layout and its relationship

to the newer section across the road. He will also mention some of the cemetery's significant burials, and will have available a complete listing of the plots and burials that he recently completed compiling. The evening's program, which will include a very brief business meeting, will run about a hour. Refreshments will be served. ■

## LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETS

President Robin Smith has named a Long-Range Planning Committee to examine all of the Society's activities and report to the Executive Committee ways to encourage the growth of the organization and to improve the efficiency of our operations. Bob Craig was named to chair the committee, and George Dubell, Society Treasurer, and Bernard Bush, a Society Trustee, were named to serve with him. Two or three additional members are yet to be named.

The committee needs to hear member's views about such matters as the Society's fundamental mission, its finances and accounting, development and grants, general operations, buildings and grounds, membership, publications and public information, museum activities and exhibits, library matters, programming, outreach into the community, our relations with the school system, and historic preservation.

You can help the committee by taking part in its discussions. Two meetings will

be held per month at Ely House during March and April on the first and third Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. For further information please contact Bob Craig at (609) 586-4702. ■

## SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL DOLL SHOW & SALE

The Society is pleased to announce its 17th Annual Doll Show & Sale on May 15, 1993, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., at the Hightstown Country Club on Monmouth Street. This year the raffle doll is called "Hillary." She is an all porcelain standing child [approx. 12 inches tall] with blonde hair and blue eyes dressed in a pretty blue and pink dress with bloomers. She is an original "Mary Ellen & Charles Porcelain Doll" and retails for \$170.00. 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. Raffle tickets for "Hillary" will shortly be distributed to the society's members and also will be available at the show. Look for more information in the local newspapers and in the next edition of the newsletter. ■



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

- 1 Executive Committee (8 PM)
- 2 Long Range Planning Committee (7 PM)
- 9 Freight Station Committee (7:30 PM)
- 15 General Meeting (7:30 PM)
- 16 Long Range Planning Committee (7 PM)
- 19 Library Committee (7:30 PM)
- 21 Open House (2-5 PM)

### April

- 1 Deadline: May-June Newsletter
- 5 Executive Committee (8 PM)
- 6 Long Range Planning Committee (7 PM)
- 13 Freight Station Committee (7:30 PM)
- 16 Library Committee (7:30 PM)
- 18 Open House (2-5 PM)
- 20 Long Range Planning Committee (7 PM)

### May

- 2 Open House (2-5 PM)
- 15 17th Annual Doll Show & Sale (10 AM - 4 PM)

## PRESERVING AND RESTORING NEW JERSEY'S TRANSPORTATION HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM

This third annual day long public event will be held on Saturday, March 27th, 1993, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the Hall of Science Auditorium of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. It will feature 20 fast moving, informative, illustrated presentations. One of the presentations will be given by John Kilbride (one of our members) on the Camden & Amboy Railroad and the Society's Freight Station Restoration Project. Admission, which includes morning and afternoon refreshments and lunch, is \$15.00 per person (if you are a member of Friends of New Jersey Railroad & Transportation Museum) and \$30.00 per person for all others (this includes \$15.00 individual membership in the Friends). Reservations must be received by March 17th, 1993. Limited car pooling from the Hightstown/East Windsor area is available-for more information contact John Kilbride at (609) 443-4746. For reservation forms/information please contact Capt. Bill McKelvey, 103 Dogwood Lane, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922, (201) 467-6032. ■

## MICROFILM READER/ PRINTER AT TOWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Hightstown Memorial branch of the Mercer County Library has received a microfilm reader/printer. The library has on microfilm the Village Record, now called the Hightstown Gazette from 1849 to 1937 and the Windsor Hights Herald from its beginning in 1965 to June 1992. In addition the library has loose copies of the Gazette from 1970-1973 and from 1976 on, and the Herald since 1990. These resources are of interest to those doing genealogical or other research on the local area. The library's hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 to 9, Friday 10-5:30 and Saturday 10-1. The telephone number is (609) 448-1474. ■

*The society extends its  
condolences to the families  
of  
Eleanore Hutchinson  
and  
Dorothy Davison Hade.*

## ANN (HUTCHINSON) BROOKS WILSON

Richard S. Hutchinson 1992

The knowledge of the HUTCHINSON family of central New Jersey is slowly coming together by piecing together the clues derived from the family's oral traditions, using one-hundred plus year old written notations of family members, and through the research of various branches descended from the New Jersey families. Two local "members" of this large Hutchinson group are the families of William and Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson, who lived on their homestead in an area then known as Milford, in Windsor Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey and the other being Jonathan and Elizabeth (Dusoswa) Hutchinson, who also lived in Middlesex County but in what is today West Windsor Township. Both William and Jonathan Hutchinson were related, possibly as brothers, but their exact relationship is not presently known. William and Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson had thirteen known children while Jonathan and Elizabeth (Dusoswa - phonetic for Disosway) had eight known children. This paper will deal with two marriages in these two families; the marriage of Rachel Hutchinson, a daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth, and with the marriage of Ann Hutchinson, a daughter of William and Ann.

Ann Hutchinson (1733-1820), the daughter of William and Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson, married James Brooks (1731-), who was appointed the Sheriff of Middlesex County, New Jersey, during the January 1763 Term of the Middlesex County Court. James' father-in-law, William Hutchinson, was a Justice and a member of

the Middlesex County Court at that time. Further circumstantial "evidence" that William was related to James Brooks, is that William Hutchinson co-signed the "performance" Bond that was required in 1763 when Brooks was sworn in as Sheriff. William Hutchinson was born on 12 June 1697 (Old Style) and died between 1769 and 1772. (A Middlesex County Court docket entry during the January 1771 Term of the court suggests that William Hutchinson may have died prior to 1771. The docket notation charges the "Adn [Administration?] of Wm. Hutchison" with a debt of 93 pounds.)

In the above mentioned family notes, it states that James Brooks died early in life and his widow, Ann (Hutchinson) Brooks, married (2) an "Isaac" Wilson but offers no other information. It is my opinion that this second marriage is incorrect. James Brooks' widow did marry a Wilson but not "Isaac" Wilson. From the existing records, it is my opinion that she married Robert Wilson, Esq., and that this marriage was the second marriage for both parties. The unknown family author of these notes may have been confused by the fact that Robert Wilson's son, "Isaac" H. Wilson, did marry a Hutchinson. However, the Hutchinson that was his bride was his cousin, Elizabeth Hutchinson, the daughter of James and Sarah (Tindall) Hutchinson, and a granddaughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Dusoswa) Hutchinson.

In 1885, the descendants of Jonathan Hutchinson held a large family reunion and published a family history for the event. This multiple page document gives the birth of a Rachel D. (probably for Disosway) Hutchinson, who was the daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Dusoswa) Hutchinson, as being "about 1740." The history relates that she was married to a Robert Wilson, who was born "on ship-board when his parents were coming to this country, September 22, 1736." The history continues that Robert and Rachel (Hutchinson) Wilson had a son, Isaac H. (probably for Hutchinson) Wilson, who was born on 10 March 1779, and who married on 10 December 1799, his cousin Elizabeth, the daughter of James and Sarah (Tindall) Hutchinson. Using the above history as a guide, work on the collateral line of Robert Wilson was begun in an

attempt to see if any further information could be found on the Wilson/Hutchinson connection. To my surprise, information was found on the Hutchinson family but more so on the William and Ann (Simpson) family than on the Jonathan and Elizabeth (Dusoswa) Hutchinson family.

Robert Wilson left a will, dated 11 September 1816, where he identified himself as being from the "Township of East Windsor in the county of Middlesex." He spelled his name as "Willson" but his children later used the spelling of "Wilson." The will was witnessed by Jacob Fisher, William Taylor, and Ann Taylor and was proved in New Brunswick, Middlesex County, on 7 March 1820. In the will, Robert directed his executors, his son "Isaac" and his son-in-law, John Miller, that he was to be buried at the "Allentown Church near my first wife." He also advised them that he and his beloved "wife Anna" had entered into an agreement before their marriage and it was his will that she was to have all the property that she brought when they came together. From Robert's will, we now know that he was married twice, his second wife was named Anna [or "Ann"], he was buried next to his first wife in a church in Allentown, and that his first wife had died before the date of his will (1816). If the above mentioned history was correct, based upon his will, Robert should be buried next to Rachel D. Hutchinson.

A search of the Allentown Presbyterian Church cemetery found the grave of Robert "Willson" next to that of "Rachel, Wife of Robert Willson, Esq." Rachel's stone indicated that she died 29 March 1797, at the age of "fifty three years and two months." By date calculation, her birth date would be 29 January 1744 (New Style) or 18 January if you account for the Old Style date change. Robert's stone indicated that he died 25 February 1820 at the age of 84 years.

Filed with Robert's will, was the inventory of his estate and in that inventory was the subtle piece of information that later became the "key" to identifying his second wife, "Anna." This "key" was the following line in the 1820 inventory of Robert's estate:

"Ballance due the Estate of Robert Wilson deceas'd from ann Wilson for Boarding her Mother - doubtfull \$42.22."

The above entry in Robert Wilson's inventory gives further circumstantial evi-

dence that Ann Brooks, widow, did not marry (2) "Isaac" Wilson but married (2) Robert Wilson, Esq. This statement is made based upon the "balance" being due "for Boarding her [Ann Wilson] Mother" which was due Robert Wilson's estate in 1820. What is also significant about this "key" is that the collection of that debt was considered in 1820 as being "doubtfull." Why was the collection of the debt considered doubtful? Was it because so many years had gone by since Ann Wilson's mother had died?

Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson, the widow of William, was born 17 March 1699 and died in Milford, Middlesex County, New Jersey, on 4 January 1801, at the age of 101 years, 9 months, and 7 days. It is my position that she was the "mother" that was boarded in reference to the 1820 debt in Robert Wilson's inventory. And, if this theory is correct, it would also corroborate the fact that Ann (Hutchinson) Brooks, was the daughter of William and Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson and widow of James Brooks. Let us suppose that William's widow, Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson, was Ann Wilson's mother and the boarding debt was for William's widow and that it hadn't been collected by 1820. Wouldn't the debt collection be considered doubtful in 1820, since she had died in 1801? If my theory holds, then Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson would have been boarded by Robert Wilson!

In an attempt to prove this theory true, a search was made for information on the wives of Robert Wilson and particularly on "Anna," the second wife and widow of Robert Wilson. No probate documents could be found for Robert's first wife, Rachel, and none were expected to be found due to her having died so early and before her husband. A search did locate probate documents for Robert's second wife, Ann. They were also filed in Middlesex County, New Jersey. Ann Wilson's will was dated 17 March 1819, and described her as being from the "township of East Windsor County of Middlesex." Ann's will was also witnessed by the same Jacob Fisher, who appeared as a witness to the will of her late husband, Robert Wilson (handwriting analysis). Other witnesses were David Fisher and Margaret Mason. The executors of Ann's will were identi-

fied as Ann's son-in-law, Rescarrick Moore, and her daughter, Sarah Moore. The will was proved 29 June 1820 in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

During my continuous search for information on the Hutchinson family, I found that the above mentioned Sarah (Brooks) Moore filed an affidavit with the Middlesex County Court before Judge Joseph McChesney. I have never seen the original affidavit but have an abstract that was typed by a Hutchinson descendant. One can only wonder the reason for Sarah (Brooks) Moore, the grand-daughter of William and Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson, having filed said affidavit, dated 29 March 1837, which gave the names and dates of birth of twelve of the thirteen children of William and Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson. The typed abstract of the affidavit continued:

"Ann Hutchinson (maiden name Ann Simpson) was born 3/16/1699 and died Sunday evening, 1/4/1801, aged 101 years, nine months and seven days. She married William Hutchinson, who was born 6/12/1697 and married to her on (?). Their daughter Anne (born 9/30/1733 old style) married James Brooks (born 4/22/1731) on 3/14/1754. Their daughter Sarah Brooks (born 1/23/1759) married Rescarrick Moore on 4/15/1779. Their daughter, Mary Moore, married John Smith and this John Smith was the grandfather of John Mount Smith. Said John Mount Smith is now living on Stockton St., Hightstown, N.J., and has this and appended data in his possession, having been handed down to him from his connection with the family as noted above."

The above affidavit was attested to by Judge McChesney who stated that "Personally appeared before me, Sarah Moore, who, upon her oath, saith the above is the original record of the family events made in the family Bible not long after the event recorded occurred." It was then signed by Sarah Moore and Judge McChesney on the above mentioned date.

One more piece of circumstantial evidence has to be presented. In researching the Hutchinson family, I have found several instances where the obituary of Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson was printed in daries, in several newspapers, and kept by family members probably due as a result of

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## HUTCHINSON

her longevity. I have even found it printed in newspapers in the Cincinnati, Ohio area, where some of her children moved in the early 1800's. This obituary was also noted as being pasted in the Bible of Samuel Jones [Johnes] (New Jersey Historical Society). In all of the above mentioned obituaries or articles written contemporaneous to the event, it is stated that Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson, aged 101 years, 9 months and 7 days, had died at the residence of Robert Wilson, Esq., of East Windsor Township, New Jersey. Having found this obituary information first without the other pieces of the puzzle, it had always bothered me as to why Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson died at the residence of Robert Wilson! Why was Ann living at Robert Wilson's house especially at her advanced age? Why wasn't she living with one of her children especially when several of them were living in the

same vicinity? Now, I know the answer and the answer is quite simple. She was living with one of her children!! And, that child was Ann Hutchinson, the daughter of William and Ann (Simpson) Hutchinson, who was the widow of James Brooks, and who had become the second wife and widow of Robert Wilson, Esq.

When individuals begin to research their own genealogy, they tend to search strictly for their own surname. This example shows how important it is to research those collateral lines of your ancestor. What makes this example even more interesting to me, is that Robert Wilson married daughters from the lines of both William Hutchinson and Jonathan Hutchinson. ■

## MORE INFORMATION ON THE CHARLES M. PERRINE HOUSE

The society wishes to thank John Orr for the following information from the Hightstown Gazette:

January 20, 1870: Charles M. Perrine was in partnership with a Mr. McDonald for a period of years. They did a lot of remodeling to local business establishments and also worked on the interior of the Van Rensselaer Institute.

By April of 1872 the McDonald partnership had been dissolved. At that time Charles M. Perrine advertised that he kept on hand many sash, blinds, doors and could fill orders by mail or in person on short notice. He also advertised that he put on slate roofs, and would furnish and install slate or marble mantels.

August 8, 1872: A request was received of Mr. John Ward that South Street might be taken in charge of the Council. The request was referred to a committee consisting of Mr. Combs and Slack.

April 17, 1873: "C. M. Perrine's one of our best builders, and manufactures doors, etc..." ■

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