



HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1995

Next Meeting!

MICHAEL PANE TO BE FEATURED ANNUAL BANQUET SPEAKER

The annual banquet of the Society will be held on Sunday afternoon, January 22nd, at the Coach & Four Restaurant, Route 33, in Hightstown. Dinner will begin at 2:00 P.M. The featured speaker this year will be attorney Michael Pane, of East Windsor, a notable collector of early maps, especially maps of New Jersey. Mr. Pane will regale the audience with stories of how he stalks his cartographic quarry, and explain how his maps reveal the geographical and nautical knowledge of their time. (Members who attended the House Tour back in October will remember seeing some of the maps framed on the wall.)

Afterward, Mr. Pane will host a reception at his home for those who attend the banquet to see the maps themselves. ■



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 9 Business Meeting, 7:30 (Ely House)
- 11 "Please Be Seated," General Mtg., 7:30 (Ely House)
- 22 Annual Banquet, 2:00 (Coach & Four Restaurant)

February

- 6 Business Meeting, 7:30 (Ely House)
- 15 General Mtg., 7:30 (Ely House)

NOTES TOWARD A HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN HIGHTSTOWN/ EAST WINDSOR BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

by Robert Craig

Histories of the African American community in most of our towns and cities remain to be written, and so it is with Hightstown and East Windsor. In honor of Black History Month in February, this issue of the newsletter is intended to furnish some interesting material toward the writing of that history.

African slaves were imported into

New Jersey during the first years of European settlement, and their population grew as the colony grew. The area that became Hightstown and East Windsor was settled chiefly during the second and third quarters of the 18th century, and slaves were part of the local scene as early as the 1720s in what became Upper Freehold Township. In a surviving letter from James Silver to

cont. on page 3

GRACE NORTON ROGERS DIES AT 95

Grace Norton Rogers, the lifelong resident of this community whose energy, high spirit, and love of children made her an outstanding teacher for decades here, has died at age 95. Death occurred on Wednesday, December 20th, at Princeton Medical Center. She had been recovering in recent months from a broken arm suffered during a fall. Burial took place during a private ceremony at East Windsor Cemetery, on Windsor-Perrineville Road.

A memorial service will take place at the First Baptist Church of Hightstown on Sunday January 8th, at 3 P.M. Participants will include the current pastor Reverend Robert Coates, former pastor Rev. Edward Gaul, and former assistant pastor George Hancock-Steffan. Persons who have remembrances of Grace and wish to speak at the service should call Rev. Coates, at 443-1943.

In honor of Grace, we have reprinted, on page 2, a brief biographical sketch originally written to mark her 90th birthday. The original article appeared in the November-December 1989 newsletter. — Editor ■

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY PROGRAMS ARE COMING

In addition to the annual banquet, January will feature a program on antique chairs, called "Please Be Seated," which will be held on Wednesday evening, January 11th, at 7:30 P.M. at Ely House. The theme of this program is that old chairs often have interesting family stories that give them a meaning that goes beyond their aesthetic appeal. If you have an old chair whose tale you wish to share, please call either Bud or Joanne Perrine (448-1376).

Added to our calendar this year for the first time in many years will be a February program. On Wednesday February 15th, at 7:30 P.M., Professor John V. Santosuosso will give a talk entitled "Delaware River Bridges: History, Heritage, and Technology." ■

The following article is reprinted from the November-December 1989 newsletter.

GRACE ROGERS CELEBRATES HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

By Robert Craig

On September 28th, Grace N. Rogers, one of Hightstown's oldest native residents and the teacher for whom the Rogers School on Stockton Street is named, officially marked her 90th birthday. A large gathering of friends celebrated with her on Sunday, September 24th at a party in her honor at the First Baptist Church.

She was born Grace Mary Norton on September 28, 1899, the daughter of Mary and Tracy H. Norton, who lived in a house on East Ward Street. Tragically, her mother died six months later and Grace was sent to be reared by her aunt and uncle, Anna and Charles Dey, who lived on a farm along Wyckoff Mills Road where the former NL Industries laboratories stand. When Grace was ten years old, the Deys sold this farm and moved into town, leasing for a time the Gertrude Maxwell house on North Main Street, while building the house where Grace still lives today.

As a young girl, Grace attended the Mercer Street School for the first six grades, where the future Supervising Principal of the Hightstown Schools Jane S. Donnell was her first grade teacher. She spent the 7th grade (1912-13) in the Smith building on Main Street, and 8th grade (1913-14) in the original Hightstown High School building on Stockton Street. However, because the high school did not yet include a graduating class, 8th grade promotion exercises were held instead. These were the first 8th grade exercises held in Hightstown. Grace was a member of the fourth graduating class of Hightstown High, the Class of 1918, which also included both Huldah Ely and Levi Lee.

Grace started her career in 1919, teaching for the first three weeks of school that September, taking over temporarily for Miss Edna Conover, who was ill. She also performed the same service the following September.

But ironically, public school teaching was not the career she had planned for herself. For three years, she attended the Baptist Institute for Christian Workers in Philadelphia, where she concentrated on Bible study. Like her grandfather Wyckoff Norton and other members of her family, Grace was interested in settlement house work, to help improve the lives of urban immigrant families.

Nevertheless, she accepted a teaching assignment here in 1921 and spent that summer and the summer of 1922 at Rutgers University taking teacher training classes. To this day, however, Grace does not hold a college degree.

Her first autumn of full-time teaching was a memorable time in Hightstown. 1921 was the year that the Hightstown Public Library was founded, a project spearheaded by Jane S. Donnell. Grace was one of several people who canvassed for funds to support the library, which was first housed in the Smith house on Stockton Street. And for four days that October, only a month after her teaching career began, Hightstown observed the bicentennial of the traditional date of its founding by staging the biggest celebration it had ever witnessed to that time. It included a general parade, a fireman's parade, a pageant, and many other events, and the town was filled with visitors from all over. Grace, dressed in costume and playing the role of "The Spirit of Religion", highlighted one of the several floats in the general parade.

During the 1920's, Grace first taught third graders in the Mercer Street School, then taught a fourth grade class, then switched to teach first grade. It was during these years that a new Hightstown High School — The school that now bears her name — was built on Stockton Street. But Grace's full-time teaching career was interrupted in 1934, when, after marrying Stenson W. Rogers, she voluntarily gave up her position so that it could be filled by a deserving applicant who was in more urgent need of employment during the Great Depression. Grace agreed to continue as a substitute teacher, which she did for the next seven years.

About that time, Dr. Harry F. Hill, who had succeeded Jane Donnell as Hightstown's Supervising Principal, became the Mercer County Superintendent of Schools; he found for Grace substitute teaching assignments for brief periods at the Windsor, Robbinsville, and Dutch Neck schools.

In 1941, Grace came back to teach full time in Hightstown, taking over a first grade class from Grace Hutchinson and finishing out the year. A year later, in the fall of 1942, Edith Erving who had been teaching mathematics to seventh and eighth graders, left to care for her ailing father, who was Hightstown Borough's tax collector. Edith Erving was soon offered her father's position, and never came back to teach. Instead, Grace was offered the position.

She continued to teach math for 11 years, 1942-53, which coincided with World War II and the early postwar

IN MEMORIAM

The Society has also learned of the recent passing of Miss Marion Embley, which occurred on December 19th at the Medical Center of Princeton. Embley was 97 years of age, and like Grace Rogers, was a lifelong resident of the community. The daughter of a local carriage builder, she was the last living member of the first four-year graduating class (1915) of Hightstown High School. ■

years. By this time, however, her classroom was located in the Stockton Street School building where she had graduated from high school a generation before.

In the fall of 1953, Grace switched back to teaching first grade, and it is as a first grade teacher that she is probably best remembered, since she taught at that grade level longer than at any other. During the 1950's, the years of the "baby boom" and of suburban expansion brought to Hightstown by the completion of the New Jersey Turnpike, Hightstown's school-age population grew rapidly. The Walter C. Black School on Stockton Street was built, replacing the Mercer Street School. As a youngster, I paid a brief visit to her classroom during the spring of 1962, and what has amazed me is that even years later Grace remembered that visit, and she still does.

Grace continued as a first-grade teacher at the Black School until 1965, when she retired. But she never lost her interest in the schools and even then occasionally substituted in the classroom. Today in reflecting back upon her career, she is confident that she was a firm but fair instructor, and she can be secure in knowing that her work was universally appreciated. In 1980, the East Windsor Regional Board of Education voted to recognize her lifelong dedication by renaming the Hightstown Intermediate School the Grace Norton Rogers School. Since then, she has delivered an annual address to the pupils at the start of each school year.

Editor's Note: Some other members of the 1918 Hightstown High school graduating class are Julia Grover, Lillian Nau, Virginia Lee, and Sara West. ■

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN HIGHTSTOWN AND EAST WINDSOR

Cont. from Page 1

James Johnstone, his wealthy landlord, Silver indicated that blacks were being used to help clear forest land and for farm labor on Johnstone's estate along the Assanpink Creek as early as 1724. [Parker family papers, New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ] Prosperous farmers, tavernkeepers, and others of means often owned one or more black slaves whom they employed usually for farm labor or domestic help. When a census was taken of Windsor Township in 1772 (Windsor included Hightstown Borough, East Windsor, Washington, and West Windsor Townships, and half of Princeton Borough), 95 blacks were enumerated, which included 49 males and 46 females. All of them were slaves, and probably two-thirds lived on farms in what is now West Windsor. They were 5 percent of the total population. Within a dozen years, however, their numbers grew to 204, and their portion of the total grew to 8 percent.

New Jersey is fortunate in that so many records from the Revolutionary War era have survived. Among them are numerous lists of township tax ratables, including several lists for Windsor, beginning with the year 1778. "Slaves" were taxed, but the definition of a slave for taxing purposes was a black male aged 16 to 50. Windsor usually had between 35 and 50 taxed slaves. Black women, children, and old men were not taxed, which accounts for the wide discrepancy between the small number of taxed slaves and the larger census figures. The 1784 tax list is especially important, because it includes a census of population, enumerating the number of white persons and black persons per household, and naming the head of household. A small number of black households were listed. Most blacks still lived within white households.

Using the tax records as a framework, other records can expand our ability to identify early African Americans in the community. Church records can be very helpful in this regard. A number of blacks, slave and free, appear in the baptismal records of the First Baptist Church, which are quite exten-

sive after the Revolution. For example, "Hagar, an Ethiopian" (ca.1767) and "Black Tom" (1786) were evidently slaves. But Sarah Riggs (8/4/1787) and Rose Hamel (5/3/1788) may have been free. John Valentine, "a Negro," was baptized on August 2, 1788, while Anne Valentine, "Molatto," was baptized on December 18, 1789. William Smith's store ledger from the late 1780s also identifies a few black males.

Emancipation was gradual in New Jersey. In the 1780s, the state legislature began by passing a few acts to free specific individuals. Before the decade was over, a manumission law was passed allowing slave owners to voluntarily free their bondsmen, and each county kept a book of manumissions. Since Windsor was part of Middlesex County until 1838, the Middlesex book (at Rutgers Library) contains the records for our area. Births of black children were also recorded after 1804. The early 19th century witnessed a gradual transformation of the local black population from living on farms to living in small enclaves on the edges of towns and villages. Princeton and Trenton developed their early black neighborhoods during these years. At the same time that there were fewer jobs on the farms, African Americans were finding increasing laboring opportunities in town. Samson Peters (d.1845) was a black man from East Windsor who went to Trenton to ply his trade as a cooper.

With the arrival of the railroad in 1831, the village of Hightstown began to grow rapidly, to more than 1300 people by 1870. A commercial "downtown" area emerged, and residential areas were created and expanded. The oldest residential area, along lower Stockton Street, expanded, and in 1835, the Methodist Church moved there from Etra (see the article on the Methodist Church). A growing town provided many chances for black laborers to find work in construction or with the railroad, and created more domestic service jobs for black women. As a result, small black residential enclaves began to appear on the edges of town before the Civil War. The Academy Street

neighborhood, for example, probably became one of these enclaves at this time. It was adjacent to the railroad, and it was near the Methodist Church, to which some blacks belonged. But further attention needs to be paid to these events in order to describe more precisely how they played out. ■

ITEMS FROM THE HIGHTSTOWN EXCELSIOR 1857-1859

July 30, 1857

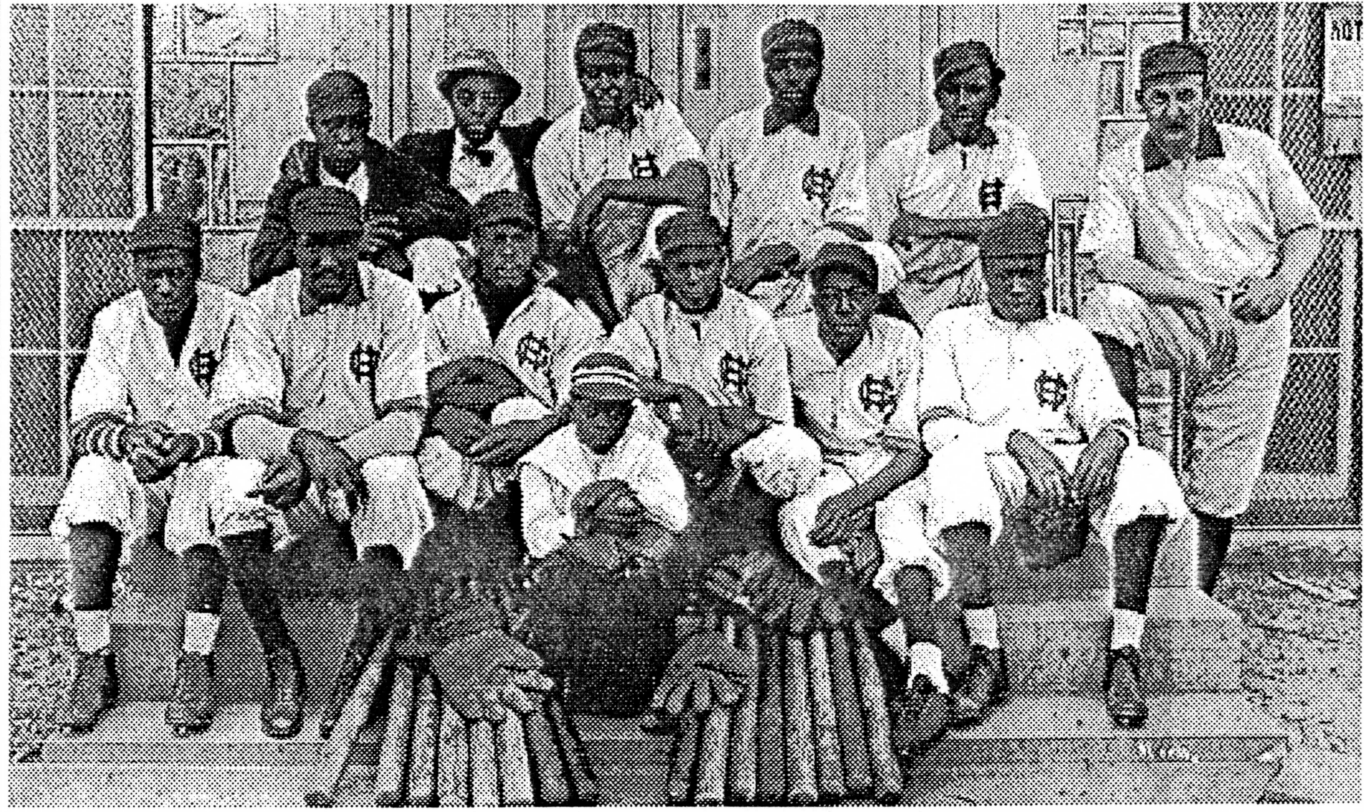
AFRICAN GATHERING - The colored folks had a great meeting at their chapel, between the Borough and Cranberry, last Sunday. Large delegations from Sharon, Allentown, Bordentown, Groveville, and the adjacent country, passed through our Borough bound for the chapel, and if the colored folks from the other sections turned out in as large numbers as they did to the south of us, the attendance must have been large.

February 17, 1859

COLORED PEOPLE'S REVIVAL - The colored people of our town and vicinity, have maintained for a few nights, an extra meeting, which is held at the residence of Mr. Peter Harris, in the upper part of the borough. We understand that about a dozen have been hopefully converted according to the discipline of the Methodist church. To this society the converts of the meetings held in town will no doubt connect themselves. We are happy to be able to chronicle this movement and hope that the work will go on....

March 10, 1859

COLORED PRAYER MEETINGS - These religious efforts of our African residents are yet continued at the house of Peter Harris and are resulting beneficially. A number have been hopefully converted and others are regular and attentive at the gatherings. The nightly meetings have been discontinued, but at least once a week religious services are held, which are generally conducted by some of the official members of the Cranberry African Church. We understand that some ten or twelve have been added to the church, already, and others are to be taken in soon. ■



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE HIGHTSTOWN MYSTERY TEAM? This baseball team posed for a picture on the steps of the old Hightstown High School on Stockton Street, probably in the late 1920s or 1930s, but who were they? What were their names and the name of their team? In what league did they play and how did they fare? Readers who can name the team or identify the players are urged to write to the Society. Send replies to Newsletter editor, H.E.W.H.S., 164 North Main Street, Hightstown.

Our Schools THE BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE

by Richard S. Hutchinson

One of the early school houses erected on the border of Millstone Township and East Windsor Township, which was attended by many children of the East Windsor Township area, was a brick structure known as the "Brick School House." The building stood near what was then the Monmouth / Middlesex (now Mercer) County line along the north side of Route 571 (Etra Road).

From existing records, it is evident that this educational institution was already educating children in 1815. On December 21st that year, William Hutchinson (1724-1818), of East Windsor, gave land to the "Trustees of Brick School House ... for one hundred and ninety nine years ..." [or 2014] which was "being and Lying in the County of Monmouth ... and Near the house where Joseph Gravat Now Lives beginning at a stone four feet from the N.E. Corner of said house ... " The conditions of the gift contained the following restrictions: "... to

finish said house within the term of twelve months from this date and keep it in good and complete repair for a school to learn [sic] children to read, write, and cypher and said house shall be used occasionally for preaching or Public Worship When such meetings shall not in anywise interfere [sic] with or hinder the school house and for no Other use Said trustees are not to cut or cause to be cut any timber on said lot ... " (Monmouth County Deed -vol.P4, page 5). This deed was witnessed by Joseph [K. or H.] Johnston, Samuel C. Johnes, and was signed by William Hutchinson who made his mark. [The deed was not recorded, however, until 1845, when Samuel C. Johnes appeared before Joseph J. Ely, "one of the Masters of the High Court of Chancery," to swear that he was present and observed William Hutchinson, by now deceased, sign the above mentioned deed. The original of this document, sewn together with fine thread where it has parted at the original fold, can be found in the Society's Ely papers collection.] The names of some of the teachers who taught there were:

- 1815: **Daniel Dey**, 1817: **James Hanna** 1818: **Alexander Lowry**, 1819: **John J. Hull**, 1820-22: **James Bishop**,

- Orson Britton**, ca.1823: **Ezekiel R. Wilson**, ca.1826: **Stephen Conover**, 1827: **Jemima P. Atkinson**, [?] 1830: **Peter Karr**, after 1830: **Aaron Hill**, **Isaac V. Hutchinson**, **Clayton I. [J.?] Coward**, **Lyban Sill**, **Hiram Upham**, **William Upham**.

On November 17, 1845 the school trustees, Wesley Sill, Joseph J. Ely, and Elijah Ely, bought some additional land from Benjamin Gordon, a neighboring farmer, surrounding the school to add to the play ground. Nine years later some additional land was acquired from Daniel P. Hutchinson, but even this acquisition only brought the total size of the schoolhouse lot to about 1/7th of an acre. (Monmouth County Deed, vol. E, Misc. Records) In an undated newspaper clipping authored by J.R. Norton of East Windsor, he recalled. "Before I was ten years old I, with my older brothers, went to the old brick schoolhouse, which stood near where Mr. Benjamin Gordon's house stands, on the H. & P. [Hightstown and Perrineville] turnpike. The Brick School House, apparently having fulfilled its mission, stood until the 1870s. Joseph J. Ely recorded in his diary that Benjamin Gordon began tearing down the building on Tuesday morning, the 13th of February 1872. ■

SOCIETY RECEIVES GENEROUS GIFT



Marie Gerland, President of the Friday Club of Hightstown, presents a check for \$2,000 to Society president Dr. Edgar Thomas. The Friday Club organization, which is affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs and is involved in community service, has been an important supporter of the historical society. ■

More About: ETRA: THE MILFORD METHODIST CHURCH

by Richard S. Hutchinson

As mentioned in several of my past articles about East Windsor township, Milford has always been mentioned in connection with the beginnings of the Methodist church in this area of New Jersey. Through "Father" Joseph Hutchinson opening up his home to Bishop Francis Asbury and his itinerant Methodist preachers as they travelled through this area, Milford became a religious center for the populous of both Hightstown and vicinity prior to 1800.

As a result of this spiritual support by the community for these itinerant preachers, the Milford Methodist Church was established. The cemetery in Milford, which is commonly called the Etra Cemetery, is a remnant of the Milford Methodist Church which it adjoined.

To my knowledge, there are no existing drawings or photographs of this church. However, from the February 17th, 1857 edition of the Hightstown

Excelsior we can obtain our first glimpse of its appearance:

"Milford - This ancient village appears to be on the eve of improvement. Settled before our borough, and named Scabbletown, it for several years was the site of several flourishing branches of manufacture. A tannery, a boot and shoe establishment, two extensive smitheries [sic], a store, that indispensable appendage to every town, large flouring and timber mills, and last but not least, a village church were some of the attractions of the place. Over fifty years ago before Hightstown could boast of a church, Milford was a regular appointment and there stately, traveling preachers broke the bread of life to attentive flocks. The site of the old church was picturesque in the extreme. Upon the bank of Milford pond shadowed by venerable trees, the unassuming structure was reared and dedicated to the worship of God. Without, a thick coat of dingy red wash covered the enclosure, while within the rustic pulpit and uncomfortable settings were guiltless of paint. Here the people repaired for worship, clothed in the plain homespun of those days, and sent forth their note of prayer and praise none the less acceptable to the

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Edgar C. Thomas

The Society has presented outstanding programs this year. The world War II panels, the excellent House Tour, the wonderfully informative and entertaining "Precious Memories of Hightstown" given by Dr. Harold Cox (assisted by George Dubell and James Johnson), and the festive Christmas Tea have made this a banner year and more is to come.

On January 11 we have "Please Be Seated," a display of antique and historic chairs organized by Alva and Joanne Perrine. If you have a chair you wish to exhibit, please call the Perrines at 448-1376.

Please be certain to make your reservations for the Annual Society Dinner on Sunday January 22, 1995, at 2:00 P.M. at the Coach & Four Restaurant, Rte. 33. We have secured an outstanding speaker, Michael Pane, Esq., an avid and expert collector of historic maps of New Jersey.

On February 15, we will present "Delaware River Bridges: History, Heritage, and Technology" by Professor John V. Santosuosso. We are indeed fortunate to have secured a speaker of Professor Santosuosso's stature.

This issue of our excellent newsletter features our rich black heritage. Robert Craig and Richard Hutchinson have offered some opening glimpses into this heritage, which we intend to expand upon in future newsletters. I hope that you have had a wonderful holiday season and wish you a most prosperous and joy-filled New Year. ■

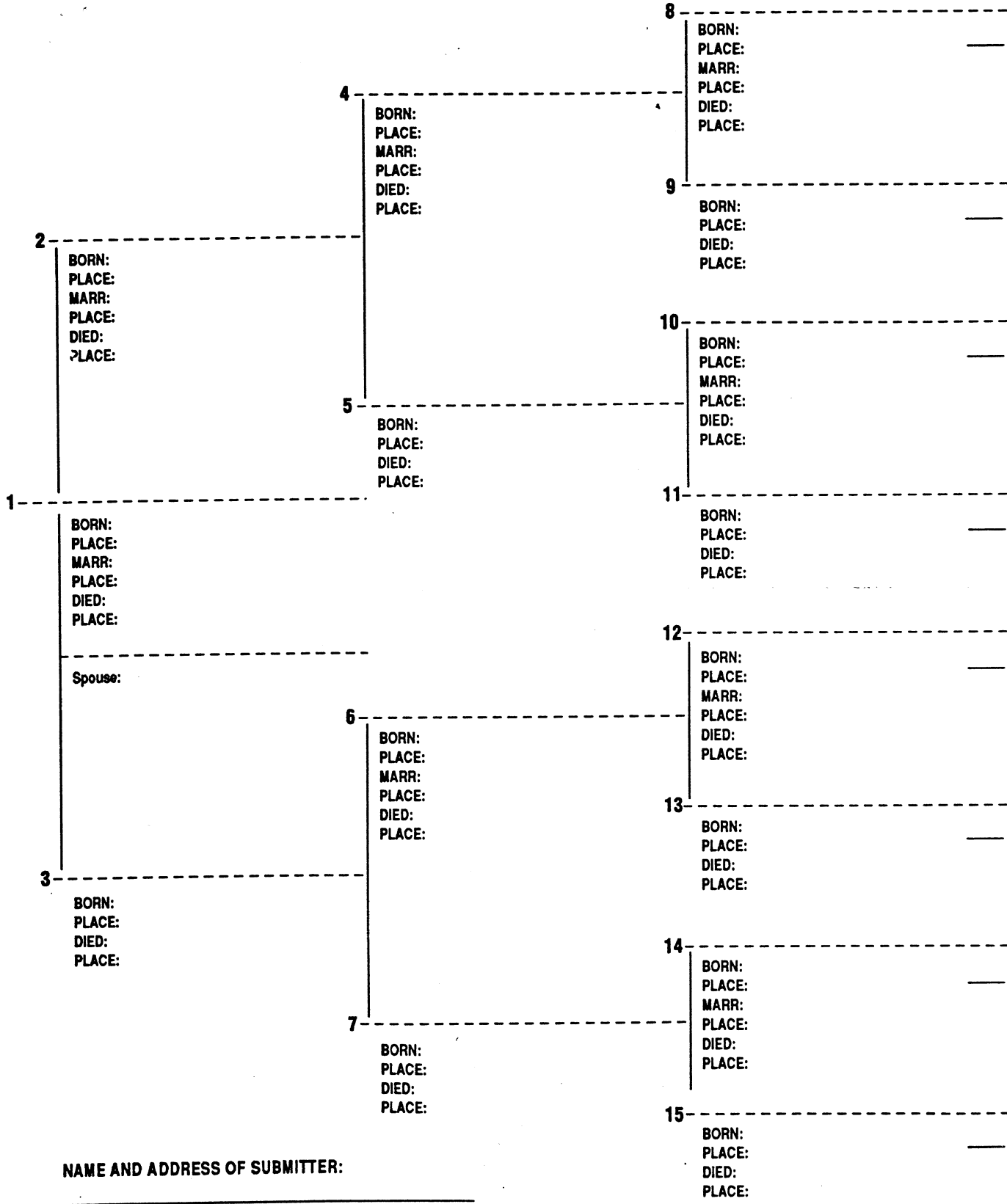
great I AM because wafted up from the primitive temple.

The construction of the Camden & Amboy Railroad and the establishment of a depot at this place stopped business at Milford. Soon the church was moved here and for a number of years the town remained very quiet. But as we said in the commencement, a better day is dawning [sic], and soon the effects of the facilities afforded by the new turnpike will rouse the inhabitants into new life. ■

PEDIGREE CHART

Chart No. _____

Number 1 on this chart is the same as no. _____ on chart no. _____



NAME AND ADDRESS OF SUBMITTER:

PHONE: _____

PEDIGREE CHARTS

by Richard S. Hutchinson

One of handiest charts used in genealogical research, is the Pedigree Chart. At a glance, one can follow an individual's ancestry back into time. The chart accompanying (opposite page) this article is what is known as a FOUR GENERATION PEDIGREE CHART. Generation #1 on the chart is where you place your information along with the name of any spouse. Everyone listed on the chart above you (#2, #4, #5, #8, #9, #10, #11) will be on your father's side and everyone listed below you on the chart (#3, #6, #7, #12, #13, #14, #15) will be on your mother's side. All even numbers on the chart will be males and all odd numbers will be females. Therefore, #2 will be your father (above your name) and #3 (below your name) will be your mother. The lines #4 and #5 will be your grandparents on your father's side while lines #6 and #7 will be your grandparents on your mother's side. Lines #8 and #9 will be the parents of your grandfather (on your father's side) while #10 and #11 will be the parents of your grandmother (on your father's side). The same pattern for the parents of your

grandparents on your mother's side is to be followed for #12 and #13 and #14 and #15. After completing this chart, you can see your ancestry for FOUR generations.

Many people join our or any other historical society in order to preserve and/or learn about their ancestors and/or their community. In order to meet this end, I am in the process of establishing for the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society, a genealogical "database" for the members of this society and the community. The information in this "database" will be placed in vertical files, filed alphabetically by the surname of each family, and will be available in the society's library to anyone doing genealogical research. Therefore, in order to meet this end, I am requesting that each member of this society complete (as much as possible) the accompanying chart in this issue of the newsletter and mail it back to me:

Richard S. Hutchinson
PO Box 1147
Hightstown, NJ, 08520

- so that your family's ancestry can be placed into this vertical file for future generations.

ANNUAL BANQUET

Coach & Four Restaurant

Route 33, Hightstown

Sunday, January 22, 1995 2:00 P.M.

Menu:

Coach & Four Garden Salad

Entrees: (please indicate number of entrees ordered)

\$17.00 ___ Chicken ala Francaise, w/lemon sauce

\$17.00 ___ Baked Filet of Flounder

\$20.00 ___ English Cut Boneless Prime Rib

Dessert: Ice Cream Sundae

Send reservations with check to:

Mrs. Clara Thomas, 951 Old York Road, Hightstown, NJ 0852

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

HIGHTSTOWN EAST WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

founded 1972

Serving Hightstown Borough and
 East Windsor Township

Mailing address: Ely House 164 North
 Main Street Hightstown, NJ 08520
 609 371-9580

Officers for 1994-95

Dr. Edgar Thomas, President
 448-3533

Joel Larson Vice-President
 448-4304

Shirley Olsen Recording
 Secretary

Lois Groendyke Corresponding
 Secretary

George Dubell Treasurer

Committee Chairmen

Finance **George Dubell**
 448-2285

Grounds **Shirley Olsen**

Historic Preservation **Bernard Bush**
 443-8654

Library **Robert Craig**
 586-4702

Membership **Richard Hutchinson**
 448-4252

Newsletter **Robert Craig**
 586-4702

Program **Edgar Thomas**
 448-3533

Publications **David Martin**
 448-6355

Property **Bud Perrine**
 448-1376

Train station **Alan Probasco**
 448-8536

Join today. Become a member!

Yearly Membership:

Individual \$15.

Family \$20.

Amount _____

Total \$ _____

Membership Mailing Address:

Ely House,
 164 North Main Street
 Hightstown, NJ 08520

From the Library
**SLAVE
 MANUMISSION
 IN 1819**

This item is from an original manuscript in the Ely Family Papers, in the Library - editor

me or any person claiming by from or under me. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid. To make the manumission legal, aforsaid.

To make the Manumission, Joseph Ely brought Eve before two overseers of the poor and two justices of the peace. Eve, they found, "on view and examination"—i.e. an interview—convinced the overseers and justices that she was of sound mind and body, capable of obtaining her own support, and that she was between the ages of 21 and 40 years. The overseers and justices then signed the document, and the county clerk recorded it in the Monmouth County manumissions book (pp.37-38). ■

Don't forget!

**Make your reservation for the
 Annual Society Banquet
 Today!**

See Page 7 for details

Collectors & Connoisseurship In The Museum

The Society has recently received a most unusual addition to our museum collections—a can of water! And not just any kind of water: emergency drinking water. The drab gray can with black lettering was packed by Farm Fresh Corporation in Hightstown, probably some time after World War II. It was packed under U.S. government contract, probably for the armed forces, but details are not known at this time. The can was spotted by a close relative of a Hightstown resident at a yard sale in Massachusetts, where she was able to buy it for the whopping sum of 87 cents. The can still has its water inside, and after all these years there is no rust on the can. ■

**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