

HIGHTSTOWN



EAST WINDSOR

NEW

JERSEY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1998

NEWSLETTER PLACES 2ND AGAIN

The Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society News placed 2nd, as Runner-Up, in the 1997 National Genealogical Society's Newsletter Competition. The winners were announced 6 May 1998 during the Opening Session of the NGS Conference in the States held this year in Denver, Colorado. We were given the opportunity to have a representative present in order to receive the award. This year the entries fell into three categories: Major Genealogical Societies, County/Local Genealogical Societies, and Family Associations.

In addition to being able to be present for the award, the Society was given the opportunity to have a one page article of our choice with a photo

which was published in the National Genealogical Society's national newsletter. Below is the article that was submitted for their publication. The notification for an article was made to us at the last minute and the below article is a combination of writing taken from an old Society brochure and updated information. It is unfortunate that they did not print our address as had been requested.

The Hightstown-East Windsor
Historical Society
164 North Main Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520

Hightstown, New Jersey, and its surrounding township of East Windsor, has a varied history. From its start as a

small village in the 1700s to today, it is part of the main corridor between Philadelphia and the city of New York.

With the Battle of Monmouth having been fought about seven miles east, General Washington passed through the town and stopped with his troops under the Washington Oak that stood along the Old York Road. In later years, not far from that same spot, an obscure young schoolmarm named Clara Barton lived within our community and trained the minds of our children. She later became nationally known as the founder of the American Red Cross. And, when the John Bull began its historic run in the United States in the 1830s, it ran along the rails between Bordentown and

Continued on page 8



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 14 Presentation of the Sara Hutchinson West Estate Check, 7:30PM, Ely House
- 17 Program - Hightstown Postcards - Rev. Larry Fish, Meadow Lakes

OCTOBER

- 4 House Tour
- 5 Business Meeting, 7:30PM, Ely House
- 15 Program - Hightstown's Agriculture History - Alva "Bud" Perrine, Meadow Lakes

THE ESTATE OF SARA HUTCHINSON WEST

As most members of the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society are aware, the Executors of the Sara Hutchinson West Estate have selected the Society to be one of the twenty-one beneficiaries that are to share in the above estate's proceeds.

As of the 2nd week in August, the Attorney General of the State of Pennsylvania and the County Court having jurisdiction over the estate have approved all of the twenty-one beneficiaries and have issued a Final Order approving the Accounting of the estate. As a result of this approval after three years of work, the Executors have forwarded an Estate check to the Execu-

tive Board of the Society for its use toward the reconstruction of the Freight station. The Executive Board will make an announcement to the Society regarding the amount of the bequest and the



Sara Hutchinson West

Continued on page 3

GERTRUDE APPELGET MAXWELL

The following is the continuation of Gertrude Maxwell's story of her life and experiences, in and around her home in Hightstown, New Jersey, from 1840 to 1939.

CHAPTER VII

MATER FAMILIAS

A prince can mak a belted knight,
A marquis, duke, and a' that;
But an honest man's aboon his might-

Gude faith, he manna fa' that!
The pith o' sense, and pride o' worth,
Are higher rank than a' that.
---Robert Burns.

My mother's life was comprehended in the Nineteenth Century minus the last five years. A Baltimore friend wrote her on her ninety-fifth birthday a "simple and heartfelt lay" beginning.

"The century and thou wert born
Two little babes together."

Her great grandfather John B. [Baird] came from Aberdeen, Scotland, and landed at Staten Island in 1683. He married Mary Hall, a Scotchwoman of whom little is known except that she was shipwrecked on the Jersey coast. It is a family tradition that they had a romantic but short courtship.

They lived at Topenemus, Monmouth County, New Jersey. "He was a man of strong character and was frequently called upon to settle disputes between his neighbors, both white and red men." He is buried at Topenemus and on his grave stone are the laconic words, "He was a man of honest character." In those days the characteristics of a person were often epitomized by a sentence on the tomb stone and usually they were Bible words.

My mother must have been nourished in the "Spirit of 76" for she was a

soldier's daughter and granddaughter as well. Both men were officers and both were distinguished for bravery. My mother was spirited but not warlike. She was married at twenty and left a home where life was free and easy and untrammelled with slaves too many to count, for the mill where life was prosaic and hurried, with one white maid of all work.

My mother's wedding gown was of peach blossom silk and her wedding journey a long drive across the country to Middlebush, Somerset County, where her husband's ancestor, Cornelius Pieterse, son of Peter Claessen, had settled. Her father as was the custom in well to do families gave his daughter a "wench" but the poor colored girl was so unhappy among the busy white people and buzzing mills that she begged to go back home. An incident in my mother's early married life which she never told until she was an old lady reveals the fact that the mistress was as homesick as the maid. When wash day came round she was told she was expected to look after her own and husband's laundry. She thought that meant she must wash the articles so she took a tub and a washboard and proceeded. Her tears and blood from her knuckles mingled with the foamy mass beneath but she was game and stuck it out until Abby Street came to finish.

The next morning she got on her pony and said she was going home for the day. Her father saw her and went to meet her, telling Phyllis, the head cook, Miss Betsy was coming to dinner and to do her best. When she met her father she poured out her tale of woe and said she wanted to come back home, her new life was too hard, etc. The old Captain kept her out of doors the entire morning. He was as great in peace as in war and his slaves were always busy. If not in the farming season it was building or improving the outside premises. They saw all the improvements and the

live stock, talked with the men she knew so well, tossed up the pickaninnies in the cabins and even went over the deserted garden, and her father told her of everything that had happened in her short absence and of his plans and of the neighbors but never a word of her troubles, and they went in to a fine dinner and she received a big welcome from the family and the dinner was prolonged and there was hilarity and merry-making.

After dinner and visit to the kitchen the Captain settled down in the house. He was a very canny Scotchman and was not going to have any confidences between Betsy and her mother. After a nice talk about family matters and neighborhood affairs, Betsy got to her feet, saying she must start for the mill or darkness would overtake her. Her father's horse was brought and he rode with her until half way on the journey she met her husband who had come to go home with her. And that was the last of Betsy's rebellion and not a soul but her father and herself ever knew the story. She buried it as she did other annoyances if she had them, and not until she was an old lady did she tell the incident as I have already stated. She became the idolized head of the house and her husband's people adored her. With the young set it was always "Aunt Betsy and Uncle Peter." One of her husband's brothers had settled in New York City. The family came out in the summer to visit around, but made short visits until they reached the mill and Aunt Betsy. She knew just how to soothe the children and sympathize with the parents and nothing she could do to please or entertain was a trouble to her.

I have heard wonderful stories of her efficiency and kindness from the nephews and nieces of her husband's family, my cousins who were a generation ahead of me. It is my loss that I knew her as

Continued on page 5

THE ESTATE OF SARA HUTCHINSON WEST

Continued from page 1

beginning of the construction phase of the project at the September 14th Business Meeting.

Now, many people will ask, "Who was this Sara Hutchinson West"? And, I, as one of the Executors, will attempt to answer that question.

GREAT AUNT SARA HUTCHINSON

by Richard S. Hutchinson

Sara Gordon Hutchinson, the daughter of John Tindall Hutchinson and Martha Jane Gordon, was born on the 13th of May 1898 on York Road, East Windsor Township, Mercer County, New Jersey. The doctor in attendance to her birth was Dr. Joseph P. Johnson of Hightstown, New Jersey.

Sara led a normal life on her parent's farm located at what is now known as the corner of York Road and Airport Road, in East Windsor Township, New Jersey. Because she lived on the farm, she learned to drive at an early age and the automobile, that symbol of our independence, became a very important obsession throughout her life. Even when she was at an "advanced age", she still maintained her New Jersey driver's license which expired in February 1998. She attended the local schools of Hightstown and graduated from Hightstown High School in 1918. However, if you knew her in her younger years, you could see that she wanted to enjoy some of the more modern things found in the Village of Hightstown and the larger City of Trenton. One of the pastimes that she enjoyed in her younger years was the movies.

From the 22nd of March 1919 to June 1939, Sara worked for a country doctor, William L. Wilbur, of Hightstown, as both his bookkeeper and his assistant chauffeur for medical

calls, while earning \$60 per month. In 1939, she left the doctor's employ to care for her aged mother until May 1941. At that time, she became a part owner in a business called Hutchinson & Norcross, which operated a little restaurant at the Farmer's Auction Market in East Windsor Township. However, this venture lasted for only a year. She then went to work in Trenton for Atlantic Products as a sewing machine operator but that too lasted only a few months. She wanted to become a part of the war effort.

After leaving Atlantic Products on the 21st of November 1942, she applied on the same day to join the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). On her application to the WAAC, she stated that she was living in Hightstown at 138 South Main St. She stated that she was single, 5' 61/2" tall and weighted 195 and added that she had had her tonsils out four years ago. In her application, she was asked to explain why she wanted to join and she wrote: "I would like to become one of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps because being in the Army under rules & regulations seems nearer to really doing whatever you could in helping to win this war. Experiences never to be forgotten. The regularity of living. No ties or dependents. I am free to go anywhere to help. I have had a very keen desire to join ever since I learned of the WAAC." She listed Miss Jane Donnell, her ex-high school principal; an attorney from Trenton, Mr. Harvey Knight; and Mr. C. Allen Ely of 136 South St, Hightstown, as her references.

In the late 1940's, Sara met a widower, Mr. Stuart E. Walton of Philadelphia, who was a salesman for the Charles Warner Company of Philadelphia. Surprising friends, the couple were married on February 18, 1949, the same wedding date of her deceased parents, at Christ Church, in New York, New York. Upon

Continued on page 4

HIGHTSTOWN EAST WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

founded 1971

Serving Hightstown Borough
and East Windsor Township
609-371-9580

Officers for 1998-99

Dr. Edgar Thomas, Jr. President
448-3533
Shirley Olsen Vice-President
Meg Kibble Recording Secretary
Lois Groendyke Corres Secretary
Frank Brennan, Jr. Treasurer

Committee Chairs

Frank Brennan, Jr. Finance
395-7958
Shirley Olsen Grounds
448-8388
Kate Middleton Library
448-5347
Richard Hutchinson Membership
302-875-4976
Richard Hutchinson Newsletter
302-875-4976
Dr. Edgar Thomas, Jr. Program
448-3533
Peggy Brennan Publications
395-7958
Bud Perrine Property
448-1376
Jackie Hart & Robin Smith Museum

Building Committee

Frank Brennan, Jr.
Dr. Harold C. Cox
Lois Groendyke
Willis Hancock
Shirley Olsen
Warren Olsen
Dr. Edgar Thomas, Jr.

Typeset by Cori Hutchinson Quinlan
Quinlan Processing 609-888-4028



GREAT AUNT SARA HUTCHINSON

Continued from page 3

their return to Philadelphia, they made their home at 5313 Angora Terrace. Sara was then baptized into the St. Matthews M.E. Church, of Philadelphia, on 8 April 1949 and became a very dedicated member of the congregation. Unfortunately, her happiness and her marriage did not last long, as her husband died suddenly on the 18th of August 1949. After his death, Sara stayed on at their home in Philadelphia until 1956. At this time, she sold the residence and returned to Hightstown and took up residence at the Monmouth Street home of her brother, Edward Crowell Taylor Hutchinson, Sr. and his wife, Laura Mae Stults.

Back in Hightstown, Sara met a widower, Mr. John Wesley West of Stockton Street, and on the 26th of July 1957, they were married in their summer home in Canadensis, Pennsylvania. After their marriage, Sara and John traveled between their little home they had in Lake Worth, Florida for the winter months and their summer home in Canadensis, Pennsylvania. This marriage lasted until Mr. West's death which occurred on the 24th of October 1965.

After her husband's death, Sara continued to travel by her car between her home in Florida in the winter, her home in Canadensis in the summer, but always spending a few months in Hightstown. She later spent much of her time while in Hightstown at 110 First Avenue which was the residence of her nephew, Gordon Hutchinson and his wife, Hazel. As the years went by and Sara continued to be active in her 90s, both my Aunt Hazel and Uncle Gordon, cared for and assisted Sara in many, many ways.

Although Sara was now at what most of us would consider an advanced age, it didn't seem to interfere with her desire to travel especially by her beloved car. In her 90's, she was still very much alert and active and because of her age,

she had unknowingly become the matriarch of the Hutchinson family of Hightstown, New Jersey. She was the keeper of things; memories, events, family items. I can recall how both myself and my cousin, Clark, were trying to learn about the family. She would readily tell us things but it was only on those rare occasions that she would open her treasured trunk that was filled with family photos and other family mementos which she kept mysteriously covered and wrapped in plastic. Usually, we were only allowed to look at them but on those rare occasions we were allowed to handle an early treasured family photo or shown an item from the family's past. Sara came from the oral tradition of history and she would tell us about her early years and the people in the town. She was very much interested in both the history of her family and of her community of Hightstown-East Windsor Township.

Over her lifetime, Sara was a 70 year member of the Morning Star Chapter, No. 22, Order of the Eastern Star, of Trenton, NJ. In 1971, she became a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown. She was still driving her car but managed to park it for awhile in order to take some trips to Europe and the Middle East between 1976 and 1979. One of her most cherished stops was at the American cemetery in Cherbourg, France in 1976, where she visited the grave of her nephew, Sgt. Edward Crowell Taylor Hutchinson, Jr., who was killed there in June 1944 as part of the Allied landing in Normandy.

Aunt Sara died in her home in Canadensis, Pennsylvania on the 8th of October 1995, at the age of 97. During her life, Sara had made several Wills in which she named members of her family to be her Executors. However, she had to continually make new Wills due to her Executors predeceasing her. In her final Will, made while recovering

from a broken hip, she named for the first time an Executor who was not a member of her family. However, five days prior to her death, she decided to write a Codicil to her Will in which she revoked the Executor and named her nephew, Robert C. Hutchinson, and myself (her grand-nephew) to act as Co-Executors. It was through this final Will that Sara directed her Executors to dispose of her entire estate in the following manner:

"Since I am desirous of providing financial assistance to those who are in need, I give, devise and bequeath the entire rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, wherever situated and whenever acquired, to charitable organizations to be selected by my Executor My Executor shall exercise his discretion as to the amount to be given to a particular charity, provided, however, that One Hundred (100%) percent of the balance of my residuary estate, after payment of death taxes and administrative expenses, shall be given, devised and bequeathed among such charitable organizations It is my intention that such organizations are organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literacy or educational purposes ... such organizations must be recognized as a valid ... organization by the Internal Revenue Service at the date of death."

So, it is through Sara's final Will and Codicil, that she gave her Co-Executors the ability to disperse her considerable estate to numerous entities within the community that she loved so much. We, the Co-Executors of the Estate of Sara West Hutchinson, have taken our charge seriously and have chosen 21 entities, including additional distributions within some of the entities chosen, that are to receive the residue of her estate. We hope that the funds will be put to good use toward both the betterment of the receiving

GERTRUDE APPELEGET MAXWELL

Continued from page 3

aunt, rather than as mother, but as our ways lay apart it seemed inevitable. For one thing our social and business interests were different. The stores, post office, friends of my real parents were at Sweet Auburn. The interests of my adopted parents were all at John's town. We shared the same church, but even there we did not always meet. Our pews were at opposite ends of the church and different friends claimed each. My father was active in church matters, my adopted father was not; that often delayed the one, while the other

hurried home to attend to some secular matter.

As I think of it now it seems strange we were so near and yet so far apart. But the family at the mill was large and my mother, who I do believe would willingly have laid down her own life to save the lives of her children, was called many times to go with them down through the very valley and shadow of death. Her oldest daughter, a beautiful girl, died with consumption in her twenty-fourth year after only two years of married life. One son was taken away with fever in the first year of his marriage and settlement. Two sons in their manhood were victims of the malady called consumption, and a remaining daughter, a sainted character, had a lingering illness from the same dread disease.

My mother was the sole nurse of these five grown children and of the two little girls who died in her early married life. She would entrust their care to no one and her mother heart was in despair because she could not suffer for them. Her last daughter's illness was long; she never left her side, and deprived herself of many comforts that she might minister to her and to her children. After the death of this last daughter, she was comparatively free from care and lived for a time with a devoted niece. Her latest years were spent with the children of her daughter. Her grand-

HIGHTSTOWN-EAST WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

son regarded her tenderly and as she was very fond of driving about her grandson gave her many pleasures in that way. She was very social, very genial and her interest in present day things was keen until the end of her life.

She was a favorite with young and old and made their interests her own, entirely forgetful of self. She had the courage of her convictions. For a score of years before she passed away she discarded her "false front" and her beautiful grey hair made her face radiant. It was a brave act, when all her companions stuck to their "false hair". Briefly, she was married at twenty, widowed at fifty-five, and lived forty years after the death of her husband. A late romance that might have brought her happiness and certainly many comforts she nipped in the bud before it blossomed. An old friend when left alone told her he thought they both would be happier if they spent the remainder of the life journey together. She told him Peter W--- (she always called her husband by his full name) was "living and waiting for her". This incident the dear old gentleman told. My mother would not have told it. She resented any mention of the matter when it became known.

She died as I have said at ninety-five, and was in full possession of her faculties and as erect as in her youth. One prodigious feat of memory was told by her granddaughter. Two weeks before her death she asked and answered the entire one hundred and five questions and answers of the Westminster Catechism.

She died from pneumonia after a very short illness. She lies in the cemetery of Sweet Auburn, among her husband's people, to whom she gave her love and loyalty.

[A full account of her father, Capt. David's, exploits in war and his later family life at the old homestead was

written and published in a popular Monmouth County newspaper June 29, 1928, the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth.]

[**Editor's Note** - Gertrude (Appleget) Maxwell's **real mother** was Elizabeth Wyckoff, the wife of Peter Wyckoff. Mrs. Wyckoff's obituary, found in the *Freehold Transcript*, states that Mrs. Elizabeth Wyckoff of Hightstown, died 15 December 1895, at the age of nearly 96, the widow of Peter Wyckoff. She was born in Perrineville on 2 March 1800. She was known as "Aunt Betsey", and was the daughter of Capt. David Baird of the Revolution. Her only child living was Mrs. Gertrude Maxwell, then of Monongahela, Pennsylvania. She was survived by the following grandchildren - Mrs. Stephen Perrine of Hightstown, Mrs. Elizabeth Davison of Asbury Park, Addison Wyckoff of Asbury Park, John Monroe of Turkey, NJ, Jacob Wyckoff of Dutch Neck, Mrs. Elmer Anderson of Hightstown, Peter W. Conover of Marlboro, Elizabeth & Laura & Matilda Conover of Marlboro, and Mrs. Frank Eugene Baird of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.]

This was the final chapter of Mrs. Maxwell's work published in 1930. However, the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society has located the two final chapters of her unpublished, typed, autobiography. These final two unpublished chapters dealing with our area of New Jersey will be continued in the next issues of the newsletter.]





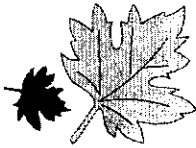
ACQUISITIONS

1. 1998-15 - J. Ely Dey calendar, 1932. Gift of Dr. Harold C. Cox, Jr, Hightstown, NJ.
2. 1998-16 - Issues of the "*Hightstown Independent*, 3 Oct 1889 & 19 June 1890, being the personal copies of Rescarrick Moore Smith. Gift of Richard Hutchinson, Bethel, DE.
3. 1998-17 - Part of Norris Robbins photographic collection incorporated into Acc #1996-31
4. 1998-18 - Set of First National Bank "Hightstown" prints. Gift of Claude Day.
5. 1998-19 - Pension records of John E. Ford, Civil War; xeroxed copies of photos of John H. Ford, Samuel H. Ford, and Samuel H. & Francis (Shreve) Mershon; xeroxed pages of Ford family info and photographs of the Ford family; photographs of Gilman Ford, Gertrude Ford, and their children; xeroxed copies of the Civil War pension records of George and Samuel Ford. Gift of Robert Ford, Aptos, CA.
6. 1998-20 - Bond of Britton Applegate to John Vaughn, dated 1 April 1833; unrecorded Will of John Vaughn, dated 7 March 1815; Deed of Benjamin Dago to Jacob Wright, dated 27 July 1774. Purchase by the Society.
7. 1998-21 - Yet to be assigned.
8. 1998-22 - Yet to be assigned.
9. 1998-23 - Yet to be assigned.
10. 1998-24 - Numerous prescriptions from Cunningham's Pharmacy. Gift of Jeff Bond, Hightstown, NJ.
11. 1998-25 - Lockheed Martin Collection - Group of space craft art, news clippings, posters, photos, etc from the RCA/GE Astro/Martin Marietta/Lockheed Martin Space era. Gift of Lockheed Martin.
12. 1998-26 - Copy prints of Ashton photographs of Ashton family of Stockton St. Purchase by the Society.
13. 1998-27 - Photocopy of one page of a KKK item. Gift of Bernard Bush, East Windsor, NJ.
14. 1998-28 - "Portrait of Two Suburban Dairies", 11 pages. Gift of Leo Fenity, Cranbury, NJ.
15. 1998-29 - Centex Homes brochures, price list, and folder.
16. 1998-30 - Borough of Hightstown reorganization meeting agenda, resolutions, and temp. Budget; 1 Jan 1998.
17. 1998-31 - Postcard, Hightstown Tourist Court, Rt. 130.
18. 1998-32 - Photocopy of ad for the Estate Sale of Hannah Mount Smith, of the Smith House, Stockton St, with description of sale contents; 25 Sept 1940. Gift of Richard Hutchinson, Bethel, DE.
19. 1998-33 - Mercer County Clerk pamphlet, 1998 election; Mercer Net pamphlet, Mercer 2000 Commission report.
20. 1998-34 - East Windsor Municipal Building dedication, 12 Sep 1982; xerox copies of the description of the building, etc.
21. 1998-35 - Various items pertaining to the PA Consulting building and its architect.
22. 1998-36 - Various items pertaining to the expansion and dedication of the Hightstown Memorial Library.
23. 1998-37 - Various items pertaining to the Poland family re: William Poland, b 1792; John Poland, Revolutionary War soldier; Will of William Poland and info from First Baptist Church. Gift of William L. Poland, Rochester, MI.
24. 1998-38 - Copy of "Applegates in the Revolutionary War", 1997; including references on Anthony Applegate/Appleget purchase of the Goetzel/Groom farm on E. Ward St from John Hight. Gift of Howard G. Applegate, Canutillo, TX.

1998-99 Calendar

HIGHTSTOWN-EAST WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sept. 14	Monday	7:30PM	Presentation of the Sara Hutchinson West Estate Check, Ely House
Sept. 17	Thursday	7:30PM	Program - Hightstown Postcards, Rev. Larry Fish, Meadow Lakes
Oct. 4	Sunday	7:30PM	House Tour
Oct. 5	Monday	7:30PM	Business Meeting, Ely House
Oct. 15	Thursday	7:30PM	Program - Hightstown's Argiculture History - Alva "Bud" Perrine, Meadow Lakes
Nov. 2	Monday	7:30PM	Business Meeting, Ely House
Nov. 17	Tuesday	7:30PM	Program - To Be Announced - Meadow Lakes
Dec. 6	Sunday	7:30PM	Christmas Reception - Ely House - Time To Be Announced
Dec. 7	Monday	7:30PM	Business Meeting, Ely House
Jan. 4	Monday	7:30PM	Business Meeting, Ely House
Jan. 24	Sunday	7:30PM	Program - To Be Announced - Meadow Lakes



Join today, become
a member!

Individual
Membership
\$15.00*

Student
Membership
\$3.00*

Family
Membership
\$20.00*

Annual Membership Application (January - December)

Individual Family Student

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

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

*For first class delivery, please add \$2.00 to subscription price.

NEWSLETTER PLACES 2ND AGAIN

Continued from page 1

South Amboy, stopping at the new Hightstown Depot. With this easy access to the city markets, Hightstown's agricultural industry grew in importance and Hightstown grew along with it.

THE ELY HOUSE

"For sale: an elegant, two story frame house, almost new, splendidly situated in the village of Hightstown ..." (*Village Record*, 1849).

The heritage of the house in the above ad dates long before Abner Reed completed the modified Greek Revival styled structure in 1845. The land it stands on was originally settled in the 1700s by Hightstown's namesake, John Hight and his wife, Mary, whose mill once ground the grain on nearby Rocky Brook, which runs through this community of one square mile.

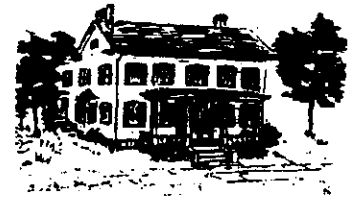
One hundred twenty-five years and

five owners after the above *Village Record* classified ad ran in the local paper, the newly formed Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society became the proud owners of the stately home at 164 North Main Street. It was purchased from the estate of Huldah Ely, a career school teacher, and was then given the name, Ely House, in honor of the family of its previous owner. Today, the Historical Society boasts over 200 members and offers monthly speakers and programs on the history of our community and its people.

Our newsletter, the *Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society News*, started out many years ago as a one page, mimeographed sheet. It has now grown to eight pages per issue by using the historic photos and the history of our community's ancestors as found in our vast manuscript collection. Because of the large size of our collections, some

dating into the 1700s, we have received several state grants to help us catalogue our heritage. And, over the past three years, the Society's newsletter has begun to win recognition on both the state and national level for its character and its content.

We would like to offer an invitation to all to visit our small, but historic community, and to visit the other nearby historic communities that surround us. And, keep the Society's Ely House in mind as you plan your next research trip into this part of central New Jersey while searching for those elusive New Jersey ancestors.



**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
--