

HIGHTSTOWN



EAST WINDSOR

NEW

JERSEY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

MARCH - APRIL 2000

THE IRREVERENT REVEREND?

by Richard S. Hutchinson

Continued from the January-February 2000 Issue

CENTRAL BANK OF NEW JERSEY vs ROBERT E. MORRISON ET AL

Since the bank's minutes had virtually fallen silent on the "problem" found at the bank in 1858 and there was no mention being made in them concerning the suit against the former bank's officers, I was prompted to try to find the court case involving the lawsuit. I thought that perhaps by reviewing the file on the civil case that we might, even though it was one hundred and thirty nine years later, be able to shed some light as to the charges against the removed officers of the Central Bank of New Jersey. Other than what I have already mentioned

above, little else could be found in the *Hightstown Excelsior*, due to the fact that no other issues of the paper are known to exist past 1859. And, what was initially very surprising to me throughout all of this situation, was that the other Hightstown newspaper, the *Village Record*, had very little comment about the Morrison affair. However, it suddenly became very clear why it was so silent. One can only conclude that the paper's silence on the affair was due to the fact that Jacob Stults, the owner and editor of the paper, had married Rev. Robert Morrison's youngest daughter, Martha Jane, on 20 May 1858, the same time that the bank's "problem" was beginning to leak out of the bank into the

community. But, what is even more disturbing about this situation, is that the Bank itself no longer seemed to care about the "situation" once president Benjamin Reed died. But, that too, has an explanation when you look behind the scenes. The bank's silence on the issue in the minutes was evident when the new president, Edward Crowell Taylor, was elected. However, it shouldn't have been because he was married to Mary Elizabeth Stults [on the 19th of October 1848] who was the sister to the above mentioned Jacob Stults, of the *Village Record*!!

From this point forward, all information was taken from the actual docu-

Continued on page 4

MORE ABOUT HIGHTSTOWN'S EARLY PHOTOGRAPHERS

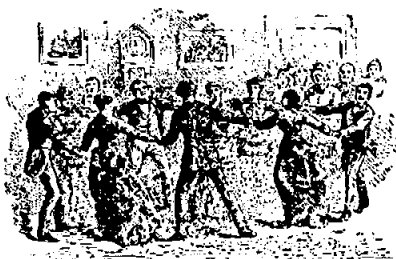
By Robert W. Craig

John W. Orr, Jr., in his book *Reflections from the Shrine*, has given us a remarkable account of the more than thirty men and one woman who practiced commercial photography in Hightstown before World War One. Through his research, our Society is now far ahead of almost all other local historical societies in New Jersey in our ability to date old photographs by identifying the photographer. And a good thing, too, considering how many photos we've been able to collect as an organization. Orr combed the pages of the 19th century *Village Record* and

Hightstown Gazette and built his account from the comments of the newspaper editors who noted the comings and goings of these photographers, praised their achievements, and ran their advertisements.

But we can build further on our advantage by tracing the careers of these camera men before they came to Hightstown and after they left. Gary Saretzky, the director of the Monmouth County Archives, has for several years been developing a database of 19th cen-

Continued on page 2



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 6 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Ely House
- 16 Antique Road Show - Mel & Ann Ivins, Boathouse Antiques, 7:30 p.m., Ely House

APRIL

- 3 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Ely House
- 20 A History Lesson, Students of East Windsor Schools, 7:30 p.m., Meadow Lakes

Continued from page 1

ture New Jersey photographers, and we horse-traded information recently.

The first photographers to come to Hightstown were itinerant daguerreotypists from the cities, who were aptly described by Gertrude Maxwell in her memoir, *My First Decade*. By her reckoning, the year would have been 1847 when she first had her picture taken, by an itinerant who brought his studio in a wagon and set up shop for a few weeks in an empty lot. But among the first ones for whom we have names was George Laws, who made a brief appearance in Hightstown in 1850. He was a daguerrean in Brooklyn from approximately 1851 to 1857. Another pair of itinerants we have known only as Armstrong and DeCamp, from New York City. Actually, Armstrong may have been John S. Armstrong, who had a studio in New York City from 1848 through 1851, while his partner might have been George W. DeCamp, a daguerreotypist who is known to have practiced photography in Newark from the 1860s until the 1890s.

The next daguerrean to practice here, though briefly, was one A. T. Wilson, in 1851. He is quite obscure as a photographer, but if he was not a member of the local Wilson family, then he may have been the A. T. Wilson who had practiced daguerreotype in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1847 and 1848. Why he would have come east is unknown.

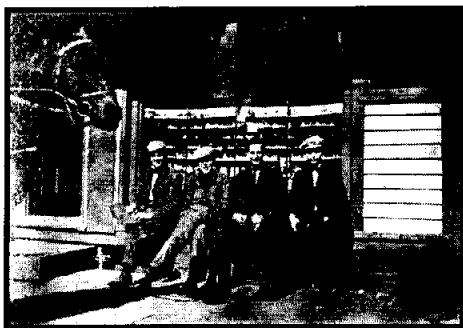
The next practitioner Orr identified as being here in 1853 was I. A. Blauvelt, who was almost certainly Isaac A. Blauvelt, who practiced in New York City and Brooklyn from 1854 to 1860, and who briefly lived in Jersey City during this period. Though not a close relative of Hightstown's first mayor, Charles C. Blauvelt, he was probably distantly related.

The Joseph H. Anderson who practiced in Hightstown next, might have

PHOTOGRAPHERS

been either the J. Harvey Anderson who practiced in Trenton in 1860, or the J. H. Anderson, who was at work in New Brunswick from 1868 through 1870. Perhaps neither, perhaps both.

James E. Biddle, who was in Hightstown in 1857 and '58, had moved on to Middletown Point (Matawan) by September 1862, where he filed for a license to practice. Such licenses were introduced as a Civil war measure by Congress and the Lincoln administration, and were issued annually for several years.



The "guys" relax in front of a Hightstown photo shop.

During the war a photographer named Auxer came to Hightstown. All we had was his last name and the knowledge that he was here for about two years, from about 1862 until the summer of 1864. Based on the rarity of the surname, it seems certain that this man was George H. Auxer, who had a lengthy career as a photographer in several places. He first appeared, evidently, in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in 1850-51, and then spent part of that decade as an itinerant based in Lewistown, Pennsylvania. He moved to Marietta, Penna. in 1858-59, then was in Hackettstown, New Jersey in 1862 before coming to Hightstown. At the end of his stay locally, R.R. Priest took over his business here, and Auxer removed to Belvidere, New Jersey.

The partners Campbell & Schwarzer who were in Hightstown for a short time in the 1870s must have been the firm of that name which prac-

ticed in New Brunswick in 1870. Meanwhile, George A. Griffin might have been a partner in the Griffin & Scholl studio in Red Bank, New Jersey, which was operated between 1870 and 1875.

George C. Cox, who came here in 1879 and 1880 to take Peddle School photos, practiced in Newark and East Orange during the 1870s and early 1880s, according to city directories there.

There was an "A. Hickcox" who practiced in Vineland, NJ in 1880, who might have been the same Hickcox that practiced in Hightstown the following year.

The A.J. Searing who practiced in Hightstown might have been a partner in the Searing & Hunt studio that was operated in Plainfield in 1874. He was briefly here in the early 1880s, but in 1897 he had a studio in Lakewood, NJ.

Finally, the man identified in the newspapers as J. E. Smith was John E. Smith, a Massachusetts native born about 1841, and who served in a Massachusetts regiment during the Civil War. In 1868 he started his photography business in Bordentown. He was still active there until at least 1892.

Someday, if we look hard enough and luck is with us, we may find collections of negatives or prints left behind by some of these men. What a nice reward it would be to find some of the lost images that those collections would contain.

[Editor's note: These photographic collections are still out there.

As I was told years ago, by Floyd and Marion Rinhart, famous photographic historians, writers, and collectors of early American photography, they had purchased a collection of a Hightstown photographer named Frank Harris which was found in Phila-

Continued on page 3

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Continued from page 1

delphia. Harris, born Francis John Harris, was married to Ellen Carol Hutchinson, the daughter of Clark S. Hutchinson of Hightstown. I met Marion Rinhart through a letter she sent me, while she was searching for her ancestor, Clark S. Hutchinson. After supplying her with the necessary research info, I was given a copy of the a portrait of Clark S. Hutchinson, found in the Harris negative collection. This photo has appeared in this newsletter recently. It is doubtful that Harris took this photo due to the following facts: 1) Harris would have only been nineteen at the time of Clark

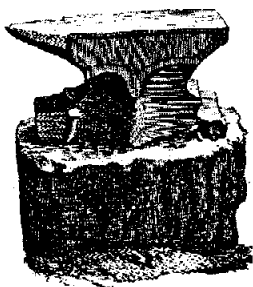
Hutchinson's death in 1872 and 2) Harris and Ellen Hutchinson were not married until 1 Nov 1877. Over the years, the Rinharts became friends and we have visited and shared our photographic finds of dags, ambrotypes, tintypes. Most of their nationwide collection of early American photography was sold to Ohio University and a room, dedicated in their name, was built to house this huge collection.

In 1996, the Society was able to locate, and obtain from relatives, the remains of another Hightstown photographer, Phares Hertzog.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED IN HIGHTSTOWN

At a time when the country was involved in the Civil War and everyone was making personal sacrifices for the boys in the field, Hightstown still found time to celebrate the birthday of George Washington, just about the way it celebrated every other holiday or important occasion. Here is how the *Hightstown Gazette*, of 27 Feb 1862, reported the day's events.

"The birthday of Washington was celebrated heartily in this community, and the exercises passed off very pleasantly. Two military companies, one from Hamilton Square, Capt. Cubberley, 65 men, the other from Cranberry, Capt. Disbrow, 32 men, together with our own Anderson Zouaves, made a very fine appearance. The indoor demonstrations were also of an agreeable character. The Old Baptist Church was filled to overflowing, and all seemed gratified by the entertainments of the occasion. Washington's Farewell Address was eloquently read by Dr. Wilbur, and Mr. Geo. B. Bowne delivered a highly patriotic oration. Appropriate music lent an additional charm to the affair, and altogether there



was a spirit and enthusiasm displayed which gave gratifying evidence that patriotism dwelt largely in the hearts of all present.

During the day bells were rung and cannon fired. In the evening several of the citizens illuminated their residences, and there was an attempt at a torchlight procession. Considering the short time which the Committee had to complete their arrangements, the celebration was very creditable."

In addition to the above celebration, some of the men of the community were apparently celebrating a little too much. It appears that in that period of time there was a common practice called "anvil firing". So, at the blacksmith shop in town, near the present location of Mercer Street and Rogers Avenue, the "boys" gave several demonstrations of the practice until someone decided to make a bigger "bang" by adding a little more powder. Here is how that "demonstration" was reported:

Continued on page 7

HIGHTSTOWN EAST WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hightstown, New Jersey
founded 1971

609-371-9580

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

Editor, Richard S. Hutchinson

Officers for 1999-2000

Shirley Olsen (609-448-8388) President
Nancy Laudenberg Vice-President
Charles Stults, III Recording Secretary
Lois Groendyke Corresponding Secretary
Frank Brennan, Jr. Treasurer

Committee Chairs

Frank Brennan, Jr. (609-395-7958) Finance
Marion Rock (609-448-1589) Grounds
Kate Middleton (609-448-5347) Library
Dale Grubb (609-448-4495) Membership
Julie Ely (609-448-3155) Museum
Harold C. Cox, Jr. (609-448-0037) Programs
and
Nancy Laudenberg (609-443-6536) Programs
Bud Perrine (609-448-1376) Property
and
Warren Olsen (609-448-8388) Property
Peggy Brennan (609-395-7958) Publications
Meg Kibble (609-448-3108) Publicity

Building Committee

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

Genealogical queries pertaining to the Hightstown-East Windsor Township area are accepted, but will be printed as space allows.

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

Continued from page 1

ments that still survive and were found in the lawsuit file. This information comes from the complaint against the three former bank officers, filed by the attorneys for the bank, which was the result of testimony and depositions taken by them. This information appears to be the thrust of the bank's case against the three defendants and was the reason for their sudden dismissal from the bank in 1858.

The case records reflect that Robert E. Morrison, Thomas Applegate, Isaac Pullen, Joseph S. Ely, and Enoch Allen created the Central Bank of New Jersey under the state corporate act of 3 April 1855. On the 25 of June 1855, Robert E. Morrison of East Windsor Township was appointed the President of the corporation, with Thomas Applegate as Cashier, and Joseph S. Ely as the Clerk and Teller. On the 1st of August 1855, the Directors caused the President, Cashier and Teller to make a detailed statement of the assets and liabilities of the bank. On the 1st of August 1855, the assets of the bank were reported as \$301,000. And, only ten days later, Joseph S. Ely resigned from the bank. Yet, after resigning, he continued to be a member of the bank's Discount Committee until the 1st of January 1857, when he assisted in making the bank's statement regarding the condition of the bank. Suddenly, in the Fall of 1857, the Directors of the bank became suspicious about prior statements regarding the accuracy of the bank's solvency and they appointed a committee to investigate their suspicions. The investigation "discovered ... that the statements of the said Robert E. Morrison, Thomas Applegate and Joseph S. Ely grossly misrepresented the [bank's] affairs ... such as on the 1st of August 1856 of having a surplus of over \$12,000 and they likewise discovered [that the above three subjects] had a discrepancy (sic) in the books" of the \$40,000-\$50,000.

REVEREND MORRISON

The Complaint continued that "... your Orators ... have recently discovered that it was the constant practice of the said Robert E. Morrison to take out of the vault of the Bank large rolls or bundles of the bills ... and carry them away with him with the intention of applying them ... to his own purposes ... without having a statement ... of the amount ... taken or the purposes ... as much as ... [\$10,000] ... at a time." He was also "... in the habit of breaking open on the passage [during the transportation] the packets of Bank bills sent from New York ... for the purpose of discounting the notes of individuals." On another occasion "... Robert E. Morrison marked the check of one William A. Bowne [Hightstown lawyer and lawyer for the Central Bank of New Jersey] ... for ... [\$1,000] ... as good ... receiving from Bowne ... [\$1,000] ... [and] ... that said check was found so marked by the officers ... but the money was not found ... [and] ... your Orators charge that the said money was never paid into them [the bank] by the said Morrison." It was also charged that Morrison purchased stock on the bank's behalf but that he "... has charged the said Bank in their books ... [\$37,000] ... paid by him for stocks ... [but it was found that he actually only paid \$20,000 for the stocks] ...". [There was considerable discussion in bank's minutes regarding Morrison's involvement in speculating in the stock of railroads and they conducted some inquiry in this matter in Chicago.] He also put large amounts of the Bank's bills into circulation but they didn't appear in the bank's books. On one occasion, Morrison "... took out of the said Bank without making the fact known ... [to anyone] ... the sum of ... [\$9,000] ... and that although there were conversations in [his] presence concerning a deficiency ... [of the same \$9,000]... in the cash accounts of the Bank ... he never mentioned the fact of his having taken said money for several weeks, [until]... he admitted the withdrawal of said money, and deposited his check for said amount ..."

"And, ... while the said Morrison was President he engaged in extensive speculations in stocks [these were found to be railroad stocks in the west and mid-west]... he pretended to act in his official capacity, when in ... fact he was dealing in the same for his private purposes and that at about the time he was displaced from his said office ... he pretended to have purchased on the name and behalf of ... [the bank] ... of several thousand dollars and insisted that your orators should take them ... [the stocks back] ..., but upon your orators refusing and threatening him with prosecution unless he returned to them the moneys unlawfully appropriated, he withdrew his demand and sued for the said money ..."

"And ... the said Robert E. Morrison and the said Joseph S. Ely were in the habit ... of taking the Bank bills which were signed and numbered, but even in sheets, out of the Banking house ... to their own houses, or elsewhere for the purpose of cutting and trimming the same ... [leaving no mention or informing anyone that they were doing so or] ... of the number ... [of bills or amount of money] ... so taken." [Remember that these were the days when the banks printed their own bank notes in various denominations.]

"And ... on one occasion the said Robert E. Morrison placed on the desk of the said Joseph S. Ely in the Banking house, a bundle of such uncut bills in sheets ... [amounting to about \$900] ... and that a short time afterwards said notes were inquired for by some of the officers ... but that said Ely and Morrison said they did not know what had become of them. And that the said bills were never accounted for ..."

And your orators further show that ... Joseph S. Ely while he was the Teller ... received in New York a large package of the Bank Bills ... to be carried by him from New York to ... [the bank in Hightstown] ... and Ely with-

Continued on page 5

REVEREND MORRISON

Continued from page 4

out due authority ... opened the package in New York and handed ... [\$1,500] ... to one Bradley, who at that time was irresponsible, and ... said money has been wholly lost ...”

“And ... [the bank’s books were examined and found that on 11 August 1856, Joseph S. Ely went out of office as Clerk and Teller] ... the ... [Bank’s] ... deposit book kept by him was so arranged as to present an untrue statement ... [of the Bank’s financial condition] ... and did not show the true condition of deposits by at least ... [\$13,000] ... more ... [than the Bank’s books indicated] ... And your orators charge that the same ... [the Bank’s books were] ... kept by the said Morrison and Ely ... in order to cover up the money ... withdrawn by them ...”

“And your orators ... show that at the time ... Joseph S. Ely was elected as ... Teller he was ... a man of small pecuniary means ... he has not been in any business which yielded more than a living for him and his family, and that he has not had any visible accessions of fortune ... But ... he is now the owner of considerable real estate and personal estates and at times has been known to be in ... possession of large sums in cash ...”

After Morrison and the other officers were removed from office, the bank had their books examined by an outside auditor. He found that the books were in such bad accounting condition that it was impossible for him, or anyone other than by the person who created and kept the books, to understand them. Both Morrison and Ely were asked to explain the books and to explain what became of at least \$40,000-\$50,000 not found in the books ... “which were entrusted to them and the said Thomas Applegate”. The Complaint indicated that neither subject ... explained them ... [the books] ... but they ... [Morrison and Ely] ... admit that the above deficiency ex-

isted. However, they made such admission indicating that they “... allege that money in large sums must have been taken from the bank without their knowledge ...”

All three former officers answered the Complaint admitting certain things by putting their “spin” on what had happened or what may have happened. Thomas Applegate appears to be the only one who may not have been involved in alleged thefts but was simply caught up in the situation because of his position at the bank. However, he was the bank officer “responsible” for maintaining the bank’s books and statements. But, Applegate noted in his response to the complaint that when he resigned on 4 January 1858, the bank applauded him for his work. He then went on to quote the praise he had received in a proclamation from the bank upon his departure. Applegate also denied that he had any involvement with any of the stated accusations in the complaint and that he knew nothing about them.

Robert E. Morrison gave his response to the complaint on the 14th of December 1858. And, in it, he threw the blame for his removal, for the bank’s present financial condition and his involvement in the present lawsuit on James M. Cubberley. He advised the Court that shortly after Cubberley was made Teller, over his objections, Cubberley was given the power “...by the Directors to have in his possession a set of Keys of the said Bank ... [giving him access at all times to the vault, etc.]. He also stated that Cubberley objected to being required to give security [bond] to the Bank for his position. Reverend Morrison also stated that he was convinced that since 1856, James M. Cubberley “... was at that very time secretly sustained and supported in his conduct ... by certain influential persons interested in said Bank, and who have since been most active in prosecuting and pursuing this Defendant in the premises, chief of

which persons was and is Benjamin Reed, the present President ... [of the Bank].”

Today, we often hear of how slow the “wheels of justice” turn. But, from the records that exist in this lawsuit, nothing happened with this case after the initial filings in 1858 until 1 May 1866, or eight years later, when James M. Cubberley gave a lengthy deposition. Based upon the present documents found in the case file, it appears that Cubberley was the only person who gave a deposition. At least, his was the only such document in the file. His testimony was taken in long hand on very heavy paper with paraphrased question and answer, which was the standard for testimony in those days. It was so thick that the folds in the paper were rounded and the document was tied together with ribbon. Because of the heavy paper, the thickness and thick heavy folds in the document, it was impossible to open and read without causing it damage. It appeared from the dust on the document and the heavy folds in the paper, that it had not been opened since the day it was folded, tied and put into the file. But, then, on January 17, 1867, it was reported in the *Hightstown Gazette* that “Mr. Olmsted H. Reed has been elected Cashier of Central Bank. Mr. Cubberley resigned the position on account of ill health.” Again, the case fell silent.

Back in the bank’s minutes, dated 7th of September 1868, we finally see a reference to the lawsuit but regarding only “Robert E. Morrison and Joseph S. Ely”. On this date, a full ten years after the “scandal” broke publically, the bank’s minutes reflected that on motion the bank’s present members of the Board, Mr. R. M. Job & R. S. Mason, were appointed as a committee to see James M. Cubberley in reference to his carrying on the bank’s lawsuit against Morrison and Ely. There was no mention of Applegate. Therefore, I am as-

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

REVEREND MORRISON

suming that he may have been dropped from the case. This committee was to report back to the board at their next monthly meeting the results of their approach to Cubberley. So, two years after he gave his deposition and nothing further occurring in the lawsuit, the bank now wanted to know if Cubberley would continue to pursue the matter. It was obvious from this entry in the minutes, that Cubberley was the only individual who was either still alive and had knowledge of the case or who was the only one willing to come forward regarding what he knew. At the next bank board meeting, the minutes indicate that the committee simply reported progress in this regard with Cubberley.

As I went through the case material, I found that after Cubberley's deposition in 1866, nothing further happened in the court record regarding the case. It wasn't until two years later, on the 19th of October 1868, and coincidentally, a month after the bank had approached Cubberley to see his position in continuing the prosecution of the case on their behalf, that anything happened in the record of the court case. For it was on this date, that the defendants in the case filed a Motion to Dismiss with the court and asked that the court dismiss the lawsuit for "want of prosecution". The Court hearing this matter responded on the 29th of October 1868, as follows:

"This cause coming on to be heard upon due notice from the Solicitor of the Defendants to the Solicitor of the Complainants in the presence of S.M. Schanck Esq Solicitor and John F. Hageman Esq of Counsel with the Complainants, and Joseph P. Bradley Esq and F. Kingman of Counsel with the Defendants; and it appearing to the Court that this cause has been suffered to lie without prosecution on the part of the Complainants upward of two years, and no sufficient reason appearing, or being suggested on the part of the Complainants, for such delay. It

is now, on this twenty ninth day of October, Eighteen hundred and sixty eight, on motion of Counsel for the defendants, ordered adjudged and decreed, that the Complainant's bill of complaint in this cause be and the same is hereby dismissed, with costs to be taxed."

There was no objection to the Motion to Dismiss filed by the Bank with the court and the case record fell silent.

At the bank's next board meeting of November 2nd 1868 meeting, the president of the bank addressed the Board and "reported that the suit of the Central Bank against Morrison & Others has been dismissed for want of Prosecution" and that was the end of the case.

Based upon the present existing court documents, bank minutes, and newspaper accounts, nothing further transpired regarding the allegations against the former bank officers. And, although they had admitted that there was a large amount of money was missing from the Central Bank of New Jersey, there was no further explanation to the public or the bank's Board of Directors as to what happened to it.

By December of 1870, the Central Bank of New Jersey no longer existed. It restructured itself, changed its name, and became the Central National Bank of Hightstown. It opened for business as usual on the 16th of January in 1871. At this point in time, we will never know what happened to the bank's missing money. However, it is obvious that money was missing and it was an "inside job".

You ask what became of the good Reverend Robert E. Morrison? Well, he remained in town and died on the 31st of August in 1873. He is buried in the "old" section of Cedar Hill Cemetery with some of his family while

other members, including a little known son, lie buried in the Crosswicks Methodist Church Cemetery. Was he the irreverent Reverend? I guess we will never know for sure!

[Editor's Note - In the *Hightstown Gazette*, dated 8 October 1862, the editor of the paper indicated, "We have had the pleasure of eating some very fine peaches sent by Mr. R.E. Morrison from his orchard at Oconee, Illinois." Ah, yes, Illinois. The same area where Morrison was accused of speculating with the bank's money on railroad stock.]

MORE SAGE ADVICE

Once again the columns of our local paper, in it's continuous effort to educate the populace, offered some of its sage advice on 19 November 1885:

"Give your girls a good education. Teach them to wash, to iron and to darn stockings, to sew on buttons, to make their own dresses. Teach them to make bread, and that a good kitchen lessens the doctor's account. Teach them that he only lays up money whose expenses are less than his income, and that all grow poor who have to spend more money than they receive. Teach them that a calico dress paid for fits better than a silken one unpaid for. Teach them that a full, healthy face displays a greater luster than fifty cosmetic beauties. Teach them to purchase, and to see that the account corresponds with the purchase. Teach them that an honest mechanic in his working dress is a better object of esteem than a dozen haughty, finely-dressed idlers. Teach them that the happiness of matrimony depends neither on external appearances nor on wealth, but on the man's character. Teach them good common sense, self-help and industry."

THANK YOU

On behalf of all the officers and the entire Society, we would like to thank all who participated in signing the annual Christmas Card. A well deserved "thank you" is also in order for Society members Richard and Cathy Simmons of the Old Hights Print Shop, 177 Mercer Street, not only for their efforts in making the Christmas Card a success, but for their continued support throughout the year.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Continued from page 3

"On Friday last we witnessed the operation of *Anvil Firing* in front of the blacksmith shop of Mr. Thos. C. Pearce. A number of discharges had been made successfully, and finally an extra charge of powder was put in the anvil, which proved to be a cast one, when it exploded with a loud report, sending the fragments in all directions, as though it had been a bomb shell. One piece grazed Thomas Scroggy, who was standing a few yards off, wounding him severely in the wrist and thigh. The piece then struck in the side of Dawes' Hall, causing an ugly mark which may be seen at any time. Another piece struck a window sill on the second floor of the Hall, shattering it to pieces. Other fragments were found in different places hundreds of yards distant. Although quite a number of persons were standing near, very fortunately no others were injured. The practice of anvil firing, though a common one, impressed us, on thus witnessing it for the first time, as a dangerous one."



In the first issue of 1867, Jacob Stults, the editor of the Hightstown Gazette, printed one of his little "poems" for each type of business that existed in the town. Here is one of them entitled "Blacksmiths".

Blacksmiths

*Remember now 'tis winter time;
Perhaps we'll hear the sleigh-bells chime.
The cold has fozen every clod,
And horses now should all be shod.
To Ezekiel Hammell's then, make haste
To get it done, for that's the place.*

*And Morton, too, is very good, Or Dey and Son, or John H. Ford.
In Winter, summer, fall, or spring,
We love to hear the anvils ring.*



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: _____

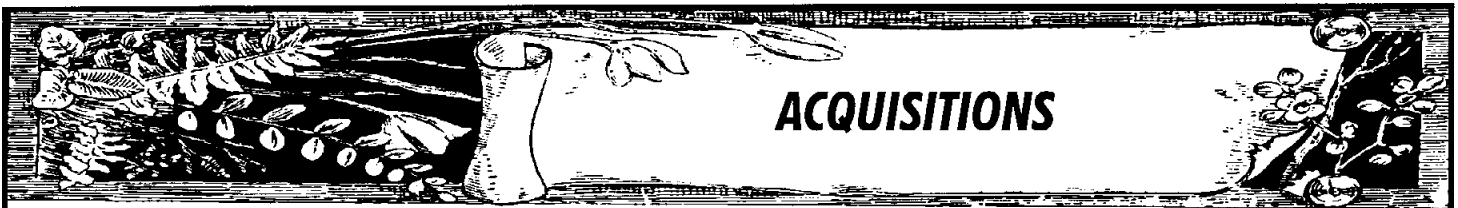
Address: _____

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



- 1999-10 - "Hightstown Since 1855" by Harvey G[illingham] Rue. Gift of Susan Rooney.
- 1999-11 - Medlin Lumber business documents; Photo of Hightstown High marching band on Stockton Street, ca. 1965. Donated by Warren D. Stiffler.
- 1999-12 - Sixteen geological survey maps of Hightstown and East Windsor Township; including Mercer, Monmouth and Middlesex Counties. Gift of A. Danforth Cope.
- 1999-13 - An extensive collection of various materials that document the history of Hightstown and East Windsor Township during the 20th century from the *Hightstown Gazette*. This material also includes notes from the paper's editor, Kathryn Dennis.
- 1999-14 - Genealogy of Rescarrick Moore Smith family; including inventory of the estate sale of Hannah Mount Smith. Donation by Richard Mount Smith.
- 1999-15 - Copies of the Civil War Pension of Amos P. Wilson for service in 1862-1865. Also, a copy of a letter which Amos's father, Theodore Wilson, wrote giving Amos permission to serve at the age of 19. Donation by Dale Grubb.
- 1999-16 - Photographs of Hightstown and East Windsor from the Norris Robbins Collection; including photographs of planes at Norcross Field, parachute jumpers (1928-1941), portraits of Sherwood Cole and S[tanley] Winarski, and Railroad Avenue during the renovation in October 1963. Donated by Clifford Robbins.
- 1999-17 - Minute books of the Hightstown Woman's Club (1972-1973; 1992-1993) including clippings, programs and other material. Donation from the Hightstown Woman's Club.

**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