

HIGHTSTOWN



EAST WINDSOR

NEW

JERSEY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2000

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TAKES FIRST PLACE

The Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society's newsletter walked away with top honors in the 2000 National Genealogical Society's [NGS] Newsletter Competition, which is open to all historical societies, ranging from the small local organizations to the large county operations, from around the country.

Shirley Langdon Wilcox, president of the national organization, notified the Society in late March that it had been awarded first place in the "County and Local Genealogical and/or Historical Societies Category", after their judges awarded the Society's submitted newsletters 274 points out of a pos-

sible 300 for its content and design. One of the judge's commented that the newsletter showed "nice presentation of purpose ... nice photos" while another stated "An interesting newsletter with warm, welcoming tone. Attractive tone, overall appearance."

A representative from the Society was invited to attend the Opening Session of the NGS Annual Conference at Providence, Rhode Island on May 31st, to receive a certificate presented during the ceremonies. During the week long Conference, our newsletter was on prominent display with the other winners, and in addition to the national recognition received by this

award during the Conference, the NGS gave us a full page in their July/August 2000 *Newsmagazine*, that could be devoted to our Society. The Society also received a one year organizational membership in the National Genealogical Society.



SOCIETY'S HOUSE TOUR DATES ARE SET

The Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society will hold a House Tour, "Thresholds to the Past", within the community on Sunday, October 1, 2000, from 1PM to 5PM. Tickets are \$12 each in advance or \$15 at the door on the day of the tour.

The homes open for the tour will be: 319 South Main Street, now known as "Kalomathia Guest House", built in 1832 for John Ward; 402 South Main Street, a bungalow built for George Eldridge, Esq., in 1911; 706 York Road, the Thomas Peppler residence; 104 Park Avenue, a home built ca. 1890s for Henry & Kate Mount; and 137 Stockton Street, built ca. late 1700s, which was owned by Enos Baldwin and others, but now locally known as the "Smith House" due to its association with Rescarrick Moore Smith; plus Ely House and the Sara H. West Educational Center.

Tickets are available at the Old Hights Print Shop, 177 Mercer Street, Hightstown and at Hair by Sharon, 128 Stockton Street, Hightstown. For further info, you may contact Lynn Wallace at 609-426-9792.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 11 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 21 8:00 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center, "Louis Armstrong: The Man and His Music" by Vincent Pelote.

OCTOBER

- 1 1:00-5:00 p.m., "Thresholds of the Past" House Tour, starting at the Ely House
- 19 6:30 p.m., Cedar Hill Cemetery (Old Section), "Investigating Old Cedar Hill Cemetery," by Dr. Edgar Thomas

AN OLD BOOK

On the 3rd of August 1882, the following article was published in the *Hightstown Gazette* which referred to Johnson's Fulling Mill in what is today East Windsor Township.

"We recently had the opportunity to examine an old account book, which was in the handwriting of the late Charles C. Johnson, and was plainly the record of accounts between the proprietor and employees of the fulling mill which stood between this place and Milford. We have often heard it narrated of Mr. Johnson, that he was careful in his accounts, and always carried his books with him, so that those who were indebted to him and would meet him on the road with the remark, 'I would settle that bill but I don't suppose you have your account book with you,' always found they were mistaken.

From the book, which covers the years 1840, '41 and '42, we learn that those employed at the mill were Joseph Embly, William Lanning, Phineas Johnson, Margaret Megee, Jesse B. Hatfield, George I. Miller, A.C. South, Joseph Beecraft, Wesley Sturd, Robert R. Cruser, Anthony B. Coleman, Thomas A. Johnston, Roger Clayton.

Among the most interesting details to be gathered from the book is the price of common articles at that time. We quote wool \$.50, per pound, beef \$.02 to \$.08, wheat flour 4 cts., Rye flour 2 3/4 cts., mutton 4 cts., lamb 8 cts., candles 16 cts., veal 5 cts., pork 8 cts., buckwheat flour 4 cts., making a dress 38 cts., wood \$2.75 per cord, calico 15 cts per yard.

Mr. Johnson was one of the prominent friends of the Methodist church here, and some of the entries are for payments made toward its support. Our older readers, as they read this item will recall the times when they had to take their wool to Uncle Charlie's before they could have its outfit of yearn and cloth for the winter."

Editor's Note - The old mill referred to in this article stood on what is today on the grounds of Meadow Lakes on Etra Road. When heading toward Etra from Hightstown on Etra Road, the small stream that crosses the road just before the turnpike is what fed the pond that was created by the dam for the mill. This stream has been known by many names over the centuries but in the 1700s, it was known on property maps as Hutchinson's Run.

MOTHER HUBBARD CAUSING A PROBLEM

On the 29th of April 1886, the *Hightstown Gazette*, reported the following problem being caused by Mother Hubbard: A young woman who appeared in the streets of Burlington, last week, in a Mother Hubbard dress, was exposed to unpleasant comment. The Mayor thereupon issued a notice prohibiting the wearing of "Mother Hubbards" on the streets of Burlington except under certain restrictions. Young ladies may wear them, as loosely as they please, while seated on the steps of their own residences, or on their own grounds. They may also wear them under the sanction of the law in the streets if the dresses are belted, but not otherwise, if the girls are alone. If they have escorts they can wear "Mother Hubbards" as much in the flowing, boudoir fashion, as they choose, in any part of the town, both in the day and the evening. The regulations, it is explained, are simply for the sake of protecting the girls of Burlington from the wrath of the populace, and are nor intended especially as reflecting upon the dress itself. **Editor's Note** - What would our ancestors think of today's "dress code" (or lack thereof)?"

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

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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

HIGHTSTOWN'S FIRST MUSICAL INSTRUMENT FOR CHURCH

The following item was found in the *Hightstown Gazette*, dated 2 Feb 1888, and was contributed by Joshua R. Norton. It refers to the Universalist Church in Hightstown that was torn down to make room for the "then" new post office building on South Main Street.

"While viewing the handsome new organ just placed in the Universalist church, my thoughts reverted to the times when I took ... part in raising money to purchase the first musical instrument ever used in a Hightstown church. It was the year 1844, when the Rev. T. J. Whitcombe was the pastor, and his daughter, Miss Caroline, being somewhat of a musician, promised to play in church if we would purchase an instrument, called the Serephin. I set about the work and soon raised the necessary sum.

I will annex the subscriber's names in the order given, viz: Joshua R. Norton, Adaline and Clark Hutchinson, Rebecca Ward, S. Thompson Pullen, Mary Pullen, Wicoff

Norton, Elizabeth V. Ely, A.B. Johnes, Isaac Norton, Edward T. Cunningham, Wm. R. Norton, David Johnes, C. Eliza Bodine, S.J. Taylor, E.C. Taylor, Thomas Applegat, Ira Smock, Anthony Reckless, John Edwards, Wm. Taylor, Augustus M. Taylor, Mary Seaman, Jane Seaman, Freeman Pullen, Daniel M. Hulick, John Norton, George B. Ely, Mary Ann Norton, Wm. A. Bowne, Hiram Upham, Mary H. Applegate, Wm. Embly, Isaac Wilson, James M. Taylor, Elijah Ely, Henrietta A. Moore, James M. Cubberly, E.W. Curtis, Clark Vaughn, R.V.V. Bailey, Jabez M. Collins, Enoch Pullen, Levi Collins Jr., Levi Collins Sr., William Jobs, Robert Boedy.

The subscription amounted to \$118, and the record says every dollar was collected of the 47 signers, 20 have been gathered in, seven lost sight of the balance, 20, still living. At that time prominent in the church work ... are the families of Richard Norton, Col. S.C. Johnes, Abijah Applegate, Nathaniel Cox, John C. Ward, John

T. Hutchinson, Wilson Taylor, Isaac Pullen, John Edwards, D.D. Norton, James G. Ely, R.M. Smith, Dr. J. C. McChesney, and many others I might name.

The instrument was purchased and placed in the gallery of what was formerly the old Baptist church with galleries on three sides. The choir consisted of Miss Whitcombe at the instrument, David W. Washborne playing a double bass viol, Jesse Hatfield, a splendid bass singer, the balance of the choir was composed of the daughters and sons of the members of the congregation, and was considered an artistic choir. The thought occurred to me if the fathers and mothers who worshiped in this humble, wooden structure in 1844 could look into the beautiful brick church of 1888 with its environments, they would surely say the world moves, and that their labor and devotion was not in vain."



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: _____

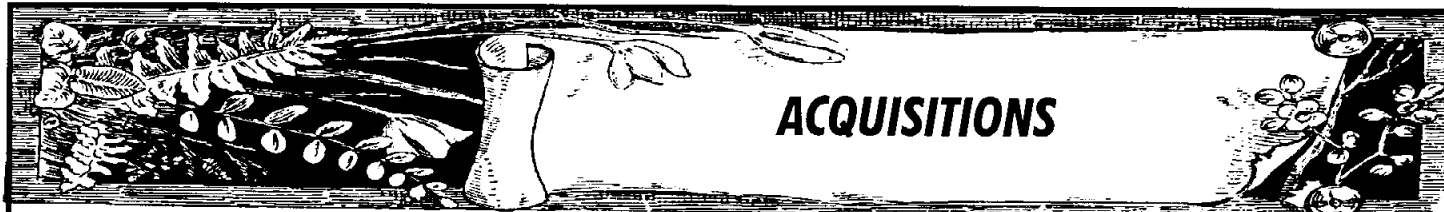
Address: _____

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



1. 2000-10 - Check by Jacob Wyckoff, 1869; 1873 broadside for Administrator's Sale for George N. Reid near Woodward's Mill, printed by the *Hightstown Gazette*; Wyckoff Brother's ledger of their foundry on Academy St (1906-1910); and other miscellaneous paper items. Gift of Robert Wilson.
2. 2000-11 - A group of items from the Rocky Brook Garden Club, including By-Laws, annual show programs, minutes, portrait of officers, scrapbooks, and other miscellaneous items. Gift of the Rocky Brook Garden Club.
3. 2000-12 - Scrapbook of the 100th Anniversary of the Mercer Street School, including history, photos, and newspaper articles. Gift of Shirley Olsen.
4. 2000-13 - John Orr's "Reflections from the Shrine", Hightstown: Longstreet house, 1998. 408 pp. Book. Gift of David Martin.
5. 2000-14 - Richard Hutchinson, "Middlesex County, New Jersey Deed Abstracts - Book "1", Heritage Press, 2000. 141 pp. Society Purchase.
6. 2000-15 - Richard Hutchinson, "Heritage Book Archives: Mercer County Genealogical Quarterly. Volume 1-6", Heritage Press, 2000. CD. Society Purchase.
7. 2000-16 - Kathleen M. Middleton, "Images of America: Bayonne Passages", Charleston: Arcadia, 1999. Anonymous donor.
8. 2000-17 - Invitation to Bella Calbria's grand opening and menu. Gift of Sandra Lazzaro.
9. 2000-18 - Nate Smith, "Catalog and Map of the Old Section of the East Windsor Cemetery; A Life Scout Project", March 27, 1998. Gift of Nate Smith.
10. 2000-19 - Richard Hutchinson, "Monmouth County, New Jersey Deed Abstracts - Books A, B, C, D" , Heritage Press, 2000. Book. Society Purchase.
11. 2000-20 - Two copies of the Richard Hutchinson Index to "Unrecorded Wills and Inventories of Monmouth County, New Jersey" by John E. Stillwell, M.D., New Orleans: Polyanthos Press. 1975. Gift of Richard Hutchinson.
12. 2000-21 - Loan for copying: A series of ca. 1885 shots of people and places around the Taylor Farm, East Windsor, including a view of "Taylor's Grove", photographs of J. Cox family and house which now stands at 630 S. Main St, group of 19th century photos of Taylor family; Dalrymple studio photos of Emerson Applegate and daughters, Ada and Amy; Irving Norton, Kenneth Ward, Sara Harden Burten, Lydia Baker Norris, and a sister of Sara Taylor at her spinning wheel. Genealogies of the Taylor and Cox families. Vinton and Meribel Taylor.

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

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