



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

MARCH - APRIL 2002

## Longstreet Hall - Peddie School

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002, the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society, held it's Annual Dinner meeting, at Longstreet Hall, located on the Peddie Campus, and during the meeting was honored by the presence of the first President of the United States, George Washington.

Due to several requests for information concerning Longstreet Hall, the Society is presenting the following article in reference to Longstreet Hall written, by Peddie professor and Society member Dr. David Martin, in 1985. Since the writing of the article, the building has been renovated and is now being used for special functions.

"Longstreet Hall stands today as the school's second oldest building and our oldest academic structure. It was first erected in 1890 to serve as the school's library and science department. In the ensuing years it has served a variety of other functions including roles as a guest house, student center, dormitory and art studio....

During the first quarter century of the school's existence, the entire school -- classrooms, dormitory, chapel, gymnasium and dining hall -- was housed in Wilson Hall. Nowhere was provision made for a library. That at first made little difference, since the school then had no formal library. All that were

available on campus were a few hundred volumes owned by the Academia and Kalomathia Societies.

This situation changed slowly as distinguished patrons of the school donated books and money to develop a library collection. Among these donors were: Thomas B. Peddie of Newark, after whom the school was named in 1872; William Bucknell, the namesake for Bucknell University; Mrs. Eleanor Longstreet; Jonathan Longstreet, the eventual donor of Longstreet Hall; and Dr. Henry F. Smith, who gave of 1500 volumes from his personal library. Thus by the late 1880s the school had a collection of some 3000 books, but no place

*Continued on page 2*

## The Many Homes of the Hightstown Gazette

by Richard Hutchinson

As of 1909, the Hightstown Gazette had had numerous "homes." When the paper first appeared on the street in 1849, it was known as the *Village Record*. It began publishing consistently under the banner of the Hightstown Gazette in 1861. In 1849, it started out in a little building that sat on the site that was later occupied by the town hall on Stockton Street and is now the parking lot of Allen & Stults. In its next move, the paper moved on up the north side of Stockton street, a few doors above the then R. D. Norton residence. The paper's next move was to the second floor of A. J. Ashton building next to the then business location of Cunningham & Perrine. The paper's fourth move was to the second floor of the Measuroll building then owned by Dey & Son. The next move was to the brick building on Main street near the mill stream of Rocky Brook. Again, the paper moved and this time it went to the wooden structure by the railroad, near the freight station, that was later owned by William Smock and then in 1909 converted into a place of worship by the Hightstown Baptist Church for the town's African-American community of the Baptist faith.

In 1908, there was a change of ownership in the paper and the new owner, Lorenzo Tillyer, of Princess Anne, Maryland, but a former newspaper man in New

*Continued on page 3*



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### MARCH

- 4 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 19 Rushing & Caning Class, 7:00 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center. Members invited. Those wishing to join call Skip Cox at 448-0037

#### APRIL

- 4 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 18 Sports, Athletes & Tears of Yesterday - A Panel Discussion, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center

## Longstreet Hall

Continued from page 1

to keep them other than various parlor cabinets in Wilson Hall.

The school's intense need for a library facility was felt most strongly by Jonathan Longstreet. In June of 1888 he and his sister Mary Longstreet offered to give \$10,000 to the school towards the construction of a new library building. Headmaster Greene quickly accepted the offer, and work on the library was soon begun. By the time the building was completed, the Longstreet family was to donate over \$16,000



to the project, covering almost the entire cost of its construction and furnishings. The Longstreets were natives of Holmdel, New Jersey, and had been interested in the school since its founding. Jonathan Longstreet was an 1850 graduate of Princeton University. He had a successful career as a lawyer, and was elected to the school's Board of Trustees in 1865. His sister Mary was a life long invalid, but she followed her brother's devotion to the school....

Longstreet Library was dedicated in elaborate ceremonies held on June 17, 1890. It then served as the school's library for 67 years until, literally bursting at the seams with books, the new Annenberg Memorial Library was completed in 1957. The building was then renovated for use as a student center.... The furnishings of "Longstreet Hall," the building's new title, were provided partly by the Peddie Mothers Association...."

### The Longstreet Family

Hendrick Longstreet was born in 1785 and died February 26, 1860, and was the son of Aaron Longstreet. On October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1805, Hendrick married Mary, a daughter of Joseph and Nelly

Holmes. They had several children of which two of them were Mary Ann and Jonathan Longstreet, who have been mentioned above.

Jonathan Longstreet was born May 22, 1828 on the homestead now known as "Longstreet Farm" in the Holmdel Park. He began his education near his home, continued his studies at Johnstown, N.Y., and soon after, entered Princeton College, from which he graduated in 1850. He studied Law and was admitted to the bar in 1854. He practiced Law until his brother died in 1857, at which time he took over the management of the estate in Holmdel.

Mary Ann Longstreet owned "Longstreet Farm" in the 1890's when she was in her seventies. The farm was managed at that time by Hendrick's great-grandson, Jonathan I. Holmes, who was in his twenties....

Jonathan I. Holmes inherited the farm in 1911 from his aunt, Mary Ann Longstreet. The farm remained in the family until it was purchased by Monmouth County in 1967 from Jonathan's daughter and heir, Mary Longstreet Holmes Duncan. Structural changes made during the 20<sup>th</sup> century were eliminated when restoring the farmhouse to the 1890's period....

The Longstreet family played an important part in the early history of Monmouth County. Luckily, their heritage is being preserved for future generations to see.

### Bibliography

Martin, Dr. David, *The Saga of Longstreet Hall*, May 1985

Fiske, Jean, *The Monmouth Connection*, January 1997

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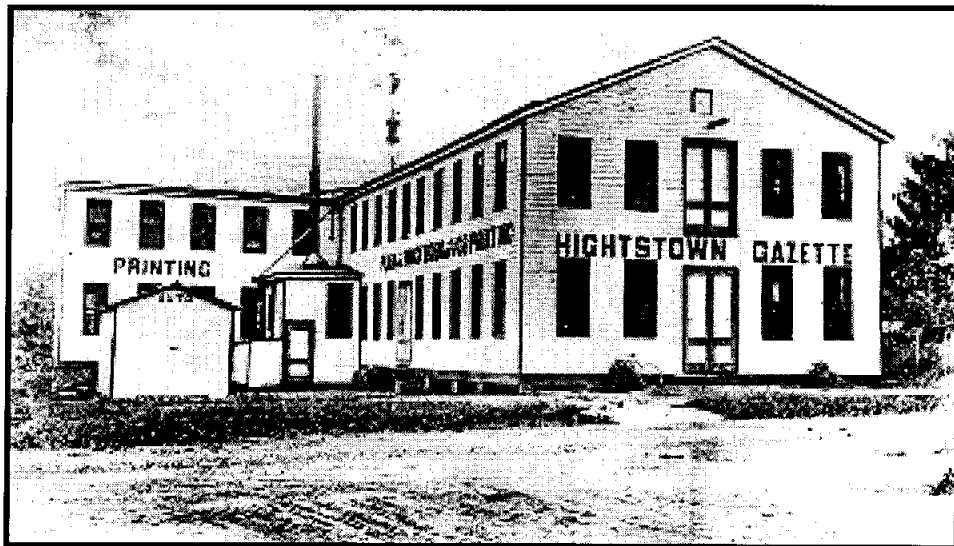
Genealogical queries pertaining to the  
Hightstown-East Windsor Township area are ac-  
cepted, but will be printed as space allows.

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Quinlan Processing 609-888-4028

# Gazette Homes

# Society Happenings

Continued from page 1



Jersey, purchased the paper's own building. He bought a building that occupied 209, 211 and 213 Mercer street. This building was a large two story building that had been initially built for a shoe factory. It was later owned by the Hightstown Rug Company as part of their operations which sold it to Mr. Tillyer. The new owner had the building fitted up as the most commodious and modern "country printery" in the State. The building was painted white with green trimmings and with maroon sash and the paper moved into the building in May of 1908.

Julie Ely needs some help on every Tuesday evening at the Ely House. Also, Kate Middleton has indicated that she will be moving from the area which will be a great loss to both the Society and the community. Therefore, we have a large task ahead of us in order to fill Kate's position, if that is possible. We do not need just "a body," we need someone who has the experience and expertise within the Society's collections, who would be willing to catalog the material coming in, to help those seeking information from the collections, and to answer the many requests received by the Society by mail and phone. If we can't find the appropriate person, then the collections will have to be shut down. Members who are interested should contact Kate Middleton or Craig Cox.

Within the next month or two, the two upstairs bedrooms will be painted. We hope to decorate one of the rooms with children in mind. If anyone has an appropriate rug or period children's furnishing for the room, we would kindly

*Continued on page 4*



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## 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

# Hightstown Post Office



Post Office, Hightstown, N. J.

"The Hightstown Post office was located at the intersection of South Main and Mercer streets in the early 1900s. You will notice the doorway draped in black bunting. This could be for the deaths of any number of persons on both the national or local levels.

This card was postmarked 1923 but the actual year of the photo is not presently known.

# Happenings

take the donation. The Society's House Tour has been set for October 6<sup>th</sup>, from 1-5 pm. We still need homes appropriate for the tour. Those interested in having your home on the tour can contact Shirley Olsen at 448-8388.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Membership Renewal notices went out late this year. Please renew ASAP in order to receive the May-June newsletter.

## British Bullet

15 March 1894 - "Corporal Bodine brings to us a brass bullet from which a small section was cut by a circular saw in Hutchinson's mill yard. The bullet was gathered from the centre of an apple tree log, by Skip Tabler. The log came from Spotswood, and was known to be over 100 years old. The old soldier's idea is that it was shot from a British musket in the revolutionary times, they only using brass bullets in those time."

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