

Hightstown



East Windsor



Historical Society News

Winter 2020

Hawkeye Pierce Lived Here

By David Coates

Richard Hooker is the author of *MASH*, the best selling book that became an iconic countercultural movie and then a long-running and hugely popular TV series. One insistent refrain in all writing classes is “write about what you know.” *MASH*’s author knew what it was to be a twenty-something surgeon in a mobile hospital close to the front in Korea. His life during the Korean War alternated between boredom and the terror induced by large numbers of broken bodies arriving from the battlefield. Richard Hooker is the pen name for Heister Richard Hornberger, a Maine physician who grew up in Hightstown, NJ.

I met Dr. Hornberger when I was a teenager in the mid-1960s. My brother Leonard and I tagged along on a trip to the Maine coast where my father, Henry, had arranged to bring together two old friends, Carl Geiger – the most influential teacher in Peddie’s history, but that’s another story - and the elder Heister Hornberger. Carl taught English at Peddie from 1918 until 1956. Heister taught Latin and was in charge of the dining room in the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. He retired in 1954. By the time of our visit in the 1960s, the senior Hornberger was a long-retired widower living in a rustic cabin on a spit of rocky land reaching into the Atlantic Ocean. We did not stay long, but long enough to hear the elder Hornberger relate how he began many of his days. His son, Dick, Dr. Hornberger, would shoot golf balls over the water separating his father’s spit of land from a neighboring one. His father would collect the balls and, together they would empty their lobster pots and have a lobster breakfast in the father’s cabin.

The son was a doctor, serving the local area, and it was not long after our arrival that Dr. Hornberger showed up. My brother and I were dispatched to ride with him in his station wagon, for what reason, I do not remember. What I do remember is that this adult



made no effort to talk with us and that he drove very fast. His one-time attorney, Daniel Dubord, told me that he was retained in the 1980s by Dr. Hornberger, when the doctor was in danger of losing his driving license, having accumulated 60+ points, mainly for speeding. Speeding, apparently, was a way of life for Dick Hornberger. His son told Dan Dubord that once a sheriff pulled alongside the doctor’s car while the doctor was speeding and flashed his badge. Dr. Hornberger reciprocated by flashing his stethoscope. Dr. Hornberger’s defense at the administrative hearing which was to determine whether or not he was to keep his driving license was “people will die if I dilly dally getting there.” He kept his license.

Several years after my short encounter with Dr.

(cont. pg 3)



President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

COVID killed our house tour but gave birth to the Virtual Town Tour which may end up being replicated in the future. For those who attended the premiere at the Old Hights Brewery (60 of you), thank you for attending and for your donations and great comments. Those who did not attend can still view it on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/ZDtDpIZqeIU>

I offer a special thank you to all of you who have paid your dues and especially to those who added some extra money to help offset the lost revenue due to the house tour cancellation. We also added a couple of new members and life members. WELCOME.

This issue includes the final segment about the Gross Bros Mill fire. As with most tragedies, good people can turn lemons into lemonade. This is truly what followed in the years after the fire. Pat Donahue submitted an article on her research of the "Overseers of the Poor". I just received a special article I had asked David Coates to write on someone named Dick Hornberger. You'll have to read it for the rest of the story. I am holding back an article from Ken Pickering on the snowstorms of Hightstown. This will be in the January-February issue. Both V-E and V-J were 75 years ago this year. I've included some Gazette articles about these long ago but not forgotten special days.

Congratulations to our Allentown friend and member Alice Wikoff, Ely family historian. She was awarded the 2020 Jane G. Clayton Award by Monmouth County in recognition of her great contributions to the awareness, understanding, and preservation of Monmouth County history. Thank you Alice for all you do.

Allow me to again remind all - please send in your dues. Also, our meetings have been irregular but are generally the first Monday of the month, depending on holidays. Anyone can attend. 7 pm in the Freight Station. We sanitize and spread out. If



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you are interested in volunteering for any of our committees, please send me an email or call me for more information. Guest writers are welcome too. I suspect some are getting bored with my prose.

Have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. Thank you for your support.

Cappy Stults, President
cstults@allenstults.com

Hawkeye Pierce Lived Here (cont.)

Hornberger, the movie M*A*S*H was released, and I started to make a tentative connection between Dr. Hornberger and Dr. Hawkeye Pierce of Maine. Dick grew up in Hightstown, graduating from Peddie in 1942. According to lifetime Hightstown resident Bob Sprout, Dick had a pronounced dry and very direct sense of humor, a trait which he shared with his father. His yearbook photo lets us know that among other things he played tennis and "midget football," and that his hometown was not listed as Hightstown, where

HIESTER R. HORNBERGER, JR.

"Dick"

Broad Cove, Maine

Entered Peddie 1937.

Associate Editor Peddie News '40-'41; Cum Laude; Sophomore Declamation Contest '39; President P. T. A. '41; Midget Football '37; Jaycee Tennis '39-'40; Varsity Tennis '41.

Room—X House 1.


Born—February 1, 1924.

Bowdoin College.

ter book, Hawkeye Pierce is traveling through New Jersey, when he stops at a tavern in an unnamed town. I imagined Hawkeye at the bar of the Old Hights Inn, which for many years was run by the Ditcheos family. It is now Tavern on the Lake. This is the closest either book gets to the author's roots. About thirty years ago, Peddie students staged a production of M*A*S*H. Dick attended and then went to a party at Ernie Thompson's house on Meadow Drive in Hightstown where John Sprout was also in attendance. Bob Sprout was told either by his brother John or his good friend Ernie, or both, that Dick told them what has been reported elsewhere, and in an interview given to the Peddie News, not long before his death, that he liked the movie M*A*S*H, which he felt captured his humor, but did not like the TV series, which he believed was not faithful to either his humor nor to his beliefs. He was not anti-war.



Dr. Hornberger died in 1997. He did not leave a large mark on Hightstown, but this lifelong Republican lives on in the literary, movie, and, to his regret, TV series form of Hawkeye Pierce, a dedicated physician and nonconformist with, when genuine, a dry and direct sense of humor.

Special thanks to Peddie School historian, Dr. David Martin and Bob Sprout and Dan Dubord, Esq. 

he had grown up, but Broad Cove, Maine. Bob Sprout noted that he had friends, not only on the Peddie campus but in the community. Two of whom, Ernie Thompson, Hightstown High School, Class of 1941, Peddie Class of 1942, and John Spout, Peddie Class of 1942, hung out with him and other local boys and played football on what was an open space on the Peddie campus adjoining South Main Street. In later years golf was his game, and Dick told the story, later used in one of his books, of how a seagull snatched his ball from the fairway where it had landed and carried it to the putting green. The assist was appreciated. The pen name "Hooker" was derived from his golf game.

In preparing for this article, I read *MASH* and *MASH GOES TO MAINE*. *MASH* is still a good read but *MASH GOES TO MAINE*, in my opinion, has not aged well. In the lat-

Overseers of the Poor

By Pat Donahue

While at the New Jersey Historical Society in Newark researching Benjamin James, the former slave of Samuel Ely, I perused a large volume for the Township of East Windsor Overseers of the Poor from 1803 to 1839. With every intention of returning to the effort of piecing together the information contained in the book, I took only a few hasty photographs. Being unable to continue this research due to the pandemic, I decided to take what I have, add some online research, and cobble together an article.

Who were the Overseers of the Poor?

Legislation addressing the needs of the poor in English society dates to the 1601 Elizabethan Poor Law, which established the office of the Overseer of the Poor. These were prosperous and respected local leaders who would try to find work for the unemployed and bind out their children as indentured servants or apprentices.

The system of leaving the responsibility of assisting the poor to those in the local community was continued in the colony of New Jersey. In 1671, West Jersey passed legislation that permit-

ted the establishment of workhouses and, in 1676, authorized appointed officials to take care of orphans. The first law dealing with impoverished residents in East Jersey was passed in 1682, mostly to discourage vagrancy.

To fund aid for the poor, in 1704 the New Jersey General Assembly provided that fines for drunkenness, cursing, swearing, and breaking the Sabbath be given to the Overseers for the use of a town's poor. Apparently, that funding source was inadequate. "An Act for the Relief of the Poor" was passed by the New Jersey colonial legislature in 1709, the first in the state to specifically address that the money would be managed by "Townships or Precincts." Assessors were made responsible for collecting taxes on town inhabitants to fund payments to the penniless and designated the Overseers of the Poor with the responsibility for determining eligibility and delivering aid. Those refusing appointments as Overseers or Assessors were fined five pounds. In many counties, beginning in the 18th century, overseers of the poor, appointed by the boards of freeholders, worked with local justices of the peace on poverty management.

One of the ongoing concerns of the towns was to avoid providing charity to nonresidents. The Act of July 1, 1740, specified that relief would be limited to those who had been a resident for at least one year. On July 21, 1740, another Act required the Overseers to bring vagrants before two magistrates, who could send them back to where they came from, accompanied by constables.

The Act of March 11, 1774, distinguished between outdoor relief (supporting the poor in their own homes or in boarding homes) and indoor relief (maintaining the unfortunates in an institution). The number of a town's overseers were limited to four and specified that when a pauper applied to the Overseer of the Poor, the Overseer and a Justice of the Peace would investigate. If the Justice of the Peace agreed to provide sustenance, then the overseer would see to it. If an Overseer gave money to an individual without the authorization of the Justice of the Peace, he would not be reimbursed. The law required the Overseer to keep a record book with the names of the recipients, how much was given, and when. The Overseer was required to present his record books at the annual Town Meeting for examination and was penalized five pounds if he did not make this accounting. Only a very few of these record books survive.

The system of providing sustenance for the poor in New Jersey was maintained when the colony became a state. To reduce costs, some towns shared almshouses, and other institutions were operated by counties. To discourage the settling of chronically unemployed individuals in the state, residents who took the down-and-out into their homes became legally responsible for them, even for their funeral expenses if they died.

With this background, let us look at some of the entries in the manuscript for the Overseers of the Poor in East Windsor Township. The book was donated to the NJ Historical Society by John E. Bridegum in 1976. The volume includes the accounts of individual overseers of the poor within the township. The NJ Historical Society website includes this scope and content note:

Daily account book of the Overseers of the Poor, East Windsor (Mercer County), records expenses paid and received relating to the maintenance of paupers. Documents town's efforts to support and provide for the poor. Primarily, entries detail disbursements made to townspeople for boarding the poor: "bording a sick pauper four days" "bording David Apelgate five weeks one dollar per week" and "Enoch Prine for bording black child six weeks at five shillings per week."

Includes payments to townspeople in exchange for shoes made and repaired and for materials needed for clothing sewn and mended (cotton, muslin, buttons, thread) for the paupers they house; entries of payments made for coffins and digging graves. Often, payments are provided to those carrying out the business and tasks of the Overseers: "going to Cross Road on pauper business, ordered by Committee," "going to Freehold to search the records to find the residence of Margaret & Mary Holman."

The names of many townspeople, "vagrants," and paupers are listed. Overseers of the Poor of East Windsor Township include Charles Butche, Samuel Ely, John Hammell, David Silver, and Thomas Slack.

As you know, my home is called the Mount Ely Hancock House, therefore, I tend to focus on these and other well-known local names from the period between 1790 and 1860. During this time, another prominent family, the Pullen family, lived in my home. The Mount, Ely, and Pullen families had relatives scattered throughout the area; I cannot be sure which of them may actually have lived or visited my home.

John Hammell, Overseer of the Poor on June 9, 1803, paid \$22 in cash to Charlotte Pullen for boarding Patrick Riardon, a pauper. On December 29, 1803, he paid \$3 to settle a carried over amount to Samuel Pullen for boarding this same person.

John Smith, Overseer of the Poor on May 1, 1805, paid a balance due of \$3.85 to Elizabeth Pullen. On February 16, 1806, Elizabeth Pullen received \$20 for keeping Wilson Compton for one year. On April 8, 1807, she was paid \$20.81 for this same pauper. While I am missing dates, Elizabeth Pullen was paid \$40 for "Sundry acts allowed by the committee" and "to take the examination of the wife of John Perrine a vagrant and attending her sundry times for helping her in childbirth." This was followed by cash being given to the vagrant to "get her away."

David Silver, Overseer of the Poor on April 13, 1820, was reimbursed "To going to Hightstown to settle with Daniel Mount for sundries for the use of the poor," and on December 2 for attending a "trial in behalf of the township between Amos Combs and his apprentis for cruel treatment." Silver also distributed funds for boarding David Applegate, a pauper, for one week and three days, and the making of pantaloons and for shirt buttons for him on December 10. The next day, monies were disbursed for a pair of socks.

Some overseers had a little more trouble with their record keeping. This one appears in the manuscript, "an order given to Mary Holman on John Ely for to git corn to fat hog." There was an additional "order on Ely and Mount for Mary Holman" on May 4, but the entry lacks specifics.

An overseer noted on April 17 "going to Hightstown to consult what best to do with John McBride." This is followed on July 22 with the paying of a bill to E.P. Mount for John McBride, a pauper and on the 27th for "keeping John McBride four weeks" and "to making two pair pantaloons and one shirt" for him.

Sometimes municipalities battled in the courts contesting who was responsible for the upkeep of an impoverished individual. For example, in 1871, in *Inhabitants of Millstone vs. Inhabitants of Freehold*, the towns disputed the legal residence of nonagenarian Jennie Crummel, who had been a slave of Samuel Mount in Millstone until his death about 17 years previously and had never been manumitted or sold. Following Mount's death, she had been supported by his executors in Freehold Township. In 1872, at the age of 92, Crummel died in Millstone, after the court decided that the town was responsible for her.

I hope to be able to return to my investigations at some time in the future and flesh out some of the timelines and people mentioned in this article.



From The Ashes (part II and final)

By Cappy Stults

After the near destruction of the entire downtown, the town fathers and citizens needed to determine what was next. Besides the loss of several buildings and businesses, the long-awaited town's 200th-anniversary celebration was just a year away (see footnote). Said celebration would be extra special due to the recent end of WWI. The Gross family at this point had mills in other towns, including a recent purchase of a mill in Trenton. As mentioned in Part I, the Gross family had been welcomed and had become very prominent in the business community, organizations, and their synagogue (yet to be built) They also were founders of the Hightstown Trust Company.



Gazette article from June 3, 1920

Hightstown Trust Co. Chartered Opens Nov. 1st

Capital Stock One Hundred Thousand Dollars. With Twenty Thousand Dollars Surplus. Stock at Par Plus Surplus.

The Hightstown Trust Company has been granted a charter by the State Banking department. The capital stock, \$100,000 and surplus, \$20,000. The par value of shares \$100. Stock will be sold on a basis of par plus surplus or \$120 per share.

The charter members are: G. A. Bennett, A. G. Conover, C. Herbert Davison, W. H. Davison, E. V. D. Erving, David Gross, Harry Gross, D. I. Mosler, Charles B. Protosco, Charles E. Rae, John W. West and Harvey Wyckoff.

The Hightstown Trust Company on Friday purchased the Mason building, owned by Elmer B. Chamberlin. Possession will be given September first, 1921. The building will be remodeled for the Trust Company.

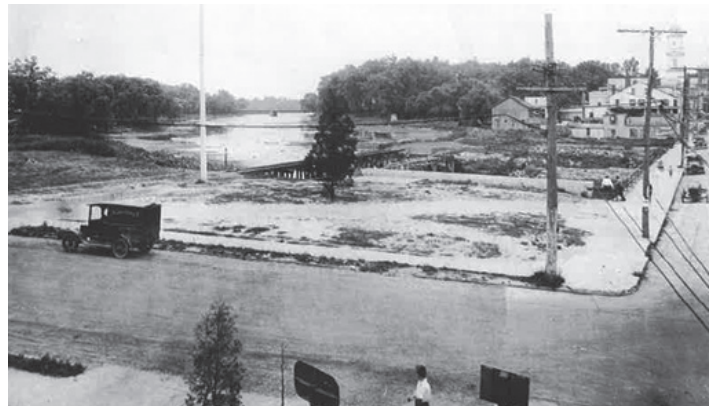
The Trust Company announces that they will open for business on or about November first. A general banking business will be transacted. A savings department as well as a trust department will be features of the new institution.

Gazette article from April 14, 1921

Roz Gross Rosenthal told me that her father, David, found that the other bank, First National Bank, would not lend to many of the Jewish farmers so he helped found the new bank in 1921 and became a member of the Board of Directors. Although First National was in Hightstown, its director board was heavily weighted by farmers from the area east and south of Hightstown, many of their farms near the P & H Railroad line.

After the fire, Mr. Gross was approached by Pillsbury Flour. Rather than rebuild, Pillsbury

wanted him to be their regional marketing representation and manager. He accepted the position. Although some rebuilding was in progress, the Pillsbury offer and the Gross Bros. other locations led to the decision not to rebuild the Hightstown mill. They had begun some cleanup when a group of businessmen approached the Gross family with an offer to buy the mill properties. The cost was \$30,000 although Roz, her family, and even this writer had always believed it was given to the town. Both sides of this story are true because the value of the ground was certainly greater than \$30,000 and the Gross family contributed substantially to the building of the park. The group of businessmen that purchased it, all friends of the Gross family, did indeed give it to the town. The gifted land comprised all of what we now know as the library park at Franklin and North Main, the memorial park to the south of the dam, and the entirety of the current municipal parking lot on the lake.



Cleaned up Gross Mill lot. Soon to become Memorial Park.

**Gross Brothers Property
Donated to Borough**

Harry Gross, David Gross, W. Homer Thompson, J. V. Davison, C. Herbert Davison and Peddie Institute Give Valuable Land For Park and Municipal Purposes

The Gross Brothers, incorporated, property will be given to the Borough of Hightstown. At a special meeting of Borough Council held Monday evening W. Homer Thompson made this announcement. The donors only specify a few restrictions. The ground is presented

**Will Celebrate
Birthday Sept.
First to Fifth**

Two Hundredth Anniversary of the

of the dam, and the entirety of the current municipal parking lot on the lake.

So now the town-owned a significant part of the downtown. What was to be done with it? The Board of Trade, which included the men who had gifted the property to

the town, went on a fund-raising crusade.

The Board of Trade had been active for a number of years dating back to their persuading the Cooks of the Smyra Rug Company of Vineland to move to Hightstown in 1900 (see Summer & Fall 2019 newsletters). But that B. of T. activity was purely a business

and local employment proposition with potential financial benefits to the members of the group. This project, now being called Memorial Park, would be much more costly (upfront) and mostly altruistic in its purpose. It is likely that the end of WWI and the upcoming 200th anniversary of Hightstown encouraged this community spirit and good feelings. Ironically at the same time, Main Street (aka State Highway 7, now Route 33) was being paved in cement. It had been dirt up to this time with water trucks, cinders, and probably oil used to keep down the dust. The construction was delayed due to a cement embargo. Shangle & Hunt had been awarded the contract for the materials.

Life continued to go on in the summer after the great fire. There was fighting between the potato farmers, many wanting to sell "cooperatively" while others wanted to remain independent. C.T. McCue and Barclay seemed to be the leaders on each side. Chamberlin & Barclay had an office in Hightstown since 1918 and it is worth mentioning that they just sold out this year, 2020. The Gazette social notes indicated that vacationers mostly headed to Manasquan, notably the Davisons, Thompsons, Lee, McIlwan, Grover, Mason, Wilson, Jones, Emson, Caine, Rue, Dey, Conover and Burch families. It was announced that William Cunningham joined A.S. Cole Undertakers in Cranbury. He had been with Allen & Stults Undertakers, next to the Baptist Church, who recently had sold out to the Coles.



Main Street at the time it was being paved.

The Strand Theater on Main Street played movies for 11 and 22 cents. An advertised coming attraction was, "Should a Husband Forgive". Farm news was always big in the Gazette. A dairy article noted that contagious calf abortion can be prevented by the use of antiseptic solution used on the sire after each service.

In August 1920 New Jersey State notified the borough that they were taking Franklin and Broad from Main to Broad and Broad to Monmouth to be part of Highway #7, Hightstown to Freehold and Shore. Many might remember Broad and Monmouth having cement sections. Now you know why.

The population of Hightstown in 1910 was 1,879 (EW was 941). By the 1920 census, Hightstown was 2,674 (EW was 733). Part of this change was due to the annexing by the borough of parts of the township. All phone numbers in Gazette advertisements were just two digits and a letter: Cottrell's garage was 15 D, Cunningham's was 17 M. A shave was 15 cents, haircut 35 cents, shampoo 25 cents and massage was 25 cents. On December 17, 1920, the highway finally opened through Hightstown to Trenton.

I have in my possession, soon to be turned over to the Society, the minute book of the Board of Trade, March 14, 1921, through February 5, 1923. The officers in 1921 were Wm. H Thompson (Rug Company), D B Dey (merchant), J.G. Schieble (Inn owner), Geo P. Dennis (Gazette), E.B. Chamberlin (merchant/landlord), and the directors were Jos. B. Davison (Rug Company) O.T Fenton (jeweler), and A.B. Hunt, R.C. Stonaker (Allen & Stults Co.) R.W. Setland (Peddie), H. Burke, Harry Gross (Gross Bros), J.H. Johnes and Frank Grover. Although the fire property was certainly in all of their minds, the topics at these meetings were also street lighting, street signs and the need for a community building. Swetland suggested a "plan of action" be formulated and presented at a dinner at Peddie dining hall in late March 1921. It appears the

Board met bi-weekly. (It is worth noting that the Greater Hightstown East Windsor Improvement Project that formulated the downtown beautification in the 1990s met weekly).

On April 11, 1921, the Board authorized a committee of 12 citizens to head a "bicentennial celebration committee."

On a different subject, Peddie was asked to loan their architect to the Board to develop a community plan. President Harding was to be approached by Swetland and Dr. Wilbur to speak at the Bi-Centennial celebration. A large dinner at Peddie School was to be a major fundraiser. Committee to sell tickets was C.J. Keeler, Jos B Davison, J.H. Johnes, Harry Gross, J.G. Schiebel, Wm Franklin, J.A. Priory, C Stanley Stults, W.H. Burke, A.B Hunt, Frank Grover, E.B. Chamberlin, Weller Bros, J.B. Rogers, Jos Schenck, J.A. Bennett, Harry Rue, D. J. Messler, W.H. Thompson, F.L. Daniels. The goal was 200 tickets. I could not find the price but pictures show it was quite an event.

The following B. of T.'s meetings included discussions on the condition of the roads, the need for additional sidewalks, a new railroad passenger station, directional signage, and whether or not to adopt daylight saving time. Daylight savings time was a significant issue of the time with the merchants and townspeople wanting it and the farmers mostly being against it. It does not exist before 1921.

On July 6th it was reported that Swetland traveled to Washington, D.C., and was successful in arranging for President Harding to speak at the Bi-Centennial celebration. The celebration activities would take



Part of the banner created for Memorial Park Project

place from October 6-10. Although the mill site north of the dam had been designated for Memorial Park, the section from south of the dam to the hotel was still empty and its future was not determined. There had been a related organization of businesspeople formed known as the Hightstown Improvement Association who were working on a plan for that ground. Signs and buttons were designed and 5,000 buttons were ordered (I have about 100 that will be given to the Society) as well as banners.

In August a committee of D.B. Dey, Mrs. C.S. Stults (Nettie), and Wm Franklin were appointed to organize a working bee to get all men possible to clean up the Gross Bros. property. No further

minutes are in the minute book that I have until November 14th. At said meeting there was discussion of the safety of school children due to the speed of traffic, street lighting proposals were being sought and Russell VanNest Black, a nationally noted planner who happened to have been raised in East Windsor (Walter C. Black's cousin and buried in East Windsor Cemetery), was hired to design a community plan of grounds and buildings. Peddie partially funded the cost of the plan.

The minutes report that it was suggested that plans should be made to locate a State Police Barracks in Hightstown (the State "constabulary" was just being established). Joseph Hoch of Mercer Street was in the first class of troopers. I believe they were temporarily located in the house on the corner of Center and Morrison which we know as the Glackin/Saul Funeral Home. It is also worth noting that Gen Schwarzkopf's father was the founding Superintendent of the NJ State Police and investigated the Lindbergh kidnapping. They lived in Lawrenceville at the time.

Some of us remember the barracks above Dey's garage on the southeast corner of what is now known as Route 130 and Hightstown Princeton road. But although I haven't been able to confirm it, I have been told that it was first on the second floor of what we know as Glackin/Saul Funeral Home on Morrison Avenue.



Over the next two years, the Board of Trade ran holiday decorating contests, sales, fireworks from the Peddie Bridge and met with representatives of

companies wishing to move to Hightstown. They included a corset factory, hosiery factory, ice factory, and others. In 1923 they voted to rent the second floor of the Allen & Stults office for \$25 per month. The next month they sublet to the Citizen's Building and Loan for \$5 per month. Soon gold-leaf lettering for both the Board of Trade and the Building and Loan appeared on the plate glass window on 106 N Main Street. This later became known as Hightstown Savings and Loan.

At the January 8, 1923 meeting, it was decided that the Board of Trade would take up the project of improving Memorial Park. The last entry is in February 1923. Mr. Thompson had earlier resigned as President as he had been elected mayor.

Footnote – 1721 has been the recognized settling of Hightstown by the Hights family. However, there is no evidence or record of them being in this area prior to 1746 (+ -). Whether or not there were any other settlers here prior to the Hights is not known for certain but I am sure we will continue to use 1721 as has been for over 100 plus years of celebrations and parades.



Remembering V-E Day & V-J Day

By Cappy Stults

It would be wrong to close 2020 without remembering the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII. Both Victory in Europe, V-E Day, and Victory in Japan, V-J Day, occurred in 1945. I read every 1945 issue of the Gazette. There were many reports and pictures of those serving and war updates. I found it surprising, however, that when V-E Day came in May, the headlines were small. I have to believe it was because the Pacific War was still uncertain and there was certainly war fatigue. After 4 years plus, "war" must have seemed normal. (you can view the Gazette at <https://www.digifind-it.com/hightstown/home.php>.

Many area men served and many died. Nearly every family in our area was touched. It also included rationing of fuel, sugar and certain foods, not to mention air raid drills and daily fear for both young and old. We remember and thank those who served both overseas and at home. They helped preserve freedom for all around the world. Let us not squander it.

C Stults

Gazette article from May 10, 1945 announcing "Victory Prayers" at the Baptist Church.

Throng Joins in Victory Prayers In Baptist Church

Local Churches Sponsor V-E Day Services With 500 People in Attendance

Five hundred residents of this community joined in victory thanksgiving prayers in the First Baptist Church Tuesday evening.

The V-E Day prayer service was sponsored by the local churches. The Rev. Paul M. Humphreys of the Baptist Church, the Rev. P. R. Comer of the Methodist Church and the Rev. David B. Watermuller of the Presbyterian Church were the leaders.

The service, consisting of hymns, scripture, and prayer, was divided into five sections, which were "Praise and Thanksgiving," "Penitence," "Intercession," "Remembrance," and "Dedication."

The first announcement, unofficial, of the surrender of Germany was received Monday. The AP story said "Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Western Allies and Russia at 2:41 a.m. French time today. (This was 8:41 p.m. eastern war time Sunday.)"

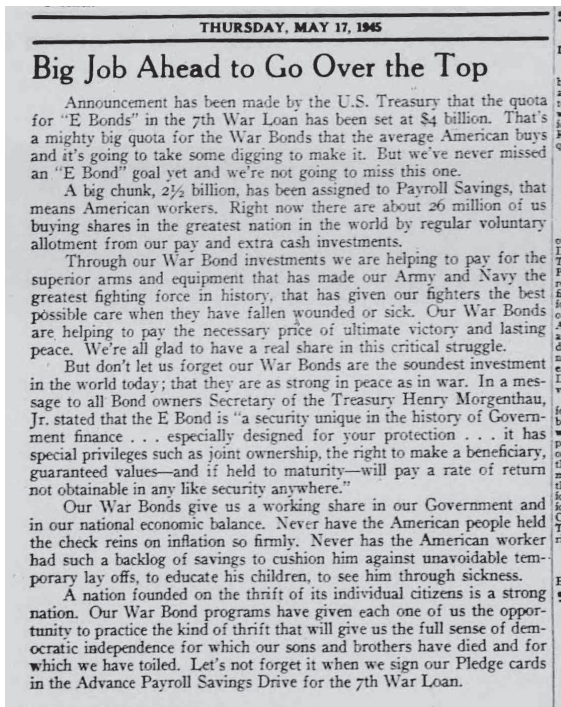
President Truman proclaimed Tuesday "complete and final" victory in the European theatre of the greatest war in history. The President went on a radio hookup at 9 a.m. Tuesday to read his formal proclamation, which he prefaced with brief remarks in which he warned: "Our victory is but half won. The west is free, but the east is still in bondage to the treacherous tyranny of the Japanese. When the last Japanese division has surrendered unconditionally, then only will our fighting job be done."

Day of Prayer

In his proclamation he designated Sunday—Mother's Day—as a day of prayer for offering "joyful thanks to God for the victory we have won and to pray that He will support us to the end of our present struggle and guide us into the way of peace."

In Hightstown many of the business places closed during the afternoon on Tuesday. V-E Day was quietly observed.

The following are articles from 1945 connected to the end of the war in Europe and Japan transcribed word for word. Please be aware that there is language being used in some of the articles that is no longer considered acceptable by today's standards.



Gazette article from May 11, 1945

With the war in Europe ending on May 8, 1945, but the war in Japan still raging on, it was imperative to convince the United States citizens to continue buying War Bonds. The theme of this article is “the war is over in Europe, but we’re not done yet.”

“Announcement has been made by the U.S. Treasury that the quota for ‘E Bonds’ in the 7th War Loan has been set at \$4 billion. That’s a mighty big quota for the War Bonds that the average American buys and it’s going to take some digging to make it. But we’ve never missed an ‘E Bond’ goal yet and we’re not going to miss this one.

A big chunk, 2 ½ billion, has been assigned to Payroll Savings, that means American workers. Right now there are about 26 million of us buying shares in the greatest nation in the world by regular voluntary allotment from our pay and extra cash investments.

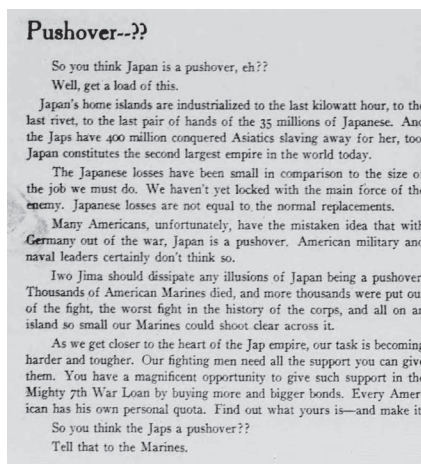
Through our War Bond investments we are helping to pay for the superior arms and equipment that has made our Army and Navy the greatest fighting force in history, that has given our fighters the best possible care when they have fallen wounded or sick. Our War

Bonds are helping to pay the necessary price of ultimate victory and lasting peace. We’re all glad to have a real share in this critical struggle.

But don’t let us forget our War Bonds are the soundest investment in the world today; that they are as strong in peace as in war. In a message to all Bond owners Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr. stated that the E Bond is ‘a security unique in the history of Government finance... especially designed for your protection... it has special privileges such as joint ownership, the right to make a beneficiary, guaranteed values – and if held to maturity – will pay a rate of return not obtainable in any like security anywhere.’

Our War Bonds give us a working share in our Government and in our national economic balance. Never have the American people held the check reins on inflation so firmly. Never has the American worker had such a backlog of savings to cushion him against unavoidable temporary lay offs, to educate his children, to see him through sickness.

A nation founded on the thrift of its individual citizens is a strong nation. Our War Bond programs have given each one of us the opportunity to practice the kind of thrift that will give us the full sense of democratic independence for which our sons and brothers have died and for which we have toiled. Let’s not forget it when we sign our Pledge cards in the Advance Payroll Savings Drive for the 7th War Loan.”



Gazette article from May 24, 1945

Japan’s home islands are industrialized to the last kilowatt hour, to the last rivet, to the last pair of hands of the 35 millions of Japanese. And the Japs have 400 million conquered Asiatics slaving away for her, too. Japan constitutes the second largest empire in the world today.

The Japanese losses have been small in comparison to the size of the job we must do. We haven’t yet locked with the main force of the enemy. Japanese losses are not equal to the normal replacements.

Many Americans, unfortunately, have the mistaken idea that with Germany out of the war, Japan is a pushover. American military and naval leaders certainly don’t think so.

This article is like the last article about buying War Bonds only it’s camouflaged as an Op-Ed piece. People must have been really burnt out on the war if this much push was being put into convincing the public to continue buying War Bonds.

“So you think Japan is a pushover, eh??

Well, get a load of this.

Japan’s home islands are industrialized to the last kilowatt hour, to the last rivet, to the last pair of hands of the 35 millions of Japanese. And the Japs have 400 million conquered Asiatics slaving away for her, too. Japan constitutes the second largest empire in the world today.

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Two Jima should dissipate any illusions of Japan being a pushover. Thousands of American Marines died, and more thousands were pout out of the fight, the worst fight in the history of the corps, and all on an island so small our Marines could shoot clear across it.

As we get closer to the heart of the Jap empire, our task is becoming harder and tougher. Our fighting men need all the support you can give them. You have a magnificent opportunity to give such support in the Mighty 7th War Loan by buying more and bigger bonds. Every American has his own personal quota. Find out what yours is - and make it.

So you think the Japs a pushover??

Tell that to the Marines."



Gazette article from July 5, 1945

discharge.

"After 43 months in the United States Army it took T/4 Venton N. Taylor, 27 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Taylor of Mercer street, only 48 hours to be discharged into civilian life.

The 'great occasion', as Taylor puts it, took place last Friday afternoon at the Fort Dix Separation Center. Taylor is the first man to be released under the point system from here and 87 points did the work.

One of the first men from Hightstown to go overseas, back in February, 1942, Taylor spent 39 of his 43 months in Uncle Sam's forces overseas.

Points Broken Down

Taylor's 87 points were broken down into these group: 78 for overseas duty (2 points per month out of the continental limits), 4 for 4 months duty in the U.S. and five points for a bronze star on his European Theater ribbon.

Entering the army at Fort Dix 1st October, 1941 Taylor proceeded to Camp Croft, S.C., for basic training. He was then scheduled for overseas shipment and embarked for Belfast, Ireland, where he disembarked February 19, 1942.

In February 1944 he was sent to London and attached to medi-

This is a story about Vinton N. Taylor, some know him as "Snoop" who was the first Hightstown resident release under the new points system that was used to decide which soldiers would be discharged first and which would continue due to the continuing conflict in the Pacific. It interesting how the points were broken down and how long it would take to accumulate the points needed for

cal battalion as a company mail clerk. In August 1944 he was transferred to Paris, France, as a postal clerk and was elevated to the rank of Technician Fourth Grade.

Returned in May

April 5 of this year proved to be Taylor's good day as he was ordered back to this country and he arrived in New York on 5 May and went immediately to Fort Dix.

Taylor is the holder of American Defense Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and European Theater Ribbon with one star.

Not completely homesick while 'abroad' Taylor met several localites, include Lt. Jerome Becker, Leona Wilson and Lt. Richard Cranston, while on duty in London and Paris.

Having little trouble getting reacquainted with civilian life he returned to his old duties at the local post office on Sunday."



Following Cancellation of Orders.

The parachute division of the Hightstown Rug Company closed Friday morning following receipt of cancellation orders from the Government. At the peak of employment in this division approximately 275 persons were employed in this department.

The rug mill does not have a reconversion problem. A spokesman said Wednesday that raw materials for manufacturing rugs and carpets would be available, but it was not known when they would be able to obtain these materials."

With V-J Day taking place on August 15, 1945 the United States was ready to put the war behind them. This short article from August 23, 1945 announces the Rug Company closing its parachute division.

"Rug Company Parachute Division Closes

Hightstown East Windsor Historical Society

Founded 1971 to educate while preserving for future generations, our people and our community's history.



Officers for 2018-2019

President: Charles "Cappy" Stults
609.448.0110 - cstults@allenstults.com

Vice President: Robin Smith

Recording Secretary: Shirley Olsen
609-448-8388

Corres. Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Robert Szychowski
609-448-9490

Committee Chairs

Finance: Robert Szychowski
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Beverly Mann

Library: Robert Craig
609-584-1806
Eileen Couturier

Website: Gary Stevens
609-469-1860

Membership: Cookie Cummings
cookcummings@yahoo.com

Museum: Cookie Cummings
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Newsletter: Robert Craig
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Membership Application

Support us this year at the following rates:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual\$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family.....\$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Booster\$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining.....\$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (Individual)\$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life (Family).....\$275 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Only.....\$10 | |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

Where did you hear about membership?

Please mail the completed application along with a check made payable to:

HEW Historical Society

Membership Committee
164 North Main Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520

- I would not like to be part of the New Member Spotlight.

Volunteer Opportunities

I would like to volunteer to help out with the following committee(s):

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property & Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | |



Hightstown 200th Anniversary Parade.

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