

Hightstown



East Windsor

Historical Society News

Winter 2019

A History of Weather and Climate Observations in Hightstown and Vicinity

By Ken Pickering, Forward by Cappy Stults



In the fall newsletter issue, I had mentioned that many old Hightstown Gazettes contained weather “reports,” rather than “forecasts.” Former East Windsor resident and fellow classmate of HHS 1969, Ken Pickering, was good enough to do some research for us and wrote the following article. It arose from my conversation with him asking how much actual location in Hightstown may have affected temperature readings. Trees, ground water, elevation, bodies of water and pavement among other things certainly do affect temperature. Ken’s father was the weather observer for nearly 40 years and the Lee father and son, Dick and Ronny, have been ever since.

Ken is quite accomplished. His higher education was in Atmospheric Science. He was employed at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center before retiring in 2016. He currently holds a part-time Research Professor position in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science at the University of Maryland. Ken, on occasion, substituted for his dad, James Pickering, in taking the daily weather observations for Hightstown.

James Pickering was our Society’s first secretary and was East Windsor Township Clerk.

Now to hear from the expert. Thank you Ken.

Weather observations have been recorded for the National Weather Service and its predecessor organization, the U. S. Weather Bureau, in or near Hightstown since 1892. The Hightstown station is part of the Cooperative Observer network of over 10,000 stations nationwide. The observations at these stations are recorded by volunteers. During the 1892 to 1935 period, the observer at Hightstown changed frequently with 14 different observers participating over that time span. Note that some of these observers were in town and some were outside of town, and that there are a few short gaps in the record. The observers have come from a variety of occupations: a professor at Peddie School (Frank Jemison), a pharmacist (M. H. Cunningham), a borough waterworks employee (Charles Welsh), a florist (Braun Brothers),

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President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Another great year for our Society. But of course our work must continue in 2020 and forward for the benefit of those to follow and the enjoyment of our neighbors today. Greg Ciano continues to do a great job with the children's program and the Clara Barton production was so good, it had to have two performances! He also actively fundraises for the programs and Society.

The annual meeting was held in Roosevelt, first known as the "Hightstown Project." Attendance was once again fantastic. Our annual meeting in 2020 will be at the Baptist Church who is celebrating its 275 anniversary next year. Date is April 25, 2020, a Saturday. More particulars to follow in the next issue.

Downtown Hightstown drafted me to give walking tours of the downtown area. Over 60 people have attended the three tours. Thanks to Christina Fowler, Brent Rivenburgh and Lee Stults. More will be done in 2020. The antique appraisal show was a success once again and we continue to make improvements in the museum and library thanks to all of our volunteers and your donations. Thanks to Robin Smith, Sue Dilger, Nancy Laudenberger, Eileen Couturier and Bev Mann.

Speaking of donations, I have included in this newsletter some information on Donor Advised Funds. You may want to consider it if you can. Also, **IT IS DUES TIME AGAIN.** Please save us the postage by sending us your dues early. We have continuing expenses and this newsletter itself costs us about \$15 per year per member to get it to you. The membership form is included herein. Give one to a neighbor who is not a member! They can find it on our website, www.hewhs.org.

I am not a Facebook guy but many, many enjoy our Facebook offerings thanks to Cookie Cummings, Greg Ciano and Gary Stevens. They also keep our website up to date and exciting. Thanks to Warren and Shirley Olsen for their continued support and to Gary and Dale Grubb for their contributions. Bev Mann keeps our grounds in shape regardless of the season and Robert Szychowski keeps our financial reports up to date. Robert Craig continues to be our resident expert, both historical and in our library, and for his newsletter contributions. I am sure I left somebody out for which I apologize.

And in closing, please consider volunteering. Our regular meetings are generally the first Monday of every month at 7pm in the freight station unless moved for holidays or conflicts. The dates are posted. The meetings are always less than 90 minutes but



there is plenty to do. More hands lighten the load.

Have a great, safe and healthy holiday season.

Cappy Stults, President.

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History of Weather - Continued

and several farmers (Elwood Croshaw, H. M. Barrett, James Pickering, Richard and Ronny Lee). Beginning in 1935 the observing site stabilized with James Pickering maintaining the station on his farm at 93 Old Cranbury Road (present site of Georgetowne townhouse development) in East Windsor Township for over 38 years. The station has been located at Lee Turkey Farm at 201 Hickory Corner Road, East Windsor, since October 1973. The records from this site now stretch over 46 years. The farm locations generally have provided the best exposure of the instruments (relatively flat terrain, away from buildings and trees).

The entire Hightstown record now extends over a 127-year period, and the Hightstown station has been designated as part of the U. S. Historical Climate Network. While the local observations of daily maximum and minimum temperature and rainfall/snowfall are an excellent source of information concerning heat waves, cold



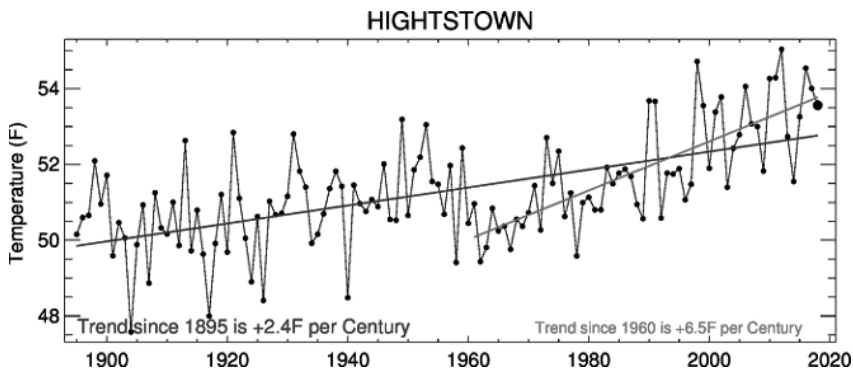
Snow storm March 2, 1914

snaps, flooding rains, and drought periods, the data most importantly provide a valuable long-term record from which climate trends can be ascertained. The graph below shows the annual average temperature for each year at Hightstown over the period 1895 to 2018. These data are all archived at the Center for Weather and Climate at the National Centers for Environmental Information in Asheville, NC. Over the 1895 to late 1940s period there appeared to be a small upward trend, but also considerable variation from year to year. Given that the observation site changed frequently before 1935, one might expect that some of the variability might be due to changes in location. However, from the late 1940s through the early 1960s there was a pro-

Start Date	End Date	Observer	Location
Aug. 1, 1892	Dec. 31, 1905	C.M. Norton	South Main Street
Mar. 1, 1906	Sept. 18, 1912	Ernest Wenger	Probably West of Town
Oct. 1, 1912	Jun. 30, 1913	Frank Jemison	Peddie School
Aug. 12, 1913	Nov. 30, 1913	C.M. Hutchinson	Probably North side of town
Apr. 12, 1914	Nov. 18, 1916	Leon and C.W. Dunbar	Probably in town
Nov. 18, 1916	Jun. 28, 1918	Franklin Eldridge	402 South Main Street
Feb. 4, 1919	May 17, 1920	Rev. W.A. Stanton	120 East Ward Street
Aug. 17, 1920	Aug. 19, 1924	E.H. Savage, Jr.	202 Stockton Street
Sept. 29, 1924	Jun. 30, 1925	M.H. Cunningham	South Main Street
Jan. 20, 1926	Dec. 12, 1926	H. M. Grover	348 South Main Street
Dec. 13, 1926	Jun. 20, 1931	Charles Welsh	156 Bank Street
Nov. 1, 1931	Mar. 31, 1932	Elwood Croshaw	1 mile East of Post Office
Jul. 18, 1932	Jul. 18, 1934	H.M. Barrett	2 miles Northeast of town
Jul. 19, 1934	Apr. 30, 1935	Braun Brothers Florist	221 Grant Avenue
May 9, 1935	Oct. 1, 1973	James Pickering	1 mile North-Northeast of town
Oct. 2, 1973	Jan. 31, 2018	Richard Lee	2.3 miles West of town
Feb. 1, 2018	Present	Ronny Lee	2.3 miles West of town

Graph of weather observations.

nounced downward trend in temperature. This is a feature that is found in the record over much of the globe. It is thought that increases in the amount of particles in the atmosphere from pollution emitted from industry may have caused blockage of sufficient sunlight to cause cooling. During this period there were predictions that the Earth was heading into a new ice age. But, that trend was quickly reversed through the remainder of the 1960s with a warming trend, which has continued to present day. The overall warming from 1960 through 2018 is at a rate of 6.5 degrees Fahrenheit per century. This trend is likely due a combination of effects: the urbanization that has occurred in the Hightstown/East Windsor area and central NJ as a whole, and the warming that is being experienced globally that the vast majority of climate scientists believe is due to increases in greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. When considering the Hightstown record from 1895 through 2018, the warming is at a rate of 2.4 degrees Fahrenheit per century.



Graphics Credit: C. Weaver, University of Maryland

Thanks to Richard Lee and the Office of the New Jersey State Climatologist at Rutgers University for providing the names, locations, and dates for the Hightstown observers.

Underhill Ice Pick Found

By Cappy Stults

In the December 2018 issue of the newsletter, Bob Craig wrote about the Frank C. Underhill Ice Plant, which was off of the north side of Stockton Street, roughly in the rear of where CCL is now located. This past Labor Day, my wife and I were at our vacation “camp” in the Adirondacks. One of our neighbors there who lives in Florida brought me a picture of an ice pick he has in his “camp.” He and his parents have used it for years. He noticed “Hightstown” printed on it and finally made the connection with us. I explained to him that this ice pick likely made its way from Hightstown to Mt. Arab/Eagle Crag, NY, in the 1930s, some 350



miles away. But how? Back in the early 1900s, a number of Peddie

teachers owned “camps” in the Adirondacks. Besides vacationing, they would get paid to take some of their students there for vacation and tutoring in the summer. As a matter of fact, there were so many boys up there they played baseball against other Peddie boys staying on other lakes in the Adirondacks.

One such teacher was named R. Judson Waite, French teacher. His wife, Hazel Roszel Waite, happened to have a relative (they had no children) who is my wife’s father, George Conley, III. Aunt Hazel gave or sold the “camp” to George in the early 1950s. Back then it took 11-12 hours to drive there. Many did it in two days. Due to the distance, they soon sold the camp to the Merrill family. Fast forward to 2019 Labor Day. Lee Merrill, son of the buyers, have used this ice pick from F. C. Underhill ice plant for years.

A little more about ice works. For years ice was harvested off of the lake and stored packed in straw and generally in pits. This would keep for many months if done correctly. When it was harvested in Hightstown, one of the ice works was about where the library is now. Before our modern refrigerators, the iceman delivered the ice to businesses and wealthy homeowners throughout the year. My house at 408 South Main Street was built in 1915. On the back porch was a wood door approximately 2 feet by 2 feet, and 3 feet off of the floor. The ice man would bring his blocks of ice to this small door, open it and slide the blocks of ice inside the “ice box”. This ice box was usually in a pantry or kitchen. The ice boxes were zinc or lead lined and quite attractive pieces of furniture, often oak. Homeowners would put a sign in their window if they needed ice. This method allowed for the delivery of ice without ever having to enter the home. This business all but died out in the 1930s and 1940s when Frigidaire and others began manufacturing affordable

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150 Years Ago in the Hightstown Gazette

From Issues between October & November 1869

by Cappy Stults

The Pemberton-Hightstown Railroad, later known as the U.T., had many stations between its end points. You have seen the names: Allen Station, Sharon Station, Davis Station, Imlaystown, New Egypt and others. Its early success in 1867 was from the transport of the heavy “Marl” that was beginning to be used by area farmers to replenish their depleted soil. 300-400 tons per day traveled the line from the marl pits to the various stations along the route. Marlton, NJ, by the way, gets its name from “marl”.

cause or provocation, this is to warn all persons against trusting her on my account, as I shall pay no debts of her contracting.
Peter S. Conover”

On a more sacred side, the St James AME Church, Summit Street, (then just known as African M.E.) had a cornerstone laying Sunday, October 13, 1869.

New Freight Station (our current building) was completed November 4, 1869.

There was a movement to create a new county called “Center County” with Hightstown as its county seat.

HIGHTSTOWN GAZETTE.

Vol. xxv. No. 30.

Hightstown, N. J., November 4, 1869.

Whole No. 1261

The New Jersey Classical & Scientific Institute was beginning its fall term in its new building on the prior Ward property on South Main Street. The “Institute” later became Peddie, and the new five-story brick building became “Wilson Hall.” It was said to be the finest building in the State. Dedicated Oct 28th.

Many doctor, homeopathic physicians and surgeon dentist ads. Dr. Lloyd Wilbur, Dr. J.N. Fairbanks and Dr. A Dawes. His ad stated, “teeth extracted without pain, by the use of laughing gas.”

Even physicians from out of town advertised. Dr. Whittier, Pittsburgh, Pa., “treats all venereal diseases, also seminal weakness, impotency, etc., the result of self-abuse. Send two stamps for sealed pamphlet. 50 pages. No matter who failed, state your case.”

And some other domestic problems.


“TAKE NOTICE – My wife, Mary Conover, having left my bed and board without just

There were allegations that the Hightstown Fire Company volunteers stole property from a Cranbury farmer while putting out the fire.

And printed in the Gazette from the Toms River Courier:

One of our most respected citizens sometimes travels with Sewing Machines. On Monday, last, he went to Hightstown to benefit the residents thereabout. About half an hour, after he had retired to rest, he was awoken by the Mayor, Marshal, and some five or six other persons of that borough, who wished to examine his tin trunk in search of a burglar’s tools! Cornelius laughed, opened his tin trunk and showed them a... Sewing Machine! Mr. Mayor and his retinue sloped very suddenly and down to the barroom they rushed, and informed the gaping crowd of some fifty excited persons, that they were getting into a peck of trouble through their inquisitiveness. In the morning ample apologies were made by the officials for their intrusion. It seems that a telegram had been received (in Hightstown) from New York cautioning against burglars and incendiaries. Hence the excessive scrutiny of strangers. The gentleman referred to is one of our best citizens and it was rather a tough joke, but he stood it like a man.

Toms River Courier 

home refrigerators and freezers. Can you break into my house through that old 2x2 ice door? Nope, but I used to crawl through it as a kid. We removed it during some renovations in the 1990s. I should have saved the door! Maybe you know of some house that still has one or have seen one of these handsome pieces of furniture converted to a bar or stereo cabinet. 

Donating and the 2017 Tax Law Changes

By Cappy Stults

If the 2017 tax law changes affected your giving or may in the future, I offer something you may want to consider. First, I am not a tax advisor or investment advisor. I am just passing on what I did in 2018 which I found beneficial.


The standard deduction being increased to \$12,000 single, \$24,000 married, and the deduction for taxes being limited to \$10,000, has caused many families to just take the standard deduction meaning no write-off for charitable giving. Many however want to continue to donate but certainly would like to get an additional deduction as they had in the past. One way is "bunching" meaning grouping your contributions/deductions every 2 or 3 years, thus having your total deductions exceed your \$24,000 standard deduction that you would take in the off year(s).

But this might hurt the organization you are trying to help every year. One method to avoid this is by establishing a Donor Advised Fund. In this way you do your "bunching" upfront by contributing to the DAF but you are able to instruct the DAF to send checks annually to your favorite charity. There is also the potential benefit of the DAF growing as you select how you want that money in the DAF invested.

If you were able to buy stock many years ago and this has appreciated greatly, you can also fund the DAF with this appreciated stock. In this way you avoid the taxes on the appreciation and get the tax write-off too. You also can add to the DAF at anytime and request the DAF at anytime to send a check to your favorite or new 501(c)3 charity.

Most investment advisors have access to DAF (Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, Fidelity) just to name two and there are also others that are non-affiliated with brokerage houses. I am not endorsing any one method or provider, but am only offering some solutions to your contributing dilemma, if you are experiencing one. Nearly all the aforementioned have a minimum amount to start a DAF and you totally give up access to the money for your personal use. But you and your appointed alternate (spouse, parent, child) always have total say of who receives a donation, when it is made and how much.

It should be worth mentioning that none of this helps you with state income tax, at least not in New Jersey. Here is a website that probably explains it better than I have. Check with your investment and tax advisor.


<https://www.fidelitycharitable.org/articles/will-tax-reform-affect-your-charitable-deduction.html> 

Antique Appraisal Show

By Cappy Stults



Gene Pascucci and Michael Myatovich of A A Empire Antiques

graciously donated their time and talent for our antique appraisal show on October 24th. There was quite a selection of items. Gene and Michael once again dazzled the attendees with their wealth of knowledge. Was the lost Imperial Faberge Egg found? No, but the owners of a few of the items were following up with Gene and Michael to get more in-depth information on the family treasures. We are very grateful to Empire Antiques. 

Christmas Tea

By Shirley Olsen



Our Christmas Tea will be on Sunday, December 8 from 1:30 pm to 3 pm at Ely House. All members and friends

are invited to enjoy cookies, punch and shop at the Holiday Boutique. No ticket is required for this event.

After the tea, The Hightstown Woman's Club and Friday Club are sponsoring a Christmas Candlelight House Tour of several private homes in Hightstown and East Windsor from 3 pm to 6 pm rain or shine. Advance-sale tickets are \$15 and will be available later this year at Perennial Home, 119 West Ward Street, Hightstown. Day of Event tickets for \$20 can be purchased at The Ely House, 164 North Main Street. Children: \$5. Much of the proceeds from this event will go to the Historical Society. If you would like to participate in any way for these events, please give Shirley Olsen a call at 609-448-8388 or email her at olsenfarr@verizon.net. 

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
609-448-9490
Property & Grounds: Warren Olsen
609-448-8388
Beverly Mann
Library: Robert Craig
609-584-1806
Eileen Couturier
Website: Gary Stevens
609-469-1860
Membership: Cookie Cummings
cookcumplings@yahoo.com
Museum: Cookie Cummings
cookcumplings@yahoo.com
Newsletter: Robert Craig
609-584-1806
Programs: Christian Kirkpatrick
Jane Cox
609-584-1806
Nancy Laudemberger
609-443-6536
Publicity: Shirley Olsen
609-448-8388

Building Committee

Christian Kirkpatrick, Shirley Olsen, Warren Olsen, Robert Szychowski

Society Trustees

Nancy Laudemberger, Bonnie Lou Field, Warren Olsen, Irene Schubert, Bev Mann and Gary Grubb

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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-East Windsor
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www.hewhs.com

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