

Hightstown



East Windsor

# *Historical Society News*

Spring 2022

## Disbrow Hill & Geodetic Markers

By Pat Donahue

**M**y home, the Mount Ely Hancock House, was originally on Disbrow Hill Road in East Windsor before being moved about ¼ mile away to its current location. My curiosity about the home led me to research the history of the name Disbrow and the history of the road. Thanks to Bob Craig's article in the Society's August 1989 newsletter, I ended up on a treasure hunt to find a geodetic marker that was once on Disbrow Hill.

Geodetic markers, like survey markers or monuments, are objects permanently placed to identify key points on Earth's surface. They are used in surveying. A benchmark is a type of survey marker that indicates elevation. Horizontal position markers used for triangulation are also known as triangulation stations. Geodetic survey markers were often set in groups as part of triangulation surveys. These measurement efforts moved systematically across regions to establish angles, distances, and heights between various points. These surveys laid the basis for map-making around the world. Today, these measurements are vital for floodplain mapping, engineering and construction, the physical sciences, and our global information system to support surveyors, utility companies, local governments, and property owners. One such reference point is only steps away from the Society's front door! (See photo.)

In 1795, the U.S. Congress wrote a resolution requesting that President Thomas Jefferson authorize a survey to map the New York and New Jersey coasts to reduce the number of shipwrecks and to support defense planning by the military. The authorization for this coastal survey passed in 1807 although work did not begin until 1816. Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler, a mathematics professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point, was hired as the first Superintendent of the U. S. Coastal Survey. He established



*Geodetic marker in the sidewalk steps from the Society's offices at the corner of North Main and Bank Streets*

a triangulation network from New York City to Philadelphia that consisted of 18 coordinated points. This network was later expanded to cover the entire nation. Hassler also standardized measurements across the country so that everyone everywhere used the same units. His measurements were in feet. (This marks the exact moment when we lost the chance to join the metric system!)

In 1839, Hassler himself buried a ceramic cone on Disbrow Hill in Millstone Township, Monmouth County, about four miles southeast of Hightstown. This cone was intended as a monumented control point in the triangulation system. The hollow, truncated cone made of thinly glazed gray pottery measured 24 inches in height, with an outside diameter of about 8.5 inches, and was ½ inch thick at the top or small end. At that time, the land was part of a farm owned by John Disbrow, hence the name of the hill. The 1851 Jesse Lightfoot map clearly indicates that there is a

(cont. pg 3)

## President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Warren Olsen. He was a loyal member of the Society and for years chaired the building committee. Thanks to everyone who sent in a donation in his memory. We send our sincerest sympathy and prayers to Shirley.

Year-end brought a number of special donations as well as dues renewals. There are still many dues unpaid so please send yours today. We recently had to replace the oven in the kitchen and treat the chimney brick which has been deteriorating. Special thanks to Curtis Crowell for coating the brick and assisting in the selection and replacement of the range/oven.

My business has been keeping local records for 140 years. Included were many old Central Bank of New Jersey records and checks given to the Society. Also, there are insurance policy journals and hand-sketched surveys of farms, businesses, and residents. Bob Craig has reviewed and indexed many of them which will assist in future research. It was very tedious work. Thanks, Bob. This brings me to the subject of the library. Joe Louderback has been organizing and archiving the many documents and items we have received over the last few years. Space is becoming quite a problem. We will be working on a plan to make the best use of the space we have and consider alternatives that will be appropriate for our collections.

We have been working on a project to memorialize the contributions of African Americans to Hightstown/East Windsor agriculture, business, and neighborhood. Sadly Aula Sumbry of Airport Road passed away before this has been completed. You can view a presentation we made in Trenton just after his passing. <https://williamtrenthouse.org/videos>.

Finally, the East Ward Street/Peddie Bridge. Many of us have been working to minimize the impact of the county's plan to replace the bridge with one that is much wider and that can accommodate very heavy loads and taller trucks. They advise it will collapse and will need to be closed and abandoned if no work is done. Plus if done, it has to comply with standards regarding width and weight loads. If the issue is still alive when you read this, please reach out to the town and county to let your thoughts be known.

## Features

- 1 **Disbrow Hill & Geodetic Markers**  
*by Pat Donahue*
- 6 **The Post Office**  
*by Cappy Stults*
- 8 **Perritt Labs**  
*by Cappy Stults*
- 9 **Hightstown's World War II Observation Post**  
*by Cappy Stults*
- 10 **Roosevelt-Shippen Farm**  
*by Cappy Stults*
- 10 **Hightstown Then and Now**



As always, thank you for your membership and interest in preserving our town's history for future generations to enjoy.

Cappy Stults, President  
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## Disbrow Hill... (cont.)

“Trig Station” on Disbrough Hill. (See photo next page.)

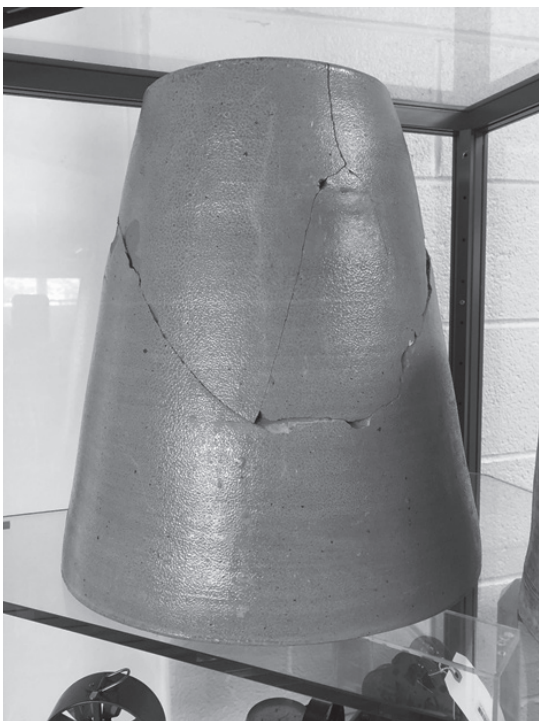
In 1869, J. Farley, another surveyor, set out to locate Hassler’s cone. He noted that on the road from Hightstown to Freehold, the farm where the cone had been placed was now owned by James A. Perrine. Farley measured angles and distances from the original bearing tree – an apple – to several cedar and locust trees to establish the “exact” location of the cone.



1851 Jesse Lightfoot map that includes the “Trig Station” at the top of Disbrow Hill and homesteads of several well known families, such as Norton, Ely, Dye, Perrine, Mount, Imlay etc.

In 1931, the site was re-visited, but no one in the area knew anything about the marker and the surveyors were unable to find it. In 1935, after another attempt, surveyors concluded that the Disboro marker was impossible to relocate and a second monument, a brass disc set in concrete, was installed in what was thought to

be the approximate location of the original cone. This became Disboro 2. Three trees were blazed with triangles to aid in locating the disc in the future. (A tree blaze is a cut made deeply into a tree, often in a triangular shape, to indicate that the tree is part of the triangulation system. Damaging a tree in this manner is no longer done.) We now know that Disboro 1 and Disboro 2 were more than 100 feet apart.



Hassler's 1839 cone set at the top of Disbrow Hill. Note the cracks that were described in the 1936 report.

In 1936, a third recovery crew visited the site. They found both the original cone and the brass disc. The cone was buried 18 inches underground in densely packed yellow sand. While a portion of the cone had cracked, the cracked pieces remained in place. Two additional brass markers, Disboro 3 and Disboro 4, were set in concrete posts. The site was then forgotten.

In 1982, Governor Kean issued a proclamation to mark a week in October as surveyor's week to commemorate their professional contribution to society. The theme was “The Pathfinders: Past, Present, and Future.” The Professional Land Surveyors Association of New Jersey (PLSANJ) looking for an activity to celebrate surveyor's week, sent a group of volunteers to locate Disboro 1.

Armed with a lot of equipment – the most important of which turned out to be machetes – the group proceeded to find the “highest spot.” Initially, they looked for a mailbox with the name “T. Pullen” opposite a drive leading to the farm at the base of the hill where Disboro 1 and 2 were located. (You may recall a previous article I wrote about a branch of the Pullen family that lived in my house.) From Disbrow Hill Road, they followed a dirt

road up the hill on foot, passing through the Lutheran Memorial Park Cemetery. The descriptions of the climb and search are funny now, but I am sure the participants were not amused by thickets, briars, deer trails, ticks, mosquitoes, ravines, dense shrubbery, thorns, poison ivy, and a lot of trees. Which trees were here in 1839? How big would they be now?

After several failed attempts, volunteers returned to the area with even more equipment. Finally, they found large blazes on two sides of a tree. When a machete produced a loud “clink” about 8 feet from the tree, they whacked the brush aside to reveal the brass disc of Disboro 2. They “smiled until our faces hurt.” On Thursday, October 14, 1982, 18 inches below the ground’s surface, they found the original cone! Surprisingly, a smaller cone was found under the first. There are no records on this second object. The cones were removed and a brass disk set in concrete was installed in their place. Initially, the cones were on loan to the State Museum in Trenton. They now reside in Corbin, VA with the National Geodetic Survey Testing and Training Center, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (See photo.)

I thank Wendy Lathrop, Dave Doyle, Dan Martin, and Kendall Fancher – professional surveyors all – for their assistance in tracking down the cones. Their joy at the rediscovery became my joy. Wendy was on the 1982 search team. She dug the cones out of the ground and recalls that they were quite heavy. With her help, I was able to identify the house that is now at the top of Disbrow Hill. The owner confirmed that the marker is in the backyard, but I was not able to gain access. I hope someday to see it and to see the cones.

I now turned my attention to tracing the farmer after whom the hill and the road are named. Desborough and the variants Desbrow and Disbrow were English surnames prominent during the English Civil War of 1640 - 1660. There are two villages in which either or both may be responsible for the surname. These are Desborough in Buckinghamshire, so-called from the Olde English pre 7th Century word “dwostle,” an aromatic plant now called Pennyroyal that was used in herbal cures, plus “beorg,” which may mean a castle or fortress, but can also mean a hill. (I am amused to think that Disbrow Hill may translate to “hill hill.”) The second origin is from a place in Northamptonshire, originally named in Olde English as “Deoresburh,” which translates as “the strong fort.”

The first recorded spelling of the family name may be that of Major General John Desborough of the army of the English Parliament in 1642. He was later the member of Parliament for Cambridge, and one of fifty-three people, including Oliver Cromwell, who signed the death warrant of King Charles 1st in 1648. Early recordings taken from church registers in London include

Richard Desborough who married Bridget Woodland at St. James Clerkenwell in 1722. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to “develop” often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling. (In this article, I keep the spellings found in the sources referenced.)

I found Dishborough, Disborough, Disborough, Disbrow, Disbrew, Desbrow, Dis-



*This smaller cone was buried underneath the larger and was only discovered in 1982. There are no known records regarding this smaller cone.*

boro, and others. This was my first complication. The reuse of first names, such as John, Henry, and John Henry in different generations, led to quite a bit of additional confusion. There were so many branches and members of these families that I found it difficult to identify those living on or near the hill. Because geographic areas were often named or grouped differently in successive decades in the census, identifying the correct location proved difficult as well.

The 1982 search for Disboro 1 refers to

Hassler meeting a John Disboro in 1839. However, when Hassler set Disboro 1, John Henry Disborough was only four years old. His father, Henry Disborough (1803 – 1890) would have been in his early thirties. (Henry is buried at the Cedar Hill Cemetery.) There were two other men named John, one Disboro and the other Disbrow, living in the area. Who lived on or near the hill?

I started with Henry. He married John's mother, Maria Reading (1802 – 1865), in 1830. Henry's parents were Judge Daniel Henry Disborough (1776 – 1849) and Matilda Van Liew (1783 – 1851). Since Daniel had three wives and many children, this research was tricky. Daniel's parents were Henry Disborough (1740 – 1810) and Catharine VanMater (1756 – 1822). They married in 1774. I was unable to trace Henry's ancestors back any further. Instead, I followed the easier to navigate maternal line and was excited to trace it back to 1619 in the Netherlands, encountering death by hunting accident, Quakers, a "divorce," a Lieutenant Governor, a Governor, and even a surveyor along the way. After countless hours working on this lineage, I realized I had the wrong John and the wrong Henry and perhaps even the wrong Millstone. Sigh.

Millstone in Monmouth County was formed as a township by an act of the New Jersey Legislature in 1844 from portions of Freehold Township and Upper Freehold Township, as well as part of Monroe Township in Middlesex County. (The portions taken from Monroe Township were relinquished in 1845.) As such, the 1840 census has John Disborough living in Upper Freehold, while the 1850 census has him in Millstone.

There is a record of a John Disborough serving as a private in the New Jersey Militia (2 Reg't Seward's) during the War of 1812. I cannot determine if this is the man after whom the hill and the road are named. According to the 1830 Census, a John Disborough lives in Upper Freehold with three males and two females. The

1840 census shows John living with three males and two females of various ages, along with a third woman who I assume is his wife. In addition, a free black female between the ages of 10 and 24 is part of the household. This page of the census contains many familiar names - Ely, Mount, Perrine, and Dey to name a few. Is this the John who met with Hassler?

The census of 1850 shows a John Disborough, aged 61, living in Millstone. He is a farmer, and his net worth is \$8600. The Assistant Marshal conducting the survey is Joseph Ely. John is married to Mary, aged 50. They are living with Mary Jane, 20, Daniel, 17, and Julia, 7. Daniel and Julia go to school. An additional member of the household is Isaac Snedeker, 15, who is identified as "idiotic" and "pauper." The NJ state census of 1855 shows John living with two adult women and one female child between the ages of 5 and 16. According to the 1860 census, John Disborough, now 70, is a farmer living in Trenton with Mary, aged 60, and Julia, aged 17.

Online, I was able to find a John Disbrough (1788 – 1872) buried in Perrineville. With the help of Leona Hart, secretary of the United Presbyterian Church of Millstone, I found a John Disborough buried in the adjacent cemetery, which is less than 2 miles from the hill. According to the New Jersey Graveyard and Gravestone Inscriptions Locators for Monmouth County, the cemetery dates to 1803 although some stones date as far back as 1777. Additional land to expand the cemetery was donated by William H. Mount in 1848. Unfortunately, the church was destroyed by fire in 1884 and many records were lost. In 2002, Edward Raser cataloged the burials by carefully reading the headstones and cross-referencing with other records. His report includes this entry:

Disborough, John W., "Father," d. May 10, 1872, aged 84.1.19 (2-3);

wife Mary H., d. Feb. 3, 1862, aged 62.10.25 (2-2); son William, d. Jan. 19,

1832, aged 10.1.21 (2-4); dau. Elizabeth A. Reid, d. Oct. 18, 1888, age not

given (2-6); Elizabeth's dau., Mary Isabella, no date or age given (2-6).

I believe this is the John Disboro who met with Hassler in 1839. John would have been about 50 years old at the time. Another family named Disbrow is also buried in the cemetery, but the names, dates, and ages do not appear to match the timeline of the placement of the original cone by Hassler. Unfortunately, the names in the cemetery entry do not match the names in the census. Are these two different families? I can't tell.


My research now turned to the history of the road itself. The area where the Mount Ely Hancock house was eventually built



was owned by John Hutchinson in 1740 and by Thomas Mount in 1771. Etra Road originally went from Hightstown to Perrineville. It was surveyed in 1773. In June of 1833, the Ely house was mentioned in a road survey that approved the construction of Disbrow Hill Road. The plans for the road were discussed at the home of John Wyckoff at Milford in East Windsor. While not yet named, the plan was for a public road, 2.5 rods or 41.25 feet wide.

On page 281 of Middlesex County Book B of Road Returns begins a description of the proposed road, leading from Milford to Clarksburgh near the home of Vincent Bordine, Jr. The road then runs over land owned by Samuel Ely and passes directly in front of his – my – house. The road passes over Rockey Brook, lands owned by Joshua Norton and Lewis Allen, onward to the properties of Lewis Riggs, Antony Applegate, and Charles Butcher, then across Aaron Ely's meadow to Peter Bergan's lands. The new road connects with the road leading from the red tavern to Perrines Mill near where the Middlesex and Monmouth County lines cross. All measurements are given in "chains" and "links." (Thanks to Hassler for introducing feet and inches!) The road was scheduled to open for public use on May 1, 1834, about five years prior to Hassler's visit.

Disbrow Hill Road became infamous for a crematorium located nearby. It was probably built in the 19th century. The structure where bodies were cremated, with the remains either shipped out or buried in the graveyard adjacent to the building, was large and built of bricks, stone, and cement. It included a smokestack and ovens with huge doors on them, as well as openings for windows and doors. According to Weird NJ, the abandoned crematory was used by Rutgers fraternities and Douglass sororities as part of pledging/initiation processes starting in the 1940s. Visitors described a basement filled with rubble. To get there, trespassers had to jump through a hole in the floor. There were some pipes through the floor, which were assumed to be part of the crematory equipment. In the nearby woods, there was a graveyard.

The crematorium building was still there as late as 1986. When it was demolished, skeletons were uncovered in the surrounding ground. (Cappy is fond of telling the story of taking his kids for a drive there during Halloween and scaring them with spooky stories of the crematorium.) Today, Disbrow Hill Road is a busy thoroughfare connecting East Windsor, Millstone, and Monroe. Near the Sandy Acres Farm where my house once stood, one lane of Disbrow Hill Road lies in Millstone and the other lane in East Windsor. While Millstone repaved their side, and Monroe repaved their portion, the East Windsor portion remains somewhat neglected. The three towns did not coordinate with one another to resurface the entire road all at once. A road once meant to connect communities now finds itself at its junction. 

## The Post Office

by Cappy Stults

Hightstown's first post office was established in 1819 and was located in the old part of the Smith building on Stockton Street. Hightstown was at the crossroads of stagecoach routes, both east to west and north to south. When the railroad came to Hightstown in 1833, this location was adjacent to the train depot.

The US Post Office started home delivery in 1863, but only in heavily populated cities. Postal receipts and population determined whether a town received federal funding to have a post office. Actual home delivery as we take for granted, started in Hightstown in 1915. Calvin Perrine and William Bardell were the first carriers. Prior to that letters were simply addressed to, e.g., "Charles Stults, Hightstown, NJ." Residents of Hightstown/East Windsor as well as many surrounding towns that did not have post offices had to come to Hightstown's post office and receive their mail from the postmaster. Old issues of the Hightstown Gazette from the 1800s and early 1900s had many "notices" from the postmaster listing received mail that had not been picked up by the addressee. Although rural delivery began in many states in 1902, most farmers had to also come into town to get their mail unless they had paid someone to deliver it to them. Many local documents and letters will refer to Monroe, Millstone, and other residents and businesses as being in Hightstown. Both the C&A and Pemberton to Hightstown Railroads (aka the UT) dropped mail off at their various stops after having been sorted in Hightstown. In 1949, Hightstown was designated a "first-class post office" even though its population was only 3,500, likely due to the service and population of the surrounding areas.

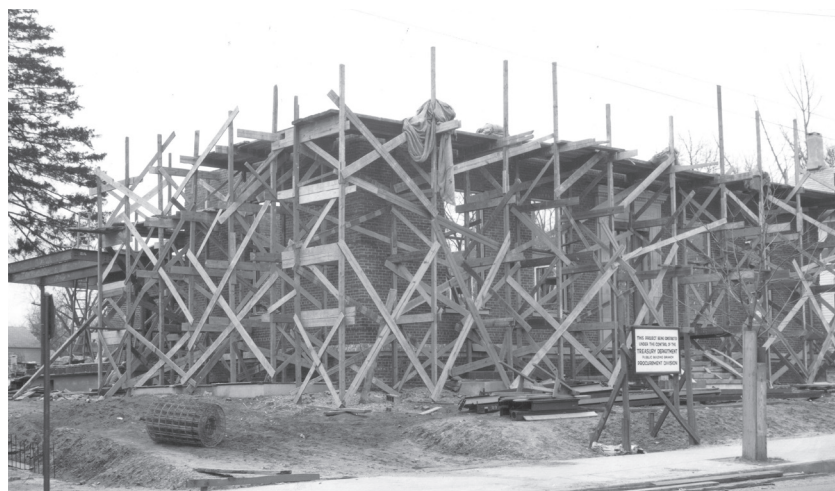
After the Smith building on Stockton, the post office was located in a frame building where the recently closed Wells Fargo Bank stands. It then moved to the "point" of Mercer and South Main Street,



*On the back: "Bergen Essex Construction Co., Contractors. From the northwest side looking southeast. Taken June 2, 1937. I certify that this photo shows the condition of the work on the above date. A.A. Fletcher, Const. Engr."*



*On the back: "January 26, 1937. From N.E. looking southerly. Contractor; Bergen Essex Construction Co. Belleville, N.J. Construction Engineer; Salvator Caradonna."*



*On the back: "March 25, 1937. From the North westerly side looking south east. Contractor; Bergen Essex Construction Co. Belleville, N.J. Construction Engineer; Salvator Caradonna."*

in a frame building owned by Joseph Per-rine. Then to the Odd Fellows building on Main Street, then back across the street to a building where the Wells Fargo parking lot is, and then back to the point in the building then owned by Dawes (Fountain Square). All rented facilities.

After years of being a tenant, in 1937, a US Postal Building was erected at 145 South Main Street, a WPA project. The Universalist Church and a dwelling were razed for its construction. These pictures depict the construction of this 6,300 square foot cement and masonry building. It was expected to be adequate for many decades but with the construction of the turnpike and many new corporations in the township, it became inadequate. In 1971 the post office rented space in an "annex" at 116-120 North Main Street, where 12 Farms Restaurant is located today. There was also an annex in Warren Plaza on route 130. In 1974, the North Main Street annex was moved to 625 Mercer Street, the old Agway, where the pet store is located today. In October 1975, the current post office at 150 Mercer Street was completed. It has 17,000 square feet. All annexes were then closed.

The pictures all have identification on the back as to date, the view, contractor, and





On the back: "Contractor; Bergen Essex Construction Co. Looking to north end of lobby. Taken July 1, 1937. I certify that this photo shows the condition of the work on the above date. A.A. Fletcher, Const. Engr.

engineer name. These were sent to the post office or WPA administration, assumedly in Washington D.C., showing the progress and allowing for payment to be made to the contractors.

The Perritt's bought the building in 1985. See the related story. 

## Perritt Labs


by Cappy Stults

**Dr. Alexander M. Perritt** and Margaret Perritt came to Hightstown in 1962 when Alex worked at Carter Wallace in Cranbury. After jobs with Worthington BioChem and a Princeton consulting firm, he got the idea to open his own labs. In May 1973 they began the business in their family home on Meadow Drive as a child-resistant package testing laboratory performing work with children and adults under a newly enacted United States standards on Poison Prevention Packaging. In 1975, Dr. Perritt, a Ph.D. in microbiology from Syracuse University, was able to pursue another passion by expanding Perritt Laboratories' offerings in the form of microbiological testing in their new facilities on Franklin Street.



They purchased the Post Office building and grounds in 1985 and have continually improved the facilities. They have been an important part of the community both as an employer and in civic affairs. Alex was a councilman in the Borough and served on many boards and commissions and Margaret was very active in civic organizations. They have been life members of the Society for many years.

Their son, Scott Perritt, joined the firm in 1988 and became president in 1995. Two of his brothers-in-law, Richard Ward (married to Linda) who runs the child-resistant packaging department, and Rick Jakober (married Susan), runs the microbiology department. Susan started working at the labs in 1982 and is the office manager. Andrew and Brian Ward, Alex and Margaret's grandchildren, are also with the company and Scott's son, Bryce, recently graduated from Dickinson College and works as a laboratory analyst at Perritt.

Perritt Laboratories is a three-generation family business that has been a great asset to the community. The post office pictures in this newsletter are courtesy of the Perritt family with the assistance of one of their staff, Michelle Paul. Thank you all. 




# Hightstown's World War II Observation Post

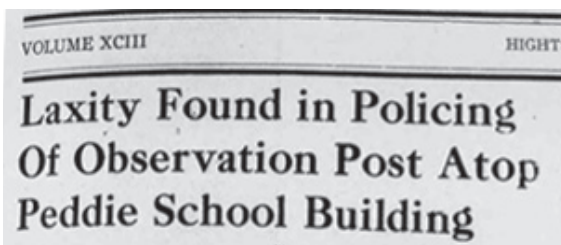
by Cappy Stults



I will list some of the most familiar ones. By the way, my grandfather also told me similar volunteers protected the railroad bridges over

North Main and Stockton Street during WWI, and they checked the tracks as well. Many of the observers were still in high school, others retired and still others were teachers, business owners, and farmers. 

Few may remember, and most never knew, that Hightstown was an official Observation Post to spot enemy aircraft during WWII. Dozens upon dozens of citizens volunteered for this 24-7, 7 days a week activity. The observation post was on the roof of Memorial Hall, Peddie Campus. It was overseen by the military. One Saturday three inspectors showed up and found the policing to be "Lax". Coverage was voluntary but scheduled. If you had volunteered and something came up, you were to secure a substitute. The Chief Observer was William West. He was sent a formal letter from the First Interceptor Command, Mitchell Field, Long Island. The letter advised West of how critical the post was to the US national defense and must be properly policed.



Headline from the January 29, 1942 Hightstown Gazette.

I had heard about this post from my grandparents. The volunteers and schedule were actually published in the Gazette. Not all of the names are included in this article, but

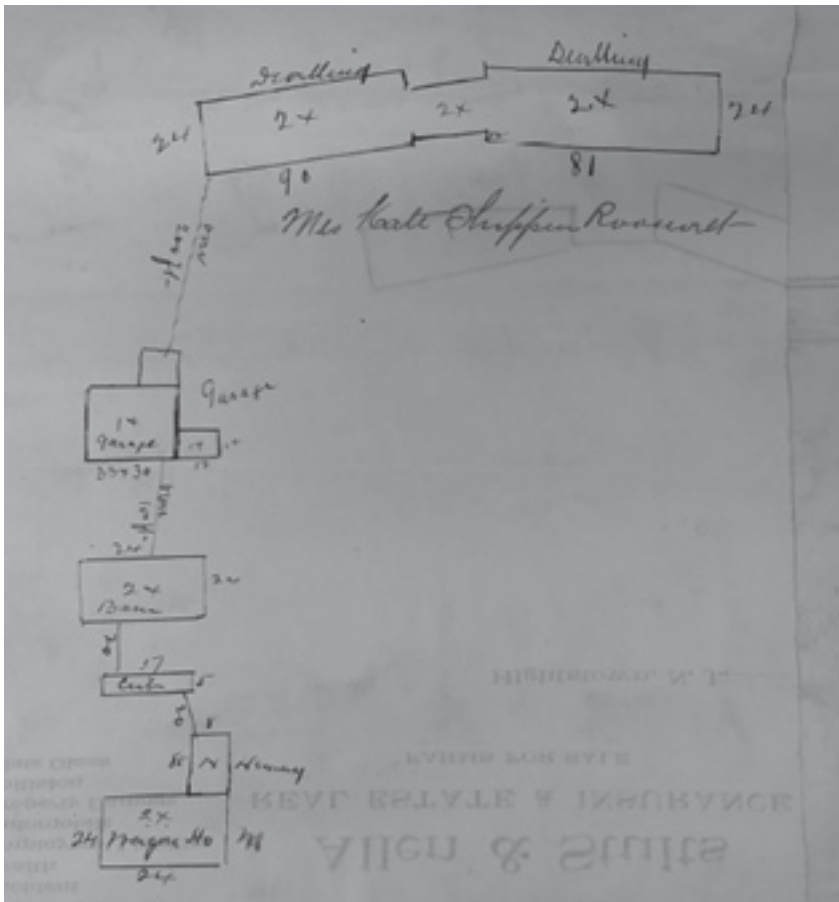
Here's a list of observers in alphabetical order.

John Archer	William Glackin	Cliff Shangle
John Beaulieu	Ted Greczyn	Clinton Sprout
William Braun	George Hall	Horace Stonaker
Prescott Barrett	Willis Hancock	Ray Stonaker
Robert Campbell	Ken Heidinger	Charles Stults
Joseph Carter	W.S. Heyer	Ken Stults
Calvin Chamberlin	Fred Hopkins	Stanley Stults
Barney Cook	R. Hornberger	Everitt Swift
Foreman Coward	(Mash fame)	Edward Tabler
Walter Craig	Mervin Ivins	Harry Taylor
Frank Cutinelle	Ed Juris	Ernie Thompson
Phil Cutinelli	Korman Keeler	Homer Thompson
Jim Damasco	Harry C. Locke	Reggie Thompson
Ernest Davison	Joe Locke	T. Totten
Conrad Decker	Herb Lutcken	David Turp
Alvin Dey	Daniel Mahar	James Turp
Spatford Dey	Samuel McCue	Harry Weller
Joe Diblin	William Mielke	Art Wilson
N. Ditchos	Ray Mount	Austin Wright
George Dubell	Frank Norcross	David Zaitz
Don Eldridge	Sumner Norton	Max Zaitz
Howard Eldridge	Lester Owens	and many others.
H. Embley	Calvin Perrine	
Frank Ewert	Jerry Potter	
William Ewart	William Powell	
Grover Field	Stenson Rogers	
Sam Ford	William Rue	


## Roosevelt-Shippen Farm

by Cappy Stults

Connected with Pat's Disbrow Hill article and my mention of Bob Craig's journaling of Allen & Stults insurance surveys, here is one page of one farm survey that was located on the west



side of Battleground Road, Millstone Township. This is less than a mile from the Disbrow Hill location she refers to in her article. For those who might remember, it was owned by Kate Shippen Roosevelt. She married Teddy Roosevelt's cousin and bought this farm as a "country retreat". It appears Allen & Stults insured it as we had to survey every property, particularly farms. You can see how large and sprawling the house was and the large number of outbuildings. Many will recall Sharon Hazard from the Long Branch area who came to our Society in search of this farm. Kate always referred to it in her diary as "Hightstown" so some thought it was Meadow Lakes. That made no sense to me so after getting a good description from Sharon of the creeks and distance from town, I concluded it was what I knew as the Profaci mansion. I did not have access to this survey at that time as it remained in our office's attic. Kate would take the train into Hightstown or Princeton Junction and be picked up by her caretakers. I wrote briefly about this in the Fall, 2018 newsletter article on the Spanish Flu Pandemic.


When I was in high school my Roosevelt and farmer friends knew this property well. Kate's estate had sold it to Joseph Profaci. He was portrayed in the Godfather II movie as the Don of NJ. He had many business "meetings" at the farm. It was well hidden in the trees, down a long lane. In the 1960s teenage boys used to go there to drink beer... so I am told. 

## Hightstown - Then and Now

This is 128 Stockton Street, across the street from the Smith House. It was once the American Store which was an early chain supermarket. The "Then" photo was taken in 1924, one year before the American Stores had grown from five supermarkets in 1917 to nearly 1,800 stores.

The American Store eventually became Acme Supermarkets. Our older residents might remember the Acme that was located a few doors down from here.

In the "Then" photo, we see (L-R) Lawrence Ivins (clerk), Charles Rogers (produce manager), Daniel Webster Ivins (manager), and Edna Ralph (clerk).

Today 128 Stockton Street is Hair By Sharon. 





## Hightstown East Windsor Historical Society

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



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## Membership Application

*Support us this year at the following rates:*

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Booster .....\$40            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining.....\$50     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (Individual) .....\$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life (Family).....\$275 |

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

**Or pay online by clicking "Become a Member Today"  
on our website: hewhs.com**

☐ 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**  
**Historical Society**  
164 North Main Street  
Hightstown, NJ 08520  
[www.hewhs.com](http://www.hewhs.com)

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