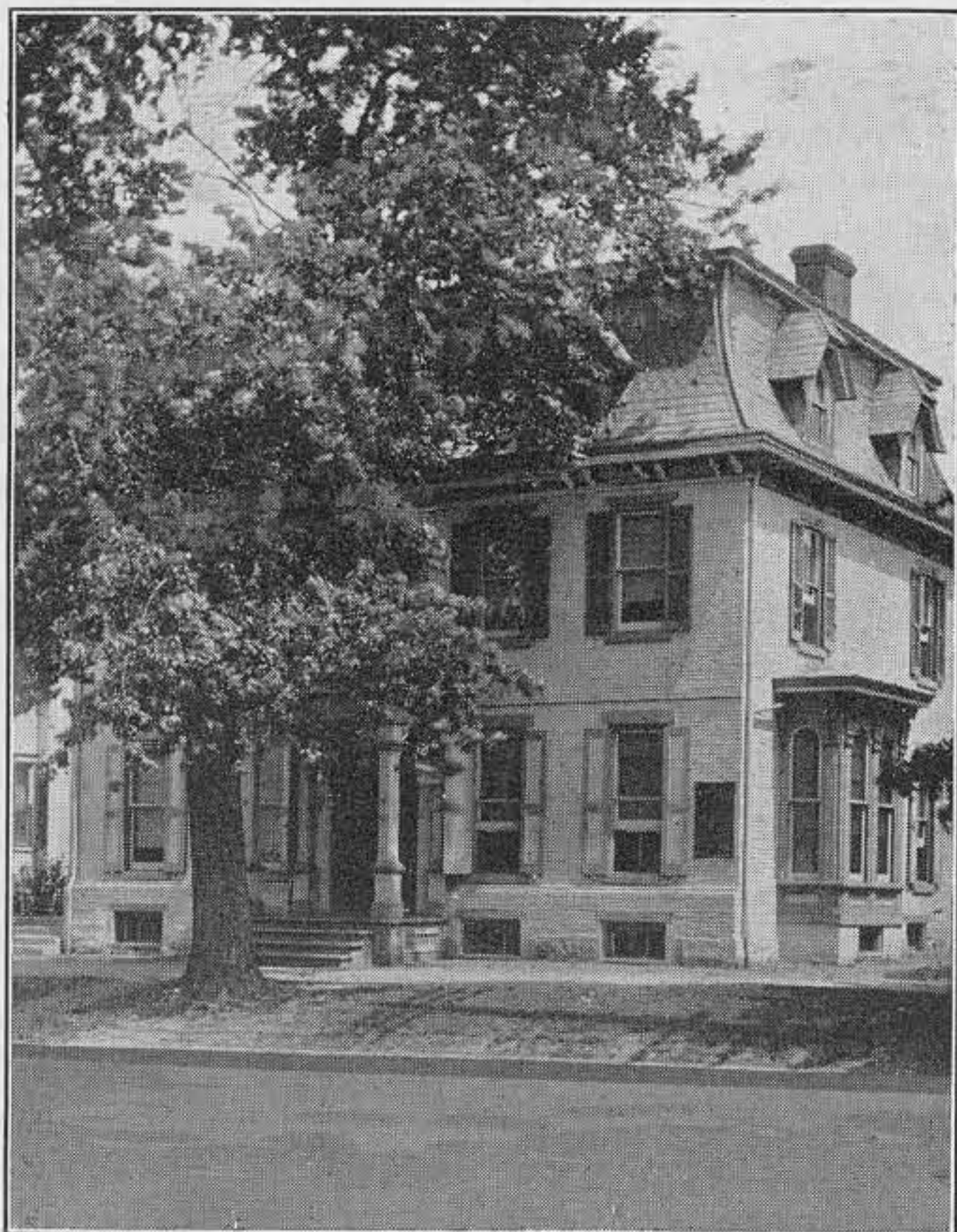


Bulletin of the Gloucester County Historical Society

VOL. 1

SEPTEMBER, 1947

No. 1



GLOUCESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

58 North Broad Street, Woodbury, N. J.

Record Room and Vault

Room 202, County Building

Publication of the
Gloucester County Historical Society
Woodbury, New Jersey

Publication Committee:

Mrs. Walter A. Simpson Mr. Raymond C. Archut
Rev. C. V. Miller Miss Emma V. Duffield

Editor—Hazel B. Simpson, Delsea Dr., Hurffville-Sewell, N. J.

Forty-fourth Annual Meeting

The forty-fourth annual meeting of the Gloucester County Historical Society was held May 28th 1947 in the Freeholders room at the County Building, Woodbury, New Jersey.

New officers were elected with Mrs. Robert T. Weatherill, Woodbury, as the new President, succeeding Mr. Hugh L. Mehorter, who declined renomination. He had served faithfully and well for ten arduous years. Mr. Ernest Redfield is first vice-president; Mr. Louis B. Moffett, Sr., second vice-president; Miss Ada Wilkins was re-elected for her 18th year as Secretary and Treasurer;

Mrs. Henry H. Clark, resident curator; Miss Emma V. Duffield, active curator. New Trustees for five years were Mrs. Walter A. Simpson, Hurffville, and Mr. Amos J. Peaslee, Clarksboro. Our beloved Frank H. Stewart is President Emeritus and continues to activate our interest in our Historic County and our illustrious heritage.

Following the business meeting Mr. Frank O. Stetser, President of the Historical Society of Gloucester City gave an interesting account of "The Capitol City of Old Gloucester County, Gloucester City."

* * *

Board Meeting

A meeting of the Officers and Trustees was held at the Society Building on June 25th, with the new President presiding. Appointment of committees to carry out the work for the building up of our membership, and for stimulating interest of the public were considered.

Committees appointed included:-

BUILDING AND GROUNDS—Messrs Ralph L. Kurtz, Thomas W. Synott, 2nd., Hugh L. Mehorter, Lewis Lupton, Miss Ada Wilkins.

HOUSE AND EXHIBITS—Mrs. Charles A. Bill, Miss Matilda Whittall, Rev. C. V. Miller, Mr. Alvin S. Crispin.

GIFTS AND LOANS—Mrs. Walter A. Simpson, Mr. Daniel W. Davis, Miss Emma Duffield.

MEMBERSHIP—Messrs Alvin S. Crispin, Amos J. Peaslee, Louis B. Moffett, Sr., Ralph L. Kurtz, Ernest Redfield, Mrs. Altha Summerill, Mrs. Charles A. Bill.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS—Messrs D. W. Davis, Amos J. Peaslee, Misses Matilda M. Whittall and Bertha T. Rambo.

* * *

Guest Night

On June 26th we had as our guests at the Red Bank Battlefield and at the Ann Whittall Home, members of the Historical Society of Gloucester City with their President, Mr. Frank O. Stetser, and members of the Camden County Historical Society with Mr. John D. F. Morgan, President.

Hon. Hugh L. Mehorter, Gloucester County Assemblyman, told the high lights of the history of that memorable Battle at Red Bank (Old Fort Mercer) on October 22, 1777.

Freeholder Alvin S. Crispin, Chairman of the Battlefield Park Committee, told of the work that had been done and the aims of the county and state for its preservation.

From Red Bank the visitors came to 58 N. Broad St., to view our extensive collection of antiques and valuable heirlooms.

Museum Notes

Summer hours now prevail at the Historical Society Headquarters. Until September 15th they are as follows:- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, A. M. 9 to 12 and Wednesday P. M. 2 to 4.

Special visitations may be arranged by appointment—Call Woodbury 2-0159M.

Recent gifts, not yet catalogued, are: A Japanese Flag, captured on Okinawa, presented in honor of Company G, 381st Infantry, 96th Division, by Captain Louis Reuter, Jr. A Family Bible; a particularly elaborate arrangement of wax flowers in hollowpane, two interesting old dolls, and several articles of clothing, presented by Joseph Owens, of Miami, Florida, formerly of Gloucester County.

Perhaps the most glamorous of recent gifts is the complete bridal outfit worn, and bequeathed to this Historical Society, by Mrs. Edward T. Bradway (nee Miss Fanny Virginia Watson) of Woodbury. In addition to the wedding gown, made in Paris, of lustrous brocaded satin and elaborately embroidered with pearls, are many articles of the trousseau, complete from the flowered wreath for the head to the high buttoned shoes of white satin. The lingerie, with its tiny tucks and lovely imported laces, might well fill any bride of 1947 with envy!

This trousseau will be on display as soon as a proper case can be procured.

F. B. C.

* * *

Reference Room 202

The Gloucester County Historical Society Room 202 in the County Building Annex is open each week day from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M. Miss Emma V. Duffield, is happy to assist the public in research problems in history, folklore or genealogy. The files are treasures of valuable material. Thousands of card indices, family genealogies, manuscripts, books, etc. make our library and references up-to-date and not to be excelled.

To our ever growing library have been added several genealogies including the DuBois Family, (a French Huguenot Louis DuBois came to America 1661), the Powell Family, (an old Gloucester County deed places its location at old "Upton" on Gloucester River as early as 1699), the Springer Family, (one Carl Springer located at Christiana (Wilmington), Delaware from Sweden), the Beckett Family, (was compiled by one of our Charter members, Dr. George M. Beckett, who now resides at Washington, D. C.), the Fisler Family an old Gloucester County Family, (was compiled by Leslie E. Fislar, Lincoln, Nebraska, a veteran, who after all the work on this family has not found them to be connected to John Fislar, who enlisted from Middlesex County, N. J. in the Revolutionary War and was pensioned from there, his ancestor.)

* * *

The New Jersey Folklore Society has issued a pamphlet, compiled and annotated by Horace G. Richards, of "One Hundred South Jersey Novels." A bibliography of fiction with a Southern New Jersey setting. Rev. Henry C. Beck, Pennington, N. J., is the President and Hugh L. Mehorter, Woodbury, vice-president of the Folklore Society.

In Memoriam

The Society has lost two Charter members during the past year, who were long active in the affairs of the Society and who were members of the Board of Trustees.

Miss Sybil Tatum Jones, resident curator for a long term of years, passed away October 15, 1946.

Mrs. Edward T. Bradway (Fannie V.) a generous supporter and active worker, passed away December 16, 1946.

Chevaux-de-frise at Red Bank

Sections of the famous Chevaux-de-frise—the stockade constructed in 1775 by patriots to block the British fleet from reaching Philadelphia—are on permanent display at the Red Bank Battlefield Park.

It was on July 3, 1775, that a Council of Safety of Pennsylvania was organized in Philadelphia with Benjamin Franklin unanimously chosen as its first president.

On July 5, 1775 a committee was appointed to visit the principal inhabitants of Old Gloucester County to solicit their assistance and as a result, 296 pine logs, to be used in the making of the Chevaux-de-frise, were generously donated by the following men who lived near the Delaware River front: Benjamin Whiteall, John Wood, Nathan Kinsey, Richard Johns, David Paul, Joseph Low, James Brown, Joseph Ward, Joshua Hopper, Isaac Hopper, Levi Hopper, James Wood, Joseph Tatem and Charles West.

The first string of Chevaux-de-frise was sunk at Fort Mifflin.

These frames were built from logs, as much as sixty-five feet long and twenty inches square with two-by-four heavy timbers extending therefrom at an angle of about forty-five degrees, with heavy iron snagged points made by blacksmiths. The barrier was lined with thirty thousand feet of two-inch plank, floated out in the river at Fort Mercer and Fort Billingsport, and sunk with stone and held in place with anchors at a depth of about four feet below low water mark.

These timbers, anchors, points and heavy chain now on exhibit at Red Bank Park are the last remains of the stockade taken out of the Delaware near Fort Mifflin in 1936, and placed on exhibit September 25, 1946 by the Battlefield Park Committee, Freeholder Hugh L. Mehorter, Alvin S. Crispin, Stanley Martin, Robert Lee and George Hughes, superintendent.

Present-day Army engineers admit with all their equipment of modern machinery it would be a most formidable task to have accomplished what the patriots did.

* * *

The descendants of John Earley will meet September 13, at Aura (Old Union Cross Roads) on part of the identical land first purchased 1764. Charles W. Earley, Hurffville, President.

Gloucester County Historical Society Building

The home of the Gloucester County Historical Society, 58 North Broad Street, Woodbury, New Jersey, was purchased November 10, 1924.

The house was built 1765 by the Rev. Andrew Hunter, celebrated clergyman, chaplain of Militia and the Continental Army during the Revolution. At the Battle of Monmouth he was complimented by General Washington. He participated in the tea-burning episode at Greenwich, Cumberland County, N. J., November 22, 1774.

After the Revolution he was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Woodbury. He was one of the founders and Principal of the Woodbury Academy. From 1788 to 1804 he was a trustee of Princeton College and from 1804 to 1808 professor of astronomy and mathematics.

The house is an attractive structure of its period. It is today almost as it was in the 18th century. Even the original slate roof is intact, its sturdy brick walls and interior woodwork.

This house was the boyhood home of Captain James Lawrence, U. S. N., whose famous "Don't give up the Ship" was his last command as he lay dying aboard the frigate "Chesapeake" at the close of the only major naval engagement in which the British were victorious over the Americans in the War of 1812.

This home of illustrious heritage contains thousands of interesting items, most of them relating to the history and development of our County. By purchase and many generous gifts and bequests, over a long period of years, one of the most remarkable exhibitions of its kind has been assembled.

In the library are about 6,000 volumes, some of which are rare books dating back to the middle of the 16th century. There are also many old and original documents and manuscripts including an instrument dated 1675, signed by John Fenwick, one of the West Jersey Proprietors. The Society also possesses the original marriage certificate of Betsy Ross, and an indemnity bond given to Washington while President. In the Museum are Indian Relics including an old dugout, weapons of the Revolution and the Civil Wars, coin collections, old Quaker dresses, spinning wheels and furniture, including the writing desk of Elizabeth Haddon, besides other items too numerous to mention.

The museum is open to the public each week day from 1 to 4 P. M. in Winter. (Summer schedule is given elsewhere in this Bulletin.) Mrs. Henry H. Clark is a very gracious hostess and takes pleasure in telling the history of our treasures of yester-year.

During the past year several valuable gifts were made to our Society, among which was a legacy of \$3,000 from Mrs. Edward T. Bradway.

* * *

Old Gloucester County

When ancient Gloucester County was first formed it was a sectional part of West Jersey or Nova Caesarea. By authority on the 26th day of May, 1686, the proprietors, freeholders and inhabitants of the 'third and fourth tenths' met at Arwaxes (Gloucester City) and organized a

jurisdiction, or county, by the adoption of what may be termed a county Constitution.

This new county was all that vast territory lying between the Pensaukin Creek on the north, Oldman's Creek on the south, the Atlantic Ocean for an eastern boundary and the Delaware River a western, now the present counties of Gloucester, Atlantic and Camden.

The early white settlers for this territory included first the Dutch 1623, then came the Swedes 1638, followed by the English who always claimed it.

Our earliest records extant have various localities for their possible deposit:- 1. New Amsterdam (New York & Albany) for the Dutch. 2. Upland (Chester, Penna.) New Castle & Christiana (Wilmington) Delaware for the Swedish Regime; 3. As New Jersey was once part of the English Colony of Virginia, at times our records are found in the Virginia Archives. 4. Boston, Mass., was once a Capitol seat and some New Jersey records have been discovered there. 5. Perth Town (Perth Amboy) a combination of Perth and Ambo, capitol of East Jersey, and Burlington, capitol of West Jersey—both have records in the Surveyor Generals' Offices. 6. New Jersey Archives contain many early deeds, wills, marriage licenses, marriage bonds, etc.—these are all found in the Secretary of State's Office at Trenton, N. J. upto 1804. 7. Woodbury, Gloucester County, N. J., has volumes of Records of Old Gloucester County in the Archives of the County Building and of the Gloucester County Historical Society.

When the first voyagers came to our shores they found the Leni-Lenape Indians whom William Penn described as "the most merry creatures that live, feasting and dancing perpetually—"

To the Delaware River the Indians gave the name of Lenape-Wihittuck, later called Kit-hanne; it became Prince Henry or Charles River (1609); the de la Warr River (1610); Zuydt (1623), South (1630) and Nassau; Svenska Rivier (Swedish River), Nya Sverige's Elf (New Sweden River) finally the English gave it the name Delaware River again in honor of Lord de la Warr, Governor of Virginia.

New Jersey was also called Scheyichbi (Scheyackbi) which is derived from scheyek meaning a string of wampum and bi meaning water and is interpreted 'the land of shell wampum.'

The Indians called our southern boundary Kag-kik-sez-achen sippus, Mosacksa and, in a deed 1676, Mattick Cussing, (sippus meaning river or creek); the Dutch and Swedes-Alderman's kilen (kil in Dutch and kilen in Swedish meaning the same as sippus); the English called it the Berkeley, or Barkeley, River and finally it came to us as Oldman's Creek.

* * *

The Junior American Citizens Clubs of the Woodbury schools visited the Battlefield and the Homestead in June and learned about Ann Whitall and the Battle of Red Bank right where the battle took place.

* * *

Freeholder Alvin S. Crispin of the Battlefield Park Committee has made many improvements that will interest you.

Bulletin

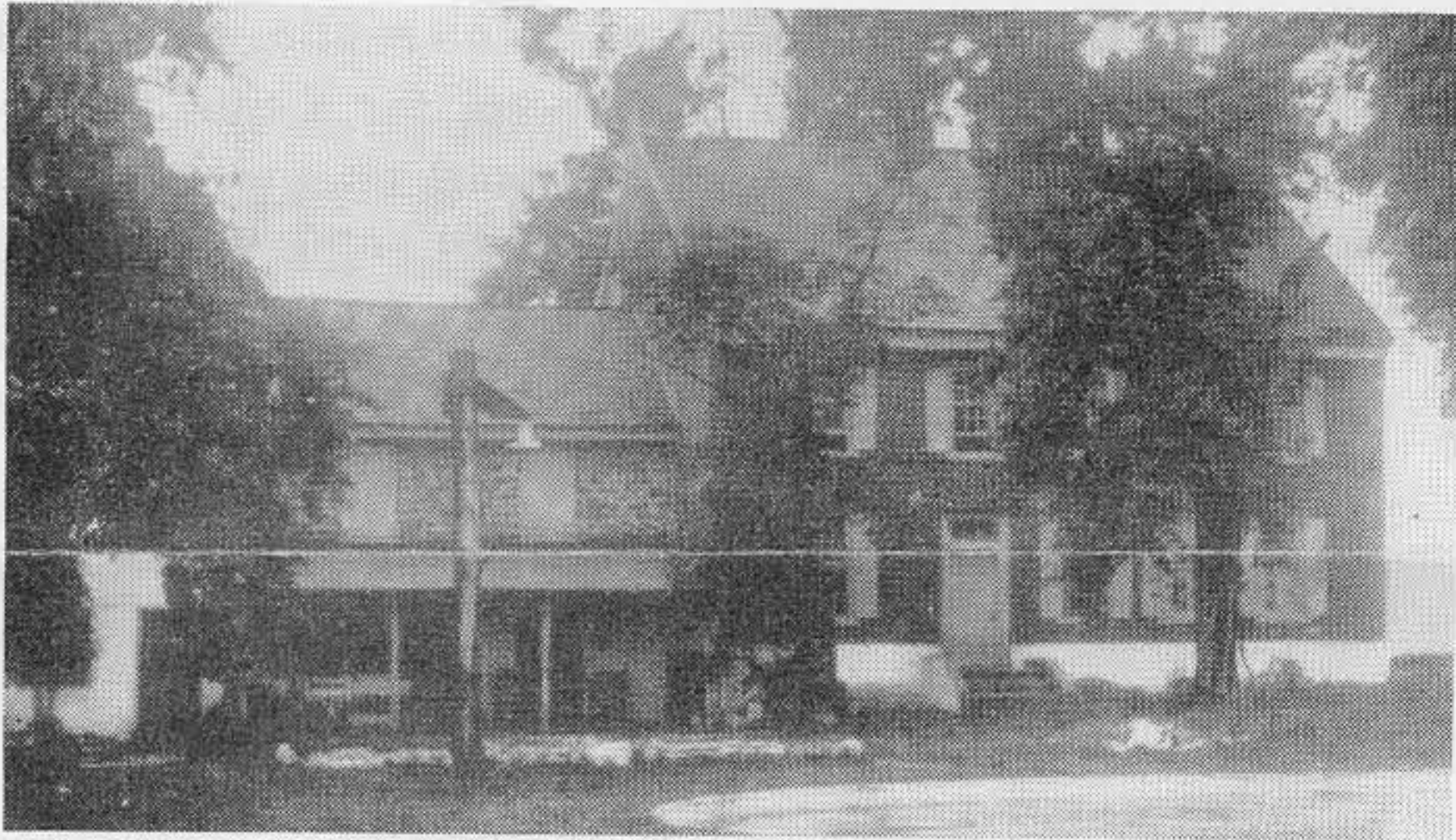
of the

Gloucester County Historical Society

VOL. 4

MARCH, 1954

No. 3



OLD WHITALL MANSION

The Whitall Family of Red Bank

It has been stated that the Whitall family came from Litchfield, Stafford County, England, to Gloucester County, West Jersey about 1686.

In 1688 James Whitall purchased 100 acres of land of John Ladd fronting on the south branch of Great Timber Creek — called "Upton". In 1700 he sold "Upton" to Richard Chew and purchased that same year 411½ acres on the Jersey side of the Delaware River. This property was called "Red Bank". He moved there soon after the purchase, records show he was residing there in 1704. Previous to his ownership, it seems to have been the property of Henry Treadway in 1684 who held possession for sixteen years, he had purchased it from Samuel Jennings and Thomas Budd. James Whitall lived on this property for fourteen years until his death in 1714. During those years he had purchased additional land in the years 1701, 1704, 1708 and 1710.

At the death of James Whitall it was devised to his son Job Whitall who held possession for eight years when it became the possession of his only son James Whitall in 1722. This James Whitall held possession for eighty-six years.

The first James married Hannah (maiden name unknown). They had children:-Mary Whitall who married 1710 John Wood; Job Whitall who married 1716 Jane Siddon and Hannah Whitall who married 1715 Henry Wood.

Job Whitall and Jane Siddon were married 8 mo 4, 1716. He died 3 mo 1722. Their children were:-James Whitall born 7 mo 4, 1717 died 9-29-1808 and Hannah Whitall born 9 mo 9, 1720.

James Whitall married at Haddon Monthly Meeting 9 mo 23, 1739 (O.S.) Ann Cooper, born 4 mo 23, 1716 died 9 mo 22, 1797, aged 82 years, a daughter of John and Ann Cooper.

This James Whitall built the brick Whitall Mansion now an historic land mark. "J.A.W. 1748" was cut in the north gable, meaning that James and Ann Whitall had built this house at that date.

Ann Whitall stands out in history as the heroine of the Battle of Red Bank and also she leaves a diary which she termed 'her meditations'.

In later years came the rumors of war, followed by active preparations at her threshold, for just opposite, at the mouth of the Schuylkill river, on Mud Island, Fort Mifflin was built, and Fort Mercer was thrown up in Whitall's apple orchard on the bluff. Their log barn was torn out to furnish timber for the stockade that was constructed within three hundred feet of their door-sill. For had not General Washington said that "without the free navigation of the Delaware I am confident that General Howe will never remain in Philadelphia," hence, in order to hasten his departure, the Americans were contriving to make Lord Howe's stay as unpleasant as possible. To quote this Quaker historian's quaint version written in scriptural style:

"Now, the people of the provinces had laid impediments in the way of the ships of the King of Britain, so that they could not get to the city, and the hosts of Britain, were sore troubled because of these things.

"And the victuals and all the implements of war that were wanted in the host, they brought in carriages to the city, and the charge thereof was great and the arrival of the carriages uncertain."

On that fateful Wednesday, October 22, 1777, after setting her house in as good order as possible, that she might protect herself for whatever God ordained, Ann Cooper Whitall took her spinning wheel to the southeast room. As that wheel whirled round, the guns of the British frigates Augusta and Merlin boomed a gamut of threats — those of the nearby fort roared defiant answers and the musketry of besiegers and besieged, mingled with the screams of the wounded, kept up an incessantly horrible racket.

Then one of the balls went wild of its aim and entered the north gable just below 'J.A.W.' and as if seeking the old lady, it crossed the northeast room, then the hall, and into the southeast room in which Ann Whitall sat spinning, where it fell inert. Here she continued to spin until tumult ceased and the battle was over.

Ann Whitall was on hand with bandages that evening when the injured were brought in; the house was filled, even the attic was crowded. She administered to their needs, this being clearly within the line of duty — "to care for the ill and dying and direct their minds to a solemn commemoration of the approaching period of life."

*Bulletin of the**Gloucester County Historical Society**Editor — Mrs. Walter A. Simpson, Sewell, N. J.*

For members and reciprocal societies

Colonel Green then took command of the house — the dead were interred on the banks south of the stockade and Ann Whitall returned to her daughter's, Sarah Murdock.

After the evacuation of the fort on November 29, 1777, the British came and laid waste to everything, but the Whitall house. Although it was not deemed safe for the family to return to their home on the bluff until Monday, April 20, 1778 — the record in James Whitall's diary state "after an absence and precarious living for upwards of six months."

James and Ann (Cooper) Whitall had the following children:- Zathes, b. 8-27-1740; James, b. 12-23-1741; Job, b. 1-27-1743; Hannah, b. 10-5-1744; Benjamin, b. 10-3-1747; Joseph P., b. 1-9-1750 shipwrecked on coast of Holland 1779; Hannah, b. 8-16-1752; Sarah, b. 12-6-1754 and John S., b. 5-13-1757.

J.G.W. & I.C.M.

* * *

Gloucester County Marl

The discovery of marl and its general use during fifty years — 1825-1875, marked the beginning of a new era in Gloucester County Agriculture. It meant the renewal of fertility in worn out soils and the introduction of clover, the most useful of soil-enriching crops in the middle of the last century, when lime and marl, with clover, were the mainstays of general-crop farms in our region. To see one of the first clover fields in bloom in the Williamstown section eighty years ago, farmers traveled for miles.

The great marl-beds on the south branch of Timber Creek were the most patronized. Forty teams in a string, hauling marl were no uncommon sight, on the old Williamstown and Good Intent turnpike, 60 years ago, some farmers hauling it ten or twelve miles, the common saying being, "The further away from the pits the more good marl does."

Lime, marl, new ground and Peachblow potatoes went well together, but that excellent natural fertilizer suddenly went out of fashion, along with the Peachblows, and the wide old marl lane, dotted with marl heaps, over which hundreds of teams hauled marl from

Brewer's and Marshall's Blackwood marl pits, over half a century ago, is now included in a cultivated field where all traces of former activities have been obliterated.

The marl deposits along Mantua Creek were also extensively worked, and because of the superior quality and ready sale, a railroad spur was run into the pits, where the freight cars were loaded for hauling to distant points. However, the marl pits were for a time abandoned. In recent years the Sewell marl pit was reopened and the deeper deposits of the green sand was put to another use, that of a water softener.

According to the authorities marl was first used in Monmouth County in 1768.

H.B.W.

* * *

A Forgotten Industry

During the Civil War an occupation now abandoned, was followed in the summer seasons, to a considerable extent, in the Crosskeys region — that of gathering and preparing sumac for the use in tanning and dyeing morocco.

In good haying weather the sumac gatherer sought out the abandoned old fields where sumac grew in abundance. They broke off the leafy twigs and spread them in open spots to dry, afterwards pounding the dry material fine, winnowing out the stems and twigs, and bagging the pulverized leaves for market.

Simon Charles Rammell, then a Crosskeys store keeper, set up a mill near his store, buying the dried sumac in the rough and grinding it by horse power.

The numerous old fields about the Hewitt farm furnished generous amounts of this sumac. The last gatherer was James D. Timberman.

J.W.D.

* * *

Membership in our Society

\$50 Life membership receive all publications.

\$3 sustaining membership receive all publications.

\$1 membership per year receives the Bulletin, quarterly.

Watkins Stewart Library is open every Monday from 11 A. M. to 3 P. M.

Museum is open Wednesday and Friday from 2 to 4 P. M.

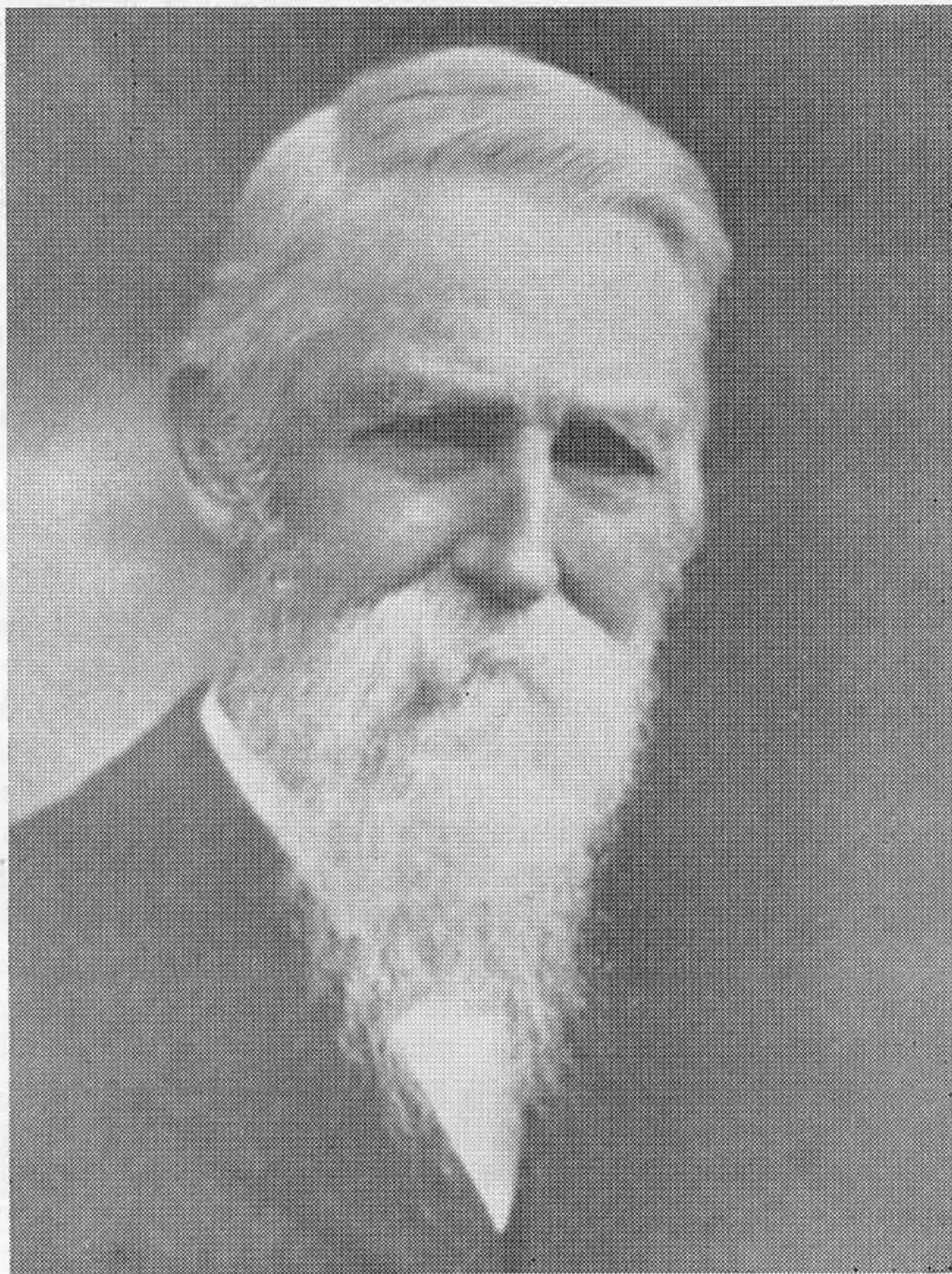
Open by arrangement with Mr. Leslie L. Lammert curator of the museum.

Gloucester County Historical Society

VOL. 8

JUNE, 1963

No. 8



John Gill Whitall

First President

First President 1903-1918 President Emeritus 1918-1919

In 1903 when the Gloucester County Historical Society was organized, 60 years ago, the leading spirit, the pioneer in the formation of our nationally known society today was John Gill Whitall.

If Mr. Whitall could look back and see what his initial work has grown to be, we hope he would be proud of his motive in starting such a worthwhile project.

John Gill Whitall was born in the Whitall mansion, Old Deptford Township, December 9, 1830, the son of Charles Whitall and Louisa Mickle Reeves. Sarah Wood was his grandmother and Ann Cooper Whitall was his great grandmother. This shows him to have been a descendant of the Wood Family, after whom Woodbury is named, and of Ann Whitall of the Battle of Red Bank which was fought on the Whitall farm lands, John Gill Whitall died August 30, 1921 at the ripe old age of ninety-one years. Years full of activity and accomplishments.

Mr. Whitall was a tall man over six feet in height, stately and upright, reserved, yet gracious and friendly.

In 1868 he married Sarah Clark French, who was the sister of John C. French and General French. They were the parents of one son, Charles French Whitall, and one daughter, Miss Matilda French Whitall, now residing at The Evergreens, Moorestown, N. J.

In his early life Mr. Whitall was brought up in the religious belief of the Friends, or Quakers, but his wife was an Episcopalian, a charter member of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, Woodbury, N. J. In later years he too became a member of Christ Church. He is buried in Eglington Cemetery, Clarksboro, N. J.

Mr. Whitall followed his father in farming and was as in all things he did a successful one. His farm was well cultivated and was considered one of the show places for scientific farming in Gloucester County. He took the Thorofare farm in 1851 and remained on it until November, 1888, when he moved to 117 Delaware Street, Woodbury, N. J. In 1914 he sold the farm and retired from active supervision.

In 1902 James Murray, then living on the Whitall Plantation at Red Bank, advertised a sale of his personal property, because he had been warned that the government was about to sell the hundred acre farm which was the scene of the Battle of Fort Mercer, and his lease would be terminated.

Mr. Whitall contacted Mr. W. Harrison Livermore, Hon. John Boyd Avis, Mr. William H. Albright and Mr. James D. Carpenter, who decided that something should be done to save the historic ground. These men went to Washington and sought the advice of Senator John F. Dryden. The Senator suggested that the Secretary of War be interviewed. That official heard the story of the Battle of Red Bank, and made the comment "the Government was not selling Battle Fields if it knew it."

Knowing that this action would not go through in a day, it was decided that an Association be formed to push the motive to save Red Bank Battlefield from destruction. Thus the Gloucester County Historical Society was formulated and was organized January 12, 1903, in the Court House, at Woodbury, N. J. when fifty persons were present in response to public notice.

Mr. George E. Pierson was elected Temporary Chairman and B. W. Peirce, Temporary Secretary of the meeting, which resulted in the election of Mr. John G. Whitall as the President, and which office he held until 1918, when he wished to be relieved as president in favor of a younger president to take over the building up of the Society.

On January 8, 1918 he was elected as President Emeritus, so that the Society would have his guiding hand in the organization, which office he held until his passing on August 30, 1921.

(Continued on Page 31)

*Bulletin of the**Gloucester County Historical Society*

Editor — MRS. WALTER A. SIMPSON

P.O. Box 501, Woodbury, New Jersey

For members and reciprocal societies

First English Bible of Gloria Dei Church,**Swedesboro, N. J. 1739**

In making copies of the Bibles and their records that have been donated from time to time to the Gloucester County Historical Society the old Bible of Trinity Church, Swedesboro came to light. It was printed in London by John Baskett, Printer to the Kings Most Excellent Majesty. MDCCXXXV. The Bible was presented to the Society by Dr. Halsey in April, 1937. It was placed in a special cover and placed in the case in the Bible Room.

At the end of the Apocrypha and preceding the New Testament is the Dedication of this Bible.

List of Donors

Racwown Creek July the twenty ninth 1739. This day we whose names are hear Unto sett doth Present this Bible for the Good of the Whole Congregation and not to be Removed from the Church of England at the Bove said Creek un less the English and the Swead should be Devide then this Bible is to be Removed to the English Congregation.

It is A Greed by all the owners that if any having any wright to this Bible that if they should leave the Church or any acation They have belongues to the above Sd Church.

The price of this Bible is two pounds Seven shillings and Six pence.

The names of the owners and Wrighters:

Elias Thomas	5 shillings 00-05-00
William Neville	ditto
John Rumford	"
Richard Pratt	"
Thomas Ferril	2 sh 6 pence
John Plumly	ditto
Jacob Richman	"
Francis Batten	"
William Estlacke	"
George Howox	2 sh 6 pence 00-02-06
Michal Conahee	ditto
Morris Conahee	"
Jonathan Beaton	"
William Webster	"
Brian Ward	"

The copying of the Bibles has been completed and there were 130 Bibles stored in the Bible Room, with about ten photographs albums, one old Hymnal and three copies of Flavius Josephus. (E)

Shad Fishing 1876

The Faunce Shad Fishery was owned and operated by two brothers, Daniel and Francis Faunce, who were of French descent, and was situated on the east shore of the Delaware river, between Mantua and Woodbury Creeks in Gloucester County.

Their net was knit with heavy twine, four inch mesh. The lead 1 line was heavily leaded and hundreds of wooden corks on the cork line making the net one mile long (called a seine). They had a crew of forty-five emigrants from Ireland and five horses.

They put the net on the stern of a boat forty feet long manned by sixteen men. Each man pulled an oar twenty feet long. The captain steered the boat while the men rowed the net off. The lines were run ashore fastened to two capstans with two horses attached that drew the net ashore. Then the men were treated to a drink of cheap whiskey they called "grog". They got a drink every haul. Then they pulled the net ashore by hand.

When the bag reached shore they loaded the fish into a market boat with hand scoop nets. They were taken to a fish market on Dock Street wharf, Phila. Sometimes shad sold for \$5. per 100 and herring for .10¢ a 100.

May 15, 1876 they caught 2000 shad and 10,000 herring at one haul. It took three hours to make a haul. They made five hauls a day, six days a week, rain or shine. Sunday they pulled the net over the bank in the meadow to dry, and mend the holes. Wages were \$1. a day.

The sturgeons that were caught were killed and sent adrift in the river as they were of no value. Young sturgeon were called Moogens.

The emigrants lived in a large cabin, with a table in the center. All of their dishes were made of tin. The cooks kept the table set all the time so the men could eat whenever they got hungry. Food consisted of fish with plenty of bread and vegetables.

Sleeping quarters were bunks built on the side of the cabin three tiers high. The bed was loose rye straw with plenty of blankets and pillows.

Today nothing is left of shad fishing in the Delaware and a good shad today is priced at mostly .39¢ per pound. (Hewett)

Three Doctor Harris's

We have read with much interest the articles of "Genealogical Data" contributed by Mr. Frank H. Stewart over the year.

In looking over some old papers we discovered the following:

Dr. Isaac Harris had two brothers, physicians.

Jacob Harris, Surgeons Mate, First Battalian, Second Establishment, Nov. 28, 1776. Surgeon's Mate, 4th Battn., 2nd Est. Feb. 26, 1777. Surgeon's Mate 1st Regiment, Sept. 26, 1780, Surgeon's Mate 3rd Reg. Nov. 16, 1782. Discharged at close of the war. He dressed the wound of Count Donop, at Red Bank, Commander of the Hessians, who died at a farm house at the mouth of Woodbury Creek.

Benjamin Harris, who practiced at Pittsgrove, and died in middle life, th epreceptor and afterward the father-in-law of Dr. James Stratton. E.T.T.

John Estaugh

Very little has been written about John Estaugh, the Quaker businessman, missionary, and husband of Elizabeth Haddon, neither of whom as yet been portrayed in bronze or tablet. Haddon overshadows the name of Estaugh, but John was a noble fellow well worthy of admiration.

Down on the British Virgin Islands, on Sir Francis Drake's Bay, lies the island of Tortola, named for the turtle doves incidental to it. Drake and other early adventurers sailed past it on the way to America. It is about 12 miles long and three miles wide with a total area of approximately twenty-one square miles.

There were nearly thirty Quakers on Tortola when a letter dated April 10, 1741, was sent to an Englishman in London and another to the Friends in Philadelphia, which was mentioned in the minutes of 5 mo. 3rd, 1741 asking for outside assistance. Thomas Chalkley responded and sailed from Philadelphia 7 mo 19, 1741 and landed 23 days later. On the 4th day 9 mo. he died of a fever and was buried in the little Quaker grave yard.

The next year John Estaugh and John Cadwallader landed at Fat Hog Bay 9 mo. 8, 1742 and Cadwallader died about two weeks later. Estaugh, who attended the funeral, was caught in a shower and developed a fever and also died "on the 6th day of 10th mo, 1742." John Pickering, a resident of Tortola, wrote details to Elizabeth Haddon, and stated "the 1st day of 10th mo. he took great notice that it ended forty years since his marriage with thee."

His widow, who served as clerk of the Haddon Women's Monthly meeting for more than half a century, left a blank page between the minutes of the 10th and 11th months 1742. Today this mute tribute to her loving regard for her loving husband John Estaugh, who was buried along side of Thomas Chalkley and John Cadwallader in brick tombs above ground of which no vestige now remains.

John Estaugh made his will 8th mo. (Oct.) 5th day 1742 O.S. just before he sailed on his missionary trip to Tortola. He left his entire estate to his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Haddon, late of St. George, Southwark, in Great Britain, deceased, and made her executrix. He was interested in the Pennsylvania Land Co., and a capable business man.

Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh wrote "John Estaugh" "A Call to the Unfaithful Professor of Truth," and printed by Benjamin Franklin, 1744. Longfellow in "Tales of a Wayside Inn" also throws a glamor over John and Elizabeth Estaugh.

St. Thomas Church, Glassboro

St. Thomas Church was the first church in Glassboro. It stood on the ground at the north end of the settlement mostly in the woods in front of what is now known as the old "Episcopal Cemetery".

The building was of rough hewn boards, a plain, small, one-room building with benches of crude type. According to records, it is shown that previous to the erection of this building services were held in the one-room log cabin school house, which stood nearby.

The bell hung in a tree near the school house door. In front stood a row of lombardy poplars. In the old burial ground there are a number of gravestones bearing

the dates of the late 1700's with the inscriptions in German. The church was under the care of the Swedesboro parish, and lasted fifty years, and had a very hard time to survive after it became a part of the community, since after the Revolutionary War, the Episcopal ministers either went back to England, or followed their congregations to Canada. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts took charge of the Glassboro parish along with others that had been left without leadership. The rise of Methodism swept the country and many of those trained in the old church went over to the new.

Various reports of the parish were made to the Convention from 1813 to 1841, when the parish was incorporated, and the congregation decided to change the location of its building. As a result they received as a gift from Mrs. Bathsheba Whitney, a daughter of one of the original founders of the parish, a lot upon which the present edifice stands at Main and Focer Streets. The corner stone was laid by Bishop Doane on April 8, 1864, the church being built of native sand stone alone at a cost of \$5,000.

This historic parish has endured through all these years and her character has not changed. The Department of Interior at Washington, D. C. has certified that St. Thomas Church has been selected as possessing exceptional historic and architectural interest and worthy of the most careful preservation for the benefit of future generations, and a record has been made and placed for permanent reference in the Library of Congress.

John Gill Whitall

(Continued from Front Page)

During those eighteen years Mr. Whitall saw the accomplishment of about twenty acres including the Battlefield and the Whitall Mansion, placed in charge of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Gloucester County.

In 1907 saw the placing of a tablet on the old Moravian Church, below Swedesboro, which was so largely attended by members of the Society and interested friends. President Whitall was proud of the work that the Society had done in forever marking the spot where the early Swedish settlers and Moravians worshipped God.

All through the meetings and intervals between meetings President Whitall was planning for the growth and advancement of the Society interests. He was widely known throughout the state and Eastern Pennsylvania for his outstanding work in History and Historical places. He was aided and abetted in his work by his daughter Miss Matilda French Whitall, who aided her father in securing relics for the Society, keeping an up-to-the-minute scrap books, which today tells us of all the papers read before the Society on outstanding citizens and historical events. These papers were published and are our prized possessions today. Meetings were held at various points of historic interest to acquaint the public with the history and historic tours were taken too.

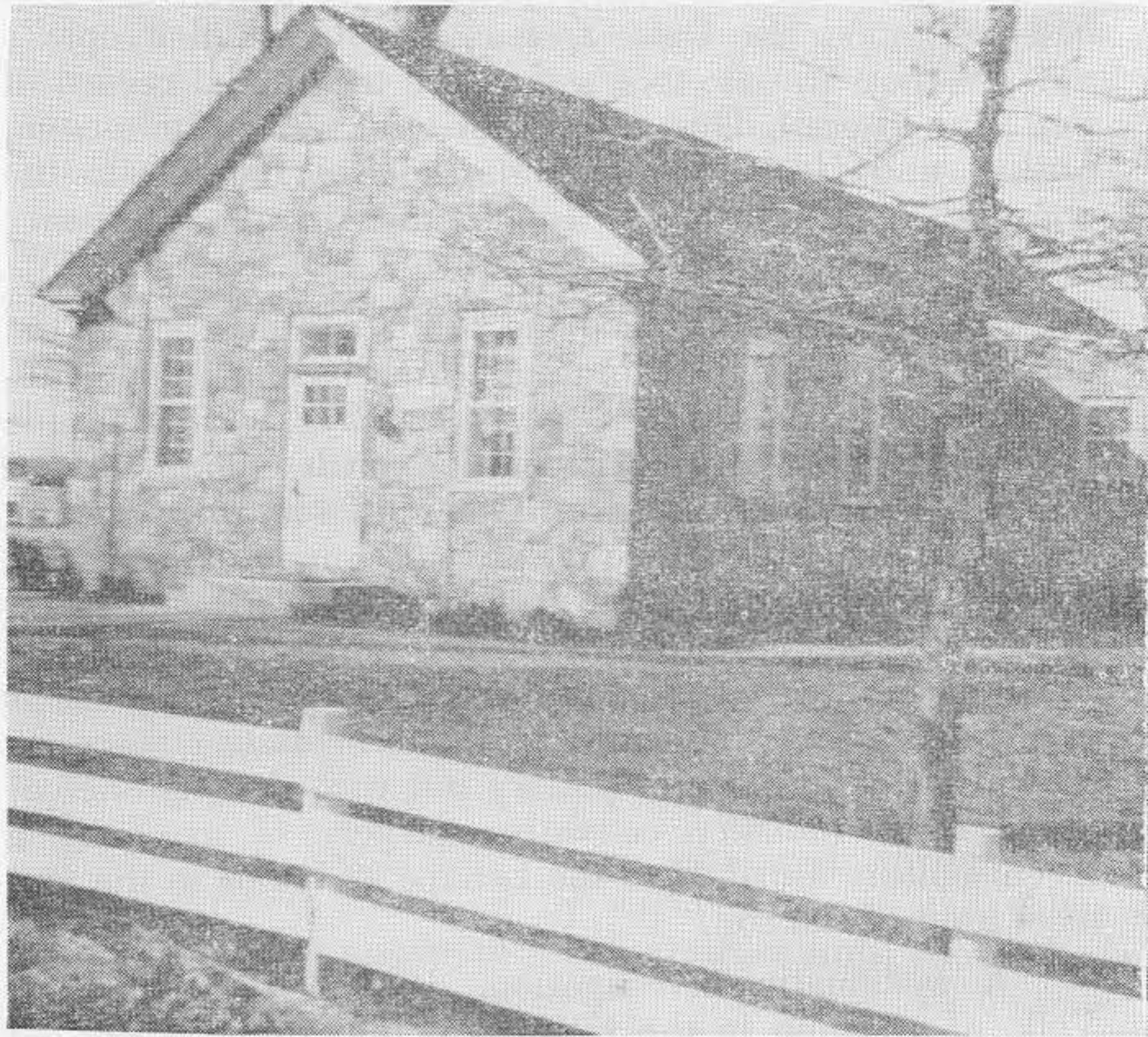
After all is said and done we owe to Mr. John Gill Whitall a debt of gratitude for his awareness and foresight in making our Society the outstanding landmark to his memory in this our sixtieth year of activity.

Bulletin of the Gloucester County Historical Society

VOL. 9

MARCH, 1965

No. 7



Mantua Grove School

Frank O. Stetser (1942)

The history of Mantua Grove actually dates back to the 17th century and was once the stamping grounds of the famed Lenni-Lenape Indian tribe. The first school, built of logs, was located just 200 yards north of the present building. That was in 1810. It was used for thirty-one years until Joseph Tatum, a Quaker, gave a deed for a piece of land where the present stone school now stands.

Progress of the community is reflected through the advancement of the school down through the years, according to a history prepared by Mrs. Mary D. Taylor, principal and a teacher for seventeen years. (quote)

"The history of Mantua Grove dates back to the middle of the 17th century. Situated two miles south of Woodbury, its rolling landscape made a picturesque and inviting setting for an Indian village just north of the present chapel; another on the present Stetser farm and also on the Jack Nolte farm. The Indians were a part of the famed Lenni-Lenape tribe. Many relics have been discovered by residents of the community on the farm of the late Mary Blensinger. One of the best Indian sites was on the banks of Mantua Creek, near the 'Tatum Oak,' which was 800 years old when accidentally destroyed by fire a few years before (1942).

"One day, Tench Francis, made a bargain with the Indians to trade the vast expanse of 800 acres for a sow and ten baby pigs. This he sold in 1774 to William Cooper for \$300. In the 17th century, this land was almost entirely timber land. Some of the early settlers laid out a crude road, starting at a spot where the old Parkville station was situated and extending northwest between the

present Harry Lentz farm and the present location of the school to the spot where the Shuster farm is situated. Each family cleared its land of trees in order that it could be farmed. The wood was shipped to Philadelphia and exchanged for food and clothing.

"Many of the famous houses in Philadelphia were built with this timber. King's Highway, extending from Burlington-Salem, was the first important highway. This is famous in Revolutionary War history. Up this famous road, or horse path, "Mad" Anthony Wayne drove a herd of cattle by way of Pennsgrove and Wilmington. This army gathered cattle all along the way from farmers, giving them almost worthless receipts for their cattle which were later redeemed by Congress.

"King's Highway in Mantua Grove also held romantic qualities. Elizabeth Haddon, for whom Haddonfield was named, was riding to a meeting. In passing through a small ravine, near the site of the Parkville station, her saddle girth became loose. She asked John Estaugh, a young minister, to adjust it. After the others had passed on, she took the opportunity to tell him that she believed the Lord had sent him to be a companion for her. Later, in 1702, they were married.

"It is only natural that as the families thrived financially that these progressive citizens should plan for the education of their children. So the first log school was built in 1810 and it stood about 200 yards north of the present building in a grove of trees. This was used for thirty-one years until a Quaker gentleman, Joseph Tatum, a man always interested in the cause of education and a trustee for forty years, gave a deed for a piece of land where the present stone school now stands. An association was formed under the name of "Contributors to the Mantua Grove School House." No teacher was allowed to teach more than 30 pupils without an assistant. The school in 1850 contained double desks, made like boxes, of bare wood. Church services were held there. Between the school and the church, the community progressed consistently."

Mrs. Taylor cites that in 1876 the railroad was built from Swedesboro to Woodbury, along with Ogden station. The Thomas Ogden mansion stood on a hill overlooking the station and he had a private stairway built from his home to the station. The Salem stage made daily trips along the highway. A ferry ran from Bridgeport to Arch street, Philadelphia, known as the "Jersey Blue." This ferry brought many citizens to this section called Berkley, later Mount Royal; "Fly Adams," now Thorofare, and Carpenter's Landing, now Mantua. There was shad fishing between Mantua and Woodbury creeks. Charcoal burners operated in Mantua creek.

Attempts were made to raise silk in this locality. As the population increased, the demand for a larger school was made and in 1900 another room, the same size as the original one, was built.

Mrs. Taylor writes, "For 100 years, Joseph Tatum's

(Continued on Page 28)

New Jersey Officers in Red Bank Campaign

The following from the "Trenton Times" Tuesday, June 26, 1906.

Colonel C. E. Godfrey of the Adjutant General's department at the State House, has compiled from the official records of the office, a list of the New Jersey militia officers who, with their commands were on duty in the campaign resulting in the Battle of Red Bank, either actively engaged therein or stationed as supporting forces at Woodbury, Haddonfield or Gloucester. The list had not been published previously.

Newcomb's Brigade: Brigadier General Silas Newcomb and staff; Robert Patterson, Brigade Major.

Burlington County: Colonel Bowes Reed and staff. Captain Joseph Borden, troop of horse; Captain Edward Thomas, troop of horse, Captain Albemarle Collins, Lieutenant Daniel Hendrickson, Captain John Leak, Captain Robert Quigley, Captain Joseph Vandyke.

Cape May County: Colonel John Mackey and staff, First Lieutenant John Cresse, Captain Salathiel Foster, Captain Henry Y. Townsend, Captain James Willets, Jr.

Cumberland County: Colonel Elijah Hand and staff, Captain John Barker, Captain Jonathan Beesley, Captain Elijah Davis, First Lieutenant Ephraim Foster, Captain William Lowe, Captain John Peterson, Captain David Platt.

Gloucester County: Colonel Joseph Ellis and staff, Captain Richard Cheesman, troop of horse; Captain Franklin Davenport, artillery; Captain Jacob Browning, Captain Joseph Collins, Captain Joseph Conover, Captain Sawtel Elwell, Captain Felix Fisler, Captain David Paul, Captain William Price, Captain Christopher Rape, Captain John Stokes, Captain William Watson.

Morris County: Lieutenant Colonel Benoni Hathaway, commanding and staff; Captain David Bates, Captain Aaron Bigelow, Captain Ezra Brown, Captain Nathan Horton, Captain Jeremy Slaight.

Salem County: Major Edward Hall, commanding; First Lieutenant John Smith, adjutant; First Lieutenant James Steel, quartermaster; Captain Jacob DuBois, Captain Joseph Haywood, Captain Abner Penton.

Sussex County: Lieutenant Colonel John Seward, commanding and staff; Major Samuel Westbrook, Captain George Allen, Captain Josiah Cole, Captain Benjamin Coykindall, Captain Conrad Gunterman, Captain Thomas Hill, Lieutenant Abijah Hopkins, Captain Manuel Hover, Captain Simon Simonson.



Miss Emma V. Duffield

After serving the Gloucester County Historical Society as curator of their many manuscripts that have been contributed and deposited in the fire-proof vault in the Gloucester County Room 202 in the Court House, during the past thirty years, Miss Emma V. Duffield has retired from public service.

During the early years of her administration the work of filing and listing all the material available was started under her capable management. She really laid a firm foundation for the Society to build upon with the many contributions that have been made over the years.

Card files of our County Statistics as well as of the manuscripts have been made of which there are thousands for the searcher to go through for information.

During the years a good authentic history and genealogical reference library on Old Gloucester County has been built up. Toward this project, Genealogies, bible records, manuscripts, cemetery inscriptions, church records, diaries and numerous newspaper files have been contributed. All of these have card file index for ready reference.

Miss Duffield has also made transcriptions of early County Records to have them available to the public, where the originals are kept in the County vaults.

We will truly miss her valuable contributions to the general public from her vast source of information on all aspects of our County history.

Mantua Grove School

(Continued from Front Page)

ideal has lived and prospered. Time has hallowed the memory of many who have lived and labored in Mantua Grove, leaving an example of faith, perseverance and integrity."

The present school is modern in every respect. It is equipped with an oil burner, electricity and improvements for the advantage of the fifty-six pupils. There are two teachers (1942) Mrs. Taylor and Miss Edith Dilks, who succeeded Miss Laura Maltman. Mrs. Taylor became principal four years ago after the resignation of Mrs. John Twells, Woodbury, who held the post for eighteen years.

Bulletin of the Gloucester County Historical Society

Vol. 15, No. 3

MARCH, 1976

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JOHN HART

*(Second in a series of profiles of New Jersey's
Signers of the Declaration of Independence)*

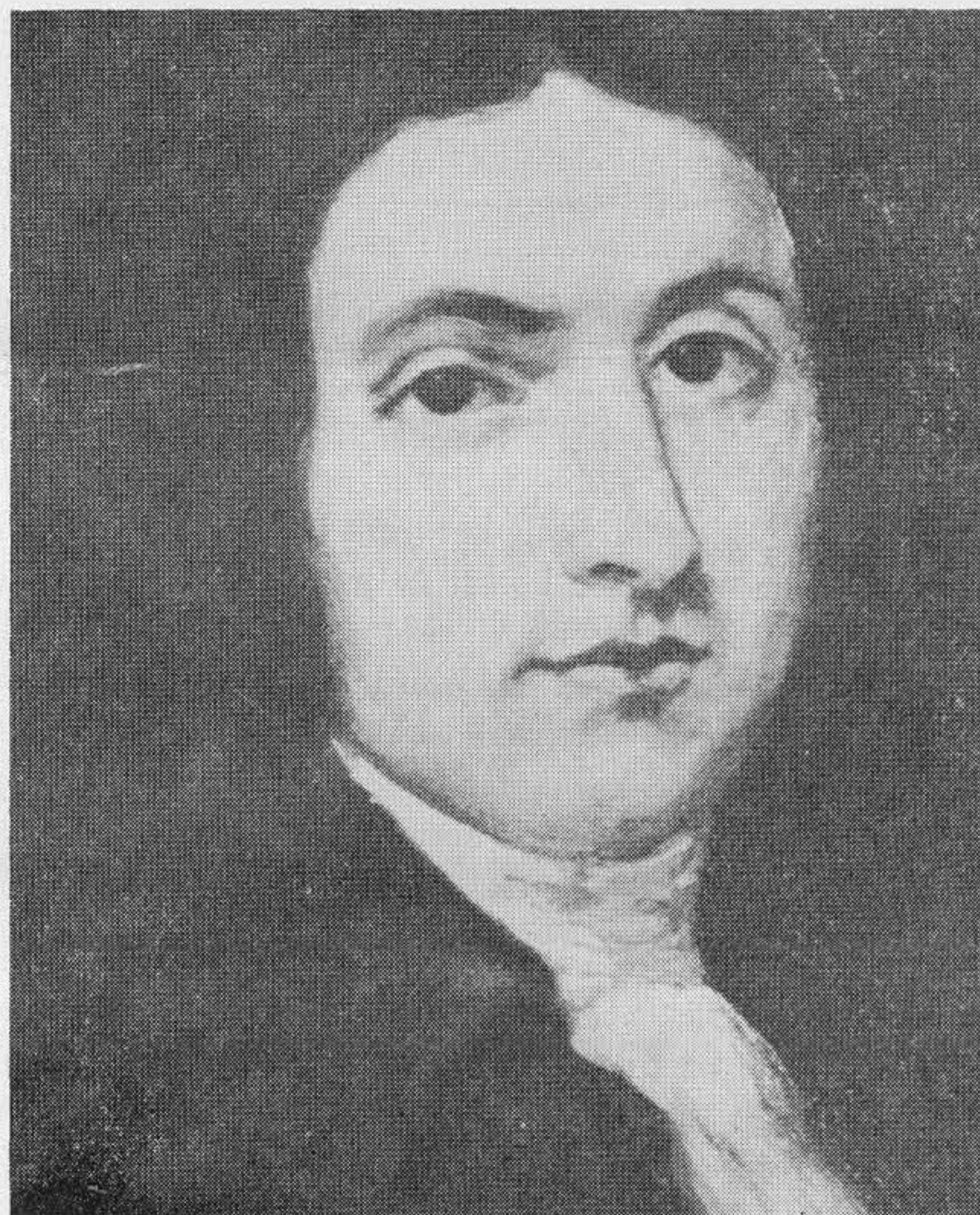
John Hart is one of the obscure signers of the Declaration of Independence. Although his participation in events before and during the American Revolution is authenticated in public documents and official minutes, very little has been written about the man himself. If he is mentioned at all, virtually the same few paragraphs describe him in encyclopedias and biographical dictionaries. Unfortunately, errors made by an early writer have been repeated over the years, so that much of what has been recorded is inaccurate.

The date of his death is often stated as 1780 (and it is so engraved on the monument to his honor erected by the State of New Jersey in 1865) although, in fact, he died May 11, 1779. His birth date is variously represented as 1711, 1710—1712 and 1714 and his birthplace is given as Stonington, Connecticut and Pennington, New Jersey.

Colonel T. B. Myers, writing in November, 1868, most honestly stated, John Hart "born where or when, no man now appears to know."

John Hart was the son of Captain Edward Hart who came from Stonington, Connecticut and settled in what is now Ewing Township about two miles southeast of Pennington, Hunterdon County (now Mercer County) New Jersey. Records of the Presbyterian Church of Maidenhead (now Lawrenceville) show that John Hart was baptized there "12th mo., 21st, 1713". This date was according to the "Old Style" calendar and would be March 5, 1714 according to our present way of reckoning.

Little is known about Hart's early life on his father's farm. Most writers agree that he had little or no formal education, some labling him an "illiterate writer". This designation is undoubtedly in error as it is unlikely he would have held such offices as Justice of the Peace and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Hunterdon County if he could not read or write. Nor is it credible that an illiterate man would have been chosen by his peers to be speaker of the New Jersey Assembly. His fellow members in the Provincial Congress thought enough of his penmanship to assign him the task of signing his name to the reams of paper money issued by the Congress in 1776.



John Hart

John Hart left his father's farm and became the owner of a fine farm in the northern part of Hopewell Township sometime in the early 1740's. About this time he married Deborah Scudder, daughter of Richard and Hannah (Reeder) Scudder of Ewing. They had six boys and six girls, all but one of whom grew to adulthood.

The John Hart farmstead site is 60 Hart Avenue, Hopewell. In 1959 a plaque marking the site was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies sponsored by the New Jersey Societies, Sons of the Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution.

JOHN HART

Signer of the Declaration of Independence

"Farmstead site of the Signer, who lived here 1742-1779. Without formal education, consulted by many, respected by all, 'Honest John Hart' gave his property and

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BULLETIN
OF THE
GLOUCESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Editor MRS. JOSEPH A. SHUTE
408 Oaklawn Ave. Oaklyn, N. J. 08107

This Bulletin is published quarterly for Members
and reciprocal Societies.

Junior Membership (under 18)	\$ 2.00 annually
Sustaining Membership	\$ 4.00 annually
Husband and Wife Membership	\$ 7.00 annually
Family Membership	\$ 10.00 annually
Life Membership	\$100.00

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News of the Society

Mrs. Charles McNeil has sent out an S.O.S. for additional hostesses (or hosts) to man the rooms in the museum which is now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from one until four o'clock. If you are free during the day and would like to help in this way, call Helen at her home, 848-6781 or the Society, 845-4771 to volunteer your services.

Mr. Wilmer Kephart has announced that the Bicentennial House Tour will be held May 15, 1976. Only buildings in existence during the Revolutionary War period will be on the tour this year and a great day is planned. Mark the date on your calendar.

More about Abraham Clark

While researching the article on Abraham Clark inquiries were sent to the Rahway Presbyterian Church for information about the burial place of the signer. Later a copy of the December Bulletin was sent to the pastor and subsequently a letter was received from Miss Gladys M. Whitehead, chairman of the church Historical Committee, who sent additional information and copies of genealogical material from the April, 1932 "Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey" as well as a column, "Historic Facts About Rahway" from "The Rahway Record" of March 15, 1932.

This information indicated that Clark's wife was Sarah Hatfield, daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Price) Hatfield. Captain Thomas Clark mentioned in the Bulletin article died May 13, 1789 and is buried in the same plot with his parents. Another son Andrew was believed to have died on the prison ship "Jersey". The eldest child of the Clark's, Aaron, served in the Revolutionary War also and later emigrated to Washington County, Pennsylvania as did Elizabeth, the widow of Thomas Clark, with their sons. Elizabeth subsequently moved to Selbysport, Allegany County, Maryland where she died and is buried. Three of Clark's ten children died in childhood.

The newspaper article told of plans for building a replica of the Clark farmhouse and Miss Whitehead

indicated that this was completed and is now the meeting place of the Abraham Clark Chapter, D. A. R. of Roselle, New Jersey.

While it is frequently written that Clark was "long a member of the Rahway Presbyterian Church", Miss Whitehead said that there is no documentation of this as their earliest written records are dated 1795.

The genealogical charts, Miss Whitehead's additional information and all material used in preparing the article are in the Abraham Clark folder in the vertical file of our library.

F. W. S.

John Hart

(Continued from Page 9)

his life for the cause of Liberty. Farmer, miller, Judge Speaker of the First New Jersey Assembly, ever the prey of enemy patrols which sought his life and ravaged his property. Broken in health from privation and exposure, he died May 11, 1779, age about 69.

"Guided to this roadless hillside by John Hart's sons, Jesse and Nathaniel, Washington's army camped here June 23—24, 1778 before the battle of Monmouth. The spring from which they drank flows nearby."

Lt. Colonel Cleon E. Hammond, who lived on the last remaining parcel of land originally owned by John Hart, writing in 1959 on the occasion of the dedication of the farmstead site, described the signer as a "straight, well-proportioned, handsome man with dark hair, dark complexion and blue eyes." He was said to have been "practical and levelheadedcheerful, with a good sense of humor." His wife was a lady of "great amiability of character".

In 1747 Hart donated to the First Baptist Church of Hopewell (now Old School Baptist Church and no longer an active congregation) the land on Broad Street where the group erected its first meeting house with burial ground adjacent. This generous gesture, coupled with the monument to his honor erected in a prominent spot in the cemetery, no doubt gave rise to the widely accepted belief that he was a Baptist, but records do not support this assumption. His name is not listed at any time as a member of the church; nor is his death recorded. Records do show that John Hart contributed to the Pennington Presbyterian Church as late as 1769. Moreover, he was not originally buried in the Baptist Cemetery, but was interred in the old Hunt Burial Ground near Woodsville about four miles southwest of Hopewell. His grave there was marked by a fieldstone into which Deacon Hunt cut an identifying mark so that "men of future times would know where the remains of John Hart rested."

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John Hart

(Continued from Page 11)

"While Washington's army was dwindling down to a mere handful, this old man was carrying his gray hairs and infirmities about from cottage to cottage, and from cave to cave, while his farm was pillaged, his property plundered, his family afflicted and dispersed."

"He was, through sorrow, humiliation and suffering, wearing out his bodily strength, and hastening the approach of decrepitude and death. Yet he never despaired, never repented the course he had taken."

Hart returned to his farm early in 1777 after the victories of Trenton and Princeton and was able to recoup some of his losses before he died. His obituary which appeared in the New Jersey Gazette omitted the fact that he signed the Declaration of Independence.

"On Tuesday the 11th instant, departed this life at his seat in Hopewell, John Hart, esq.; one of the Representatives in General Assembly for the County of Hunterdon, and late Speaker of the House. He had served in Assembly for many years under the former government, taken an early and active part in the present revolution, and continued to the day he was seized with his last illness to discharge the duties of a faithful and upright patriot in the service of his country in general and the county he represented in particular. The universal approbation of his character and conduct among all ranks of people, is the best testimony of his worth, and as it must make his death regretted and lamented, will ensure lasting respect to his memory."

Five of Hart's sons and two daughters are mentioned in his will, proved May 26, 1779. A sixth son died in childhood. The signer's namesake married and went to Louisiana and according to Ralph Ege who wrote "Pioneers of Old Hopewell" in 1908, all of the sons had left New Jersey by twenty years after the Revolution.

Hopewell's signer was nearly forgotten by 1865 when the New Jersey Legislature voted to erect a monument in his honor. In the spring of that year descendants of Deacon Hunt still living near the old Hunt Burial Ground witnessed the removal of the remains of John Hart, which were then placed in a more prominent grave in the Old School Baptist Church Cemetery in Hopewell. On April 5, 1865 a granite shaft was dedicated there at which time Governor Joel Parker delivered an eloquent address in which he said, "I am of the opinion that no man exercised greater influence in giving direction to the public opinion which culminated in independence."

Boldly inscribed on the front of the monument beneath John Hart's name are these words:

HONOR THE PATRIOT'S GRAVE

F. W. S.

SAVE THE DATE!**ANNUAL MEETING**

May 20, 1976

"Stoney" Harris of Woodstown will speak

Visit of the King of Sweden

Swedesboro and Trinity Episcopal Church will be honored by a visit from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden on April 8, 1976. The King will dedicate a marker in front of the historic church testifying to the friendship between Sweden and the United States and he will also visit New Parker F. Auten, pastor of the church and president of Sweden Park, site of the original church. The Reverend this Society, will show the King a plaque in the church dedicated by King Carl's uncle, Prince Beril, in 1938 when the Prince visited Trinity Church. The church is also in possession of a Swedish Bible signed by the King's great-grandfather and another Bible signed by his grandfather. King Carl is due in Swedesboro at 10:30 A.M. and admission to the welcoming services in the church is by invitation only, but Pastor Auten says that the public is welcome to the outdoor activities. The visit to Swedesboro will be the King's only stop in New Jersey on his Bicentennial visit to the United States.

Editor's Corner

Since starting the series of articles on New Jersey's Signers of the Declaration of Independence it has been learned that we are not the only ones who think this is a good project for the Bicentennial Year. Starting in January the "Philadelphia Bulletin" in its New Jersey edition ran a weekly series on the signers written by contemporary New Jersey historian John T. Cunningham, vice chairman of the New Jersey Bicentennial Commission. Shortly afterward The Bank of New Jersey announced the minting of pewter commemorative medals with portraits and signatures honoring New Jersey's five signers. A brochure highlighting the accomplishments of the men is included in the presentation case for the medals. Just remember — you saw it here first!

In researching this issue's article on John Hart a visit was made to the Old School Baptist Church Cemetery, the site of Hart's farmstead and the Hopewell Museum which has a fine charcoal portrait of the signer hanging in one of the downstairs parlors. The museum hostess and librarian were most gracious and provided a very enjoyable tour of their fine collection. They are in possession of several books containing information about the town's most illustrious citizen and also have a large, handwritten family tree of John Hart's descendants prepared by James A. Murry of Trenton. Hopewell is a lovely old town and the historic sites and museum are well worth a visit.

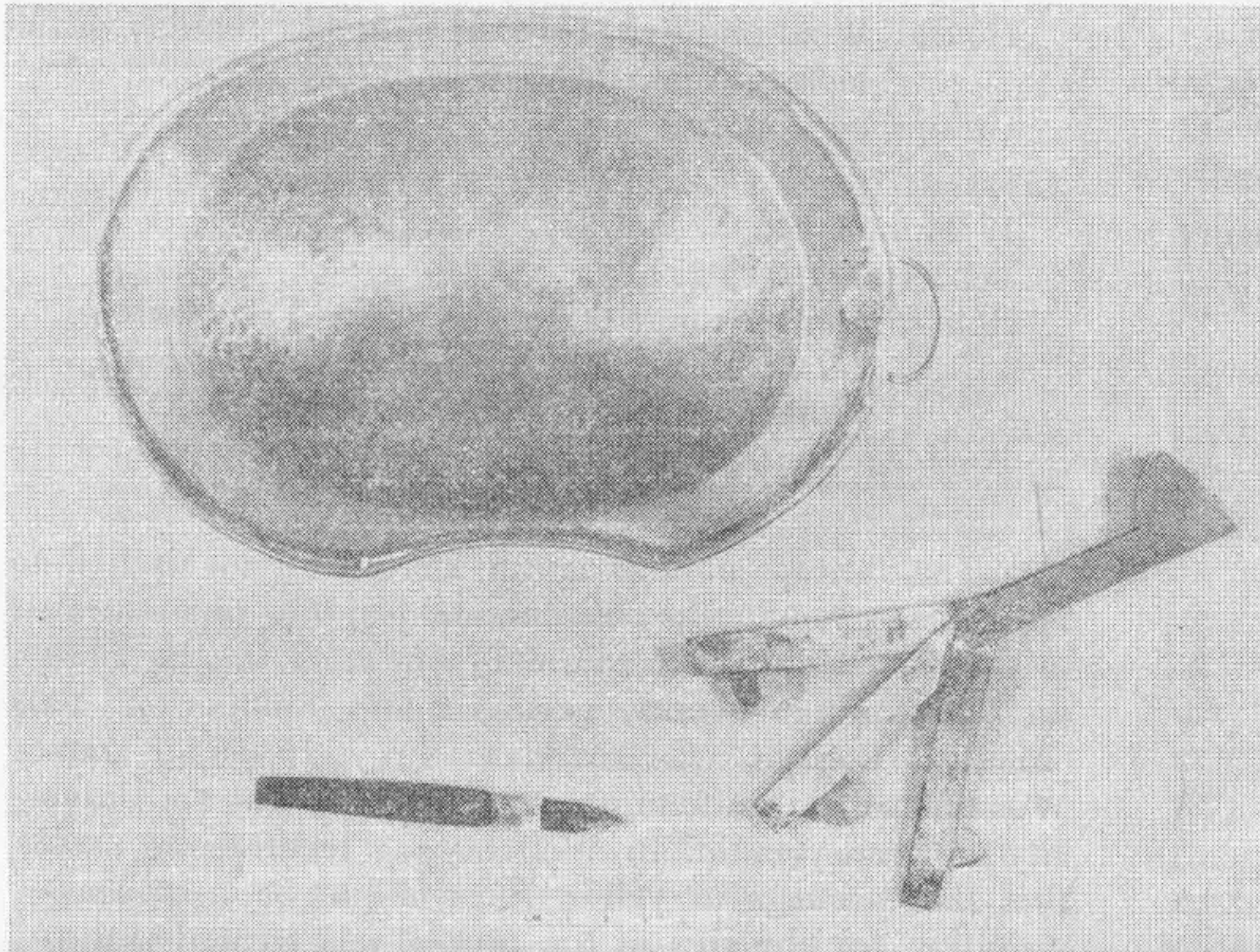
Frances Shute

Bulletin of the Gloucester County Historical Society

VOL. 19, No.4

JUNE 1984

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Pictured above is a bleeding bowl, a lancet (black) and a fleam, both used for bleeding, opening abscesses, etc.

From the collection of Wm. J. Snape, M.D. of Haddonfield, N. J.

The Studies of Yellow-Fever

by Noah Webster and John Conrad Otto

At Red Bank, New Jersey

William J. Snape, M.D.

Edward L. Wolfe, Ph.D.

Man's need to know or to appear to know has always been as great and as durable as his need for food and shelter. Indeed, knowledge or apparent knowledge is both food and shelter. It provides food for man's restless reason and shelter for his endless anxieties. Moreover, knowledge gives at least the illusion of power or control. With knowledge man can often rise to authority over his fellows and sometimes control his natural environment, for better or worse. In any case, the inscrutable or incomprehensible seldom remain unexplained for long, and when the explanation, like most explanations, is conclusive and tentative, the result is controversy. But man has always preferred the exhilaration of engaging in specious controversy to the impotence at admitting honest ignorance. Such is the case in small things as well as large. It is, therefore, not surprising that controversy, often passionate and ugly, surrounded the explanations for the recurrent outbreaks of yellow fever during the 18th century and that controversy surrounded the explanations for the epidemic at Red Bank in 1797.

On the 22nd of the second month, 1798, Samuel Mickle, having only recently resumed the keeping of his diary, wrote: "With jno. Reeve, his and my wife, went in

A.M. and staid 'till evening at Sarah Whitall's at Red Bank, the house of mourning indeed. I had not been there since abo't 22 of 8 mo. last. (then to write her husband's will.) Between 11 of 9th and 18 of 10th mo. inclusive both. Deceased her said husband Job Whitall, her husband's mother, Anna and children Job, Sarah and Aaron Whitall and girl Sarah Burroughs. Also other scenes of distress have been at that place - Witness their fine apple orchard cut down and ground dug up in great trenches and banks thrown up in erecting a Fort there. Their dwelling house walls batter'd in holes while the family were endeavoring to live quietly therein, fruits of a battle of cannonade between ye American and Hessian soldiers in 1777, where after it I saw dead men lying naked on the ground except in part covered with a little straw and some of them with some of their limbs off, having died of their wounds!" (1)

Thus Samuel Mickle unites almost fatalistically the concurrence of these two distinct calamities: the battle of Fort Mercer October 1777 and the visitation of yellow fever to the Whitall farm and neighborhood two decades later. That Mickle relates so closely the unnatural "fruits of battle" that produced mutilated naked bodies to a natural epidemic that produced several deaths indicates the awful sense of human vulnerability that yellow fever produced.

Frank Stewart, in his compilation "Genealogical and Historical Miscellany No. 1" lists the following dates and names of persons interred in the Woodbury Friends Burying Ground between September 11 and October 18, 1797.

Job Whitall ded'd Sept. 11, 1797 between 11 and 12 P.M.

Benjamin Whitall ye elder died Sept. 13, 1797

Aaron Whitall, son of Job died Sept. 19, 1797

Sarah Whitall, dau of Job died Sept. 19, 1797

Rebecca Whitall died Sept. 23, 1797 about 5 A.M.

Sara Burrough between 10 and 12 years old

Job Whitall died Oct. 18, 1797 about 1 A.M. and was interred at 12 noon. (2)

In each instance Mickle received 1 shilling sixpence as the interment fee. (3)

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BULLETIN
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Editor Mr. RICHARD M. BURR
222 Elm Street Westville, N. J. 08093

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Gloucester County Historical Society

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Hours: Wed. and Fri., 1-4 P.M.; the last Sunday of the
month, Sept. through May, 2-5 P.M.

Groups by appointment

Library:

17 Hunter St., Woodbury, N. J. 08096

Tel.: (609) 845-4771

Hours: Mon. through Fri., 1-4 P.M.; Fri. evening,
7-9:30 P.M.; last Sunday of every month,
January through December, 2-5 P.M.

The Studies of Yellow-Fever

by Noah Webster and John Conrad Otto

At Red Bank, New Jersey

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While the actual mortality of this outbreak was relatively small as compared with the larger epidemics of 1793, 1797 and 1798 in neighboring Philadelphia, other features, mainly its isolation and close confinement to a limited area, invited the scientific scrutiny of the most important physicians and proto-epidemiologists of this period to find a cause of yellow fever. If no cause could be established traditional justification for human suffering could be invoked. The consequence was that ancient belief joined with the current need for an explanation to convince many people that yellow fever, like all pestilence, was the work of a vengeful but loving God, who so loved his people He sent this punishment to correct their behavior and their vanities. Thus, they were to be returned to the path of salvation. As always, much behavior was in need of correction. William Penn's Holy Experiment had by now failed. Philadelphia was no longer the neat, clean orderly green country town. Circuses and theaters flourished. Quiet trading had been replaced by speculators and noisy bargaining. Gambling was rife, and sexual aberration was not rare. Even in rural, Quakerish West Jersey, church attendance had become indifferent and irregular. (4)

Samuel Mickle, a man much concerned with vanity and God's providential punishment, wrote in his diary during the 1793 epidemic, "The present alarming visitation surely calls for seriousness and diligence, but how many among us to as with stretchedout necks. Pride and vanity in Dress and address low it yet abounds! A heavier and more grievous Judgment may be our portion if there is not a more general reformation and what is more likely than that of Famine: - - the face of nature, for want of rain, looks so parch'd and not unlikely to produce one !!!" (5)

The concept of a vengeful Lord was not limited to rural persons, but was also common among well-educated city dwellers. Benjamin Silliman, who later was to become an outstanding chemist, geologist and founder of Yale Medical College, was scandalized by Professor James Woodhouse while attending medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania. In Woodhouse's lecture, the notion that the "scourge of yellow fever might be a divine visitation for the sins of the people was treated with levity and ridicule," and such levity shocked Silliman. (6)

If yellow fever was not caused, or only partially caused, by God's providential punishment for man's "Pride and vanity," what was the cause? Unfortunately, physicians who were expected to know such things had no generally accepted explanation. One group had a complicated theory that identified the vapors given off as organic material rotted as the cause of the pestilence. Another group believed it was transmitted from person to person much like small-pox or measles and was brought from the West Indies. Still another group had the theory that epidemics were closely related to and perhaps caused by catastrophic natural events, such as earthquakes and meteoric showers. Though few real facts were known to support any of these theories, professional controversy concerning yellow fever grew more strident until it reached a point where one physician was caned and another challenged to a duel with pistols. (7)

The theory of the first group, who believed pestilence was caused by the vapors or effluvia of rotting vegetable matter seemed validated by the distinctive property of the land and air near Red Bank. Although the fertile soil of West Jersey had long been prized as meadowlands well suited to the production of hay, such fertile, moist soil had for centuries been associated with disease. Stephen Wickes quotes the 17th century English philosopher, Robert Burton, who wrote: "The best soil furnishes the worst air." (8) The implications of this statement are apparent if it is recalled that bad air was indicated as a cause of illness even by the ancients. In fact, one febrile illness still is

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known as "malaria", quite literally the Italian for bad air. The badness of the air is signaled by the "Malodor" of the decomposition of vegetable material. Among the highly regarded meadowlands of Gloucester County were those situated along the Woodbury Creek and the Delaware River - at Red Bank. These meadows were so highly valued that dams and banks were constructed at great expense and effort to control irrigation, and their proper maintenance required constant inspection and repair to prevent excessive flooding. (9) Under certain circumstances, particularly during hot weather, we can assume this area had the characteristic malodorous smell of marshland. John Otto in his report describes the "smell arising from it" (the meadow) as "extremely disagreeable." (10)

Woodbury physicians recognized this area was liable to produce fevers. Hardie, in his work on yellow fever published in 1799, quoted Doctor William Lummis, who practised medicine in the environs of Woodbury, as writing:

"The proximity of these situations to the Delaware and large tracts of Meadow lands leads me to ascribe their disease (and by a peculiar state of the air) to the exhalations or marsh effluvia arising from the low grounds situated near the banks and meadows in the vicinity of the Delaware. The peculiar dispositions of these exhalations to produce disease and death was around early in the season by the mortality which prevailed among the fowls and cats in the neighborhood. I am not alone in having seen cases of yellow fever which cannot be traced to contagions. Similar facts having been witnessed by other physicians in various parts of New Jersey." (11)

To whom Dr. Lummis wrote or the date of the letter is unknown except sometime before 1799. It is known, however, that yellow fever was present in this area even during the great epidemic of 1793. Samuel Mickle, on 10th month, 20th, 1793, noted that a Daniel Coxe, a hired man of Job Whitall, died of yellow fever. (12)

Besides Samuel Mickle, an outstanding Philadelphia physician, Dr. John Conrad Otto described the pestilence at Red Bank in the autumn of 1797 and supported the theory it was caused by the "bad air" of vegetable decomposition. Dr. Otto was close to center of the controversy regarding the cause of yellow fever because of his long and intimate contact as an apprentice, associate, and disciple of the leading physician in North America, Dr. Benjamin Rush. It was Dr. Rush who was at the center of the bitter contention that divided the medical profession concerning the cause and treatment of the disease.

John Conrad Otto was born March 15, 1774 in a house still standing on the Kings Highway in Mickleton. He was the second child of Dr. Bodo Otto, Jr. Little is known of the early education of John Otto; however, he matriculated at Princeton and received a Bachelors degree in 1792. Almost immediately, he became apprenticed to Dr. Benjamin Rush, beginning a close association that lasted until Dr. Rush's death in 1813. An apprenticeship with Dr. Rush was a much sought - after appointment because it enabled the apprentice doctor not merely to learn from such an esteemed authority but to observe patients confined to Pennsylvania Hospital and to attend lectures at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. The tuition was not inexpensive. (13)

In the autumn of the following year, 1793, Philadelphia experienced a very severe epidemic of yellow fever, and Dr. Rush and John Otto were active in treating many of the victims. The best evidence available indicates that of the 50,000 population of Philadelphia at that time, almost 5,000 perished. The severity of the epidemic was nearly equalled by the severity of the contention that split the Medical Profession. Dr. Rush and his followers, including John Otto, disagreed with the majority of Philadelphia physicians on three principal medical assumptions. (1) Rush believed the disease was locally generated from decomposition of organic material and advised removal of the filth in streets, wharves and yards. His opponents held that the infection was imported from the West Indies, as it was. This point of difference was important. Rush wanted to improve sanitation, and the others wanted stricter quarantine regulations. Both of these measures were actually needed. (2) Rush and his colleagues believed the infection was transmitted by vapours (called miasmas or exhalations) arising from decomposing vegetable and animal substances. The anti-Rushites believed the disorder was transmitted from person to person much like small-pox and measles. Rush's followers spent considerable efforts to prove that person to person transmission was erroneous. (14) Since insect carriers and viruses were unknown, the mosquito was not suspected. (3) The treatment of yellow fever differed widely between the two groups. Rush's notion of fever led him to copious bleedings and severe purging as did most English physicians. The others believed in cooling drinks, rest, and sponging the feverish body with cool agents. Neither treatment was very effective, but the latter was much more comforting and benign.

Benjamin Rush, showing his contempt for the other practitioners and their opposition to his assumptions and his treatment, resigned his fellowship in the prestigious Philadelphia College of Physicians and to "rebuke the ignorance of many of the members" he donated a copy of a popular text-book of Medicine written by Thomas Sydenham. (15) He founded a rival organization, the Academy of Medicine. The purpose of this institution was to prove the ideas of Benjamin Rush correct. Dr. John Otto was selected its secretary, and it was in this capacity that his report on the epidemic at Redbank was written.

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In this report John Otto looked for and found no communication with ships or "an intercourse with the City of Philadelphia." He notes he "sought every possible information from the attending physician, the families who had been attacked and from their neighbors, knowing that a disease of this kind might have derived from domestic sources and, possible, from the shipping performing quarantine—" (16) The pest-house for quarantine was opposite Red Bank on State Island popularly known as "Mud Island." (17)

He described the conditions that prevailed at this time and found them conducive to the production of the infection. He claims his research could find no evidence for a person to person transmission.

He apparently collected some documentation to support his opinion and filed it among the records of the Academy of Medicine.

On July 4, 1798, John Otto's report was published. Samuel Mickle on the 8 month 26, 1798, barely six weeks later, records in his diary "Doctor Jn Otto now lays at Doctor Campbell's opposite our house, and a boy at Joseph Lows both with yellow fever." Dr. Otto became very ill but recovered. However, Dr. George W. Campbell was stricken with yellow fever 9 month 20th. He was buried in the Presbyterian Burying Ground in Woodbury on the 23rd 9th month. While the duration of Doctor Campbell's illness as reported was short of the average course of the illness, the time from Dr. Otto's arrival until Dr. Campbell was stricken is very appropriate in light of the present state of the knowledge of yellow fever. Dr. Campbell quite possible received his infection from Dr. Otto.

Another theory of the cause of fevers was promulgated by the lexicographer, Noah Webster. Webster graduated Yale 1778, attended Princeton and was admitted to the Bar in 1781. After practicing Law for a few years, he became a journalist and publisher in New York City. Webster, of course, is best known for his *Spelling Book*, *Compendious Dictionary of the English Language*, and *An American Dictionary of the English Language*. He did, however, write articles on medical subjects. Indeed (the publication of his *Collection of Papers on the subject of Bilious Fever (Yellow Fever) Prevalent in the United States of a Few Years Past*" in 1796 and his two volume *A Short History of Epidemic and Pestilential Diseases* in 1799 established him as the first American epidemiologist despite the fact he apparently had no formal medical education either by academic training or by apprenticeship. He thus belonged to that group of early American intellectuals who had an academic interest in medicine as a part of their interest in natural science.

Webster advanced a theory of quasi-catastrophism to explain that epidemics were in some way correlated with certain natural phenomenon such as deluges, earthquakes, volcanic eruption, meteoric showers, conflagration and the like. Therefore, he studied the outbreak of yellow fever at Red Bank because of its temporal relationship to a meteor shower. Evidently he discussed this with the Congressman from Woodbury, Franklin Davenport. See Appendix A

Appendix A—Webster's Report I A Short History of
Epidemic and Pestilential Diseases

"In August 1797 appeared a comet, which according to calculations of astronomers, passed near the earth, although it was of small apparent magnitude, and seen by few people.

The influence of this species of bodies in occasioning great tides, and violent storms, has been already mentioned, and of that influence, in the present instances, I was witness. In 1797 my residence was as it had been the preceding year, on height of York Island near Corlaer's Hook to then northward of which is a flat, which is never covered with water by a common tide, but is overspread by spring tides, or any unusual swell in consequence of easterly winds. I observed, as early as the last week in May, high tides were unusually frequent and the swell extraordinary. In the city of New York the same fact was observable; and the inhabitants about Beekman slip will recollect how often the wharves and street were covered with water. These tides were not to be accounted for, on any known principles of lunar influence, and I frequently mentioned the phenomenon to my friends, but without suspecting the cause. The same phenomenon was noticed at other places. In Norfolk the epidemic fever was, in part, ascribed to unusual tides; as I was afterwards informed. On the Delaware, the overflowing of the low lands, below Philadelphia, was extraordinary, and some physicians ascribe to this cause the yellow fever, which swept away most of a family by the name of Whitall.

I was lately mentioning these events to a respectable gentleman in Stamford,* who instantly recollected a fact which confirms the foregoing account. He remarked that the common practice in that town, is to mow the salt meadows, at the quadratures of the moon, on account of small tides; but in 1797, the calculations failed, and the people were much troubled to collect their hay, on account of high tides - a circumstance that was very surprising to him at the time, but he did not advert to the probable cause. This was in August; about the time that the comet was first observed. The fact then of the influence of comets, in raising the waters of the ocean, is well established; and the appearance of a comet in autumn explained the phenomena of the tides to my satisfaction.

The influence of comets in augmenting tempests is equally certain and remarkable."

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* The Hon. John (sic) Davenport, now representative in Congress. (11)

Appendix B—"Document, by Dr. Otto. Published in Medical Inquiries and observations Volume 5 1798 by Benjamin Rush P. 95

"I do hereby certify, that I visited the farms at and in the vicinity of Red-Bank, situated on the eastern shore of the Delaware, for the purpose of investigating the origin of the yellow fever, that raged so violently amongst them, during the late autumn. I sought every possible information from the attending physician, the families who had been attacked, and from their neighbors. Knowing that a disease of this kind might have been derived from domestic sources, from the city of Philadelphia, and possibly, from the shipping performing quarantine, I was exceeding particular upon these points of inquiry and investigation. After examining the documents upon this subject, I do not hesitate to pronounce it the offspring of local causes.

"The most valuable part of these farms consists in meadows, which had been overflowed, for ten or twelve days, by a deluge of rain that commenced on the first of August. The waters gradually disappeared, and deposited a scum that was exceedingly nauseous. The roots of the grass were dead in many places for an acre or more in extent' even six inches below the surface of the earth, they were destroyed - the vegetable putrefaction was great, and the smell arising from it extremely disagreeable. To this source I attribute the disease that prevailed amongst them. Twenty-nine persons were attacked in five families; but so local was the calamity, that, although the neighbors kept up a constant communication, by visiting the sick rooms, and rendering their services no person, that these families recollect, was affected with it, in consequence. And there is but one possible case in which it could have been communicated, by any one of these families to any of the others.

My opinion of the local origin of the yellow fever, derives support from its being the idea of the physician who attended the sick, and the universal sentiment of those who have suffered by it. Documents, entering into detail, to establish these, are subscribed by all the persons alluded to, and deposited among the records of the Academy of Medicine." (11)

signed, John C. Otto

March 23d, 1798

Conclusion:

The causes of yellow fever was not discovered until 1900, a lapse of a full century from the time of this incident at Red Bank that almost wiped out the Whitall family. There were many causes to be eliminated - frogs, cats, coffee, mosquitoes, roaches and sin to name a very few. Furthermore technical advances were yet to come. The clinical thermometer, the stethoscope, the microscope were yet to be invented - The physicians of that time did not know but they were courageous, dedicated and conscientious.

Postscript:

The late Hazel Simpson, a notable genealogist and local historian, mentions in the "History of Bethel Church Gloucester County" that an early Methodist Circuit Preacher, John Reagan, died of yellow fever and was buried at Hurffville. With the state of medical knowledge in the 18th century, the source of the infection is conjectural. He, incidentally, was interred in Bethel Cemetery the identical day Job Whitall was buried in the Friends Burying Ground in Woodbury. (19)

The interment records show that in 1797 there were only three burials in the Bethel Cemetery, all of which occurred in the yellow fever season, i.e. late summer and the autumn. All of the deceased were relatively young men, aged twenty-four to forty-five. Two of the three burials occurred within eight days. Maudlin Clark was buried September 3 and John Reagan on September 11, 1797. The question of a relationship between the outbreak at Redband and these other incidents at Bethel (Hurffville) remains unanswered.

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- Appendix A.: Webster, Noah A Brief History of Epidemic and Pestilential Diseases Hudson and Goodwin Hartford 1799 P. 319
- Appendix B.: Rush, Benjamin Medical Inquiries and Observations containing an account of the Yellow Fever as it appeared in Philadelphia in 1797 - Volume 5 Thomas Dobson Philadelphia 1798 Page 95

1784 Census of Middle Township

County: Cape May Municipality: Middle Twp.

Date: July 1784

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	Number of White Inhabitants	Number of Slaves
Jonathan Laming	6	5
Ellis Hand	5	
Eli Eldridge	7	2
Jesse Hand	10	6

Philip Godfrey	6
Philip Godfrey, Jun	6
John Godfrey	1
Elisha Hughes	1
Daniel Hand	8
Daniel Hand, Jr.	3

Genealogical Queries

Linda BURAS, 508 Laurel Oak Dr., Mandeville, La. 70448 Seek info on my Glo. Co. ancestors: Edward Lagraham REED, George Alner ADDISON, Samuel G. MILLS, Mae GAULER, William HINMAN, Alfred YONKER, Anton WEICK, Henry TREADWAY, and Deborah QUICKSELL.

Michael A. PORTS, 2036 Camp Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. Seeking information on the family of Jeremiah SMITH (1723-1763) of Tuckahoe, Glo. Co. He married Abigail, daughter of James & Abigail (ADAMS) SOMERS of Great Egg Harbor. Son Jeremiah (1752-1831) married Naomi BABCOCK. Son William (1754-1832) married Martha SCULL. Any information appreciated. Will answer all and exchange.

Isabelle F. SAKIEWICZ, 167 Dayton Ave., Atco, N. J. 08004. Joseph HAMPTON, Salem Co. married Mary I. JORDAN Salem Co. 8-31-1808 by Simon WILMER, Swedesboro. Mary Jordan HAMPTON b 1789 died 3-2-1863. Daughter Abigail Ann HAMPTON b 3-24-1824 d 6-15-1912. Information wanted on this family that lived in Pedericktown.

James David SMITH, Sr., 1536 So. Marston St., Phila., Pa. 19146. Seeks information on the parents & children of David SMITH & Eunice TAYLOR md. 1-9-1805 in Cumberland Co. Seeks info. on David SMITH b 1805 NJ & Sarah SMITH b 1811 NJ. Their children William (blacksmith), James (house builder), Thomas (brick-maker) & Amanda (school girl).

Mrs. Marie WILLS, 926 Highland Blvd., Gloucester, N. J. 08030. Seeks infor. on descendants of Mary Cecelia MADDEN b 1867, md. William ANDERSON in Camden 1890. 2 brothers: John - Westmont, N.J. & Thomas - Olney, Pa. 1 sister: Elizabeth md Cooper FERRISON & had 3 dau. Jennie, Bessie, & Edith.

Leon H. COSSABOOM, 20 Fran Mar Dr., Bridgeton, N.J. 08302. Seeking info on Frank NICHOLS & wife, parents of George 1849-1896. Possibly in Glo. City. Also ancestors & siblings of Jeremiah COSSABOOM 1818-1892.

Anna M. Waltman, St. George St., Box No. 152-A, Newfield, NJ 08344. Seeks information on sons of Philip HONE 1780-1851 (dairist) & Catherine DUNSCOMB of N.Y. City. Wives & children's names - particularly of Robert HONE and Elizza Rodman RUSSELL m. 1842.