



The Monmouth Connection

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JANUARY 2011

Railroading Around the Jersey Shore

Topic for General Meeting

Sunday, January 9, 2011, 1:30 p.m.

Community Center, 72 Broad St, Eatontown

Tom Gallo will share his love of railroading and the Jersey Shore at our January 2011 general meeting. Mr. Gallo, the author or co-author of more than a dozen books, is retired after 34 years of service in the railroad industry. He grew up in Keyport, "born and raised," he says, "adjacent to the Central Railroad of New Jersey's Seashore Branch, which connected at Matawan to the New York and Long Branch RR, passed through Keyport and other Raritan bay towns to Atlantic Highlands, Highlands, Sea Bright and reconnected to the NY&LB at Long Branch." He started with the Central Railroad of New Jersey (CNJ) in 1975 and has worked in a variety of jobs for several railroads.



Tom Gallo at work as a volunteer fire policeman

His railroading books of particular local interest include *Railroads of Monmouth County* and *Henry Hudson Trail/CNJ's Seashore Branch* with Arcadia Publishing, and *Trackside to the Jersey Shore* with Morning Sun.

Dipping into Mr. Gallo's books one learns that the railroad has been vital to the Jersey Shore since

the Civil War, reaching its zenith, Mr. Gallo says, in 1929 when the CNJ's Blue Comet began service from Jersey City to Atlantic City. The Blue Comet appears prominently in Mr. Gallo's books, and undoubtedly will in his January presentation. He devoted one of his books to this subject, *CNJ's Blue Comet*, which is currently out

of print.

His "Images of America" book, *Keyport Firefighting*, grew out of his enthusiasm for his hometown. He is a volunteer Fire Policeman, First Aid driver, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator and President of the Keyport Historical Society, as well as serving as an officer or director in four other groups, mostly focused on railroad history and/or preservation.

His talk will include a slide show and a display of railroad artifacts collected over decades. Among the items he'll bring are tickets and a ticket punch, a kerosene lantern, and old train schedules.

Judy Bretzger

Another Central Jersey Newspaper Database Searchable Online

The Cranbury (NJ) Press, 1886-1926, is now searchable online at the Cranbury Public Library's website. Go to cranburypubliclibrary.org to track down your west-central New Jersey ancestors.

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From the President's Desk

As I write this letter it is nearly Thanksgiving and I am thinking about all that I am thankful for. I am thankful for my husband, my family and friends. I am thankful that I have a job that I enjoy and that I have a roof over my head. I am thankful that I always have food to eat and family to share it with. I am thankful for the stories that my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles have shared with me through the years. I am thankful that my husband introduced me to the wonderful world of genealogy. I am thankful for this great network of friends that I have met since joining MCGS. I want to send a big thank you to the executive board, committee chairs, trustees and all who volunteer to keep this society alive. Thank you to all of our members and friends and anyone else who takes the time to read our newsletter or attend our general meetings and workshops. If it weren't for all of you, there would not be a need for this letter. I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2011!

Debbie White, President, MCGS



The Bookworm Reviews . . .

East Jersey Proprietors: Land Tracts, Boundaries, Kin, and Associates

MCGS vice president Gerald Smith has prepared this review of the book by Ann L. Schaefer, 125p. with full name index and comprehensive bibliography.

Anyone with an interest in early Monmouth County history and records, especially those researching early Middletown, will benefit from Ann Schaefer's *East Jersey Proprietors: Land Tracts, Boundaries, Kin, and Associates*. The book presents early gems from the East Jersey Proprietor's records and highlights early settlers and land development from the time of the Monmouth

Patent to the Revolutionary War. Documents track land development in an area spanning the Navesinks (including Shrewsbury and Middletown), to Sandy Hook, Shoal Harbor (encompassing Keyport and Matawan), to Matawan Creek. These early documents mention over 300 people.

The Proprietors' records offer insight into many areas of Monmouth life in that time period – from early transactions with Native Americans to family estate settlement and real estate partition. Reproduction of the original purchase of land from the natives offers insight into trade and land valuation at that time.

When we research our families in county deeds, records which record the conveyance of real property from one private owner to another, we may lose sight of that special process when land was conveyed to the first private owner. *East Jersey Proprietors* begins with a short history of the Proprietors, those given title by royal grant, and the Monmouth Patent. It then presents warrants, surveys, and patents that show the land history of the area. High quality paper and scans combine to present readable copies of the original documents, most with both accompanying abstracts and transcriptions, to trace the history of the land. Remember, no history of your family's New Jersey land is complete until it includes the first transaction from the Proprietor into private hands.

All too often researchers neglect land documents, though they are rich in information about relationships, family history, and the times and culture of the day. As the book traces the development of these early tracts, the inclusion of a will as an instrument conveying ownership reminds us that it was common in that era for land title to unrecorded deeds to pass through wills or intestate probate settlements – one researching the history of the family tract is reminded that their deed search may be blocked when title passes through a will or court ruling.

As noted early in the book, the sources for the work are found at the New Jersey State Archives, Trenton. The section on research technique cites the East Jersey Proprietors records, including deeds, wills, warrants, surveys, and maps. The corresponding microfilm numbers will assist those following their own families through the records. As the individual records do not carry citations, a reader interested in locating one of the original records shown will have to read it carefully and ascertain which of the East Jersey Proprietor record sets contains the item.

Gerald Smith

Susan Fevola Shares Her Ideas For a Successful Family Newsletter

How much do you really know about your ancestors? Name, born, married, died? Where these events happened? But as we ‘genealogists’ say, we want more meat on those bones.

If only our ancestors kept a diary, or notes scribbled on the back of an envelope, or on the back of some photos—or even a ‘family newsletter’.

Imagine, albeit without the technology we have today, there was a family newsletter from your great-great-great-grandmother and you found it tucked away in a box. What would it contain? Perhaps some photos and a story about a trip they had taken. Maybe all about the hurricane that wiped out their crops. Perhaps a mention of a sawmill that her uncle owned. Maybe pictures of her new baby, or her son’s first day of school. How about her favorite recipes? Or poetry that her daughter wrote for a school project. A story that your great-great-great-grandfather wrote about his time in the war. Pictures, lots of pictures—and all in color. (Remember we are dreaming here, so technology is not an issue.)

Got the idea? Now fast forward to the 22nd century, yes, I said the 22nd century. Imagine how excited your great-great-great-granddaughter will be if she comes across your family’s newsletters tucked away in a box. This box that has been handed down from generation to generation and finally comes into her hands. Slowly she will open it and suddenly a whole world opens up to her—pages and pages of stories and pictures all about your life and the life of your extended family. What a treasure! What a gift!

Now it’s up to you to decide if you want to make your great-great-great-granddaughter jump up and down for joy when she finds your family’s newsletters.

If it’s not going to be you, find someone in the family that would enjoy putting it all together, using all the stories and photos that the family members will contribute to this project.

Okay, just how do you go about doing this? I use Microsoft Publisher (but there are several other good programs available); print it out in color and mail out 18 copies every three months. I send an e-mail about a month

before my issue date to remind everyone to send me his or her ‘stuff.’ The first one to respond gets the front cover (a little incentive there), unless there is a birth in the family—that takes precedence. There are births, marriages, deaths, stories/photos of vacations, school events, graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, parties, pictures that the children in the family drew, sports activities, dance classes, hobbies, recipes, jokes, awards, promotions, going off to college, short two or three line tidbits, and always lots of pictures. I have discovered that we have some pretty good writers in my family.

Our newsletter varies in size, depending on how many things I receive from whomever wishes to contribute. The smallest newsletter was only two pages that I wrote myself, (I was determined to have a newsletter that quarter), and the largest was twenty-four pages (lots of participation with lots of photos in that one.) I now have 15 years of the history of our lives, both printed copy in archival sleeves in loose-leaf notebooks and PDF copies on discs. One of my daughters (who is not currently into genealogy due to her busy life of raising children, but mildly interested) has promised to pass along all my genealogy work, including the family newsletters to the next generation after her and then hopefully continue passing all the information along.



Susan Fevola

There is a column entitled “Family Happenings.” This column is used for short tidbits that either I am aware of or someone sends me. For instance, it could be your granddaughter made the honor roll, or your grandson received a trophy in bowling, or your cousin just got a new puppy or a little one lost his or her first tooth.

Since I am currently the only genealogist in the family, I cannot miss an opportunity to “talk” about some ancestor or event that took place long, long ago. So I write a column in the newsletter entitled “Our Golden Threads.”

I like to add graphics to the newsletter wherever appropriate. Microsoft Publisher has some very good graphics. But there is plenty of graphic software available. I use a 3-column format, but usually break that up with a 2-column story and then a 1-column for the continuation of the story or for something completely different.

There is a masthead on our newsletter. Not a fancy or clever title—just “Our Family Times.” I include the month and year, as well as the volume and number of the issue.

Your newsletter can be anything you want it to be, using a publishing software program or just a word program; color or black and white; small or large, best if done on a regular basis. I find that quarterly is ideal. Today's computers make this project a much easier job than your great-great-great grandmother would have had. So get with it—make your great-great-great granddaughter jump for joy looking in that box in the 22nd century.

*If you have any questions, I will help you get started.
Call me or e-mail me: 732-477-1761 or susanjf@juno.com*

Photo Identified; Methods Explained

Cindy Kiefer, our Arizona correspondent, has not only tracked down the Joseph B. Bray whose mystery photograph was featured in the September 2010 issue of TMC, but has turned the puzzle into a mini genealogy how-to lesson.

She began with the census records from 1880-1910, which show that Joseph B. Bray lived with his family in Orange, (2nd Ward) Essex County, NJ. She summarized the entries: BRAY, Joseph B., was born April 1845 in NJ and was a Judge in the Police Court. His wife, Olive H. was born in New Jersey in December of 1845. They were married about 1871 and by the 1900 census she had had 11 children. Ten were still living. They were Florence, born about 1874; Grace, January 1875; Alice, December 1877; Lozelle (female), October 1879; Elmer, November 1881; Maud, October 1883; Walter H., November 1885; Olive H. June 1887; Ruth A., July 1889; and Adele M., August 1892.

Next, she checked Mr. Bray out at pilot.familysearch.org and found in the New Jersey Marriages 1678-1985, Joseph B. BRAY, age 25, single (father Oakley, mother Matilda) married Olive Huston, age 24, single (father Francis, mother Janette) on February 22, 1871 in Newark, Essex County, NJ.

Further, she learned that Oakley BRAY married Matilda Budd on May 15, 1838 in Newark. Now she knew where Joseph's middle name came from.

Cindy also found the death record of their missing child at FamilySearch, in New Jersey Deaths and Burials, 1784-1949. Alice Bray was born in 1876 and died July 2, 1876 in Orange. She noted the Brays named their next daughter Alice, as well.

Next, she checked the birth records index and found major discrepancies with the 1900 census. The NJ index showed Grace was born February 3, 1875 and another female was born October 8, 1875, a male was born September 29, 1880 (she guesses this is Elmer), a female was born



October 10, 1882, and Ruth A. was born June 21, 1887.

Cindy warns researchers to use extreme caution when using these indexes. She says that since the NJ vital records before 1900 go from May/June of one year to May/June of the next, she has noticed numerous mistakes with the wrong year being used. "Unfortunately," she says, "This is

especially true of the Monmouth County records." So, be sure to check the original records.

Cindy says she does not know what kind of uniform Joseph was wearing, however, the medal is a GAR medal -- Grand Army of the Republic. "So he was a Union Civil War veteran," she says.

She checked the pension index cards at www.footnote.com and found "Joseph B. Bray - enlisted August 2, 1864, discharged August 2, 1865. He was a Sgt. in Co. B 2nd Reg't US Artillery. He died Jan. 2, 1913 in Orange, NJ."

With this information Cindy says it was easy to get his death certificate. His service records and pension can be ordered from the National Archives.

TMC will now try to find his living descendants.

Welcome New Members

GRABAS, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph
2 Horse Shoes La, Freehold, NJ 07728
Email: jgrabas@continuingeducationnj.com
Researching: Jobes, Smock, Still, Quero, Brown

PEDERSEN, Ms. Jane
228 Main St, Keyport, NJ 07735
Email: janespedersen@gmail.com
Researching: Pederson, Ader, Simmons, McLoed

WATKINS, Ms. Jane
2630 River Rd, Pt. Pleasant, NJ 08742

Essay Contest First Place 2010 Goes to Jacob Høglund

First prize in the MCGS 2010 Family History Month essay contest will be awarded to Jacob Høglund, fifth grader at the Land O'Pines School for his story about his ancestors who came here from eight different European countries.

Jared Man, Frank J. Dugan School, took second prize with his essay about his grandparents and great-grandparents who immigrated from China and Hong Kong. Amanda Tran of Land O'Pines took third place with her essay about her father's escape from Viet Nam.

The winners, along with nine Honorable Mention recipients, will be honored at a special 1 p.m. meeting preceding our regular general meeting, Sunday, January 9, 2011, at the Community/Senior Center, Eatontown.

Carol Megill, Family History Month Chair, who is responsible for the annual contest, said 156 entries were received from ten different schools this year. The 2010 theme was "Tell Us Why Your Immigrant Ancestor Came to America". The students responded with essays about new Americans from 38 different countries. This year eleven winners were fifth graders, one a sixth grader.

The Honorable Mention winners are: Talia Hanaburgh, Frank J. Dugan School, whose ancestors were from Austria; Sarah Antaki, with Syrian ancestors, Miranda Schindler, Polish ancestors, and Aparna Ragupathi, Indian ancestors, all three from Land O'Pines School; Shane Matus, Newberry School, Lithuanian ancestors; Henry Vaccaro III, Holy Innocents, Hungarian ancestors; Amanda Boggio, Irish ancestors, and Kayla Diorio, Brazilian ancestors, both from St. Leo the Great School; and Cassidy Kimmel, sixth grade, Pine Brook School, Cuban ancestors.

The first place essay follows. Second and third prize essays will be published in future issues of TMC.

"My Immigration Story"

My ancestors immigrated to the United States from several different countries. All four sides of my family came to the United States looking for better lives, but all for different reasons. It is amazing to me that these people are so close to me, but before this project I knew nothing about them. I have gathered this information by talking to relatives. The information I found is very interesting.

My mother's side of the family came from Austria, Ukraine, Russia, Romania and Poland. My mom's father's family was the first family I researched. Harry Alsofrom, my great-great grandfather emigrated from the town of

Lemberg (Ukraine) between 1885 and 1890. This town is now known as Lviv. Alsofrom means "very religious," and the Alsofrom family *was* very religious. In fact, much of the family were rabbis. The Alsofroms chose to immigrate because of religious persecution and to find a better life. Harry settled in New York City and made livings as a coat and dress designer. Harry married May Rappaport, whose family emigrated from Austria. May's father started a new life in the United States as a butcher. After Harry died at the young age of 40, May carried on his coat and dress making business. My great grandpa Charles, Harry's son, changed his last name from Alsofrom to Alson. That made my Grandpa Harry Alson.

My other great-great grandpa was Abraham Boriskin. I am told that he grew up in a small town just outside of Kiev, a Ukrainian city. He came to America in the 1890s looking for a better life. Abraham was in the music business and was a great violinist. Abraham had six children. Sarah Boriskin, one of his daughters, is my great grandma. I am told her brother, Lou, was a musician. Lou's son, Michael Boriskin, is currently a worldwide pianist.

The second family I researched was my Grandma Arlene's family (my mother's side). My great-great grandfather, Hyman Rubin, emigrated from Poland with his family at the age of ten, looking for a better life. After immigrating they lived in Brooklyn. Hyman grew up and made a limousine business. Hyman married Dorothy Glassberg, my great grandma, on March 10, 1935. Dorothy's mother, Rose Cohen, came from Austria. Her father, William Glassberg, emigrated from Romania. William made a living as a tailor. During the depression William helped to build the Brooklyn Bridge.

My father's family comes from Sweden, Germany and Prussia. My dad's father's family came from Sweden. My great grandfather, Frank Charles Høglund, came from Sweden with his family at the age of four. His family came over for three different reasons: there was a potato famine, they were poor, and they were looking for a better life. The family came to the United States in 1897 by ship to Ellis Island. Frank Høglund made a living as a carpenter. He then joined the Navy and helped build the Panama Canal. He married Christine Anderson who was born in the United States. Her family emigrated from Sweden, as well.

My Grandma Ruth's family immigrated from Germany and Prussia. My great-grandfather Otto Fahrman immigrated to the United States from Westfalen Germany in 1923. Otto came to the United States because his family was poor and his older sister and uncle were already living here. Otto lived with his uncle in Manhattan and worked as a plumber. He then moved in with his sister in Staten Island and worked in a brewery. In 1929 Otto went back to Germany to visit his mother. There he met Erica Ropke,

who is my great grandma. Otto returned to the United States and wrote letters to Erica for six years. In 1936 Otto wrote a letter asking Erica to marry him. Erica immigrated to the United States and married Otto.

I hope that you think that my family's immigration story is interesting. My ancestors came to the United States looking for a better life. They all had to work hard to earn a living here, and had many difficult experiences on the way. It is strange that there are so many people in my family tree and it all led down to me.

Jacob Hoglund

Set of *TMC* Could Be Yours

A member of MCGS wishes to give away a set of The Monmouth Connection (volumes 1 thru 20). The newsletter began in September 1989. Anyone wishing to acquire these newsletters should send their name & contact info to <byackel@verizon.net> or to The Monmouth Connection, MCGS, P.O. Box 5, Lincroft NJ 07738.

If more than one person applies we will draw the winner's name at the January 9, 2011 general meeting. The fortunate recipient will have to pay postage if they are unable to pick up the newsletters in person.

Memoir Group Marks Twelfth Year

As we enter 2011, the MCGS Memoirs Group, is marking its twelfth year of recording members' own lives. Begun by Nancy Heydt in 1999, the group's members are mindful of their own frustrations not knowing more about their ancestors and are determined to pass on personal information (of their own choosing) to their children and grandchildren.



They meet the second Wednesday of each month at a member's home and welcome new members. They have also been encouraging other members to form an evening group, or perhaps a men's group, as all the current members are women.

Recently several memoirists took a field trip to Liberty

Hall, the historic Kean family mansion on the campus of Kean University in Union Township, NJ. While there, two members took time out to pose in wooden cut-outs as Jerseyans of a bygone era. Donna Diamant and Judy Bretzger hope you don't recognize them in the above photo taken by Ann Schaefer.

County Archives Honors Ed Raser



Ed Raser, author and a premier researcher of Monmouth County gravestones, was honored with the Jane G. Clayton Award at Archives Day 2010. The Clayton Award honors individuals who have made exceptional contributions to an awareness, understanding and/or preservation of the history of Monmouth County, according to County Clerk M. Claire French.

"He has published and updated the most authoritative volume of graveyard and gravestone inscriptions in Monmouth County," Ms. French said. "Mr. Raser's commitment to his research is remarkable and has advanced the understanding of the county's history."

Ed, a long-time member of MCGS and the Genealogical Society of New Jersey (GSNJ), began researching Monmouth County surnames 60 years ago, using gravestone inscriptions. In 1955, he published his initial inventory, "Monmouth County Cemetery Guide," and shortly thereafter became a regular contributor to the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, for which he served as associate editor for 32 years.

In 2002, he published the 359-page, authoritative volume, "New Jersey Graveyard and Gravestone Inscriptions Locator: Monmouth County." He published his addendum in 2007.

He has also published "Gravestone Inscription Information from Small and Relocated Monmouth County Burial Grounds" (2002) and books on gravestone inscriptions in Mercer County and Morris County.

Judy Bretzger

Latest Hendrickson Cemetery News

Descendants of the Hendricks/Hendrickson family have taken a vital step toward re-creating the historic family cemetery destroyed in September by agents of the Board of Directors of the Beau Ridge Homewowners Association. Meeting at Old Brick Reformed Church in Marlboro on November 13, family members and interested genealogists and historians voted to officially form a family association that will have legal standing to recoup damages from the various entities involved in the toppling, smashing, and pulverizing of some fifty gravestones, many of them more than two centuries old, that made up the greater part of the cemetery.

Led by Dr. Andrew Hendricks, the group elected five members to the board of trustees of the proposed non-profit organization, to be known as the Hendricks/Hendrickson Family Association of Monmouth County. The group also voted to contract with the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer of Woodbridge, NJ, as their legal representatives. Dr. Hendricks was elected president of the association.

Old Brick Church was a fitting site for the formation of the association as Daniel and William Hendrickson, who are buried in the Hendrickson Cemetery at Beau Ridge, were among the founders of the church in 1699.

After the five member board completes its application to the state of New Jersey for non-profit organization status, and develops bylaws in accordance with state guidelines, damages will be sought in court. Family Association leaders said the Holmdel Township Police have identified the Board of Directors of the Beau Ridge Homeowners Association; the Homeowners Association itself; Urban Building Evaluations (UBE), the management company for Beau Ridge; the New Jersey Monument Company/Star of David Monument Company, which performed the removal of the headstones, and the gravel company who pulverized the hand carved monuments as being responsible for the cemetery's destruction.

Re-creation of the cemetery is thought to be possible due to a number of factors: an existing plot outline of the cemetery created a few years ago by a Boy Scout troop, photographs of at least thirty of the headstones from John Zielinski, who did a study of the cemetery in 2007-2008, and the availability of radar technology that will be able to pinpoint the location of the burials.

Meanwhile, steps are being taken to develop and introduce legislation to reduce the chances of a similar event in other cemeteries. Art Rittenhouse, a Hendrickson descendant

and cousin of Dr. Hendricks, has been working with State Senator Joseph Kyrillos on such legislation. Senator Kyrillos did introduce a bill in 1998 that would have amended the land use law to protect historic cemeteries, but the proposed law was defeated by lobbying interests.

The current attempt will take a different approach. The charge for destroying a historic cemetery would be upgraded to felony status, weakening the position of developers who have been willing to pay the fines once the damage was done to a cemetery. Mr. Rittenhouse announced that a new bill is now in process at the NJ Office of Legislative Services.

When the legislation is completed and on the floor of the State Senate and/or Assembly, **a strong letter/ email/ telephone campaign by every interested historical or genealogical group will be necessary for its passage.**

Judy Bretzger



Dare to Keep These Resolutions

It's time to make GENEALOGY resolutions for 2011. Perhaps you have already done so. If not then I suggest the following ten resolutions:

1. *List your priorities for the year.* What do you want to accomplish?
2. *Enter your research into your genealogy software.*
3. *Protect your research by backing up your computer.* Give a copy to a relative or friend to store for you. In other words "get a copy OUT of your home."
4. *Catalog your library.*
5. *Call those relatives you want to talk with.* Why put it off?
6. *Document your sources.*
7. *Scan those family photos* and share them with your relatives.
8. *Clutter in your office?* Sort those piles of papers into "family piles" and put them in "TO-DO" file folders.
9. *Stop procrastinating and get to work!*
10. *Stop researching UNTIL you get caught up!!* You can't get caught up if you are constantly doing more research and creating more paper to deal with.

Beverly Yackel

Genealogy-Themed Mysteries Found at Online Database

Thanks to Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (*eogn.com*), we learned of "Stop, You're Killing Me!" a website for lovers of mysteries. Of special importance to *TMC* is the website's feature that allows readers to search for **mysteries pertaining to genealogy**.

By going to stopyourekillingme.com you can find a database listing more than 3,500 authors of mystery, crime, spy and suspense books. Although more than 39,000 books were listed when we last checked, only a small number were in the "genealogy" category, but that was far more than we knew about before we learned of this site.

Readers may search for books by a particular author, or particular time period, or geographic location. Clicking on a favorite author brings up a list of their books, by date, so they may be read in chronological order. Books about to be released are also listed with an anticipated release date.

Subscribers to the site's newsletters are notified of new releases in hardcover, paperback, or large print.

Judy Bretzger

Upcoming Genealogical Events

Monmouth County Genealogical Society, Community Center, Eatontown

March 26, 2010, workshop, "This Land Was Your Land; This Land Is my Land," (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Hudson County Genealogical Society, Seacaucus Public Library

February 12, 2011 Genealogy Roundtable: "How To...?"

March 12, 2011, "Civil War Surgeons from Hudson County," Valerie Josephson.

Morris Area Genealogy Society, Morris County Library, Whippany.

February 1, 2011, "Tracing Our British and Dutch Connections," Dave Peck.

March 1, 2011, Family Detective, Part 2 "Genealogy Software," Bob Stein.

Monmouth Roots



Old World Home of the Monmouth Hendricksons Discovered

Hendricks/Hendrickson descendant DelLynn Leavitt has discovered the family's Old World home. He has pinpointed the ancestral home of the Hendrickson's of Monmouth County as being the town of Barneveld, Gelderland, in the Netherlands.

Del is the Director of Research of the Henry Hendricks Family Organization. In 2009 he discovered that his progenitor Hendrick Hendrickson I, who married Helena Courtelyou, was the brother of William and Daniel Hendrickson of Monmouth County and that the parents of all three were Hendrick Willemsz and Geesje Bradt of Albany, NY. This connection has now been verified by DNA evidence.

In a paper delivered at the 2010 Reunion of the Hendrick/Hendrickson Family on November 13 at Old Brick Reformed Church, Marlboro, NJ, he explained "Shortly before he died 30 Nov 1677 'Heyndrick Willemsz' witnessed a land transaction between his brother-in-law, Jan Albertson Bradt, and Jacob Casperson dated 14 Sep 1677, (*The Records of the City and County of Albany and the Colony of Rensselaerswyck*, Vol.3, Notarial Papers 1 and 2, 1660-1696, pp 442-443). The two signatures of the witnesses read as follows: 'As witnesses; Jacob Theysen vander Heyden' & 'This is the mark "HW" of Heyndrick Willemsz van Barneveld, made with his own hand'. There were more than one Hendrick Willemsz in Albany and New Amsterdam; however, it is known that the Hendrick that married Geesje Bradt always made the mark of "HW", so there can be no mistaking that this is our ancestor.

"Another common practice of the day was to list one's place of birth to avoid confusion created by the commonality of Dutch Patronymics. So Van Barneveld indicates that our Hendrick Willemsz was born in Barneveld, Gelderland in the Netherlands. Barneveld was a farming community a few miles to the east of Amersfoort. Not only did the family Van Vanelveld have lands there but the family Van Rensselear, the founders of New Rensselearswyck, owned a manorial estate there. So it is very probable that the Van Rensselear family imported Hendrick Willemsz to their New World Settlement near Albany, NY, although no indenture or contract has been located thus far."

And Some Bennett Connections....

In another find that could be of great interest to Monmouth Hendrickson descendants, Del tells *TMC* he recently discovered that the Sarah Thomson who married Henry Hendricks III on 3 April 1751 at Monmouth was not related to

the English Thomas Thompson of Elizabeth, Essex County, NJ, as had been maintained, but rather she was the daughter of Jan Schouten Thomasse and Angenietie (Agnes) Bennet.

“Angenietie,” Del explains, “was a member of the same Bennet family who were members of the Freehold and Middletown Dutch Reform Church of Monmouth, a fact unknown to us West Coast Hendricks family members, and she is buried in the church yard there.”

“However,” he goes on to say, “it does seem that the Bennet family knew who she was, at least in part, as she is mentioned in William B. Aitken’s ‘Distinguished Families in America, descended from Wilhelmus Beekman and JanThomasse VanDyke (Chapter X, p 231). **But (Aitken) had her as a daughter of Arie Adriaense Bennet and Barbara Van Der Donk, (who were actually her uncle and aunt). What nobody knew was the name of her husband, who was Jan Schouten Thomasse or Thomson as it later became.**”

Del says “It has been quite a challenge just to gather all of the allied information that goes with these new finds. But with the help of Henry B. Hoff (of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society), I think I have all of this associated info straight.”

Anyone interested in learning more about his finds may contact Del Leavitt at dleavitt@cablone.net.

Judy Bretzger

First Families of Old Monmouth County

We continue our series looking back at the families whose descendants have been accepted as member sof First Families of Old Monmouth County (FFOMC). These histories are based on the applications originally submitted to the FFOMC committee and may be updated by TMC editorial staff to conform with recent research.

The Covenhoven and Tilton Families:

Theodore Matthew Duay III’s ancestor is **Jacob Willemse Covenhoven**. Jacob was born on 29 January 1679 at Flatlands, Brooklyn, New York. He married his cousin, **Sarah Schenck**, on 12 November 1705 at Flatlands. Sarah was born in Flatlands 18 December 1685. Jacob and Sarah are listed as residents of Monmouth County, New Jersey, on or prior to 1709. They are listed as members of the First Reformed Church of Freehold in 1709 (now known as Old Brick Church of Marlboro, New Jersey). Several of their children were baptized at this church prior to 1725. (Cocheu, Lincoln C., “The Van Kouwenhoven-Conover Family” the *New York Genealogical and Biographical*

Record Vols. LXXI, LXXXI, LXXXII, LXXXIII, reprinted in “Genealogies of Long Island Families,” Vol.11.)

Jacob died in Middletown, Monmouth, New Jersey, on 4 June 1744 (Will dated 5 July 1743, filed 17 July 1744, #01161 New Jersey.) Sarah Schenck Covenhoven died at Monmouth, New Jersey, 1 November 1727. She was the daughter of **Roelof Martense Schenck** and **Annette Wychoff**.

Garret (Gerret) Covenhoven was the son of Jacob and Sarah Covenhoven. Garret was born in Monmouth County on 5 November 1716 (Baptism Record, First Reformed Church of Freehold, 23 December 1716, LDS film #888745). He married **Neeltje Schenck** at Freehold on 12 October 1744. Neeltje was born in Monmouth County 10 April 1724 and died at Monmouth 25 March 1800. Garret died at Monmouth County on 9 December 1797 (Will dated 10 February 1789, filed 16 January 1798, #7825-783M).

Neeltje was the daughter of **Roelof** and **Giesje (Hendrickson) Schenck**. Garret and Neeltje are buried at the family graveyard near Taylor’s Mill, Atlantic Twp., New Jersey.

Other names in Matthew’s family line are Martin and Razeau.

John Tilton is the ancestor of William Ronald Heller. John Tilton was born at Lynn, MA, 4 June 1640 (*Historical and Genealogical Miscellany*, John Stillwell, Vol. V). He married **Rebecca Terry** at Flushing, Long Island, New York, on 12 May 1674 (Stillwell, Vol.V). John died at Middletown, New Jersey in 1704 (Stillwell, Vol.V) and Rebecca died at Middletown on 18 December 1715 (Stillwell, Vol.V).

John and Rebecca’s son, **Thomas Tilton** was born on 20 December 1684 and died 4 January 1763 (Stillwell Vol. V). Thomas married **Faith Lawrence** 7 October 1717 (Stillwell Vol.V).

Thomas and Faith Tilton had a daughter, **Lydia**, who married **William Pearce** at Manasquan, New Jersey on 28 January 1766 (*NJ Colonial Documents: Marriage License*) Price-Pearce Bible). William Pearce came from Roxbury, Boston, MA, in 1735 (Price-Pearce Bible), or 5 March 1738 (Stillwell Vol.V). Note the two different dates cited. Lydia is buried at the Squan Friends Graveyard (no date on gravestone).

Other names in William’s family line are Ellison, Clayton, Shibla, and Applegate.

Linda Wilson, Chair, FFOMC

Monmouth County Will Abstracts

Series 2 – FHL film number 0548087

This series continues the statewide will abstract series originally published by the New Jersey State Archives. We are following the arrangement of the wills and other documents by the docket number which appears on the official listings of the State Archives; there is one docket number for each packet, though each packet may contain several different documents. The packets appear on the microfilm in numerical order by the docket numbers. The letter M at the end of each docket number shows that this is a Monmouth County packet. Full copies are obtainable from the Archives, or one may examine the originals on the microfilms obtainable through the Mormon Family History Centers. We will note the relevant FHL microfilm reel numbers. Our abstracts began in the middle of FHL film #0548085.

Your comments are always welcome. Contact Pat Wilson at pwilson360@optonline.net or Carol York at hyork@exit109.com.

1823, June 20. Vanpelt, Eleanor. Twsp of Middletown. County of Monmouth.

Inventory 132.50; by Henry Arrowsmith and William Morgan.

“Purse in the Hands of Leonard Walling and other Audittors....”

Wearing apparel, grain on the ground, grass on the ground, one-fifth part of a Dutch cupboard. Bed and bedding, two wheels, and chairs. Trammels, churn, basin, kettle and iron pot. Tongs, shovel, and “sum Other Small articles of Household furniture”.

20 June 1823. Sworn by Henry Arrowsmith and William Morgan.

Sworn by John P. Vanpelt, Esq., Adm’r.
[Variant spelling] Elenor, Ellenor.

9527M

1821 June 12. West, Joseph. Twsp of Shrewsbury. County of Monmouth.

Will of. Debts to be paid out of my personal estate.

Executors to sell a certain lot of wood land situate in the township of Shrewsbury containing about five or six acres, adjoining William Tallman and others. The amount of the sale to be equally divided between my three daughters: Ann Shearman, Jemimy Wardell & Margaret Edwards.

To my son Job West: all my share of proprietary right for lands taken up by William West, and my short gun (called Trumpet).

To my son Joseph; my long gun, forever.

To my two sons Job and Joseph West; the plantation whereon I now live and all my other lands not heretofore

devised on the following conditions. My two sons do each pay to my three daughters: Ann Shearman, Jemimy Wardell, and Margaret Edwards, \$150. Both sums making \$300. That sum to be equally divided so that each daughter’s share will be \$100.

After payment of above legacies to my three daughters; my two sons Job and Joseph West to occupy and enjoy aforesaid plantation and lands. Equally divided in quantity and quality, share and share alike.

Job to have his part or proportion of the easterly part. Joseph to have his proportion of the westerly part. Each of them to have use of the barn.

Rest and residue of my personal estate, not heretofore bequeathed, to my three daughters: Jemimy Wardell, Ann Shearman, and Margaret Edwards, and my granddaughter, Ruth West Slocum [?] to equally divide. My Granddaughter’s share to be put at interest until she arrives at age eighteen years. If she should not live to that age; her share to my three daughters.

My two sons, Job and Joseph do have three years from my decease to pay legacies to my daughters aforesaid. And they to take possession of the above mentioned landed property given to them immediately after my decease, the payment of said legacies being secured to them to their satisfaction.

Executors: Son, Job West, and John Williams.

[Signed]

Witnesses: Benjamin West, William West, and John Wardell.

10 November 1823. Sworn by William West and Benjamin West.

Sworn by John Williams and Job West, Executors.

1823, November 6. Inventory \$1,173.37; by William West and Benjamin West.

Purse, bed and bedding, coverlets, bed linens.

Tin ware, pewter, crockery ware. Two large silver spoons and five tea spoons. Household linens, spoon mold, and books. Bags of wheat, feathers, yarn, and wool.

Apples, pumpkins, bee hives, and livestock. Farm tools, items, and implements. Items bequeathed in the Will.

Other household furniture and items. Notes.

10 November 1823. Sworn by William West and Benjamin West.

Sworn by John Williams and Job West, Executors.

9528M

1823, March 12. Willett, John. Twsp of Middletown. County of Monmouth.

Will of.

To my daughter Arintha Truex; \$25 paid to her by my Executors as they think best calculated to do the most good.

To my son Joseph Willett; one-third part of the land that was given to me by my nephew, John Willett, deceased, to be laid off to him on the east end of said land. Also one-third part of my farming utensils except as hereafter bequeathed.

To my daughter Mary Willett; one feather bed and bedding of the first choice.

To my son William Willett and my daughter Mary Willett; my wagon and horses.

To my son William Willett and said daughter Mary Willett all the rest of my lands and meadows and movable estate not otherwise directed; if they will support my wife Euphemia during her natural life and if she will accept the same in lieu of dower.

And if my wife will not accept the forgoing provisions in lieu of her dower; then I give and bequeath to her the use of one-third part of my movable estate after my debts are paid. (Which are not specifically bequeathed) during her natural life.

After the decease of my wife Euphemia, I give and bequeath all the lands and movables as directed in article seven to my son William Willett and daughter Mary Willett.

Executor: Son William Willett. Executrix: Daughter Mary Willett.

[Signed his mark.]

Witnesses: James Hopping, Henry Johnson, Jr., and Joseph Conover.

22 April 1823. Sworn by James Hopping.
Sworn by William Willett, Executor.

1823 September 26. Inventory \$408.83; by William Morford and William Morford, Jr.
Wearing apparel, beds, bedding, and bed stead. Bed linens, linen wheel, "wooling" wheel, chest. Lot of leather. Lumber, glue pot. Thirteen silver teaspoons, lot of old silver, and two silver watches. Three pistols and two guns. Household furniture and items. Kitchen items. Wagons and ploughs. Farm tools, livestock, saddle and bridle, wood sled, and fishing lines.

22 October 1823. Sworn by William Morford, Jr.
Sworn by William Willet, Sole acting Executor.

9529M

Sharing and Organizing Photos

In the early 1990s my cousin Mary Alice sat down with her niece Ruth and went thru her mother's photo album. Ruth videotaped the sessions. Mary Alice identified those photos that were not labeled. She also told stories about the various events that caused the photos to be taken.

In December 2009 I received two discs with 1,077 photographs that belonged to my Aunt Mary. Info on the photos had been put into a 38-page spreadsheet. Each photo had been assigned a number. Other info: year taken, location, names of people, event. Evidently Aunt Mary had her own dark room.

I wrote down the numbers I wanted printed and copied those photos into a file. Then I separated them into separate files for each aunt, uncle, my father, grandparents, Ohio cousins). I "named" each photo with the date & names of people. Next I rearranged them in the file by date and made a "new list" of the photos I wanted copies of. *Computers do make life easier!*

Some of the photos were identified by name but also said "Ohio Cousins" which was not helpful because we had Seward *and* Packer cousins who lived in Ohio. I managed to identify/separate most of them using my genealogy software. Most of the Packer cousins were originally misnamed "Seward". I created a separate list of the Ohio cousins and sent it to the cousin who created this wonderful gift so she could update her master list.

The moral of this story is for each of you to "Reach out to your distant cousins and share your photographs". They make wonderful gifts!

Beverly Yackel

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The Monmouth County Genealogy Society's Purpose is to promote the study of family history as well as the study of history, geography, and social customs of our ancestors; to collect, preserve, and disseminate significant genealogical materials, particularly those of local origin; and to foster interest in these subjects through seminars, educational programs; and to exchange genealogical information through publications, lectures, seminars and other study groups. Membership in the Genealogy Society is open to all upon submission of a Society application.