

HARRINGTON PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 105, HARRINGTON PARK, NEW JERSEY 07640

Bogert's Mill - Prior to 1938

President's Report Notes, Narration, and Natter from *Gerri Gibney* [768-2615]

To begin my column for this newsletter, let me do a little musing about the most important inventory asset we have as a Society, and that, of course, is the Old Burying Ground. Think about all the other cemeteries we pass as we go along the highways and byways of Bergen County that are relatively "new

history at the Old Burying Ground. For all this fantastic work, we can thank many, many people who have spent the time weeding, cutting up dead wood, picking up blow down, raking, photographing, inventorying, researching, and the list goes on. Most especially, however, we need to thank two men who have spearheaded the entire ongoing project of maintenance, preservation, and researching, and



Old Burying Ground - View South to North, 5/7/2007

burying grounds." Consider what they will be like two hundred plus years from now. Of course, we realize there are a whole lot more people in the County than two hundred years ago. Even so, will the "new burying grounds" be tended? Will they be visited? Will anyone know even one person *who* is buried there? I guess the old adage "time will tell" is appropriate here.

But, in this year of 2007, let's ponder our old cemetery, and think about what we are doing. We are tending, we are visiting, and we are learning about the people and *their*

they are **John Mager and Dave Ross**.

If you attended our May meeting, Dave and John gave us the opportunity to see an update on their work at the Old Burying Ground, and also to share in some of their historical findings over the past year. You also saw their great dedication and great enthusiasm for their "work," which I know to be their love. Their volunteer efforts are absolutely enormous.

I began my musing by saying that our most important inventory asset of the Society was the Old Burying

Ground. However, the most important asset of the Society is its people – thank you, Dave and John.

During this past Society year we've had visits from an 18th century British sea captain and Mrs. Martha



Figure 2: Beth Potter describes some historic Haworth houses

Washington. We learned the history of the New Jersey canal system, the history of some of the old houses in Haworth, got a glimpse of the Civil War through the Battle of Antietam, and saw some other historical cemeteries in the State. In December, we took a tour of the Garretson Farm in Fair Lawn, and later enjoyed some victuals and society at the 18th century Dutch House.

We also had a very successful History Day. We received some

fabulous donations to add to our collection. Special thanks to **Caryl Block, Greg Evanella, Regina Potter, Bruce Psaras, and Laura Scott** for their donations.

Over the summer, I'll be putting together the programs we'll be bringing to you starting in September. If you have a particular history interest, please let me know. Can't promise, but I'll do my best to find a speaker.

To end the Society year is our annual Members' Pot Luck Picnic. Of course, spouse, kids are welcome too! Or, bring a friend! It's Saturday June 16th at 4:00 P.M., 154 LaRoche Avenue, Harrington Park. Bring your favorite dish for a barbecue, and we'll supply the beverages, hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken. Please RSVP 201 768-2615 by May 31st.

We have one more general meeting on June 4th, at which time we will give you an update on the business of the Society. Immediately following the business meeting will be our guest lecturer, Barbara Flurchick, who will talk about spying in the County during the American Revolution.

One final item, there's a movement afoot in the Northern Valley that you should know about. A group has been meeting to try and establish a Northern Valley Historical Society. Its mission statement (as quoted from the proposed by-laws is as

follows: *The mission of the Northern Valley Historical Society is to gather, conserve and make more widely known the historical record of the Northern Valley of Bergen County, New Jersey.* This group of representatives from local historical societies and Town Historians came together as a result of the increasing awareness that there are many historical documents pertaining to the Valley that have no “real” home, and, at the very least, we should be discussing what should be done about our common problem. That concern has led us to our stated purpose. As in all good things, it is taking time to put this group together, but after much thought and deliberation, proposed by-laws are now on the table, and the group will be asked to vote on them in the next month. I’ll keep you posted on the progress and goals of this Society, and how it will benefit the entire Northern Valley.

Old Burying Ground [Davis Ross

[768-3621 - davisross@verizon.net;

John Mager 387-7758 – JohnMager@aol.com]

As one becomes accustomed to the physical layout of the Old Burying Ground on Tappan road, it seems clear that there exists a “core” center where most of the Blauvelt family members and their blood relations are interred. Along the western outer boundary and the northeastern corner, however, a number of other burials took place. There one finds persons who are linked to the center perhaps only by their condition of service to those who lie within the core. In the last issue we wrote about one of those in the “outlier” group -- Francis Otloh, [see HPHS Newsletter, VI, no. 1, November 28,

2006]. The following, with John Mager as the principal author, discusses yet another of the “outliers:”

John Hunger

The Harrington Park Old Burying Ground is the final resting place for several young children whose parents either were immigrants or African Americans who worked as farm laborers or domestic servants in Harrington Township.

One such child is John Hunger, the son of Gottlieb and Julianna Hunger (née Kuhn). John's parents had been married in the Catholic parish of



Figure 3: Possible fragment(s) of John Hunger's headstone

Rogazen, about 25 miles due north of Posen, the modern Polish city of Poznan. (At the time, the region had recently been incorporated into Prussia, hence the later documentary references to Germany as the birthplace of various family members. Note also that name spellings and even ages vary from source to source.)

In 1857 the Hunger family decided to head for America, with Wisconsin as the stated goal. Gottlieb (44), a farmer, together with his pregnant wife Juliane (32), son August (7), and daughter Mathilde (2) embarked on the ship *Hron Gagern* at Bremen. They arrived at New York on July 3, 1857. Their timing was not

auspicious, within a month or so the Panic of 1857 occurred, throwing the economy into a sharp, albeit short upheaval.

Five months after their arrival – far short of Wisconsin – their 2d son John was born in Old Tappan in December, 1857. His life span was brief, for the toddler John fell ill with the croup; the disease, characterized by “a loud, harsh, barking cough – which often comes in bursts at night” – led to his death two days later in Tappan on November 16, 1859, just one month short of his second birthday.

Today only a few small fragments of his tombstone exist in the northeast corner of the Old Burying Ground (next to those of Francis Otloh, see fig. 3, above). According to the *Inscriptions from Harrington Park Cemetery Copied from Original Records Made in 1914* (Contributed by David Demarest Chapter, D.A.R., River Edge, New Jersey, April, 1957 John’s tombstone was inscribed

*In
Memory of
John
son of
Julia Hunger
who died
Nov. 16th 1859
aged 1 year 11 months*

The family connection to the Blauvelts may be the reason why John is buried in the cemetery. The 1860 census shows his brother August Hunger employed as “help[ing] on farm” of David Blauvelt, age 62, and his 2d wife Hellen, age 60. (The Blauvelts lived near the modern intersection of Lafayette road and Blanche avenue; both David and Hellen are buried in the cemetery, as is their daughter Helon.)

Two households away (probably to the west along Blanche),

the census also shows family head Goodlit Hunger employed as a “farm laborer” living with his wife, Julia, and daughter, Matilda. Although Gottlieb is shown as not being able to read or write, Julia was literate; and Matilda was attending school. The preteen August, obviously, did not fare so well.

Why the father is missing from the tombstone inscription is not known; but the 1870 census hints at a possible breakup in the family. In that census, Gottlieb is living with Samuel R. Demarest, age 87, a farmer and his wife, Elizabeth, age 81. Gottlieb’s occupation is listed as “works on a farm.” Julia and other Hunger children are not found in any census other than the 1860. Gottlieb is not found in any records after 1870.

A Remarkable Discovery

[John Mager 387-7758 –

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While talking with **Greg Evanella**, a fellow HPHS member, Greg mentioned that one of his 4th great-grandfathers was a Joseph Jordan who came to America with General Lafayette and served with him during the Revolutionary War. Greg showed me a transcript of the tombstones in the Sautjes Taves Begraven Ground in Demarest which listed

Joseph Jordan, B 1755, D 3-1-1813

Eusey Parsels, wife of Joseph Jordan, B 6-12-1763, D 2-11-1836.

Greg knew of my research relating to the Old Burying Ground; he asked me if I could find out more about his Joseph Jordan’s ancestry. I quickly discovered that Joseph was mentioned in the well documented Blauvelt Genealogy. He had settled in

Harrington Township after the Revolutionary War and married Aeltje Parcel. Their son David married Elizabeth Blauvelt, the daughter of John Blauvelt and Maria Myers, at the Tappan Dutch Reformed Church on July 15, 1820.

Not only are John and Maria buried at the Old Burying Ground but John's father, Jacob A Blauvelt, and Maria's parents, Abraham Myers and Catharine Nederman, are also buried there. That's not all. John and Maria's daughter Catharine [Greg's 1st cousin, 4 times removed] and her husband, David Perry, are buried in the Perry Cemetery. So Greg has ancestors and relatives in both of our historical Harrington Park cemeteries. In addition, Greg has another direct ancestor who served in the Revolutionary War since John Blauvelt was a private in the 1st Regiment, New Jersey Line of the Continental Army.

Archivists' Corner [Ingeborg Nebel (767-3037) and Ethel Johnson (768-6357)]

Thanks to **Regina Potter** for donating photographs and other material that she obtained at the Walter and Mary Bogert Strunk house sale on Parkside Road last year. The images depict snowy scenes at the Strunk house, young Bogert family members, as well as social gatherings during the 1940-1970 period. Included is Mary B. Strunk's 1966 founding membership card in the local Club 60.

Although most of the images record ephemeral events – and would usually be viewed as “circular container” candidates by many – they shed light on every-day social and family life of the Borough. As archivists we seek to gather photographs such as these – as well as diaries, journals, newspaper

clippings, and other documents – in the hope that representative samples may be preserved. So, thank you again Regina! How about others of our fellow



Figure 4: A Bogert boy canoeing near the Mill

members considering donating similar material to our burgeoning collections?

The Curiosity Sale of the Century [Anne Kruger (768-0427)]

Well, it was a lot of fun and was successful, but maybe not the Sale of the Century.

On April 14th, while we also were enjoying the History Day, **Ellen King, Esther Ross, Regina Potter, Michelle Ryan, Gerri Gibney, Inge Nebel, Anne Hackett** and **Anne Kruger** worked on setting up, selling, and taking down the sale at the OLV School overhang. It was a cold day, and we sold a lot of Ellen's coffee. We had a lot of fun and were very thankful for our generous contributors, some of whom were **Lynne and Caryl Block, Terry Geminario, Joan Trendier, Marie D'Amico, Esther Ross, Inge Nebel** and **Anne Hackett**. Their 'treasures' brought us our sales! We had a lot of fun, just being together and were able to talk to many nice people! The Bake Sale, which originally was to be part of the Curiosity Sale, was moved to the Borough Hall where the History Day took place. **Anne**

Waldron, The Ryan Family, Gerri Gibney, Girl Scout troop 104 were some who donated delectable treats.

OLV was very generous to us! The church lent us the space AND lent us tables, chairs, the open building (for bathrooms and WARMTH) and the help of Mr. Phillips who gave us garbage bags and help with the tables!

Thank you to all who worked on the publicity, set up and the breakdown of the sale. Anne Hackett arranged a friend to come and take the left treasures who sends garage sale items to third world countries!

We were so pleased that through all of these donations we made some

support money for the Old Burying Ground and donated items for those who may need them! What a successful day. Watch for the Curiosity Sale next year, possibly (hopefully) on a warmer day!

Hospitality [Ellen King (768-2468)]

As our Annual Meeting approaches, I would like to thank our outgoing Hospitality Chair, **Caryl Block**, for her dedicated work in ensuring that our meetings have ended on a sweet note, and all the volunteer hosts who made these enjoyable gatherings possible.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 26, 2007: Resetting of headstone of Rachel Blauvelt, Old Burying Ground [park on Arcadia Court], 10-12. *Join us as we reset our first headstone. This is the sole remaining stone with a Dutch inscription; for several years it had been leaning against a tree stump. That stump has finally decayed, leaving the stone lying face up on the ground. We will be resetting it in a manner that can be reversed should later conservation methods dictate a change.*

Monday, June 4, 2007, Society Annual Meeting and Monthly Presentation: Barbara Flurchick, Past President, Genealogical Society of Bergen County, "*Spying in Bergen County during the American Revolution.*" 7:30 PM, Quantmeyer Room, The Library.

Saturday June 16th at 4:00 P.M., 154 LaRoche Avenue, Harrington Park Members' Pot Luck Picnic. [See sidebar, p 1.] Please RSVP 201 768-2615 by May 31st

Officers of the Society:

Gerri Gibney, President (768-2615)
Regina Potter, Vice President /Treasurer (784-9628)
Michelle Ryan, Membership Secretary (767-8544)
Davis Ross, Recording Secretary (768-3621)

Other Members of Executive Committee:

Ellen King, Hospitality (768-2468)
George Gibney, Public Relations (768-2615)
Ethel H. Johnson, Archives (768-6357)
Ingeborg Nebel, Archives (767-1521)
Anne Kruger, Fund Raising (768-0427)