

Hightstown



East Windsor

Historical Society News

Spring 2023

Center or Stockton County Continued from the Winter newsletter

by Cappy Stults

The winter newsletter closed with the January 1871 Gazette article about "Centre County". The article was based on reports in the Gazette including how the Gazette reported the articles that were in the Monmouth Democrat, a Freehold weekly newspaper (and somewhat of a competitor). The Gazette summarized that the citizens in Hightstown and the surrounding towns in Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Burlington, and part of Ocean counties were nearly unanimous for the new county. Freehold opposed it because Hightstown would benefit. But, ironically many in eastern Monmouth towns supported it because they wanted the Monmouth County seat to be closer to their coastal town. New Brunswick opposed it because of the loss of some of its taxpayers. And Trenton opposed the new county for the same reason. But the State Legislature would be the ultimate decision maker, not the towns or its citizens.

It was uncertain how many legislators would support the proposed new county. Remember that it was only thirty-three years earlier when Mercer was established in 1838 from parts of Burlington, Hunterdon, and Middlesex counties. This actually was the third attempt as there was one twelve years earlier in 1859, which was only 20 years after Mercer had been created, and then another in November 1865. That is for later in this article as we need to finish the Center (Centre) County story.

Editor note that the following language is exactly as written in the Gazette unless noted otherwise.

February 2, 1871, Gazette

"A Doubt as to Honesty"

The Monmouth Democrat suggests that the naming of a gentleman of Upper Freehold as a committee-man by the New County Convention, held at Hightstown, some time since, "is sufficient to create

a doubt as to the honesty of the entire proceedings at Hightstown." Now we would say that the gentleman referred to, was nominated by one of his neighbors who knew that heretofore Mr. C.B. Meirs has been a hard worker for the new county and who was not aware that he had changed his views in regard to the matter, if indeed he has done so. But the Democrat publishes the names of the following gentlemen as committees to oppose the movement, appointed by a meeting in Upper Freehold, January 19, 1871.

Jno. G. Meirs	R.L. Ridgway	Chas. Bullock
S.W. Williams	J.C. Vanderbeck	Nicholas Waln
Chas. P Rue	Alfred Conover	N. Waln, Jr.
R.C. Rue	Chas. Smith	James Giberson
Geo. M. Middleton	Chas. Bruere	H.R. Taylor
J.D. Hall	C. B. Miers	N.S. Rue
J.G. Miers		

Now we would like to have the Democrat answer a few questions:

Was there any meeting of the citizens of Upper Freehold held on January 19?

1. Where in the township was the meeting held?
2. How many were in attendance at the meeting?
3. Were all the gentlemen named consulted before being appointed?
4. How many of them expressed themselves as willing to serve in opposing the new county?

Pending the answers to these fair questions, we have only to say that the whole affair "creates a doubt as to the honesty of the entire proceedings" at the Democrat office.

(cont. pg 3)

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope your New Year and Winter were safe and enjoyable. The Society has begun the addition work and we are continuing with our fundraising efforts. See the update article in this newsletter. Thank you all again who contributed and pledged. We look forward to receiving the pledged commitments and even more donations! Thank you again.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – We are trying to get back to “normal” and have committed to an actual House Tour in 2024. As you know, this does not just happen but takes a lot of planning. The first big step is lining up the owners that will open up their homes to us and the community. Please let me know if you are interested and can help in any way. There are many other tasks for the House Tour to be a success as well.

Additionally, the museum committee needs additional volunteers as we revamp and rearrange after the addition is completed. The library committee of course will be very busy with reorganizing the shelving and accessioning the Hutchinson and other recent collections.

We are also in need of Trustees and Officers as we look to the future. We have not had a formal annual meeting and would like to have one in 2023 at an in-person venue. We have discussed many possibilities but volunteers are needed to assist.

So, if you did not hear my plea, **PLEASE VOLUNTEER**. We have plenty to do. Thank you for your many positive comments and assistance. I'd love to hear from you at costults@allenstults.com or costultsiii@gmail.com.

Cappy Stults, President
609.712.1811
costults@gmail.com

Features

- 1 **Center or Stockton County**
by Cappy Stults
- 8 **She Had The Music In Her!**
by Gregory Ciano
- 9 **Library Addition & Fundraising Update**
- 10 **Audition Information**
- 10 **Hightstown Gazette Headlines Through the Decades**



Hightstown Hotel. This is where the Hightstown Firehouse sits today.

Center County (cont.)

In a separate article in the same February 2, 1871 edition of the Gazette,

The New County Movement – The Monmouth Democrat of last week calls attention to the fact that the Monmouth County Freeholders have signed a protest against the dismemberment of that county, and also becomes horrified that the convention at Hightstown has appointed a person on committee without that person's consent. The Democrat closes its homily with the following: "It certainly looks as if nobody outside of the Hightstown puddle is at all interested for a new county."

Now, as the Democrat insists that the new county is "only intended to benefit Hightstown," and that nobody outside of the "Hightstown puddle is at all interested," who do our readers suppose are named by the Democrat as the committee to see that the movement is defeated? –Their names are C.B. Meirs, John G. Meirs, Nicholas Waln, and N.S. Rue, two directors and the President of the First National Bank of Hightstown. Just look at it. The Hightstown puddle desires a new county, Hightstown is to be benefited by it, and yet the Democrat dares in the same breath to name as opponents of the movement three of our most prominent financiers –three gentlemen who may naturally be supposed to be deeply and heartily interested in everything that benefits Hightstown.

The truth of the matter is that the new county is especially desired by our outside neighbors, and that the "Hightstown puddle" is not half interested in it. --- Last week large meetings were held at Cranbury and at Red Tavern, where the unanimous voice of the people was in favor of the new county; but not one of the "Hightstown puddle" attended either of the meetings. No citizen of Hightstown is circulating petitions; our town committee have not even appointed a "chairman". The common council have selected no one to go to the Legislature and lobby for them.

Self-interest of course demands that the Democrat should oppose the movement, but home-made correspondence, and the misrepresentation of our prominent

business men, are weapons that the Democrat cannot use without injuring itself.

So what is happening here? Allow me to add some additional context. Hightstown only became a "borough" government in 1853 but it was a growing commercial center for the agricultural region in all directions. The C&A Railroad was growing in popularity and use, both freight and passenger. The Pemberton and Hightstown Railroad had been recently chartered in 1864 and was completed in 1868. Soon citizens from Hornerstown, Cream Ridge, Davis Station, Imlaystown, Sharon, and even New Egypt were coming to Hightstown to connect with the C&A mainline to get to Philadelphia and New York. There were also daily and weekly trips to shop, attend productions in the "opera" houses in town, and participate in fraternal meetings such as the Odd Fellows, Masons, and American Mechanics. Many stayed over in one of the five hotels to attend church meetings for denominations that did not exist in their villages. The Waln and Meirs families referenced above were from the Cream Ridge/Imlaystown area. Also, some of the villages such as Perrineville and New Egypt were becoming summer "camp resort towns" with families from NY and Philadelphia coming by train via Hightstown.

The Central Bank of New Jersey was the only bank between the towns of Bordentown, Princeton, New Brunswick, Jamesburg, and Freehold. Hightstown, therefore, was a financial center as well. Competition to this bank came to town in 1870 with much of the financial backing coming from those in farm towns to our southeast. Nearly all of the farmers and agribusiness suppliers banked in Hightstown.

February 9, 1871 Gazette (worth noting - Jacob Stults and T.B. Appleget were the owners at the time)

The little opposition that was started a few weeks since has had a good effect—it is waking the people up to the necessity of effort. The "puddle" is at work, and from all parts of the section we hear encouraging reports. The canvassers say that they meet with very few who do not sign the petitions and a large number of names is secured. The opposition in Upper Freehold is not likely to be very strong....From the farther portions of South Brunswick and Monroe there comes strong opposition against being left out of the new county. A prominent citizen of Dayton was here on Tuesday, to say that the people there would go dead against the present proposed lines, but strong for the new county if they were included. We also understand that in Jamesburg the only opposition is to leaving part of the township out.

Since the bill has been prepared, and its provisions are becoming known to the people, it is meeting with still more favor..... The bill is meeting with favor in Trenton too. Many members of the Legislature to whom it has been privately submitted have professed themselves ready to support it.

In the same issue, the following is reported

A gentleman who has been at Trenton on petit jury for several weeks past, informs us that not a single case comes before the present court from either of the three townships that are to be set off into Center County....A meeting on the proposed county is to be held at Pearce's Hall, Saturday at 7 o'clock (ed. – February 11, 1871).

February 16, 1871 Gazette

..A public meeting was held in Pearce's Hall, Hightstown, Saturday evening, February 11th. The attendance was large, and comprised many of the most influential citizens of the proposed New County. E.C. Taylor, Esq., was called to the Chair and John H. Silvers elected Secretary. The first business was to call on the canvassers. These gentlemen reported that with the exception of some in Upper Freehold Township, they had met with no opposition inside the bounds and presented long rolls of petitions to show the unanimity of the people in regard to the matter.

It was reported that the bill had been presented to the Legislature.

February 16, 1871 Gazette

From the *Local Items and Comments* section.

The Monmouth Democrat of the 9th contains an article commencing as follows: "The Hightstown Gazette repeats its libel that the correspondence of the Democrat relative to the new county was manufactured in the office, notwithstanding our denial of last week." Oh James! We never would have believed it of you, when you knew that our "repeating" was of the same dates as your "denying," and that we could not possibly have seen the denial at the time we repeated our suspicions. To think you would have written that on the very day that we credited you with being "truthful!" James, that was naughty of you to misrepresent us. You ought not to let your naughty passions rise and make you use such bad words as "libel," "false imputation," "mean insinuation," "ungentlemanly," "notorious", "grossly dishonest," "silly." We have only opposed you as far as you were unnecessarily meddling with our local affairs, and you should have kept your temper, James.

It's interesting to note that "James" is James Yard, editor of the Monmouth Democrat. Yard and Stults founded the Village Record in 1849, ages 23 and 19 respectively. It later became the Gazette. Yard sold out to Taylor after 5 months but then returned for a period only to sell out to Stults again in 1854.

Later in this February 16th issue, the following "comment":

The Monmouth Democrat, instead of answering our fair questions about the Upper Freehold opposition meeting, says that it "had nothing to do with it." We fear the meeting has been "gone back on." Many of the citizens profess ignorance of it; some of the persons prominently named on its committees deny all participation in it; and now even the Democrat has "had nothing to do with it."So we will wait for a denial this time.

February 23, 1871 Gazette

The New County – Out of two columns in the Monmouth Democrat of last week on this subject, we select two lines which are worthy of attention. They are as follows: "If public necessity requires it and the people demand it, the Legislature ought to grant it."

But the Gazette reports that the Democrat then states that they do not think the public wants it. The Gazette article closes by writing, "You are sound on the New County at last."

Later in the "Comments" section (what would now be the opinion section):

Mr. C.B. Meirs and the New County – In last week's Monmouth Democrat, Mr. C.B. Meirs writes a letter to answer the questions we asked of the Democrat, a few weeks since, in regard to the remonstrance meeting and the committees appointed. As a matter of justice to Mr. Meirs we give that part of his article which refers to his own position, with simple comment that if his hopes are not realized in regard to getting those names on the remonstrance it will simply be owing to the fact that it is well known here, and probably in Trenton, viz: That one at least of the committee, and a large number of his neighbors have affixed their names to the petitions to the New County. This of course Mr. Meirs did not know, or he would not have written the following:

"Were all the gentlemen named consulted before being appointed?" I answer, that when the proper time comes for presentation of the remonstrances to the Legislature, every man's name will be found signed to one of the remonstrances, who was that day appointed, together with almost every other man in the township. No, sir, as I am a friend of honesty, I would like the gentleman who wrote the article for the Gazette to fairly understand me. When he says that a neighbor of mine nominated me as one of that committee, knowing that I had always been a hard worker for a new county, and seeming to doubt my honesty in the matter at present, to show that this "Hightstown puddle" departs

from the truth, in the first place I would say that there is not a neighbor of mine within four miles of my residence who is not a bitter opponent of the new county, therefore none of my neighbors would have been seen at that meeting. In the second place, that I have always been a hard worker for the new county, is false. When I was not entitled to vote, is false. When the new county was talked of before I was entitled to vote being under age.

Mr. Meirs is deeply interested in this matter, and has a right to oppose the movement without making an apology as to his age. We have cast no reflections upon his honesty, and give him the privilege of refusing to acknowledge as neighbors whom he pleases.

March 9, 1871 Gazette

Legislative matters – The Musconetcong county bill was postponed on Monday evening...We take this to mean that he sees little change for the bill. We also learn that the Republican caucus have at last concluded to turn the ***cold shoulder on all of the New County projects***. (Ed -emphasis added).

From March 9, 1871 through May 18, 1871 there was no mention of the new county movement. I did not look at any Gazettes after that date as the issue was indeed dead.

But now the “Prequel” to the 1871 movement for Center (Centre) County. Indeed there seemed to be a number of movements for a new county within just two decades after Mercer County’s founding in 1838. There was a brief one in 1865 and the largest and possibly the most interesting was in 1859.

November 30, 1865 Gazette

THE NEW COUNTY MOVEMENT – A meeting of the citizens of this place and vicinity was held at the Baptist Church, on Monday evening last, to consider the subject of petitioning the Legislature at its next session for a new County, out of parts of Monmouth, Mercer and Middlesex. M.F. Mount was called to the chair and Jacob Stults appointed Secretary (Ed

– yes, the same Jacob Stults). It was unanimously resolved as the sense of the meeting that it is not only expedient but vitally important that we move unitedly in efforts to secure the passage of the measure. Remarks were made by J.E.Rue, G.W. Fielder, R.E.Morrison, A.J.Smith, Drs Hall and Cory and others. (Ed -A committee was appointed that included a few of the above and Outcalt and Pearce. Note also that no mention of Burlington or Ocean counties).

There does not seem to have been any action after this meeting. Remember the years 1865-1866 were very tumultuous times in Hightstown and the country. The President had been assassinated, State versus National banking was causing some financial turmoil, there was national, state and local political upheaval and increased focus on the temperance movement.

January 1859

I have in my possession, soon to be turned over to the Society, two original signed petitions to the State to create the County of Stockton. The first petition has dozens of signatures of residents of Hightstown, Allentown, Upper Freehold, Millstone, Clarksburg, New Sharon, Red Tavern, Cranbury, Cranbury Station, and Jamesburg. The petition reads:

TO THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

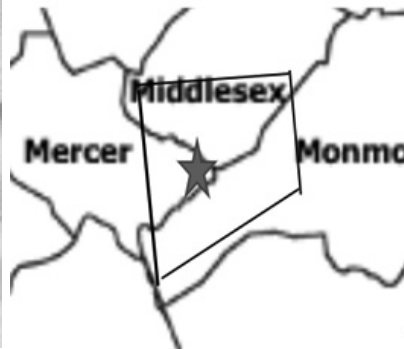
The undersigned, citizens of the Counties of Middlesex, Monmouth and Mercer, would respectfully ask your Honorable Body for an Act to create the County of Stockton, out of parts of the above, named counties, to be comprised within the following boundaries and descriptions:

Beginning at a bridge over Crosswicks Creek, formerly Fowler’s at the corner of Ocean, Burlington, Monmouth, and Mercer counties, in the old Province line; thence along said Province line between the townships of East and West Windsor, Hamilton and Lawrence to the Delaware and Raritan Canal; thence along said Canal to Millstone River; thence up Millstone River to the straight Turnpike; thence along the straight Turnpike to the public road leading from Kingston to Cross Roads; thence along the middle of the last named road, commonly called Ridge road to a private road running through the lands of Matthew Griggs and others; thence easterly direct to the point where the Friendship road strikes the road leading from Scott’s Corner to Cross Roads; thence along said Friendship road to George’s Road; thence along George’s Road southerly to the mouth of a public road running through Henry Johnson’s land; thence along said last named road to the Camden and Amboy Rail Road; thence direct to the point where the road leading from Monroe Hotel to Peter Vorhees house first strikes the road leading from Jamesburg to the late John P. Miller’s saw mill property; thence on said last named road by said saw mill property, and running the most direct road to Perrineville; thence along the public road through the villages of Perrineville and Williamsburg, and along the old road called Goshen road, running along lands of John W. Van Schoick, and through lands formerly of Richard Debow, dec’d and Thomas Debow, and by what was formerly called Carr’s Tavern to the Ocean county line, in the Monmouth and Mount Holly

road, near John H. Burk's Tavern; then along the Ocean county line to the beginning ---and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

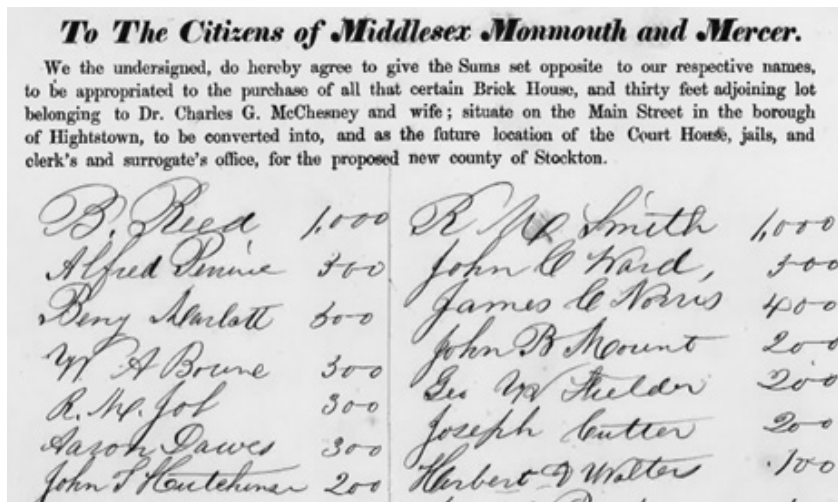
Dated January 3d, 1859

Signers of this petition include family names of Wyckoff, Malsbury, Blake, Gravatt, Wikoff, Everham, Clayton, Vandenburg, Jemison, Applegate, Davis, Lutes, Harmell, Dey, Appleget, Stults, Bennett, Riggs, Longstreet, Gibson, Perrine, Hall, Copper, Carson, Cubberley, Reed, Robbins, Rierdon, Davison, Parrent, Holloway, Stout, Salterron, Messler, Miller, Kennedy, Johnson, Sprague, Fora, Borden, Horner, Hankins, Brown, Lutts, Black, Thorn, Cheseman, Lewis, Brownell, Highlander, Reeves, Benson, Pearce, Buckelew, Henderson, Patterson, and others. A clip is copied



herein.

Approximate Boundaries -Star Hightstown - County Seat



The second petition in my possession is for pledges to purchase a building on Main Street to serve as the County Seat Courthouse:

Dr. McChesney's house was a fairly new brick house as his prior frame house had been destroyed by fire in 1838. There were two Dr. McChesneys in town just to confuse things. Joseph purchased the Sloan House from the bank in 1859 and moved his practice there. Charles moved to Trenton after the fire. He was Secretary of State from 1840-1851. The house in question was north of the

Baptist Church.

From January through February 1859 there were numerous commentaries and letters to the editor in support of Stockton County. The local paper then was the Village Record as the Gazette did not yet exist. There seemed to be nothing but support for the proposal, at least in the Village Record. One such commentary by editor Jacob Stults is as follows:

Village Record February 4, 1859

The New County – Equal rights and equal privileges are themes of which every citizen of our land is proud..... In the formation of county organizations, there can be no good reason why rural sections at a distance of from ten to twenty miles from the county seat, should be compelled to drag their County and Court business to the most remote verge of the district embraced in the county.....There is no reason why counties should embrace so much territory and business as to afflict so many of her citizens, and to subject them to very onerous burdens and expenses to obtain justice...

Jacob Stults closes as follows:

I trust our honorable legislature will hear our plea, consider our complaints, and grant our request. Should they not deliver us from bondage, we shall be compelled to continue making brick for Pharaoh without straw.

Village Record February 11, 1859

It is now, as it always has been, customary for certain classes of people to oppose everything like improvements; and had the world listened to these men, many would now be groveling in poverty and our country have reached the acme of its greatness long ere this..... When the Camden and Amboy Railroad was first contemplated, it met with the most bitter opposition; so much so that they were constrained to alter their lines and run it differently from what they first intended. Those who opposed it have lived to get rich because of it.... Make this new county, and it will not be long before turnpikes and railroads

will shoot out from its centre like the web of a spider, bringing villages, farms and produce thereof to one great focus, benefitting not only the merchant and farmer, but the mechanic and laborer will come in for their share of the blessings....It costs no more money in a new county than an old one....We are taxed to build bridges, and pay the expenses of criminal prosecution for the cities of Trenton, New Brunswick and Freehold, and the improvements at Long Branch, Red Bank, Deal, Manasquan, Princeton and a host of other places, all of which will be avoided by this new county. We have no large streams to bridge ---we have a peaceful, steady, laboring class of people....It is some thirty miles between Trenton and New Brunswick, and more than that between Somerville and Freehold. The territory it too large. Friends, be up and doing; if you have no printed petition write one; go to your neighbor, ask his signature; if he opposes the measure, read this appeal to him. Stick to it.....If we do this, we shall succeed----if not, then we shall fail, and the fault will be our own.

The Excelsior, founded by members of the Universalist Church to compete with the Village Record, also supported Stockton County. In a January 20, 1959, editorial, they point out that our towns are tired of sending tax money to Trenton to pay to spruce up their courthouse and build bridges in Trenton/Hamilton and Princeton. They also point out that a very large proportion of the criminals tried in the county seat are from Trenton and Princeton, while very few are from our area, and thus why (court) sessions in Trenton drag out so long. The Excelsior acknowledges, however, that they believe most of the farmers oppose it because they fear a higher level of taxes to build a new county seat.

In the Febr 3, 1859, issue they opined:

No sooner, however, than a project of this kind was moved, than the senseless hue and cry of heavy taxes was heralded by outsiders who fattened on our depleted purse, throughout the bounds of the proposed new county to frighten

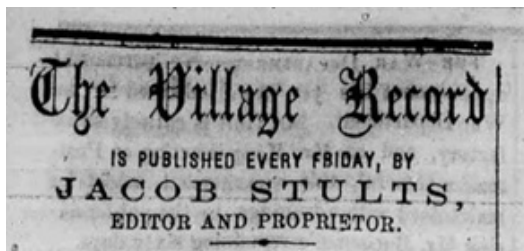
such as were not posted up, and whose visual orbs were not clear enough to perceive the wolf under the sheep skin.....

In the proposed new county of Stockton, the people are generally producers, not those individuals born to consume the produce of the soil; but active, industrious, laboring men, the men in whom power can always be safely reposed---men who will take care of ourselves and keep ourselves clear of the extravagance and waste, without troubling our cousins from the old county seats to assume our guardianship. No friends, we are about to leave you, and set up for ourselves; and we advise you old folks, to look well to your remaining households you have enjoyed the exclusive privilege of court houses, clerks, and surrogates offices etc. at your doors, and driving us to travel long enough.

The second petition with pledges was to remove the fear of higher taxes to pay for new county facilities as the private sector would do so through donations and give the property to the new county.


But by March the focus was on Newtown, aka Windsor, wanting to separate from East Windsor Township. It appears all township meetings were being held in Hightstown/East Windsor where previously they alternated with meeting in Newtown (Windsor). The Senate passed the bill allowing the separation in March 1859, by a vote of 43 – 0, with the new township name of Washington. Maybe the new county movement scared the state and help effectuate their legislative approval.

By April 1859 it appears the focus in Hightstown was on installing gas lights in town and building a new town hall. The Excelsior lost its editor in 1959. New editor C.W. Mount assumed duties. Throughout the rest of the year, the commentaries and letters were spat between The Excelsior and Village Record, but not



about a new county.

So, the County of Stockton just seemed to die out as did Centre County twelve years later. The local focus was on abolition, the war in Europe, the potential of wars in Central America and Cuba, as well as the usual agricultural reports.

HEWHS EDITOR'S COMMENTS – *I could not resist including this back and forth over 150 years ago. This in many ways is consistent with similar "pamphlets" 100 years prior to that such as those written by Thomas Paine. So, today we get in a lather over letters to editors, different news stations, and Twitter! The banter between the writers of the 1850s-1870s is quite entertaining and could almost be current events!* 

She Had the Music In Her!

by Gregory Ciano



The young lady in this picture is Addie A. Walling. Born in 1855 in Brooklyn, New York to Augustus and Elizabeth (Davidson) Walling, Addie had a strong talent for music. She played the organ at the Methodist Church for thirty years starting in her teen years but what most don't know is that she gained worldwide notoriety composing music (including a well-known song!) under her husband's name, R.R. Forman (who she married in May 1881).


Addie started composing at the age of 13. Her first piece was accepted and published by a nationally known publishing house. The sheet music for this composition was still being widely sold and played at the time of her death in 1937. Pretty amazing for a first composition written by a teen.

Addie wrote over three hundred compositions which included hymns, children's songs, musicals, anthems, sacred solos, choruses, operettas, as well as Christmas and Easter cantatas (a vocal composition that included a choir with instrumental accompaniment; these were her specialties). One of her operettas, A Rose Dream was extremely popular and performed throughout the country by children and teens. Over time she became so well known for her music that much of her sheet music and books from later in her life have her name prominently displayed across the cover. The name "R.R. Forman" was a selling point.

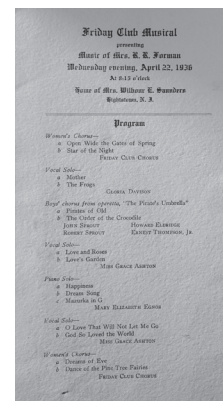
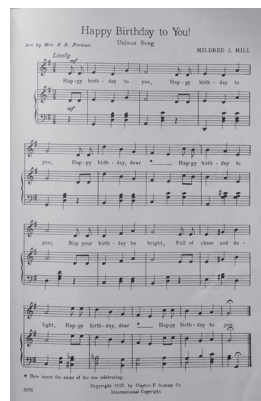
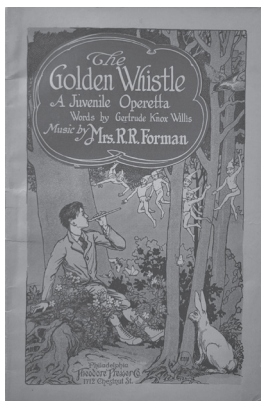
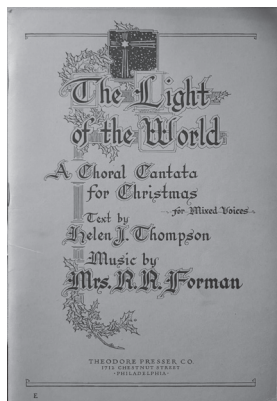
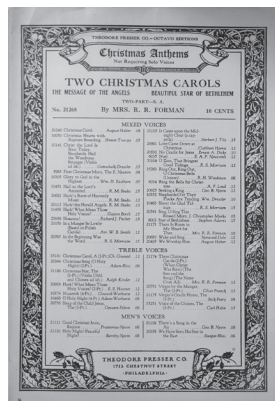
So there are three things that are notable about Addie (I mean other than the vast and diverse musical output). First, only her

publishers knew that all this music was coming from a woman until she added "Mrs." to her pen name later in her career.

Second, the residents of Hightstown and East Windsor were unaware of her musical composition career (I mean, she wrote 300 songs and told no one!!) until a prominent music publication showcased her compositions. To put this in perspective, during Addie's life purchasing sheet music was the popular way to bring music into your life. Recorded music was possible but not as widespread as it is today, and radio didn't start broadcasting music until 1906* and even that was limited. Learning about Addie's composition productivity would be the equivalent of learning that your neighbor wrote a large chunk of the pop music you hear on the radio, and also wrote multiple Broadway shows (your neighbor would have to be Elton John!). But once the cat was out of the bag local groups like the Friday Club were performing her music.


Third, and this is a big one, she wrote the music to the song "Happy Birthday." Yes, that "Happy Birthday." The song that is sung to you annually by family and/or friends was co-written by a Hightstonian. My theory, as to why this is not more commonly known, is because Happy Birthday wasn't commonly sung around 1937, when Addie passed away, this little nugget of trivia didn't make it into her obituary and then into Hightstown lore. Let's make this right. After every time this song is sung say "thanks, Addie." 

*on Christmas Eve to Brant Rock, Massachusetts.



Library Addition And Fundraising Update

You will see that the foundation and framing is in for the addition. The walls are going up too. Hopefully, the walls will be finished and electricity will be worked on soon. Who knows, it might be done by the time you get this newsletter. We really need this space as the rest of the Richard Hutchinson collection will be coming in late February, and if you saw our current library you'd see that we are out of space. We're fortunate that our residents, past and current, feel a strong attachment to our borough and town, and a strong need to preserve our history. We've received many pieces of Hightstown/East Windsor history from all of you. Thank you.

Although we fell short of the \$20,000 goal by the end of 2022, our benefactor was pleased that we received \$14,250 prior to the end of the year and \$4,500 in pledges to be paid in 2023. This is from 29 different members and friends. Therefore the \$20,000 challenge gift will be granted. The cost of the entire project will be close to \$50,000. So if you did not contribute yet, please do so. **Encourage your family, friends, and neighbors as well.** It's easy to do through our website at www.hewhs.com/become-a-member or through the QR code. Choose the "Other" button at the bottom of the form. 



Auditions!

We're holding auditions on Saturday, April 1st at noon for students 3rd through 12th grades. No experience is necessary! This will be our fifth production and the third as a short film.

Why do we do a Short Film Instead of Live? These productions started as a live performance, but we switched to short films in 2021 due to the constraints of COVID. The kids and I had such a fun time that we decided to continue producing it this way. **There's more information at our website (www.hewhs.com/childrens-theater-program or the QR code below).** Plus you can watch last year's production, *All Aboard! The Story of the John Bull* here as well. An audition script is also available there.



scan the QR code for more information

When: Saturday, April 1st @ noon

Where: Historical Society Headquarters | 164 North Main Street | Hightstown

Who: 3rd through 12th graders

Audition script can be downloaded at the web address or QR code above. It does not need to be memorized. Just be familiar with it. Prepare a song if you're interested in a singing part.

More Info: www.hewhs.com/childrens-theater-program or the QR code above.



HIGHTSTOWN GAZETTE.

These are article headlines found in the Hightstown Gazette.

20 Years Ago

March 6, 2003:

The Borough of Hightstown Is 150 Years Old

Hightstown was incorporated on March 5, 1853.

30 Years Ago

March 11, 1993:

EWT Councilwoman Mironov To Seek N.J. Assembly Seat

The headline says it all.

40 Years Ago

March 3, 1983:

Smaller Toll Tickets For Turnpike Patrons

Slightly smaller toll tickets with a magnetic stripe on the back. This was a new computerized toll system.

50 Years Ago

March 1, 1973:

Archer Says Post Office Fate Here Lies in Hands Of Army Engineer Corps

Talk of where to put the new post office (or the current post office as the case may be).

60 Years Ago

March 7, 1963:

McGraw-Hill Dedicates New Office Building.

The former McGraw-Hill building opens. Costs 6 millions dollars to build.

70 Years Ago

March 5, 1953:

Home From Korea

*Hightstown resident Richard Hornberger, Jr., future-author of the novel that M*A*S*H* the movie and T.V. show are based on.*

Hightstown East Windsor Historical Society

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



Officers

President: Charles "Cappy" Stults
609.448.0110 - cstults@allenstults.com

Vice President: Robin Smith

Recording Secretary: Shirley Olsen
609-448-8388

Treasurer: Robert Szychowski
609-448-9490

Committee Chairs

Finance: Robert Szychowski
609-448-9490

Property & Grounds: Beverly Mann
Curtis Crowell

Library: Joe Louderback
Robert Craig
609-584-1806
Eileen Couturier

Website: Gary Stevens
609-469-1860

Membership: Cookie Cummings
cookcumplings@yahoo.com

Museum: Cookie Cummings
cookcumplings@yahoo.com
Robin Smith
Sue Dilger

Newsletter: Charles "Cappy" Stults
609.448.0110 - cstults@allenstults.com
Gregory Ciano
gregory.ciano@gmail.com

Programs: Gregory Ciano
gregory.ciano@gmail.com
Christian Kirkpatrick
Nancy Laudenberger
609-443-6536

Publicity: Shirley Olsen
609-448-8388

Building Committee

Curtis Crowell, Christian Kirkpatrick, Shirley Olsen, Robert Szychowski

Society Trustees

Curtis Crowell, Nancy Laudenberger, Bonnie Lou Field, Irene Schubert, Bev Mann and Gary Grubb

Layout by Gregory Ciano.

Printed by Harwill Express Press

Membership Application

Support us this year at the following rates:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual\$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family.....\$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Booster\$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining.....\$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (Individual)\$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life (Family).....\$275 |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

Where did you hear about membership?

Please mail the completed application along with a check made payable to:

HEW Historical Society

Membership Committee

164 North Main Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520

Thank you for your donation!



Or pay online by clicking "Become a Member Today" on our website: hewhs.com or scan this QR code.

- I would not like to be part of the New Member Spotlight.

Volunteer Opportunities

I would like to volunteer to help out with the following committee(s):

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property & Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Docent |



A Collection Comes to the Historical Society

Richard Hutchinson collection donated to the Society by the family. They were pleased the collection would be in Hightstown.

L-R: Richard "Hutch" Hutchinson's daughters Kelli Hutchinson, Cori Quinlan, and wife Faye standing with the donation.

Presort Std
US Postage
PAID
Permit #510
Trenton, NJ

Hightstown-East Windsor
Historical Society
164 North Main Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520
www.hewhs.com