

Hightstown



East Windsor

# *Historical Society News*

Summer 2023

## Tribute to Dr. Rebecca F. Notterman

by Pamela Mount Watkinson



Many of the children, who grew up in the Hightstown - East Windsor area during the mid-1950s to the early 2000s, will remember pediatrician Dr. Rebecca Notterman. The patients in the early part of her career may remember her beautiful red hair, pulled back

in a bun. Dr. Notterman had a unique way with even the most difficult young patients, using her sense of humor and a firm, but kind manner. She was good at dealing with parents, as well as educating them on the importance of the latest scientific treatments and vaccines. If children did not have Dr. Rebecca Notterman as their pediatrician, they might have come into contact with her at some of the many volunteer programs in which she participated at local schools and daycare centers. These may have been career days, school medical programs, baby and child clinics, award ceremonies, or visits to her farm in East Windsor Township, which was populated with many types of animals.

Rebecca Feldsher was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1925, to Tanya and Abraham Feldsher. She moved with her parents and sisters Jeanette and Esther to a farm in East Windsor Township, called "Highview Manor", now the location of "Abe's Acres," an organic farm, named after Rebecca's father. Following her graduation from Hightstown High School in June 1942, she attended college at New York University, then nursing school at Bellevue School of Nursing. Al-

ways having an interest in healthcare, Rebecca wrote a letter in 1943 to the Hightstown High School newspaper, urging girls to consider nursing as a career because there was a shortage of nurses in hospitals and the military during World War II. In 1947, she married Joseph Melvin Notterman, her childhood sweetheart. The couple moved back to her family farm in 1956, where she died peacefully on February 11, 2023.

After receiving her BSN from nursing school, Rebecca felt she was capable of learning more. She matriculated to NYU School of Medicine, one of three women in her class. Many of the male doctors were surprised to see her, as women were not expected to enter the medical profession and become doctors during that time period. Acceptable fields for women were nursing, teaching, secretarial work, and, of course, housewives and mothers. Rebecca pushed back when male doctors made comments about her being female. She set an example that the best way to advance was to do her best for the children and their families. This included her own two children, Daniel and Abby, who she raised while pursuing her medical studies and establishing her private practice in pediatrics.

In the fall of 1951, while a senior in medical school, Rebecca Notterman was invited to join Alpha Omega Alpha, the national honor society of physicians. Membership in the group is limited to the upper ten percent of the graduating class in medical schools. On April 30, 1952, Rebecca Feldsher Notterman was honored at the spring dinner meeting of the Women's Medical Association of New York. She received her Doctor of Medicine degree in 1953. Throughout her career, she continued to be recognized and received numerous awards, honors, and important positions. These included serving on the Board of Trustees of the Association for Advancement of Mental Health, the Women's Chapter of the American Academy of

(cont. pg 3)

# President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

I would once again like to thank all of you who contributed to the library addition fund. This expansion would not have been possible without you. If you haven't yet contributed, we of course would love to add you to the list of donators. If you haven't paid your dues, we would appreciate you getting up to date.

I also would like to thank Pam Mount Watkinson who voluntarily offered to write tributes to two women in her (and many) lives: Madeline Redmond Gavin and Dr. Rebecca Notterman. They both were an inspiration not just to young girls and ladies in the area, but also to young boys like me. If you have an interest in researching and writing an article, please let me know. We have had some great contributions over the recent years from members like you. This is Pam's first and she did a great job.



By the time you receive this letter, Greg Ciano's youth production has been completed and presented. It was another great one, as always. Thank you Greg and look for the link on our website.

It has been decided that we should open the Society for one or two days a month, probably Saturdays or Sundays. We are in need of volunteer docents. It is easy and fun. Whether you volunteer for 1, 2, or 3 hours, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact me, Cookie Cummings, or Shirley Olsen.

I see in my Spring message that I misstated that the "house tour" would be in 2024. Actually, it will be December 3, 2023, as a Holiday Tour. We are still looking for homeowners willing to open their decorated homes. First floor only so don't worry about your second floor or basement paint or tidiness!

Finally, I remind you that generally, our meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month. No regular meetings in July and August but certainly there will be activities if you want to help. Also, mark your calendar for the September 30th Annual Meeting (see article) and promptly respond when the email invites go out. Space will be limited. If you haven't been receiving any emails, please send me your email address so we can cross-check it. We attempt to limit emails to 1 or less per month. Thank you for your support. [costults@allenstults.com](mailto:costults@allenstults.com) or [costultsiii@gmail.com](mailto:costultsiii@gmail.com) and/or [hightsewhs@gmail.com](mailto:hightsewhs@gmail.com).

Cappy Stults, President  
609.712.1811  
[costults@gmail.com](mailto:costults@gmail.com)

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Peddie Lake

## Dr. Notterman (cont.)

Pediatrics, The Council of Organizations and Schools for Autistic Children and Adults, serving as a consultant to the Evaluation Clinic for Genetic Defects National Foundation, the Medical Director for the East Windsor School District and Millstone Township Schools, and receiving the Girl Scouts of Delaware-Raritan 2005 Juliette Low Excellence in Leadership Award.

After completing her training in pediatrics at Bellevue Hospital and a fellowship in ambulatory pediatrics at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical College, Dr. Notterman returned in 1955 to the Hightstown area to establish a private practice in pediatrics. Widely known as “Becky,” or “Rae,” she established her first practice on Stockton Street in Hightstown. She then moved her office to South Main Street, down a long driveway near the present Leshin Lane and Hightstown High School. In the late 1960s, she moved her practice to the newly built Princeton Road Pediatric Professional Building in East Windsor Township. Dr. Notterman was one of the first women to practice pediatrics in Mercer County. She entered the field of pediatrics at a time when house calls were a daily feature of medical practice, serving all socio-economic groups, races, and ethnicities, often without payment other than the relief of the parents and a hug from the child. She was a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Cornell Medical College until her retirement, contributing to the education of hundreds of pediatricians, including many who continue to serve locally and at Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Rebecca was predeceased by her husband, Joseph, in 2013. She is survived by her children, Daniel and Abby; her grandchildren, Gabriel, Arielle, Benjamin, and Sophia; and by her great-grandson Jonas, the fourth generation to have lived at the family homestead. Dr. Rebecca Feldsher Notterman dedicated her life to caring for children, helping their families through difficult times, and serving her community for 57 years. 

## Tribute to Madelina Coma Redmond Gavin by Pamela Mount Watkinson

**M**adeline Coma Redmond Gavin was born at home in Perrineville, NJ, on December 29, 1934. At birth, Madeline faced the first of her life’s challenges, having her umbilical cord wrapped around her neck. The doctor left, thinking this baby did not have a chance to survive. Her mother, also named Madeline, successfully unwrapped the cord, and Baby Madeline survived to become a strong, successful woman attaining many achievements. Madeline was raised in Windsor, NJ, until her family moved to Bronx, NY, in 1949. There, after attending James Monroe High School, she graduated in 1953. She earned her undergraduate degree from Hunter College. Majoring in psychology with a minor in education, she was the first person in her family to attend college.



Madeline’s path to becoming a lifelong educator had a difficult start. On her first day of student teaching, she found that she would not have a supervising teacher that day. Most of the second-grade class she would be teaching did not speak English. The students challenged their new student teacher with bad behavior. When the milk cart came to the room at lunchtime, the students immediately tossed their milk cartons to the floor. A teacher from a nearby room entered and, angry at the mess, exclaimed to Madeline, “You’re not a real teacher.” The students repeatedly echoed her words, “You’re not a real teacher.” Even after this challenging first day, Madeline had the strength to return the next day. She continued her career in education for almost fifty years.

In September 1957, Miss Coma began her career as a fifth-grade teacher in the East Windsor School District, Hightstown, NJ. She also worked as a car hop waitress at Jim’s Diner on Route 33, where she met her first husband George “Jay” Redmond. In September 1958, Mrs. Redmond returned to school as a fifth-grade teacher. Madeline was a teacher in the East Windsor Schools from 1957 to 1970. While there, she taught third, fifth, and sixth grades, as well as seventh and eighth-grade math, which

was her favorite. When she was an administrator years later, a former student, who became a teacher, asked Madeline Gavin why she had all the “smart” kids in her fifth-grade class in the 1963 - 64 school year and then “looped” with most of this same class for their sixth grade in 1964 - 65. Her response was that she had given birth to her daughter Renee in the spring of 1963 and was planning to take a year’s leave to stay home with her for the 1963 -64 school year; however, the school district was in need of teachers, and the administrator begged her to return in September. He promised her that she could have whatever class she wished; therefore, Mrs. Redmond returned to her teaching position with her chosen class. This was challenging, caring for a new baby and three stepchildren Ron, Kathy, and Bob Redmond. In addition, she was taking graduate classes at Rutgers University, where she earned her Master’s Degree in Administration and Supervision in 1970.

From September 1, 1970 to January 15, 1976, Mrs. Redmond taught seventh and eighth-grade math and was the Teacher in Charge when the Chief School Administrator was out of district for the Cranbury, NJ Board of Education. From January 16, 1976 to June 30, 1981, Madeline was the Principal of a K – 8 elementary school in Washington Township, Windsor, NJ. She became the Superintendent there from July 1, 1981 to August 31, 1989. Her husband George “Jay” Redmond passed away in 1983. In 1991, she married Paul Richard Gavin and added stepchildren Rick, Gail, and Pam to the family.

Madeline Gavin continued her career as an Interim Superintendent in the East Amwell School District, Ringoes, NJ, from May through September 1992 and as an Administrative Consultant in the Franklin Township School, Quakertown, NJ from September through November 1992. She returned to the Washington Township School District, Windsor, NJ, as an Interim Superintendent from December 1992 until June 1993. Madeline became the Superintendent of the East Amwell School District, Ringoes, NJ, from September 1993 until June 2000. She retired in 2000 but quickly returned to her calling as Interim Superintendent at Sea Isle City, then at Port Republic from August 2003 to August 2004. She was the Interim Superintendent for the Lambertville School District from October 2005 to June 2007 when she finally retired.

Madeline Coma Redmond Gavin was a dedicated leader during a time period when many felt that women belonged caring for their families in the home and, perhaps, as a teacher, but not in administrative roles. Throughout her education and career, Madeline encountered many human relations violations against women who were in leadership positions. But in spite of these challenges, she successfully broke the “glass ceiling”, spearheading growth and improvement in many New Jersey schools. She was recognized for her leadership and excellent work by several


organizations. Madeline was invited to membership in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, New Jersey, an honorary organization of women educators, in April 1972. She became the President of the Gamma Chapter in Mercer County from 1990 to 1992. Madeline was a member of the American Association of School Administrators. She served as Vice President-Elect (1995-1997) and President (1997-1999) of the Hunterdon County Unit of N.J.A.S.A., receiving the Hunterdon County Administrators Association Distinguished Superintendent Award in May 1999. Madeline Gavin was active in many community organizations, in addition to other educational groups. She was a long-time member of the Hightstown Presbyterian Church and then the Allentown Presbyterian Church, where she served as an Elder and Trustee, as well as on many committees. After retiring for the second time, Madeline Gavin ran for Mayor in Allentown, NJ, in 2011 as a write-in candidate. Although she did not win, she received a record number of votes for a write-in candidate. In 2016, Madeline was elected as a council member of the Allentown Borough Council, where she served for three years and acted as Council President.

In addition to her leadership and honors, Madeline faced personal hardships with strength and bravery. One of seven children, she was predeceased by all of her siblings, and both of her husbands. Madeline was also predeceased by her stepson Richard Gavin and, in February 2021, by her daughter Renee Redmond Carroll. After being diagnosed with terminal cancer and having witnessed other family members as they endured the painful side effects, Madeline chose not to go through with cancer treatments. Kelsey and Madeline Carroll, her beloved granddaughters, took care of Madeline in her final days. Almost exactly two years after her daughter and two months after her second husband, Madeline Coma Redmond Gavin passed away on February 7, 2023. A few days after



her death, Madeline's stepson Ronald Redmond also passed away. Even while facing death, Madeline liked to be organized and in charge. She planned her funeral service, which was led by her two granddaughters and the pastors at the Allentown Presbyterian Church. From her birth to her death, Madeline was an excellent example of a woman with confidence, independence, and strong leadership abilities, as well as love for her family and community.

#### About the Author

Pamela Mount Watkinson grew up in East Windsor Township, NJ, attending the Hightstown-East Windsor Schools from kindergarten through graduation from Hightstown High School in 1971. Pamela received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Moravian College and her Master's Degree in Special Education from The College of New Jersey. She is retired after teaching elementary grades and special education for over thirty-six years in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and New Jersey. She was also a patient of Dr. Rebecca Notterman throughout her childhood and teenage years. 

## Plaque Naming Four Area Men Who Died In Vietnam To Be Placed In Hightstown Memorial Library

The following story ran in the Hightstown Gazette on May 14, 1998. This article was written by Curtis Crowell and is reprinted with his permission.

**A** large bronze plaque at the entrance to the Hightstown Memorial Library memorialized "those who made the supreme sacrifice in World Wars I and II." It was recently determined by the Board of Trustees of the Hightstown Library Association that the list of 21 should be updated to include the names of four area men who died in the Vietnam War.

Of the 21 names listed on the original plaque, 3 are from World War I and the remaining 18 are from World War II. The plaque dates from the dedication of the Library on Memorial Day 1954.

The loss of 18 men was a considerable sacrifice for what was then a small rural community. To honor those men who didn't return from the wars, as well as all those who served, a special Memorial Committee appointed by the Mayor of Hightstown decided to erect the library building as a memorial, using local donations.

The Library, now a branch of the Mercer County Library System, is still known as the Hightstown Memorial Library. (It should be noted that the original dedication of the Library took place roughly one year after the signing of the armistice in Korea, and all research to date indicates that there were no casualties from this area in that conflict).

Times have changed, and the small rural community that banded together in 1954 has changed greatly. Close to 30 years have passed since the last of these men died in Vietnam, and in that time some families have moved away, making it difficult to contact surviving relatives. Some of the parents of these men have since passed away. Some relatives faced with the prospect of stirring up painful memories when contacted for this article were understandably reluctant to speak very much about the events of so many years ago. Finally, the years of the Vietnam War were, and remain, a period of sharply divided public opinion.

Those years differed greatly from the years of World War II as to how they were covered in the local papers. The Hightstown Gazette - the only local weekly paper during the 1940's regularly included small articles about who was reporting for basic training; who had been sent overseas; and who was home on leave. Those serving in uniform would write back to the Gazette telling of what they had seen. Many copies were sent overseas to area men and women in the armed forces. Gazette editor Kathryn Dennis remembers the Post Office being kept open on Sunday so those copies of the paper being sent overseas would be sent out promptly.

During the 1960s, the coverage of the Vietnam conflict was much different. The Hightstown Gazette was joined by the weekly Windsor-Hights Herald, but neither paper provided much coverage of the Vietnam War or world news in general. This was in contrast with the larger regional daily papers - The Trenton Times (published only Monday through Friday then) and The Trentonian.

In the brief summaries of the four men that follow, remember that circumstances dictate that the amount we know about each of them differs greatly, but that their sacrifices were of equal magnitude. Here are their stories:



## DAVID J. DECKER

Captain Decker, 29, was killed in the central highlands of Kon-tum, on November 19, 1967. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Bronze Star, and the Air Medal. Captain Decker, a career officer, was a commander in the 8th Cavalry of the First Air Cavalry Division of the Army. Prior to serving in Vietnam, he had been stationed

at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, and he had served with a Special Forces Group in the Panama Canal Zone. He was a graduate of the Lawrenceville Prep School and graduated from Georgia Tech in 1961.

Captain Decker left behind a wife (who now lives in Smyrna, Georgia) and two sons. He died on the date of his son's second birthday.

A grandson of Conrad Decker, who owned the Decker Dairy in Hightstown, Captain Decker had spent a lot of time in Hightstown, and he and his wife lived on the Decker dairy farm for a time (the farm was located near the intersection of routes 22 and 130 in East Windsor Township, where the 130 railroad viaduct was removed a few years back).

Buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Captain Decker's name can be found on the Mercer County Vietnam War Memorial, and the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington DC (panel 28E-107).



## GEORGE J. BURD

A Marine PFC, "Jimmy" as he was known to his friends, was 20 when he died, having been in the service for just 10 months. He died in an apparent accidental shooting while standing at his post at a sentry booth outside DaNang Air Base on December 23, 1968.

A 1966 graduate of Hightstown High School, he lived with his family on Cedarville Road in East Windsor Township. His family had moved there from Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, and Jimmy Burd had entered Hightstown High School as a transfer student. His family returned to Pennsylvania in August of 1968, where his two sisters still live. Both of his parents have since died.

Shortly after he completed his basic training and was sent to Vietnam, Jimmy Burd was part of a six-man patrol that came

under fire when his main unit was also attacked. According to press reports and an account given by his sister Judy, his patrol was pinned down by a combination of enemy fire as well as rounds fired by a U.S. gunship in an attempt to disperse the enemy. Jimmy Burd feigned death for nine hours, with a submerged leg wound that became infected and required surgery. Once he was recovered by U.S. forces, he was sent to Japan for surgery and subsequently returned to duty, having spent some time getting used to a small limp and attending Vietnamese language school. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his first experience in the field.

When his family received notice of his death thereafter, they were initially informed that the shooting accident involved "a member of the Free World Military Assistance Forces" and that it was deemed a "non-hostile action." After much perseverance, they were told that the accident involved a Korean mercenary who, in an argument with another soldier, had slammed his pistol down in anger on a sandbag. Jimmy Burd, standing nearby, was hit in the head as the pistol went off, and died almost immediately.

He had enlisted in the Marines to avoid being drafted into the Army, having already received his induction notice. He and a friend, Richard Reach, had traveled to Trenton, intending to "shop around" and get the "best deal," hoping that enlistment would entail a shorter period in the service than the time draftees were required to serve in the Army. It was something of a joke among their friends that the two of them signed up on the spot with the very first recruiting officer they met. Richard Reach and Jimmy Burd both joined the Marines at the same time, but Richard ended up in a desk job in Texas, and Jimmy was sent off to Vietnam once he completed basic training.

Another friend of Richard Reach and Jimmy Burd, George Porubski, recalls being awakened by his tearful mother on

Christmas Eve of 1968, with the news that Jimmy had been killed. He said that their two families knew each other quite well.

Jimmy Burd is buried in the Green Ridge Memorial Park in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania. His name can be found on the New Jersey Vietnam War Memorial in Holmdel, and the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington DC (panel 37W-15). His name is not currently on the Mercer County Vietnam Memorial, an omission that is being investigated.



**THOMAS R. GROVER**

A Spec4 in the Army, Thomas Grover of Dutch Neck was 22 years old when he was killed in “hostile action” in the province of Binh

Duong, about 50 miles north of Saigon, on February 2nd, 1969, just one day before Lester Johnson Jr. (see below) was killed. Employed by the Hightstown Post Office before he entered the service, he was a 1964 graduate of Princeton High School and had attended Rider College. His paternal grandmother lived in Hightstown at the time of his death.

His parents still live in West Windsor, where the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School district recently named the new Thomas R. Grover Middle School after him. The Grover family farm, on Village Road East, is visible from the school grounds.

Thomas R. Grover is buried in the Dutch Neck Cemetery in West Windsor. His name appears on the New Jersey Vietnam Memorial and the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington DC (panel 33W-30).




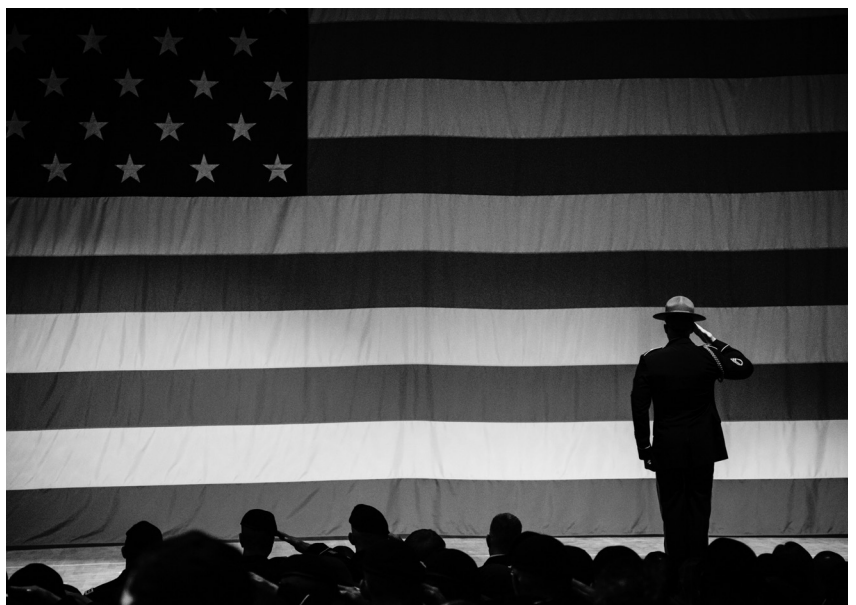
**LESTER JOHNSON, JR.**

A Specialist 4 in the Army, Lester Johnson, Jr., was 21 years old when he was killed on February 3, 1969, while a passenger in an Army vehicle that was involved in an accident in the province of Hau Nghia, about 50 miles northwest of Saigon. A 1965 graduate of Hightstown High School, Lester Johnson was drafted and

reported for active duty in March 1967. Employed at the time by Mideast Aluminum in Dayton, Mr. Johnson left a widow, Patricia A Johnson, and a son, Lester Johnson III. According to his widow, “After he was in the service for a year, he re-enlisted for an additional two years so he could be in the Signal Corps. He wanted to continue working in radar and electronics. He wanted to make something of himself. That’s why he studied so hard.”

His wife and son have moved out of state, and could not be reached for this article, but his father, Lester Johnson Sr., still lives in East Windsor Township and remembers Thomas Grover’s father coming to his son’s funeral service to offer his condolences and to say that he too had lost a son in Vietnam. His brother Leonard remembers the day that two officers arrived in a jeep to inform his family that Lester had been killed. Like the Burd family, the Johnson family always thought that the government was holding something back in their explanation of the “non-hostile action” that led to their son’s death.

Lester Johnson Jr. is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hightstown. He is listed on the New Jersey Vietnam Memorial in Holmdel. His name appears on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington DC (panel 33W-30). His name is not currently on the Mercer County Vietnam Memorial, but that omission is being investigated. 




## Old Yellow Meeting House 1737 Cream Ridge



**Mark your calendars now! September 30th at 11 am**, are the date and time for the **Annual Meeting** at the Old Yellow Meeting House, 72 Old Yellow Meeting House Road, Upper Freehold, NJ (Cream Ridge).

It is the oldest Baptist Church in New Jersey and was founded on land donated by Thomas and Rachel Salter. Thomas' sister Hannah was Abraham Lincoln's great, great grandmother. John and Mary Hight were both baptized here in the 1740s before they changed their membership to the Baptist Church in Cranbury, prior to it moving to Hightstown.

After our OYMH tour, we will proceed to Albivi's Restaurant in Perrineville for a luncheon and annual meeting. Its address is 866 Perrineville Rd, Millstone, NJ 08535. This is also known as Monmouth County Route 1 and is located only 5 miles from OYMH. 

### The End of an Era



As you can see from the picture Mom's Diner has been demolished.

Cappy recently took the opportunity to reach out to "Mom's" grandchildren (or Nannie as they called her) Jennifer Mongiello Fisk and Marie Elena Pierson for the story behind how this iconic diner came to be. Marie DiBoise aka "Mom" (or Nannie as her grandchildren

called her) was working for Switlik Parachute Company in 1949


when she got the idea of a hot dog stand of sorts next to the NJ Turnpike construction area. "The men need to eat lunch, don't they?" she is quoted as saying. So her husband moved a small chicken coop from a farm east of the unfinished Exit 8, fixed it up for food prep, called it "Mom's", and the rest is history as they say.

This diner is so beloved by current and past residents that when we posted pictures of the demolition the memories came flooding in. Here are a few.

"It was once THE place for Breakfast & Lunch."


"Do you remember when the crank on the pepper mill on the sign used to turn and there were lights below the pepper mill that blinked on and off to look like ground pepper? Big Mike and Murph were the cooks I worked with."

"Oh so many cheeseburgers, omelets, cups of coffee...and no doubt the best cole slaw in the state...was the go-to place after fire school and after EWVFC #2 drills."

"We went there a few days after we got engaged to tell my parents. It is a great memory of the restaurant." 

### Board of Education Grace Norton Rogers



**O**ur musical production about Grace Norton Rogers is up on YouTube. Scan the QR code or click the link at the top of our website [www.hewhs.com](http://www.hewhs.com). 





## The Library Addition Update

The addition is 95% completed! The amount of additional space from the redoing of the old library is phenomenal. NOW the work begins for the librarians and assistants to relocate the existing archive boxes and materials as well as add the many new accessions we have received. Thank you Joe Louderback, Eileen Couturier, Bob Craig, and others for what they have done and will be doing in the near future. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A DEGREE IN LIBRARY SCIENCES TO VOLUNTEER. Email Joe if you would like to help. [jdlouder@hotmail.com](mailto:jdlouder@hotmail.com).

We also would like to extend our thanks to those that have contributed financially to this overdue project. We fell a little short of our goal, so your contribution would be greatly appreciated (in order of receipt):

Chris & Cappy Stults

Linda Schilling

Marlene & Robert Craig

Robert Sprout

Pat & Kevin Donahue

Dale & Gary Grubb

Linda & Richard Mansmann

Margaret & William Hecht

Eileen & Ron Couturier

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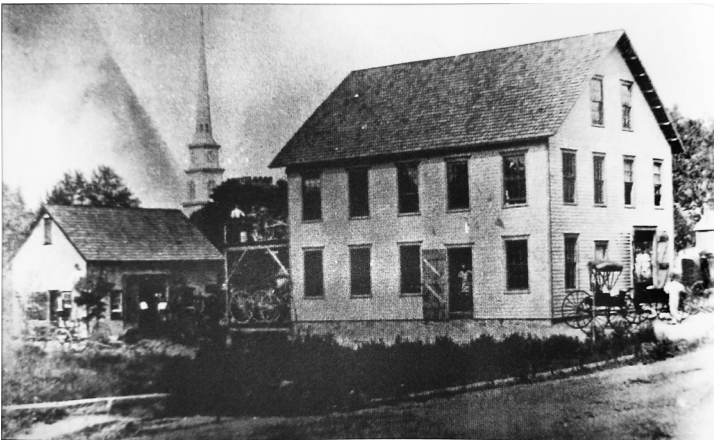
Faith & Eugene Sarafin

Keiko & Gerald Harvey

Apologies if I left anyone out. Email me at [cstults@allenstults.com](mailto:cstults@allenstults.com) so I can correct any error. And again, WE WOULD GLADLY ACCEPT YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROJECT. Thank you all.



# Then and Now



## Embley Carriage Works & Hightstown Diner

On the left is the Embley Carriage Works circa 1897. This structure was eventually converted to an apartment house and then torn down so a parking lot for the Hightstown Diner could be installed. The First Baptist Church steeple can be seen in the background with its original steeple. That's why it looks so much shorter in the "Now" photo.



## Pharmacy: Corner of Stockton Street and Main Street

In the "Then" photo (circa 1904) we see Will and D. Hart Cunningham standing outside of the entrance to what was then known as Cunningham Pharmacy. It became Hightstown Pharmacy sometime in the beginning of this century.

Look closely in the window on the left and you'll see a bell symbol. This meant there was a public telephone inside. Installed in 1895, this was the first telephone in town (it's why their phone number was 448-0001 until recently). The first call was a long-distance call made by Mayor W. Irving Norton to his brother Dr. H.G. Norton in Trenton. The cost was 15¢ for five minutes. Remember paying extra for long-distance calls?



## People of HEW

### Colonel Joseph Hight (c. 1780)

Colonel Hight was born in 1739, the youngest son of John and Mary Hight, and died in 1795 after having served in the American army with General Daniel Morgan. John and Mary reputedly founded Hightstown in 1721. They settled in this area, having purchased 3,000 acres of land from the British crown. On the north side of Rocky Brook, currently the site of the Hightstown firehouse, they erected a log cabin. Later they built a mill, blacksmith shop, and at least two other buildings nearby.

## 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

Website: Eileen Couturier  
Gary Stevens  
609-469-1860

Membership: Cookie Cummings  
cookcummings@yahoo.com

Museum: Cookie Cummings  
cookcummings@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

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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](http://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     |

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

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