



Historical Society News

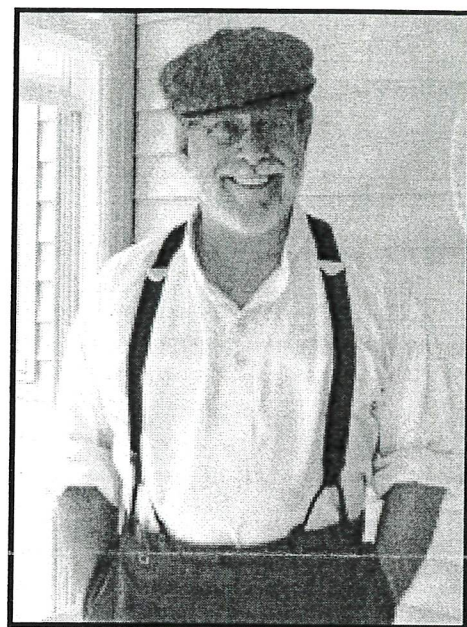
DECEMBER 2008

Thank You Richard S. Hutchinson ("Hutch")

It seems most appropriate at this time to thank Hutch for the many hours of research and his efforts in making our historical society the wonderful facility we have today.

"Hutch" grew up in Hightstown with roots in the Hightstown-East Windsor area dating back to its earliest settlers. He has contributed much for which we are extremely grateful. He has maintained the membership rolls for at least 16 years, and has written numerous historical articles about the Hightstown area and shared them with all of us through the Society's newsletters, walking tours, and various speaking programs over the years. He began the computerized recording of the contents of the Society's manuscript holdings while maintaining the Society's

manuscript collections for 2-3 years. Even after moving to Delaware in November 1997, he handled the membership and newsletter until last month. He has been the editor of our own "Historical Society News" for more than 13 years which provided the Society with interesting articles about the founding folks who made the Hightstown-East Windsor Township area what it is today. During that time, our newsletter earned the Society an award from the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, and national recognition for several years, before finally receiving top newsletter honors by the National Genealogical Society. All should know that this was done for the most part single-handedly via email along with the typesetting skills of his daughter, Cori Quinlan.



It was through Hutch's research that he discovered the existence of several

Continued on page 2



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 1 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 7 Christmas Tea, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

JANUARY

- 18 Annual Banquet, 1:00 p.m., Longstreet Library

Thanks for Making the House Tour A Success

by Shirley Olsen, Chairman 2008 House Tour and Nancy Walker Laudenberg, President

The Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society 2008 House Tour "Portals of the Past" held October 19 drew a large attendance and was a great success. We believe our good fortune is attributed to several important factors including having great homes on the tour, perfect weather, and excellent reputation for conducting a good house tour. We wish to especially thank Clark Hutchinson, Robert Craig, Richard Hutchinson, Julie Ely and Jennifer Worringer for doing such a fine job researching the history of each house. Each home was researched through the use of land title research, historic architecture, and genealogy and newspapers. Of course, the house tour just doesn't happen. We want to thank the homeowners on the tour for being so generous in allowing us the opportunity to place their residence on the tour. We thank all the committee chairs and tour volunteers for their dedicated service plus the Rocky Brook Garden Club for the most gorgeous floral arrangements and the Central Jersey Antique Car Club for their participation. Also, many thanks to the program book advertisers. If one wishes to volunteer during the year for different Society functions, or to learn more about joining the organization, please call 609-448-8388.

Thank You , continued from page 1

time capsules in Hightstown; some of which still lay undisturbed; except for one. The 1921 time capsule in the wall that surrounds the lake was located near the dam with a metal detector, as it was supposedly a copper box containing photos, documents, and other items. This discovery was made a few days before Hightstown's 275th Anniversary Celebration in 1996. After conferring with the Society leadership and the Town Council, the Society received approval to recover the capsule from the wall. Traffic was stopped as the capsule was carried from the wall to the town's maintenance garage where the copper box was opened. The discovery was publicized in the local and regional press and the contents of copper box were put on display at Ely House in time for the Anniversary Celebration, and this brought hundreds of everyday folks into our home to view the material. After the event, the material was put into our collection and a new time capsule was packed with new material and placed back into the lake wall to be found by future generations.

Many times Hutch's research has helped to provide additional information and expanded our knowledge regarding our heritage. We will miss him as our Editor but he is only 3 hours away. Every so often, he quietly returns to the area and can be seen walking in town. We still know how to find you. Our best to you and your family.

Community Fair

The Society was represented at the Hightstown Community Fair on October 11. The Society sold House Tour tickets as well as maps, placemats, and books.

Christmas Tea

The Society will hold its annual Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. All members and the public are invited for a pleasant afternoon of good conversation, food and entertainment. The children from First Presbyterian Church of

Hightstown will be playing bells under the direction of Susan Howells at 2 p.m. as well as more musical entertainment to follow. Homemade Christmas cookies and hot apple cider will be served to add to the celebration.



Susan Howells and the children who played bells at last years Christmas Tea.

HIGHTSTOWN EAST WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Hightstown, New Jersey
founded 1971*

609-371-9580

**To educate, while preserving for
future generations, our people
and our community's history.**

Editor, Shirley Olsen

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Memorial Day 2008 - "Spring on the Veranda"

The Society as well as the Hightstown Historic Preservation Commission sponsored their first Memorial Day Historic Porch Tour, a historic stroll on Stockton Street, following the Memorial Day parade. A huge crowd came to visit to experience life as it was in historical Hightstown with a stroll on Stockton Street. Fellow citizens told tales of famous and not so famous individuals who lived here or simply passed through town. There were lots of musicians that everyone stopped to hear as they chatted with homeowners telling about the history of their home and what life was like from the early revolutionary years. There were horse-drawn carriage rides like they did 150 years ago which went down Park Avenue around the park. Everyone was in period costume. What a memorable day it was.



Memorial Day Historic Porch Tour on Stockton Street, May 2008.

Hightstown Woman's Club Provides New Docent's Guide

A Docent's Guide for the Society has been written by the Hightstown Woman's Club as part of their Civic Improvement Project. The Guide provides information on each museum display item as well as the procedures to be followed when opening and securing the Ely House Museum and Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center.

Twenty-two Club women worked on the guide, spending 225 hours researching each room, writing all the information about each exhibit and typing the information so it could be formatted into a guide. The Club has also helped the Society by opening the facility the last Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m.

ANNUAL BANQUET



Longstreet Library

Peddie Campus (next to Kalamathia House)

Hightstown, NJ

Sunday, January 18, 2009 ♦ 1:00 p.m.

\$25.00 per person

Catered Special Buffet Menu

The program will be presented by Lewis Bellardo, former resident of East Windsor and graduate of Hightstown High School, Class of 1961. Lewis is Deputy Archivist of the U.S., the highest civil service position in the National Archives. His program is titled, "Life in the National Archives". The public is invited.

*Send reservations with check payable to: "H.E.W. Historical Society" to:
Shirley Olsen, 6 Farr Avenue, Hightstown, NJ 08520*

Name: _____

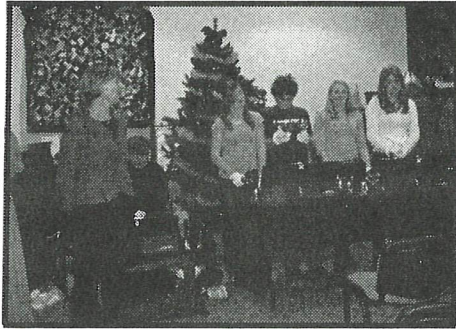
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

The Christmas Tea

The Christmas Tea at Society was on December 7, 2008. The children from the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown, under the direction of Susan Howells, played bells and later everyone sang Christmas carols with Lois Smida at the piano. the other photo at the table from left to right is Donna Schmid, Dale Grubb, Judy Macauley, and Nancy Laudenberger.



Ask Us A Question!

by Jennifer Worringer

Answering questions is an important service provided by the Historical Society. When we answer a question for you, we learn as well and add the new information to our files. Let's look at a few example questions.

I live in an old building on Stockton Street. How old is it and what was its original purpose?

What is the creek that runs through Meadow Lakes and can I get a map of it?

Can you find an old picture of my house? I'd like to frame it for a present.

I am researching previous merger discussions between Hightstown and East Windsor. What can you help me find?

We were given a Bible that had a photo of an unknown man in it. The photo was taken by R.R. Priest. Do you have any information about him or other photographers of the late 1800's or early 1900's?

I spent a couple of weeks in Hightstown in February 1945 at a preparatory farm for young people getting ready for farm living in Israel. Can you find the name and location of the place in Hightstown?

I am trying to find a copy of an obituary for a relative, "John Doe," who died on 03/29/1990 in Hightstown. Can you help?

We invite you to send a question to Jennifer Worringer at highlander42@comcast.net. She will share your question with other members of the Historical Society.

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Mrs. Manbelle Taylor
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**MEMBERSHIP
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