

HIGHTSTOWN



EAST WINDSOR

NEW

JERSEY

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2006

## A Trip Out West

by Richard S. Hutchinson

### CONTINUED FROM THE NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2005 ISSUE

... The following letter was received in Hightstown:

Connersville, December 25, 1826  
Mr. Enoch Chamberlin and Rachel Chamberlin:

Dear Parents: I take pen in hand to inform you that we are all well ... We have received your letters dated October 29<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>. Isaac I. Ely was taken with a fever on the 8<sup>th</sup> day, and had a hard spell. After that he appeared to mend. On the 14<sup>th</sup> day, he dressed himself, and walked about the room. In the evening he was taken with a chill, and from that time he got worse. After the two first chills, he lay speechless from 8 o'clock at night till nine or

ten o'clock in the morning. He said very little about his future or world's affairs. He observed he had a hope beyond the grave; he also observed that he wished his eldest son to be put to a merchant in Hightstown; he said there were two who had made application for him that applied. He did not name the person that applied first; you can ascertain that. Elias Danser's death was unexpected and sudden. If right take place, there will be \$20.73 coming to Isaac Ely's estate from Elias Danser's estate—Isaac paid the traveling expenses coming out, and Elias was to pay the expenses going back. The traveling expenses amounted to \$41.48 ½ cents. There came into my hands money belonging to Isaac Ely, \$60.82; money belonging to Elias Danser, \$98.34. I have kept \$42 for the purpose of procuring headstones and piling in their graves. There can be some got nearer than Cincinnati, which is 60 miles. You write to me to pay ourselves for our trouble. We make no charge. They are entirely welcome to all we have done or can do. What money has been made use of, is for the express purpose of paying their doctor bill and funeral expenses. Isaac's expenses for doctoring and funeral amounted to \$18.82; Elias's amounted to \$8.37. I hold Enoch Davison's receipt for \$20.80[?] cash, 1 sorrel horse, 1 saddle and bridle, 2 saddle blankets, 2 coats, 3 waistcoats, 2 pairs of pantaloons, 2 shirts, 5 handkerchiefs, 3 pairs of stockings, 1 pair of spurs, 1 pair of

boots, 1 pair of shoes, 1 pair of gloves, 1 pocket pistol and horn and molds, 1 pocket ?????, 1 journal, 1 breech dirk, 1 umbrella, 1 hat, 1 pocket book, 1 leather purse — property belonging to Isaac Ely, deceased. \$68.97, 1 bay mare, 1 saddle and bridle, 2 saddle blankets, 3 coats, 2 waistcoats, 2 pairs of pantaloons, 2 shirts, 6 pairs of socks, 6 handkerchiefs, 1 pair of shoes, 1 pair of gloves, 1 hat, 1 dirk, 1 silver watch — property belonging to Elias Danser, deceased ... [Signed - Hezekiah and Elizabeth Mount]

At the end of their journey they were taken ill with what was known as 'milk fever', from which they both died, their deaths occurring within a few hours of each other. Their families being notified in due time of their death and burial, a Mr. Enoch Davison was engaged to go out and settle up their business, and bring back their horses and other effects. He made the journey out on foot, public conveyances being very few and primitive, and he having once before traveled to the West in the same way, and returning rode one of the horses and led the other.

A very few of the 'oldest inhabitants' remember departure of the little pioneer party and its sorrowful ending; and one, Mr. Joseph Perrine, in sadly reflective times tells of the purchase of Mr. Ely's horse by his father, and who of the sighting of a pair of tan doves

Continued on page 2



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### JANUARY

- 2 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 15 Annual Banquet, 1:30 p.m., Longstreet House, Peddie Campus

#### FEBRUARY

- 6 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center

before the door of Mr. Danser's house, on the day which proved to be the day of their death, and the mournful song which frightened the family as a bad omen. Those olden times of paucity seem to compare but feebly with these modern times ..."

### Research

As was stated in the previous installment, the names of "Tindall," "Chamberlin," and "Hezekiah Mount", mentioned in their journey notes, are names that are local to the

**Footnotes:** 1 - **paling** - upright pales or picket fence. 2 - **milk fever** - caused by drinking the milk of a lactating cow. This is still an issue that is checked this day with the milk being deemed safe to drink after 2-3 weeks after the calf's birth.

Hightstown-East Windsor Twp. area. In fact, Hezekiah Mount was a blacksmith in Hightstown and had a shop and home on the right side of Stockton Street, in the general area opposite of what is known today as Church Street. Due to the coincidence of these names in the areas that they visited in the "West" and by the writer of the letters back to New Jersey regarding their deaths, I decided to see if I could make some connections regarding Hezekiah & Elizabeth Mount.

I found some published records that showed that a Hezekiah Mount, born in Hightstown on 5 July 1788 and died in Connersville, Fayette Co, Indiana, on 24 September 1866. So, this would appear to be the writer of the above letter. The records indicated that Hezekiah Mount married a (1) Deborah Chamberlin and they had several children: Rebecca, Rachel, Enoch, Alfred and Horatio. Deborah died sometime prior to Hezekiah's second marriage in 1820, when he married Deborah's sister, (2) Elizabeth Chamberlin. Hezekiah

and Elizabeth (Chamberlin) Mount also had several children: Elizabeth Ann, Spafford, Lafayette, Mariah, Mary Eleanor, James B., Anna Eliza, and William.

The above Hezekiah Mount of Connersville, Indiana, wrote his letter to Enoch and Rachel Chamberlin and opened it by saying "Dear Parents." Enoch's wife, Rachel, born 1766 and d. 17 February 1833, was the daughter of Ezekiel Mount and his wife, Rebecca. Rachel Mount married Enoch Chamberlin abt. 1790 and Hezekiah's wives, Deborah and Elizabeth, were two of their children. So, Hezekiah was writing the letter (received in Hightstown) to his "in-laws," notifying them of the deaths of Elias Danser and Isaac I. Ely.

Now, the Hezekiah Mount in Indiana is probably not our blacksmith but it would appear that he was certainly related to him in some way and is probably his son. I find a probable candidate for our blacksmith, being the Hezekiah Mount [Sr.?] who is buried behind the Hightstown Baptist Church, under the asphalt parking lot, with his wife Margaret Dye. This Hezekiah was born 1 Aug 1750 in Upper Freehold, Monmouth Co, NJ and died 1 December 1807; aged 57 years and 4 [?], in East Windsor Twp, Middlesex Co., NJ. He was married in 1772 to his wife, Margaret, who was born 17 December 1755 and died 25 February 1777.

I then looked for some info on Elias Danser and Isaac I. Ely. I found an Elias Danser in the Washington Twp. Tax records with 80 acres in 1864. [Washington Twp. was part of East Windsor Twp. until being divided off in 1860.] This may be the Elias T. Danser who died in Hightstown on 5 October 1907, aged 70 years and is possibly a relative of our Elias Danser, who participated in this journey west.

Continued on page 5

## HIGHTSTOWN EAST WINDSOR **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*Hightstown, New Jersey  
founded 1971*

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

Editor, Richard S. Hutchinson

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# Abraham Lincoln and his Hightstown Connections

By Richard S. Hutchinson

I have never seen any reference directly placing Abraham Lincoln in the area of our community. However, he and his ancestors do have a connection to this area and to Hightstown and East Windsor Township. Some reference to this has been written previously but new information has come to light.

*Hightstown Gazette* - 12 August 1886 - [The following was copied from the *State Gazette*.] "On what is known as the Shrewsbury road [this road, which no longer exists, originated in Allentown behind what was the Farmer's Bank, and ran on an angle toward Shrewsbury] near Clarksburg, Monmouth county, is an enclosure called the Robbins burying ground. Many generations of the Robbins' are buried there, as well as many bearing other names. The plot has been held in trust by members of the family for considerably more than one hundred years, one of the present trustees being Mr. S.M. Robbins of Hamilton Square, and Barton Hutchinson of Trenton, is another. But the plot was used for interments long before any deed was given for it. The oldest gravestone bearing a date has the following: 'Deborah Lincon, aged three years and four months, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1720.' The schoolmaster was probably absent when the name 'Lincon' was cut, the 'l' being left out."

"Samuel Lincoln, who came from Norwich, England, to Massachusetts with the early settlers, had a grandson, Mordecai, born 1686. This Mordecai Lincoln came to Monmouth county [New Jersey] previous to 1714, when he married. His oldest son was John Lincoln, who was the great-grandfather of the martyr President Lincoln, and it is highly probable that the child buried in the Robbins burying ground was of this family, possibly a sister of John. About 1730[?] Mordecai Lincoln and his family moved to Eastern Pennsylvania, and John afterwards went to

Rockingham county, Va. He had a son Abraham, whose son Thomas was the father of the President."

"The old burying ground is free for all, and many interments are made there. There are many ancient head stones, those bearing the name of Robbins predominating."

Further info on Mordecai Lincon and his family states:

"...Richard Saltar, the elder, had been married to Sarah Bowne, daughter of his political conspirator Captain John Bowne and his wife Lydia Holmes, both of whom were from Monmouth's first families. As his own parents had been, Richard Saltar and Sarah proved themselves prolific, adding nine children to the population of Monmouth. A daughter, Hannah, married a young Massachusetts man, by the name of Mordecai Lincoln, and would become the great, great-grandmother of Abraham Lincoln. [*Passage Point: An Amateur's Dig Into New Jersey's Colonial Past*, Richard B. Marrin, 1997, p. 233]

"Mordecai Lincoln...left Massachusetts in 1712, and purchased land not far from Allentown, about fourteen miles out of Trenton. Mordecai, who was of the third generation of Lincolns in this country from England, may be said to have been one of the state's early craftsmen. He was an ironmonger, or blacksmith. To this day [1973] the natives of Crawford's Corners, in Monmouth County, like to point out the supposed site of his shop. He married into the Saltar family of that section and acquired considerable land holdings. About 1725 he sold out and moved on to Chester County, Pennsylvania. John Lincoln, oldest son of Mordecia, tarried in New Jersey for a time and followed the trade of a weaver. Thus he also may be listed as an early craftsman of New Jersey, although there is nothing to which we may point as

being the work of either man. Eventually John followed his parent to Pennsylvania and a little later took the next step westward into the Shenandoah Valley. In New Jersey there remains, besides the deeds, only the grave of Mordecai's little daughter as tangible proof that the Lincolns were there. It is on a knoll called Covell's Hill, scarcely four miles from Allentown, and it is marked by an ancient tombstone that reads: Deborah Lincoln [Lincon], Aged 3Y 4M, May 15, 1720." [*Crafts and Craftsmen of New Jersey*, Walter Van Hoesen, 1897, p. 21.]

After doing a little research on the above info, I found the following recorded East New Jersey deeds relating to the Lincon[Lincoln] family, which gives us more info on the timeline of the family in the area.



*Abe Lincoln reading to his son, Tad.*

## East Jersey Deeds

Book H2-Pg 150. 2 Feb 1720. Richard Saltar, of Freehold, Monmouth Co., NJ, sells to Mordecai Lincon, of the afsd. place, for £152, all those tr. & meadows on the Machiponix River and Gravel Brook, in Middlesex Co. The first tr. bnd. on s. by sd. river, e. by Pine

*Continued on page 6*

# Happy Holidays

2005

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## Trip , continued from page 2

A check for Isaac I. Ely, found a genealogy on the Ely Family that stated Isaac I. Ely was the son of Isaac Ely and his second wife, Sarah Johnson. The information given for Isaac I. Ely, was simply, "Isaac Ely, who died in Indiana."

Shortly after the info regarding their journey West was published in the *Hightstown Gazette*, a former Judge, Wm. P. Forman, wrote a letter, date 12 September 1884, to the paper, which was published on 18 September 1884. In it, Judge Forman states that at the time of the trip by Elias Danser and Isaac I. Ely, to spy out the land in the far West as of that day, it interested me much, as I have no doubt it did many others, as I was at that time about 19 years of age, living with my father, Peter Forman, and was present at the last visit of Mr. Ely to him. They were brothers-in-law, and were on friendly terms, my mother's maiden name being Rebecca Ely, a half-sister to the old Isaac.

I never knew Mr. Danser or anything of his genealogy, consequently I will be compelled to confine my remarks to Mr. Ely [Isaac I. Ely].

As the case was a very extraordinary one it may of interest to many to find out a little more in connection herewith. Two men, starting in full health and vigor, with the most flattering anticipation of bettering the condition of themselves and their families, to be cut down so nearly together and so suddenly, was not only an astonishing blow to their families, but to every thoughtful person who learned of the painful occurrence. Mr. Ely lived on the farm now occupied by Joshua R. Norton, Esq. If we were to canvass for a model man it is not probable that in all respects we could find his superior. A self-made man, a man well read and stocked well with general information, ready and able debater, he had many friends. I should think he was nearly six feet high,

with large bone and muscle, well proportioned, and would pull down about 200 pounds. As regards his strength, permit me to relate to following reminiscence. One day he happened to see two men lugging at a barrel of cider to put it in a wagon. He said playfully, 'It is but one man's work.' They said they would like to see any one man do it. He told them that if they would risk the wagon he would put it in. They said, 'Go ahead'. He picked it up and put it over the side, it fell, rolled across the wagon bottom and went out on the ground, smashing the other wagon side. His wife was Anna Chamberlin, a daughter of the late Enoch Chamberlin. They had several children — Spafford, Emeline, John, Enoch. I think there was an Andamona; there may have been others; I know some of them are deceased. John and Enoch you know are thorough going men and live on the old York road, near what formerly was called

*Continued on page 6*

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## ANNUAL BANQUET



### Longstreet Library

*Peddie Campus (next to Kalamathia House)*

*Hightstown, NJ*

*Sunday, January 15, 2006 ♦ 1:30 p.m.*

*\$25.00 per person*

### Catered Special Buffet Menu

Spinach salad, stuffed chicken breast or roasted pork loin, sweet potatoes, roasted cauliflower, Black Forest cake, wine, coffee and tea

### Speaker

John Murrin, an expert on Colonial America,  
will speak on New Jersey's role during the Revolution

Send reservations with check payable to: "H.E.W. Historical Society" to:  
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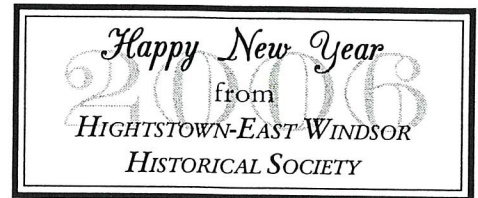
Chamberlin's corner— I might say your neighbors. He had always had big ideas of the west, and at the visit referred to there was one remark I always remembered. He said, 'Peter, I never intend to lay my bones in this poor soil.' He was the eldest son of Isaac Ely, who was born July 31, 1742, who was the fifth son of the patriarch John, born in this country Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 1707. His ancestors were from England. He had seven sons and three daughters. He was a large and thrifty land owner, and as his sons married he settled them on farms, most of them contiguous to the homestead. By an aged member of the family some years ago I was shown the site of the old domicile where old John lived. It used to be called the Ely neighborhood. Other names at this day seem to have occupied most of the land. I think Isaac Davison now owns the spot of the site of the old home.

The brothers and sisters of Isaac I. Ely were Rebecca, herein named, John, who lived on Sweetman's lane, Richard died in Illinois, Joshua, died in the north-erly part of New York, William was accidentally killed in New York city, Rhoda, wife of Isaac Hutchinson, deceased, Allison removed to Dayton, Ohio, is supposed to be dead, and George, now living in the State of Illinois; three of the brothers married three daughters of Thomas Thompson, of Manalapan, Monmouth county, N.J. William married Caroline, Allison married Lydia, and George married Jane. They were sisters of Mrs. Daniel D. Norton.

And, with this letter, I end the story of the journey West by Elias Danser & his partner, Isaac I. Ely.

Brook, w. by land now or late of William Estell, & n. by unsurveyed land. Also, all that tr, bnd. w. by Gravel Brook, s. by land of William Estell, from mouth of Long Meadow Run, e. and n by unsurveyed land. Also, all the Long Meadow upon sd. Long Meadow Run, bnd. e. by last mentioned tr. & all round the other sides by unsurveyed upland & in total, all tr, being 400 a., that was bot. from John Reid, Esqr., on 7 Nov 1717. Signed: Richard Saltar. Wits.: Thomas Cox, R. Saltar, Junr. Ackn.: 5 Apr 1727, Richard Saltar, Junr. Apprd. bef. John Anderson, Esqr., Majesty's Council. Recr'd & Exam.: Thomas Bartow.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN THE MARCH-  
APRIL 2006 ISSUE**



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