



HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2005

A Trip Out West

by Richard S. Hutchinson

The following is a record of a trip by horseback of two men seeking the "perfect" place for the future purchase of farm land onto which to settle. It was their scouting trip for their future. This record includes the route they took, the miles they traveled, the money they spent and the places they stayed. Some of the names are known to this area and to Hightstown; widow Tindall, and Hezekiah Mount, whose possible namesake, was a blacksmith with a home and forge next to his home located on Broadway, in Hightstown. For those who don't know Broadway, I speak of a street we now call Stockton Street.

As the town's newspaper wrote, "this glimpse of past days will awaken almost forgotten recollections in the minds of some of the oldest inhabitants of Hightstown and vicinity. Believing that a reminiscence of the times when the Western fever raged in our community would be of interest to many of our older citizens, as well as instructive to the rising generation, I have transcribed from a little manuscript book, brown with ages, the 'Journal' of Isaac Ely." This journey took place some 20 years after our nation opened the Northwest Territory, and Pittsburgh was no longer the wild west. [All spellings have been left as written.]

To John Jones' Inn 13 miles, in Armstrong county, to Shippinsville in Venango county, 10 miles. To Franklin at the conjunction of French Creek with the Alleghany river 22 ½ miles, —Franklin the seat of justice for Venango county. To Mercer-Town, the seat of justice for Mercer county 25 miles. To Warren-town, Trumbull county, Ohio State, 14 miles over the Pennsylvania line; the above town is the capital of Trumbull county, situated on the Mahoning river. To Aurora in Portage county 23 ½ miles. To Newbergh in Cuyahoga county 18 ½ miles. To Cleaveland, the seat of Cuyahoga county, 6 miles. To Elyrice the seat of justice for Lorrain county 23 miles, situated on the west side of Black river. To Mr. Butler's Inn, Huron county, 15 miles, on the west side of Vermillion. To Milan on the east side of Huron river 16 miles. From thence to Lower Sandusky we went through Huron prairies which were 12 miles by 8 to 6 wide, which lies the town of Ridgefield and Lime, which towns I believe to be preferable to any lands I ever saw."

Hightstown, Middlesex Co., NJ
- July 1826 - 'A Journal of a travel performed by Elias Danser and Isaac I. Ely, both of the county of Middlesex, and State of New Jersey, commenced July 29th, A. D. 1826.'

"From Heights-Town to Pennington 16 miles, to Ringoes old Tavern 9 miles, to Quaker-Town, N.J., 11 miles to Hickory Tavern 6 miles, from thence to Bloomsbury for Centre County. Thence to Miles' Burgh, 2 miles, in Bald Eagle Val. To Phillips-Burgh 26 miles. To Alexander's Inn 30 miles, in Clearfield County. To Sandy Lick Creek, in Jefferson county, 25 miles, the Inn kept by I. and A. Barnett.

"August 18th. Stopt at Daniel Rice's in Townsend township, Sandusky county, which we think superior to any forest land we have seen, 3 ½ miles from the head of Cold Creek, 10 miles from Portland-Town or Sandusky City. August 19th. From

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 7 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 15 Guitarist Jim Murphy will sing and play songs about New Jersey, 2:00 p.m., Meadow Lakes

DECEMBER

- 5 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 11 Christmas Tea, Ely House, 2-4:00 p.m.

Lower Sandusky to the widow Tindall's 4 miles, Ball's Ville-Town, from thence back 4 miles to Sandusky, thence to the head of Cold Creek 20 miles to Marietta township, to Sandusky City 8 miles. To Mr. Strong's Inn 14 miles. To Lower Sandusky 17 miles. To widow Tindall's, Sandusky county, 4 miles. August 21st. To Fort Seneca and from thence to Fort Ball 13 miles in Seneca county—Tiffin the seat of justice for Seneca county. To Tymochette, Crawford county, 9 miles. To Upper Sandusky 8 miles. To Marion, the county seat for Marion county 18 miles through the Sandusky plains, also by the way of Little Sandusky and Little Scioto, to Norton 10 miles. To Delaware, the seat of justice for Delaware county 10 miles, situated on the west side of Whet Stone Creek. To Worthington 16 miles. To Columbus, the capital of the State, 9 miles. To Springfield, the seat of Clock county, 40 miles. To Dayton, 25 miles, the seat of justice for the county of Montgomery. To Miamiasburgh 12 miles. To Fletcher Embley's 2 miles. To Franklin, in Butler county, 4 miles. To Middletown 6 miles. To Trenton, in Butler county, 4 ½ miles. To Mr. Robinson's 7 miles. To Oxford 8 miles. To Brook Ville, in Indiana State, Franklin county, 16 miles. To Somerset 14 miles. To Hezekiah Mount's, Fayette county, 12 miles. The distance is estimated about 737 ½ miles. Expenses \$41.18 ½."

"I saw a settlement of land in Cuyahoga county, Dover township, which I consider a good place to settle, owned by Mr. Granger on Onandago county, N.Y. Inn in the above settlement, kept by Amos Sparry, first rate land in Ridgfield-Town, Huron

county, west of Huron river. Prices of produce at different places names, to wit: At Mauch Chunck, wheat 85c., rye 85c, corn 75c, oats 50c. Stone coal sold from Lehigh coal mines per day at Philadelphia amounts to \$1,470! Between the north and west branches of the Susquehannah river, wheat 62 ½c, corn 40c, rye 40c, oats 30c. At Cleaveland, wheat 50c, corn 30c, oats from 27 to 28c. Wheat per bbl. \$2.25 to \$2.50. Joseph Umphrey's centre of township of Ridge Ville, Lorain county, Ohio State, to forward a line."

Then follows an itemized 'List of Expenses for Elias Danser and Isaac I. Ely, on a travel to the North and West' as follows: July 28, 1826, at Heights-Town 18 ¾c, July 30, at Pennington 81 ¾c, at Platt's Inn 68 ¾c, at Hickory Tavern 12 ½c. July 31, at Easton \$1.14, morning feed 34c, Lehigh on the river 50c, at Mauch Chunck 18 ¾c. Aug 1, at the Lehigh Landing 75c, tole gate 36. Morning feed 58, afternoon feed 25, Berwick bridge 25. Aug 2, Hill's Inn \$1.25, Bloomsburgh 11 ½ miles from Berwick 25. Aug 4, Lewisburgh bridge 25. Aug 5, Riedles' Inn 87 ½, noon feed 37 ½. 6th, morning \$1, turnpike gates and feed \$31 ½, tole and drink 37 ½c. 7th, morning bill \$1.12 ½, at Hancock's Inn 50, tole at 2 gates on the mud turnpike 62. 8th, morning bill \$1.25, noon feed 50, tole 25. 9th, morning and forenoon bills \$1.25, tole 30, feed 12 ½, ferriage over the Alleghany river 25. 10th bills at Franklin \$2.12 ½. 12th, forenoon and one melon 25. 13th, bills \$1.12 ½. 14th, at Cleaveland \$1.50. 15th, bills \$1.44. 16th, bills at Mr. Butler's \$1.37 ½. 17th, bills \$1.94.

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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, Richard S. Hutchinson

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Andrew Kuhn - Eagle Scout Project

The Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society is pleased to announce that local resident, Andrew Kuhn, has just completed his Eagle Scout project on Sunday, October 2, at the Ely House museum in Hightstown on the corner of Bank and North Main Streets. The project consisted of constructing two hand-made benches and the planting of a variety of shrubs and plants around the Ely House and Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center. Helping Andrew with the construction of the project were Trevor Evans, Andrew DiCecco, Joseph Coyle, James Coyle, Rob Vetter, Ryan Vetter, Eitan Levine, and Alex Prunchak. Andrew Kuhn is a member of Boy Scout Troop #59 sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown.



Shown in the photo are from left to right: Rob Vetter, Andrew Kuhn, Ryan Vetter and Trevor Evans. [Photo by Shirley Olsen]



The Holiday Greeting Card



18th, 12 ^{1/2}. 19th, \$2. 20th, \$1.75. 21st, at Fort Ball, 25. 23rd, at Tymochetre, Upper Sandusky and Marion \$1.94. 23rd, at Norton, \$1.75, at Columbus 25. 24th, bills, \$1.82 ^{1/2}. 25th bills, \$1.87 ^{1/2}. 26th, \$1.06 ^{1/2}. 28th, for oats, 6 ^{1/2}. 29th, bills \$1.50.

By this it will be seen that they made their journey of 737 ^{1/2} miles in just one month, at an outlay of \$41.48 ^{1/2}, being an average of nearly 25 miles a day, at an expense of about \$1.38. But, they also paid a cost not written in their Journal. The following letter was received in Hightstown:

**TO BE CONTINUED IN THE
JANUARY-FEBRUARY**

Memorial Donation

On September 12th, Mr. and Mrs. Merwin Ivins, local antique dealers, pictured at right of photo, presented to the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society, in the refurbished Freight Station, a wooden pitchfork, ca. 1880, in memory of Dr. Harold C. "Skip" Cox, Jr., who was a long-time member and past president of the Society. Accepting the donation on behalf of the Society, was Skip's wife, Jane, and their son, Craig Cox. The pitchfork was used for many years on one of the local farms in this area.



Hightstown-East Windsor
Historical Society
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