

HIGHTSTOWN

NEW



JERSEY

EAST WINDSOR

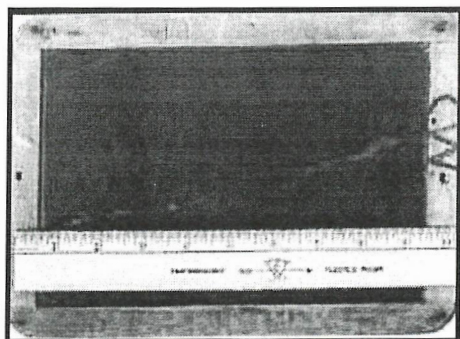
HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2004

An Early Hightstown School Slate

by Richard S. Hutchinson

A few weeks ago, I noticed an early school slate from Hightstown, New Jersey, had made its way onto Ebay. I am sure that many folks of these recent generations are asking what is a "school slate." Well, it was just that - a piece of slate that had



Charles H. Weller's School Slate.
(Author's collection)

a wood border. Students used them in school on a daily basis. They were basically individual chalk boards upon which you did your reading, writing and arithmetic. You may have shared one with another student but if you were lucky, each child had their own. The particular board being offered for sale measured 10 1/4 " x 7 1/2." The seller of the slate indicated that the slate was cracked and had carved into the wooden border surrounding the slate, the following: "C.W." On another portion of the wood border was also carved - "Charley H. Weller's - Hightstown, N.J. - June 17th '92." It would seem that Charley was one of the lucky students who had his own slate in 1892, at the age of 14 years old.

For those of you who do not know "Charley H. Weller", the boy who carved this information into his slate, he was Charles Henry Weller, born 1878 and died 1948. He married Miss Jane V. Wyckoff, daughter of George M. Wyckoff, of North Main Street, Hightstown. They were married in New York on 7 June 1913.

Charley and his brother, Harry L. Weller, were known in Hightstown through their business - Weller Bros. Tobacco Shop. They had been brought up in their father's tobacco and cigar business. Their father being Henry L. Weller (1848-1912), who was born in Falkenstein, Saxony, Germany. He came to Philadelphia about 1875 and worked

Continued on page 2



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 27 "Genealogy & DNA, Perfect Together" by Richard Hutchinson, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center

OCTOBER

- 4 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
- 17 Hightstown House Tour, "Art and Hearth"

Hightstown House Tour

The Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society presents a House Tour
"Art and Hearth"

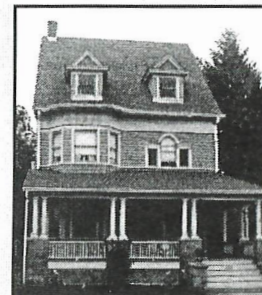
Sunday, October 17, 2004, from 1-5 p.m.
featuring 7 older homes & Art Station

Tickets - Pre-Sale Purchase - \$15

Tickets will be available for pre-sale purchase at Perennial Home at 119 Ward Street after Labor Day. Tickets will also be sold at: Hair by Sharon, Reed House, and Old Hights Print Shop. Workers on the house tour must buy their tickets directly from Eileen Couturier, Ticket Chairman.

Tickets - Day of Tour - \$18

Ely House, 164 North Main Street



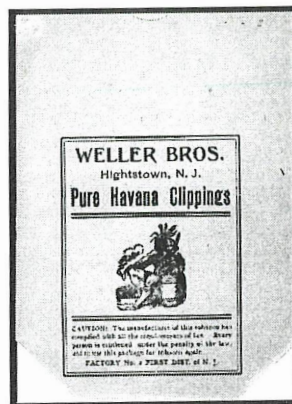
216 South Main Street
Abijah E. Applegate House

PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 TO VIEW OTHER HOUSES
FEATURED ON THE HOUSE TOUR

School Slate, continued from page 1

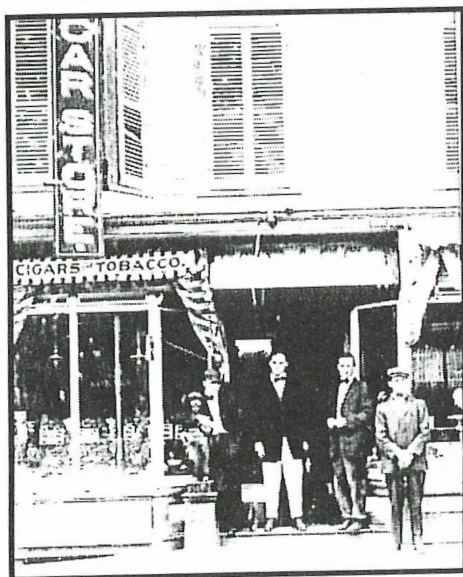
in the cigar business and later moved to Hightstown about 1878. He was elected to Borough Council in 1885. He became a large landowner and built several homes in Hightstown.

Weller's Tobacco Store, prior to my time, was known not only for their tobacco products and in store conversation but also for their wooden cigar store carving that sat outside the store and was known as the "Turk." Over the years, based upon various photographs, it is apparent that they had several "Turks." The last known of their cigar store "Turks" now resides in the Hightstown Memorial Library. Frank Weller, a cousin to Charley and Harry, was also in the cigar business that was at one time in the early 1900s located on Stockton Street. [When I grew up in Hightstown, their business on Main Street had been last located in what was then known as "Carter's," which sat next to what was then known as the "Hightstown Luncheonette."]



*Weller Bros. Tobacco Bag with Advertising.
(Author's Collection)*

After winning and receiving the "Weller" school slate, I emailed the seller living in another state, and thanked them for offering the item. I advised them that I had been raised in Hightstown and that I also knew the Charles Weller, the "carver" of the slate. To my surprise, I received an email back from the seller, who indicated that she, too, had lived in Hightstown. She stated that the slate had been found in her father's home after his death. The seller's name was Virginia (Jantz) Wolfe. To my further surprise, she advised me that she had no knowledge of a historical society being in Hightstown! And, that is how the slate made its way onto Ebay.



*Weller Brothers, in doorway of their store on Main Street.
(H-EW Historical Society Collection)*



*The Boys and the "Turk". Weller Brothers, standing, 3rd and 4th from left; and Oscar T. Fenton, standing, 2nd from right.
(H-EW Historical Society Collection)*



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

Officers for 2004-2005

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Genealogical queries pertaining to the Hightstown-East Windsor Township area are accepted, but will be printed as space allows.

*Typeset by Cori Hutchinson Quinlan
Quinlan Processing 609-888-4028*

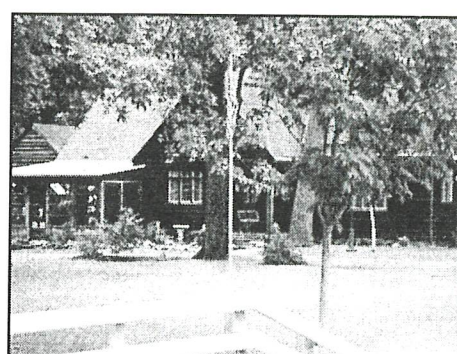
More Homes Featured on the House Tour



120 South Street
George Perrine House



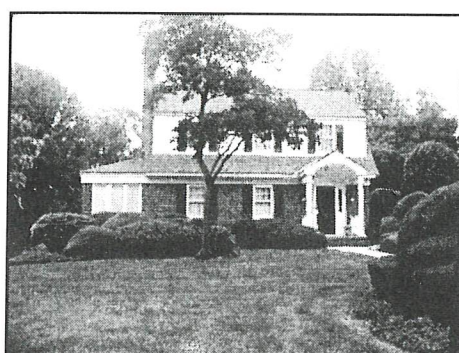
118 Center Street and 140 Second Street
Samuel Fryer House



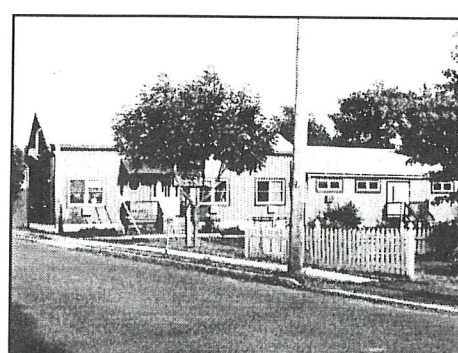
181 East Ward Street
D.C. Lewis House



201 East Ward Street
Davison House



451 South Main Street
Oscar T. Fenton House
(Contractor was George M. Perrine)



Art Station
John A. Taylor Hay Press

Join today, become a member!

Individual Membership
\$20.00

Family Membership
\$25.00

Booster/Patron
Membership
\$40.00

Sustaining Membership
\$50.00

Life (individual) Membership
\$200.00

Life (married) Membership
\$275.00

Annual Membership Application (January - December)

- ☐ Individual ☐ Family ☐ Booster/Patron
☐ Sustaining ☐ Life (individual) ☐ Life (married)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Please mail the completed application, along with a check made payable to the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society to:

Membership Committee
Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society
164 North Main Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520

The "Harry L. Weller" Connection to Hightstown's Old Village Schoolhouse

by Richard S. Hutchinson

On 13 September 1894, Jacob Stults, Editor of the *Hightstown Gazette*, reflected upon the old Morrison Street Female Seminary, a school house erected on Morrison street [now Rogers Avenue], nearly half a century ago. The schoolhouse was built about 1850 and the enterprise was a joint-stock affair, with the originators being John T. Hutchinson, Benjamin Reed, Kenneth Applegate [Appleget], Redford Job, Mount Job, R.E. Morrison, Asher Hankinson, James E. Cook, Wilson Applegate, James Keeler, Thomas A. Mount. The lot was donated by Rev. R.E. Morrison. It was only large enough to accommodate twelve pupils and the names of the girls who attended this school during the first year of its existence were Julia Hutchinson, Gertrude Applegate [Appleget], Mary S. Morrison, Martha J. Morrison, Kate Barkalow, Sarah Adaline Job, Hannah Helen Hankinson, Rebecca Mount, Sarah Applegate, Delilah Keeler, Amanda Reed, Cornelia Duncan.

The Morrison annex of Hightstown was once the property of Robert Purdy. Morrison street was cut through the Purdy apple orchard and the schoolhouse lot stood in this orchard. Finally, possibly because there were no more girls in the families of the original stockholders to educate, the building was leased to Miss Caroline Edwards, who for a while maintained a private school for small children of both sexes. The old schoolhouse then stood on the corner of Morrison street and the railroad, and is used as a carpet weaving shop.

On 24 January 1901, we learn that the "old Cottage School," formerly on Morrison Street, and later moved to Monmouth street, has been moved again by its latest purchaser, Henry Weller, to Bank Street. On 25 November 1915, Harry L. Weller purchased the old office building of East Windsor Township, at the foot of Franklin Street, for \$558 at auction. On

August 17, 1916, the Borough Council purchased the E.W.T. building from Harry Weller and moved it to the Borough lot on Bank Street next to the pumping station to be used principally for election purposes. On 8 March 1917, the Borough Council ordered that a barn be built on Bank Street for storage of their wagons, hay, feed and stalls for the horses. The contract for building and painting that barn went to Elwood A. Ewart, on 3 May 1917, for \$649. On that same date, Council purchased the lot adjoining the pumping station from E.E. Wright for \$465 and it was reported that the old village schoolhouse will be removed by Mr. Wright, who has purchased a lot on Grant Street.

Question - Did the Borough recently tear down the old East Windsor Township building and is the "old village schoolhouse" still located somewhere on Grant Street??

Vinton & Maribelle Taylor
108 Harron Ave
Hightstown NJ 08520

Hightstown-East Windsor
Historical Society
164 North Main Street
Hightstown, New Jersey 08520

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