

HIGHTSTOWN
NEW



EAST WINDSOR
JERSEY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2008

Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society 2008 House Tour

by Richard S. Hutchinson



On Sunday, October 19, 2008, the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society will sponsor a self-guided house tour from 1 to 5 PM, entitled "Portraits of the Past". The tour will consist of six (6) area homes noted for their charm, as well as their local and historical significance. One residence on the tour in East Windsor was one of several residences that were invaded and looted by the Hessians in December 1776. Docents will

be on hand to offer information about these houses, their furnishings and their history.

Advance ticket sales will be available in mid-September for \$17 at the following businesses: Old Hights Print Shop, Perennial Home, and Hair by Sharon. Tickets will be sold at Ely House, 164 North Main Street, Hightstown on the day of the tour at \$20. For more information, you may call Shirley Olsen at 609-448-8388.

With This Issue, I Say Goodbye

In March 1994, I retired from the New Jersey State Commission of Investigation, obtained my PI License and began my own business concentrating on genealogical research for folks around the country but specializing in adoption work; i.e. finding the natural parents of adopted children. While working from my home office, it gave me more time to put toward the Society. The Society had just received a Grant through Bob Craig's efforts to catalogue our growing manuscript collection. Bob and I, and others began working on this Project and sometime near the end of 1994, Bob asked me to take over the Society's newsletter, as he could no longer continue it due to his work schedule. I immediately said, "No" being I had very little knowledge of doing a newsletter. However, after several conversations with Bob and my daughter, Cori, I finally agreed to undertake the job as no one else stepped forward. With Bob's absence from the Society, I suddenly inherited the Library and the Society's manuscript collection.

In November 1997, New Jersey taxes finally drove my wife, Faye, and I from New Jersey and we settled into a tax free Delaware in a little town of 200 people sitting out in the country, with one general store and a one person Post Office. It

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

- 6 Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center
19 House Tour, "Portraits of the Past", 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hightstown, New Jersey and Some Hight Family Connections

by Richard S. Hutchinson

[Continued from Last Issue]

Aside from a few inter-office notes, the only other information found within John N. Hight's Revolutionary War Pension file, are the following pieces of correspondence to the office requesting information on Hight from his descendants in various places around the country. The individual's requesting his info were:

Sept 1892 - O. R. Hight, Sr., of Morris, IL, who requested info as to the regiment of his grandfather, John N. Hight, and he signed the letter as O. R. Hight-Sgt. Co H, 12 Reg, Michigan Vol. Infantry - 1861. This indicates that Orion was in the Civil War.

28 Feb 1893 - O. R. Hight indicated that he had obtained the previously requested info but also indicated that he specifically wanted to know the Regiment of John N. Hight so he could put that info on John N. Hight's "tombstone". Therefore, this suggests that Orion R. Hight, Sr. may have been the person responsible for placing the gravestone on John N. Hight's grave in Steuben Co., NY.

29 May 1897 - Mrs. Fred. S. Retan, 260 Warren Ave West Detroit, Michigan, requested information in a note which stated "Kindly oblige by sending Revolutionary history of John N. Hight. Specially desire to ascertain his place of enlistment. Also, the same information concerning Jonathan Cook, also a soldier of the Revolution." Address - Mrs. F. S., Retan, Burlington, Vermont. [The HEW Society has Mrs. Retan's research folder in the Society's collections.

The Jonathan Cook mentioned in Mrs. Retan's request is due to the following Hight family relationship. Jonathan Cook's daughter, Mehitable, married David S. Hight, the son of John N.

Hight. According to Mrs. Campbell's notes, David & wife Mehitable Cook were married on 15 Mar 1804 in New York, she being the dau. of Jonathan & Eunice (Chapel) Cook. David S. Hight was born 21 Jun 1781, in Windsor Twp., NJ, and died 4 Mar 1880, in Genoa Twp., Livingston Co., Michigan. Mehitable Cook was born 15 Jul 1780, in Saybrook, Connecticut, and died 8 Jul 1864, in Genoa, Livingston Co., Michigan.

21 June 1897 - Chas. R. Hight, Manufacturing Jeweler and Optician, of Lawton, Mich., wrote the Interior Department asking for information on his great-grandfather, John N. Hight, of New Jersey, who enlisted in the Revolutionary War about 1775. He also asked for information on his grandfather, William S. Hight, of Jersey, New York, who enlisted in the War of 1812. Mr. Hight received no information on William S. Hight from the Interior Department other than his full name - William Savage Hight. However, his request for info on John N. Hight, he received the location of his residence before service as Windsor, NJ, and that his residence after his service was in Jersey, New York, and that the date of his death as 15 Oct 1856 [this date that was given is incorrect - see below]. He was also advised to his request for the name of a widow as "no widow." And, the response to the question "did he or his widow receive his pension," he was advised that "He did."

[Hight's pension file contains one small printed card stating "MEMORANDA" with his death date written as Oct 15, 1856, which again is incorrect. After examining this form, it is my opinion that this death date error is due to the Government writer's handwriting on

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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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this form. The writer's "O" in 1850 is not complete and it makes it look like a "6." It appears to have been made when the writer made his up-stroke with the quill pen on the right side of the "O" but finishing it lower than where he started the top of the left side of the "O". The correct date on John N. Hight's death was 1850, not 1856 According to John N. Hight's gravestone, he died October 15, 1850.]

2 Aug 1907 - John N. Hight's military history was sent to Mrs. Fred. S. Retan.

23 Jul 1918 - John N. Hight's military history was sent to Mrs. W. M. Stebbins in response to her letter of the 15th on stationery of the DAR, of Hastings, Michigan, and signing the letter as Regent. [This would imply that someone used John N. Hight on an application for the DAR.]

3 Feb 1923 - John N. Hight's military history was sent to Myrrl C. Hight, of 1300 W. Bethume, Detroit, Michigan.

24 Sep 1931 - John W. Reeves, II, requested info pertaining to John N. Hight, who served as a Private in Capt. John Walton's Company, of Light Dragoons, from Monmouth Co., NJ, during the Revolutionary War. He specifically wanted to know if he ever drew a pension for his Revolutionary services.

[Also, found in John N. Hight's file was a note, apparently in response from a family member's request for information pertaining to John's son, William S. Hight. The note read - "William S. Hight, Private, Capt. J. Sanfords Co., Major Habbs Battalion, NY Militia from Sept. 23rd to Nov 23 1812."]

The end of information
found in John N. Hight's
Revolutionary Pension File

The following information on further Hight family members was submitted to me and is the product of various Hight family researchers, as well as my own. Therefore, with the above cautions in place, here are several Hight lines, who trace their heritage back to this area of "Windsor township, Middlesex County" or "being of near Hightstown."

Nicholas Hight - In one piece of correspondence wherein a Hight descendant asks for Hight family information, the relative answers - "What little I wrote in my letter is all, I am sorry to say, I can answer to your questions ... O. R. Hight, Los Angeles, Cal., may have some history of the Hight family." The letter also contains the following question and answer - "Can any family records be found showing the brothers and sisters of John N. Hight or of his parents? Great-aunt Rachel's Bible has a note - "Nicholas Hight born March 1728, John and Henry older brothers. Nicholas' sons were Nicholas, William, John, David and Aaron and his daughters were Susan, Margaret, Mary and Nancy. He died Sept 15, 1805. The underscored name is our John N. Hight."

John N. Hight - My research on John N. Hight shows the following:

He was a Captain of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Regiment, of the Militia of Middlesex County, New Jersey, in April 1793, when he gave his age as 37.

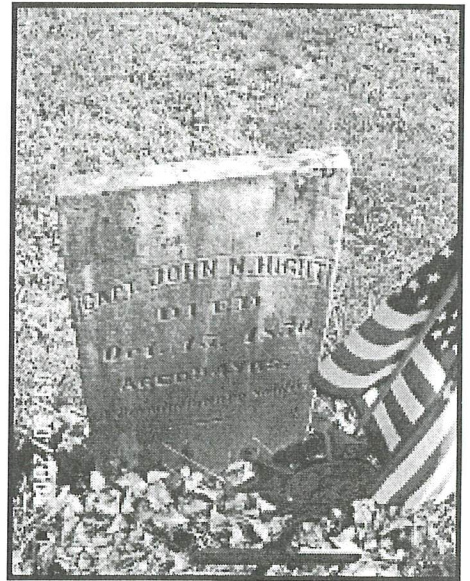
John N. Hight and John Schenk made the Inventory on 22 May 1782 for the estate of James Adams, of Windsor Township, Middlesex Co, New Jersey, who left a Will, dated 25 January 1775 and proved, 22 May 1782.

John N. Hight and Garret Schenk made an Inventory, on 5 April 1793, for the estate of James Freeman, Sr, of Middlesex Co, New Jersey, who left a

Will, dated 21 March 1793 and proved on 8 April 1793.

John N. Hight and John Schenk made an Inventory on 19 March 1795 for the estate of Johannes Ryder, Sr, of Middlesex County, New Jersey, who left a Will, dated 20 March 1790 and proved 10 June 1795.

John N. Hight and John Schenk made an Inventory on 19 March 1795 for the estate of Garret A. Schenk, of Middlesex County, New Jersey, who died Intestate, and was granted administration on 20 March 1795.



John N. Hight's gravestone, Bradford Cemetery, Steuben Co., New York

John N. Hight and Garret Schenk made an Inventory on 2 December 1796, for the estate of Eupheamia Freeman, of Middlesex County, New Jersey, who made a Will, dated 24 November 1796 and proved 5 December 1796.

My deed research in Middlesex County Court House on John N. Hight shows that he and his wife Hannah lived in Penns Neck, West Windsor, New Jersey, as was evidenced by deeds Book 2-page 92, dated 6 Sept 1797 & page 176, dated 9 July 1796; Vol 3-page 178,

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Hight Family

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dated 28 December 1797 & page 625, dated 25 May 1796 and Vol 8-Page 669, dated 9 June 1798. In all deeds, he and his wife were selling their land in West Windsor Twp, Middlesex Co, New Jersey and were referred to as John N. Hight & his wife, Hannah. In the last deed found for them in Vol 24-page 42, dated 20 May 1799, he was referred to as John N. Haight of Somerset where he sold land to Susanna Haight of West Windsor. [They had a daughter name Susannah as did Nicholas Hight.] However, when signing this deed he actually signed his name as "Hight" as did his wife, Hannah. In reference to this deed, John appeared before the court on 14 Feb 1801 and Hannah appeared on 23 Oct 1802. One can conclude from the sale of their land that this was in preparation for their leaving the State of New Jersey and moving to Steuben County, New York.

According to another Hight researcher, John N. Hight died 15 Oct 1850, [which supports the date on his gravestone] and that he was definitely listed at age 95 years in the 1850 census of Bradford Co, NY.

Another Hight, also a descendant of John N. Hight, who was born in Genoa, Livingston, State of Michigan, filed her DAR Lineage Form showing that John N. Hight and his wife, Hannah Savage/Savidge were her great-grandparents; that their son David Hight, was born in Windsor, New Jersey, June 21, 1781, and his wife Mehetabel Cook were her grandparents, and that Nathan Cook Hight and his wife, Elizabeth Bennett, were her parents. She repeats the above government records and indicates the dates on her application come from tombstone and Bible records. The children of John N. & Hannah (Savage) Hight were given as David, Deborah, Betsey, William Savage, Nicholas, Anne, Susanna, and Rachel. She further indicates that Mrs.

Frances Wheeler Smith, National DAR# 142773 received membership under this same line being "she was the daughter of my father's sister, Sally Ann (Hight) Haight, the daughter of David and Mehetabel Cook Hight born Jan. 9, 1811." [Sally Ann Hight married Reuben Haight in Steuben Co, New York in 1826. She died in Odessa, Ionia County, Michigan in 1850.]

Nicholas Hight, Jr. - Nicholas Hight, Jr, is believed to be the nephew of John Hight, the founder of Hightstown. The 1793 Militia of Middlesex Co lists John N. Hight, age 33 [born ca. 1760], and Nicholas Hight, age 42, [born ca. 1751]. I put these two as sons of Nicholas Hight, Sr. believed to be the brother of John Hight.

In a Middlesex Co deed, dated 3 May 1794, Nicholas Hight, Jr and wife Bathsheba, of New Windsor Twp, wheelwright, sold land to Daniel Atchley, Jr of the same place. Another deed, dated 27 June 1794, states "...and the said Nicholas Hight having intermarried Basheba Atchley one of the said Benjamin Atchley daughters..." [Vol 8, Page 881]

Nicholas Hight, Jr. of East Windsor, left a Will dated 12 Jan 1791, proved 27 March 1799. He names his wife as Bathsheba and names children: Jacob, Daniel, John, Catharine, Hanna, and Anna.

There is a record of the Hight Family in the Montgomery Co Archives, at Fonda, NY, that was published in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, March 1971, Vol #59, # 1, page 34 that gives the following: Jacob Hight b. 14 June 1775, Benjamin Hight b. 18 July 1779, Catherine Hight b. 17 March 1782, Hannah Hight, b. 8 Dec 1784, Daniel Hight b. 1 May 1787, Ann Hight b. 8 July 1789, John Hight b. 21

Sept 1793. In another hand is written "Moved Oct 17, 1843. Landed November the 3rd 1843."

A family descendant states that the Catherine Hight, of the record above, married Wm. Calvert and the family moved from the vicinity of Old Tennent Church, NJ, to Saratoga Co, NY. Catherine died there in 1840 in her 59th year [checks with above DOB] and is buried there. This record, per the researcher who sent this to me, indicates that this is the record of the children of Nicholas Hight, Jr. of NJ. I have not seen the article or the actual record ONLY a transcription as given above.

There is much more Hight descendant info that could be given but it goes beyond the scope of this article and further from the Hightstown - East Windsor Twp., NJ.

CONCLUDED

Brass Bullet

Hightstown Gazette - 15 March 1894 - Corporal Bodine brings to us a brass bullet from which a small section was cut by a circular saw in Hutchinson's mill yard. The bullet was gathered from the centre of an apple tree log by Skip Tabler. The log came from Spotswood and was known to be over 100 years old. The old soldier's idea is that it was shot from a British musket in the revolutionary times. They only using brass bullets in those time.



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is an area of chickens and farms with fields of corn and watermelons. It immediately reminded us both of how the Hightstown and East Windsor area looked back in the 50's. By then, I had also inherited the membership function for the Society and still handle that function, as well. When I advised the Society of our decision to move, "Skip" was President and asked if I could continue doing the newsletter and maintaining the membership as they had no one willing to take it over. He asked me for a suggested replacement for the Library and I recommended Kate Middleton. So, thanks to the internet, the newsletter and membership functions, which are both closely connected, have been handled via email from Delaware. After the move to Delaware, these responsibilities filled a void and gave me some work. At the same time, I began doing more historical research and then self-publishing the info. I then found two publishers wanting to publish my material and currently I am an author with Colonial Roots in Lewes, Delaware.

When I took over the newsletter, I wanted to bring an awareness of the businessmen, the residents and the history surrounding them in the Hightstown-East Windsor area for the present and future generations. To my surprise, the Society's newsletter gained local and national recognition many times. I feel that I have done my job and hope that you have enjoyed meeting these former area residents. And, based on many letters, historical donations and emails sent to me from around the country, I am of the opinion that you folks have enjoyed them.

I must thank Bob Craig for his initial guidance when I began this venture. And then, a big thank you to Cathy (Lanning) Simmons and the Old Hights Print Shop for the two-way communication we have which has made the printing of the newsletter and the membership renewal forms all come together. I want to thank all of those who have answered my emails and to all of those in the Society who have supported me in these endeavors. I

want to particularly thank my school teachers and now my good friends, Dr. Edgar Thomas, Jr., Dr. "Skip" Cox, who passed on much too early, to Frank & Peg Brennan, and my cousin, "Cappy" Stults, and all the others in the Society. The camaraderie that we had produced a great working atmosphere. Whenever, there was an idea suggested, the response was "Let's do it."

However, the newsletter endeavor could not have been accomplished without the help of my daughter, Cori, and her business, Quinlan Processing. She has been the most important person for me in getting your newsletter out, as she took time from her family and her business to handle all of my emails and attachments of my writings and photos and for her having typeset each and every newsletter over these past 14 years. Her knowledge and ability was crucial to any success the newsletter has had over these years.

So, I leave with some stories still to tell. I have previously notified the

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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: _____

Email address: _____

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

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officers of the Society of my plans in both the early part of both 2007 and 2008 and advised then that they needed to search for someone to take over the newsletter and the membership function of the Society. I have also advised them that I would work with that person and show them the present method of production and then they could take it from there. On both occasions, I have been asked to reconsider my decision and I did so in 2007. However, now it is time for me to go. I have not heard anything regarding a replacement to take over these functions but I assume that someone is waiting in the wings.

Thank you for the confidence you had in me and giving me the opportunity to serve the Society.

Hutch

We Have An Updated Website!

Thanks to Jennifer Worringer, Reference Librarian, Hightstown Memorial Library Branch, MCLS, the Society has an updated website at www.hewhs.org. From now on those who are computer literate will be able to read about future events by checking the website. And, if you are not computer literate, ask you grandkids and they will be able to get you there. Another handy use of the site is a list of phone numbers and email addresses for Society officers. You can also do some research or just read about the life in the "good old days." The website holds nearly forty of the Society's award-winning newsletters containing one or two in-depth stories on a historical topic from the Hightstown-East Windsor area. Enjoy!



www.hewhs.org

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