

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Salem County Historical Society

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**Richard
Allen**
**Father of
African
Methodism**

By Donald L. Pierce

Richard Allen was born into slavery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on February 14, 1760. While a young boy his master Benjamin Chew sold him, his mother, father and three other children to a plantation owner named Stokeley near Dover, Delaware. He lived in bondage to this family until he was about twenty years old. He claims that while in bondage he “obtained mercy through the blood of Christ, and was constrained to exhort (his) old companions to seek the Lord.”¹ Even while working on the master’s plantation he found time to go from house to house of the neighbors telling them of “what a dear Savior (he) had found.”² He joined the Methodist Society and attended the classes of Benjamin Wells that met in the forest in Delaware. The class leader was John Gray.

Although the master was never converted he allowed his

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2011 Special Exhibition Unveiled

*The Farmer Feeds Them All:
Reflections of Salem County
Farm Life*



A special exhibit exploring Salem County’s agricultural heritage and future will open Saturday, April 16, 2011. Agriculture is an integral part of Salem County; this rich legacy and commitment make us special! The *The Farmer Feeds Them All: Reflections of Salem County Farm Life* highlights the contributions of individuals and organizations to our agricultural legacy.

This exhibit presents the unique and complex connections between the business of farming and domestic home life. By exploring the past, present and future of the County’s

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Reuben Cuff’s Domestic Landscape, Part II: The House and the Shifting Landscape of Home

By Janet Sheridan

The research for this article was supported by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission in 2008

The previous article, “The 1798 Connection” in Vol. 54, No. 1 of this newsletter, tied Reuben Cuff (1764-1845), son of a slave, preacher, and one of the founders of the African Methodist Episcopal general conference, to a stone house in Lower Alloways Creek Township. It drew conclusions about Cuff’s relative economic standing from the 1798 Direct Tax List. This article will look at the life of Reuben Cuff as revealed by his house and other records.

Reuben Cuff’s one-story, stone house (Figure 1) evidenced the highest level of workmanship of the day. That and its stone building material translated into the high valuation for a one-story house found on the 1798 tax list. It was also uncommon for its square floor plan (Figure 2). The vast majority of regional houses in the

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The *Quarterly Newsletter* is published by the Salem County Historical Society Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter

This publication may include historical materials that contain language or stereotypes reflecting the culture or language of a particular period or place. These items are presented as part of the historical record.

Research Library & Museum Hours

Tuesday through Saturday

12 NOON - 4 PM

Admission Fee \$5.00

Free for Members

www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Address Correspondence to:
Salem County Historical Society
83 Market Street
Salem, New Jersey 08079
Tel. (856) 935-5004

Mission Statement: The mission of the Salem County Historical Society is to seek, document, preserve, interpret and perpetuate Salem County's heritage, and to enhance the awareness and appreciation of that heritage, through its research, collections, functions, exhibits, educational programs and publications, for the benefit of future generations and for the betterment of the community.

From the President

Welcome to a New Year at the Society. The weather has been unpleasant but the activity at the Society has not! Our programs and projects continue to flourish. The Museum Committee is developing an exhibit dedicated to our Agricultural Heritage in the county. Many county residents with a farming background have been interviewed by staff and volunteers and those interviews are captured on video. The footage is the basis for the new exhibit and you will see many familiar faces when you visit. This is a new approach for the Society and very exciting.

We wish a fond farewell to board members Ivy Quinton (Recording Secretary), Zoe Pappas (Corresponding Secretary), Walt Leslie (Trustee), and Peggy Massey (Treasurer). Their involvement with the Society has strengthened our organization and on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the members, I send our heartfelt thanks for all they have contributed to the Society.

Please join me in a warm welcome to the new board members you elected at our December Quarterly Meeting

Trudy O'Hare is joining the board as Treasurer. Trudy brings with her a strong background in Accounting and, in her position as Treasurer, will serve as a member of the Finance Committee. You may know Trudy as regent of the Salem County Oak Tree Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Trudy has toured the county's Revolutionary War sites and shares a wonderful program of her discoveries with organizations in the County. She has spent many volunteer hours in our library researching her histories.

Craig Schneeman is our new Vice President of Buildings and Grounds. Craig, and his wife Gaynel, own the Barretts Plantation House in Mannington. Their beautiful home (often open for the Open House in Fenwick's Colony tour) shows not only the extensive knowledge they both have in antiques and decorating a period home, but also the dedication in staying true to the home's architectural integrity. Craig has designed and overseen the restoration of the house and, in most cases, has done the work in his home himself - all with the care required in an old building.

Maggie Vaughan, Vice President of Membership and Development, joins us in this new position on the board. Maggie is finishing her Masters in Public History at Rutgers University and is a longtime member and supporter. She in fact is an example of members we truly love - as her daughter Chelsea was growing up, Maggie would bring Chelsea to the Society to introduce her to her County's heritage and to share her love of history. We look forward to a successful membership program; Maggie has really walked the walk!

Diane Wohlrab returns to the board as a Trustee. In this past year Diane developed our successful

Board of Trustees

Barbara Smith Duffy, *President*
Michael J. Cooke, *Executive V. President*
David A. Culver, *V. Pres. Museum*
J. Harlan Buzby, *V. Pres. Library*
Vacant, *Recording Secretary*
Trudy K. O'Hare, *Treasurer*
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Librarian: Beverly Carr Bradway
Museum Staff: Kimberly Downs
Administrative Assistant: Lindsay Thivierge
Bookkeeper: Wanda Hofbauer
Newsletter: J. Harlan Buzby, Ellen Morrissey

We thank the following Board members who are beginning or have renewed their service to the Society: David Culver (renewed), Trudy O'Hare, Ellen Morrissey

Education Committee programs and will continue to hold that role as she resumes her position on the Board. Diane has promised to bring more adult themed workshops and programs to the schedule this year. So glad to have you back Diane.

I send warmest thanks to all who have donated to our Annual Drive for your generosity. Your kind support keeps our programs in place and our doors open. We hope you plan to visit and enjoy the Society that you support. We have many fine events on the calendar and we invite you to volunteer your time to a project that catches your fancy. The Salem County Historical Society has so much to offer (as you'll see in this newsletter). Please stop by, I look forward to seeing you!

Barbara Smith Duffy

Annual Appeal 2010

We are very grateful to the many members of our community who responded to this year's annual appeal. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps offset our general operating costs so that we can continue to provide important and innovative resources, programs, and exhibitions.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Mr. and Mrs. James N. Acton Jr. | Ms. Loretta Harris in honor of Joseph Thompson K,8 USCT | Ms. Lucille B. Pote in honor of Dr. James Turk |
| Mr. and Mrs. Russell E. Bassett Jr. | Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harrison | Mrs. Elizabeth Lep Powell |
| Dr. & Mrs. Robert A. Brooks | Ms. Patty Hassler | Mr. Nicholas T. Prior |
| Dr. and Mrs. J. Harlan Buzby | Ms. Katherine Heverin | Ms. Myra Reimer in memory of Elizabeth D. Elwell and Wesley De Palma |
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| Mr. and Mrs. David S. Campbell | Ms. Joan Humphrey | Ms. Marie Schuster |
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| Ms. Marion M. Finlaw in memory of Hazel and Myranna Morris | Ms. Ellen Morrissey | Mr. & Mrs. Norman White |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Frank | Ms. Trudy O'Hare | Mr. Jeffrey Wood |
| Mr. William T. Gallo Jr. | Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence B. Owen | Mr. and Mrs. Bob Woodruff |
| Ms. Anne A. Gregory in honor of Raymond A. Gregory | Mr. Thomas A. Pankok | Mrs. Eugene H. Yerkes |
| Dr. Gregory Guderian in memory of Stephen Jay Williams | Mr. and Mrs. John Parrish | |

Membership Report

A warm welcome to the Society's new members!

Individuals

Russell Shimp, Pennsville, NJ
 Steven Barile, Port Republic, NJ
 Shannon Sheffield, Salem, NJ
 James Dempsey, Cincinnati, OH
 Tim Hack, Pittsgrove, NJ
 Ruth Campbell, Bridgeport, NJ
 Ruth Newkirk, Woodstown, NJ
 Gregory Foster, Urbana, IL
 William Wikoff, San Diego, CA

Family

Don Spegal, Salem, NJ
 Joyce Hart, Alloway, NJ
 Ann Lloyd Salem, NJ

In Memorium

Mr. John DeHart Jr.
 Mr. Albert Carl George
 Mrs. Ann Page
 Dr. George W. Johnson
 Mr. David Mulford Sr.
 Mrs. Susan Spears
 Mrs. Marguerite Stretch-Hyatt

Corporate and Business Members

← *"Partnerships with History"* →

FENWICK BENEFACTORS

Clement Pappas & Co., Inc.
 Salem County Mutual Fire Insurance Co.
 The Denn House

PEDERSEN PROVIDERS

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 Morgan's Electrical Services
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The Society is grateful for the support of our corporate and business members. For more



SAVE
THE
DATE

OPEN HOUSE IN FENWICK'S COLONY

Saturday, April 30, 10 AM-4 PM



Advance Tickets \$15
 Day of Tour \$20
 Members \$15

For more information please call
 (856)935-5004 or visit
www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com



This program is made possible in part by funds from the NJ Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, through the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

The Salem County Historical Society's SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING PROGRAM

Jim Friant presents

"Facts Surrounding Wistar's Glasshouse"



Sunday, March 6 at 1:30 PM

Fenwick Auditorium, Friends Village, Woodstown, NJ

Author Jim Friant shares highlights and new insights from his recent research on Wistar's glasshouse.

Please join us for this free program. Light refreshments served.

Call (856) 935-5004 or visit
www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com for more details.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 6, 2011

Quarterly Meeting 1:30 PM

"Facts Surrounding Wistar's Glasshouse"

presented by Jim Friant

Fenwick Auditorium, Friends Village, Woodstown

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Exhibit Opening 12-4 PM

The Farmer Feeds Them All:

Reflections of Salem County Farm Life

Salem County Historical Society, Salem

Saturday, April 30, 2011 10-4 PM

Open House in Fenwick's Colony

Sites Around Salem County

Save The Date

June 2011- Quarterly Meeting

July 2011 - Summer Camp 2011

Friday September 23, 2011

Annual Dinner

The Salem County Sportsmen's Club, Penns Grove

Holiday Closings: Memorial Day, May 31

PLANTING POTATOES

Potatoes should never be planted whole, whatever may be their size, as they all produce the same number of shoots, almost invariably five, which is too great a number to be together, in order to make a good crop.—As the whole potato, however large, or however many eyes, (or buds,) it may have, never produces more than five shoots, which are all from the end adverse to the stem, care should be taken that they are cut longitudinally, which whether halved, or quartered, is likely to divide the productive buds among the several parts. One third of the stem end should first be cut off, which is without a bud, that will not produce a shoot, but is valuable for the table or stock, and of no service to the planted part. It is therefore a saving that ought never to be omitted. Thus prepared, the potatoes should, if planted in rows, be from eight to ten inches apart, if in hills, three or four pieces in each. Great care should be observed not to have the furrows, or trenches for planting, deep. Hills, in which they are seldom planted below the surface of the earth, generally produce the finest potatoes.

Salem Messenger, Salem New Jersey, April 5, 1826



Look What's New

- ◇ We have established a new policy at the Society. We are requesting all visitors to please knock on our front door and back door so we can personally welcome you into our library and museum. The doors will be locked for the additional safety of our staff, patrons and collections.



We would like to sincerely thank the Warner & Co., CPA office at 34 East Avenue, Woodstown, NJ for the wonderful donation of two computers and monitors for our patrons.

- ◇ We are developing an email contact list and are asking our members to share their email addresses so we that we have another way to share information with you.



Our library is now 100% handicap accessible.



- ◇ The Salem County Historical Society has been awarded a minigrant from the New Jersey Historical Commission for the digitization of the W. T. Sparks photograph collection.

NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION

- ◇ Although our exhibit will open in April, our agricultural oral history project continues. If you have a story to share please contact us to schedule an interview!
- ◇ The Salem County Historical Society would like to hear from you! We are requesting that our members complete a survey in order to gain feedback on your perception of our organization. Plus, we love to hear your ideas and suggestions to make improvements!
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/69V6CPB>



(Continued from page 1) *Reuben Cuff's Domestic Landscape*

eighteenth century had rectangular plans. Though altered around 1840, physical evidence in the Cuff house points to an original three-room layout known as the "Penn Plan." This was less often chosen than the one-room "hall" and the two-room "hall/parlor" in the eighteenth century, and was generally utilized for more elaborate houses, such as the Salem County example of Seven Stars Tavern (Figure 3 below).



Figure 1. Cuff-Dubois House in looking southeast. The stone section Reuben Cuff and his family lived in 1798, Richard Dubois built later frame additions between 1830 and 1890.

Lower Alloways Creek Township, was a one-story house where

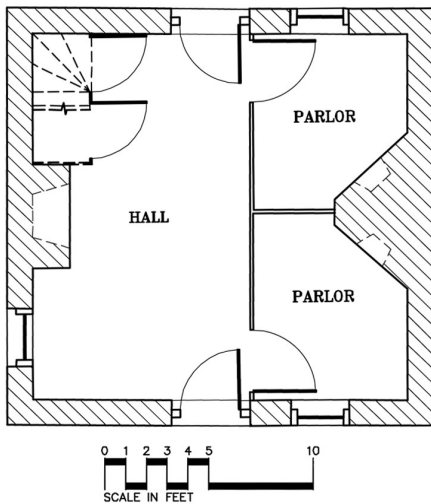


Figure 2. Probable original floor plan of Reuben Cuff's house prior to nineteenth-century alterations.

The central

clearly

contemporaneous floorboards suggests a partition that would have created a third room. If so, in Cuff's house, the now missing partition walls were more than likely constructed of vertical, beaded-edged wood boards stained red. The two small parlors were heated with back-to-back corner fireplaces, and would have been used for sleeping, an office, or more private entertaining. They would have been accessible from the hall but probably not from each other. The largest room, or hall, would have contained a large fireplace in the south gable wall, a window in the same wall, and a stair to the garret in one corner. The hall would have served as a more public all-purpose gathering space. The end wall was removed when the house was enlarged. Local examples of the three-room plan tend to be much larger than this one, however—850 to 900 square feet on the first floor—versus Cuff's 400 square feet. In addition, they were never common.² Cuff's parlors would have measured only roughly eight by nine feet. As such a small example, and as a stone example, it would be a very rare expression of the three-room idea, one of several housing options in the minds of

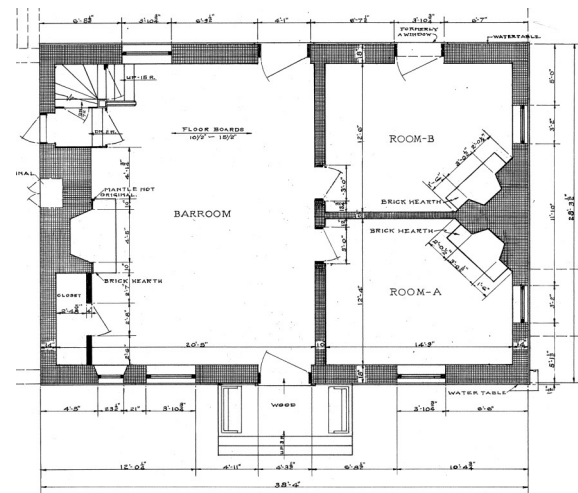


Figure 3. Seven Stars Tavern, Pilesgrove Township, showing the three-room layout known as the "Penn Plan."

Source: Historic American Building Survey

evidence stack of fireplaces

for a two-room deep arrangement. But the edge between two sets of

for a corner speaks

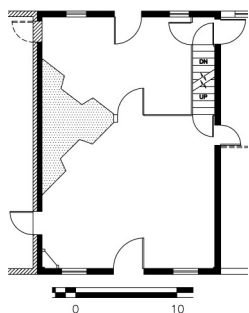
(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6) *Reuben Cuff's Domestic Landscape*

eighteenth-century Delaware Valley builders and one that dates back to the time of William Penn.³

There is no documented time of construction, so dating must be done by considering physical evidence and comparing it to local houses of known dates. The earliest documented example of a double-pile (two-room deep) house in Salem County was built in 1742 (Figure 4).⁴ The 1760s has been cited as the period of double-pile construction in Salem County.⁵ Corner fireplaces were known to the Swedes who settled in the Delaware Valley prior to English settlement, and were common in seventeenth-century England, as well. Here, they were going out of fashion by the late eighteenth-century. Cuff's stone house therefore could easily date from the 1740-1760 decades, or even earlier, as William Penn advocated for this layout from the beginning of English settlement in the Delaware Valley.

Figure 4. A Salem County double-pile house built in 1742 (Shivers/Shinn house in Woodstown). The shared stack of corner fireplaces was common until the Revolution.



In the Cuff house, eighteenth-century building craft survives. The floor joists above the rooms were exposed, hand-planed smooth and finished with beaded-edges. The exposed undersides of the flooring above were planed smooth as well, and the floorboards (of uneven thicknesses) were gauged and ploughed over the joists to lie even on the top. Such an open, finished and decorated floor framing system was in keeping with the post-medieval architectural taste commonly practiced in eighteenth-century Salem County.⁶ Above the hall was a one-room, unfinished garret under the roof accessed by either a winder stair in the corner of the hall or a simple ladder. Hewn rafters in the raised roof were reused from the original house. One double-hung window with characteristically wide, colonial-style muntins survives from the original house. The tax list recorded a kitchen, but it is not clear where it was; it could have been an attached shed on the hall side of the house or even in the basement.

This small house would have been quite crowded for Reuben Cuff's family. Cuff fathered eleven children and raised at least one other child, Phoebe Gould, born in 1789.⁷ In 1798 Reuben was thirty-four years old with five children by Hannah Pierce, his wife of eight years. He and Hannah bore three more children by 1804, the year she died. He and his second wife, Lydia Iler, had three children between 1806 and her death in 1814.⁸ A one-story, 400 square-foot house with a garret and a kitchen is a small space for that many people to occupy by today's standards, and there would have been little privacy. It is likely that the parlors were used for sleeping but the hall also contained beds as well as chairs and tables for entertaining visitors. As a preacher, Reuben would have had a busy social life. Most of the children probably slept in the garret above, where a myriad of household items and provisions would have been stored as well. The kitchen would have been used for not only cooking but for household industries such as cloth-making and food processing.⁹ Having a separate kitchen for the messy daily business of cooking and other daily industries would have kept the hall and parlors free for display, entertaining and sleeping. With such a growing family, it is also possible that Cuff built a frame, post-1815 extensions found within today's overall house to accommodate his growing family before he left the township. According to the tax assessor's valuation of his house, and by the fine appointments of its surviving interior, Reuben Cuff had prospered. As one of only three identifiable persons of color who either owned or occupied a house and land in the township, Reuben Cuff stands out.



Figure 5. Setting of the Cuff-Dubois House, looking south, in 2008

The house is located amidst farm fields, a seeming unlikely spot for a preacher of high repute (Figure 5). However, his collection of farming tools, livestock and crops listed in his probate inventory of 1845 confirms that in addition to his well-known preaching and church organizing activities, he was also a farmer. Most people farmed in those times, whatever their main occupation. To this day his house remains within the agrarian setting of farm fields that he ploughed and planted. Several land transactions, and a modest inventory worth \$416.51, including a loan and a mortgage, suggest that he held uncommon economic status for a man of color.¹⁰

Tying this property to Reuben Cuff has proved problematic. That this stone house was his is a conclusion based upon logic, not direct evidence. In 1798 Reuben asserted that he owned and occupied the only stone house in Lower Alloways Creek, thirty-eight acres of land and a barn. The one colonial stone house in Lower Alloways Creek today, this one, fits the description of that house. The deeds for this parcel traced back

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7) *Reuben Cuff's Domestic Landscape*

to Solomon Dubois, whose land was divided among his heirs Richard Dubois, Susanna Stretch, Jacob Dubois and Ann Irelan in 1821.¹¹ The deed trail stopped there. How Solomon Dubois acquired this parcel and on what basis Reuben Cuff claimed the house and land in the 1798 tax record are open questions.¹²

Sometime before 1830, Reuben Cuff left his Lower Alloways Creek homeland and moved to Upper Alloways Creek Township. His reason for leaving is not known, but possibilities include Richard Dubois' inheritance of the property, an increasingly racialized society, and the formation of African American settlements in the early nineteenth century.

In 1798, one person, William Davis, was identified "(black)" on the Lower Alloways Creek tax list. Not so Reuben and his brother Mordecai, though they were reportedly the offspring of a freed slave and a widow of prominent white family. This may reflect racially ambiguous attitudes of the time, together with the status of their white heritage and deep roots in that territory. By 1876, whatever ambiguities about race existed in 1798 were gone, with maps clearly identifying persons of color—portraying a racialized landscape. Reuben Cuff's relocation may be related to the trend of free-black settlement formation in Salem County and elsewhere in southern New Jersey that began in the early nineteenth-century for purposes of church organization, mutual support and protection, and to assist southern blacks to freedom. Perhaps his new home was situated along an Underground Railroad route where he could better aide fugitives. More likely than not, he would have been involved, because black churches were principal operatives.

In 1830, the census counted him among "Free Colored Persons" with a family of five. The only female in the household was between 36 and 54 years of age, and could have been his third wife, Ann Gould, whom he married in 1816, the same year as the A. M. E. founding. There is a boy under ten, a boy 10-23 (possibly their son Burgoyne), and a man 24-35 (possibly son Richard or Reuben, Jr.).¹³ Ten years later, he was still in Upper Alloways Creek with a somewhat different family of five, including the addition of a female under 24 years of age and a boy under ten. His son Burgoyne was in a separate household with a family of three.¹⁴ The location of Reuben's Upper Alloways Creek home is not yet confirmed, but in 1876, a cluster of "colored" people, including "J. Cuff Col.," were living in Quinton Township (formerly part of Upper Alloways Creek) in the vicinity of Berry's Chapel, "E. Cuff Col" occupied a house in Pentonville, Upper Alloways Creek, and "B. Cuff, Col." (probably Reuben's son Burgoyne) owned three houses near Quinton's Bridge, one associated with 86 acres of land.¹⁵ In 1850, three neighboring



Figure 5. Reuben Cuff's gravestone in the Cuff Graveyard in Lower Alloways Creek.

households were occupied by Burgoyne Cuff, farmer, Jonathan Cuff, farmer and landowner, and Ann Cuff, a 70-year old widow (likely Reuben's), so perhaps the family resided in Quinton's Bridge.¹⁶ It is not far from Berry's Chapel, reputed to be among the

Underground Railroad stations serving the Greenwich line.¹⁷

In 1845 at the age of 81, after a long life of preaching, farming, and building community, family, and wealth, Reuben Cuff came home to Lower Alloways Creek to rest in the Cuff family graveyard in Canton, not far from his 1798 home (Figure 5) and very close to his father, Cuffee. The evidence of Reuben Cuff's house, land and personal property place him as a middling landowner within the context of his cultural landscape, but also as an actor of exceptional economic standing among African Americans of his time and place. His status makes sense considering his far-reaching influence upon the religious life of African Americans in Salem and Cumberland Counties in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Part III will examine the Cuff legend and the Padgett connection in Lower Alloways Creek.

End Notes

¹Gabrielle Lanier and Bernard L. Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes*, (Baltimore: the Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 21.

²Gabrielle Lanier, *The Delaware Valley in the Early Republic: Architecture, Landscape and Regional Identity*, (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), 138-139. Lanier discussed the type as represented in Mannington Township, Salem County.

³*Ibid.* William Penn promoted this plan, often termed the "Penn Plan," to Pennsylvania settlers in 1684.

(Continued on page 9)

⁴Janet L. Sheridan, "'Their houses are some Built of timber': The colonial

(Continued from page 8) *Ruben Cuff's Domestic Landscape*

Timber Frame Houses of Fenwick's Colony, New Jersey," M. A. Thesis, University of Delaware, 2007, 93. The frame Joseph Shinn House in Woodstown is dated by a cast-iron fireback in the parlor.

⁵Rebecca L. Culver, "Souvenir Map of Historic Sites in Mannington Township," Mannington Bicentennial Commission, n.d.

⁶The alternative was the Georgian plastered ceiling and no visible framing which appeared first in houses of elites. The author has seen many examples of such exposed, finished joists in the county, some built as late as the early-nineteenth-century.

⁷The Christian Recorder, May 31, 1877; Steward and Steward, 113.

⁸William Steward and Theophilus G. Steward, Gouldtown, A Very Remarkable Settlement of Ancient Date, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1913, 113-114.

⁹Julie Riesenweber, "Order in Domestic Space: House Plans and Room Use in the Vernacular Dwellings of Salem County, New Jersey, 1700-1774." (Master's Thesis. University of Delaware, 1984), 84-87.

¹⁰Inventory Book E, Page 322, Salem County Clerks Office. Deed Indexes, 1796-1845.

¹¹Division of Lands Book D, Page 66, Salem County Clerks Office.

¹²Deeds at the Salem County Courthouse, which begin at 1796, the unrecorded deeds in the collection of the Salem County Historical Society, the Dubois papers in the collection of David A. Fogg, and deed records at the NJ Archive.

¹³1830 U S Census: Upper Alloways Creek, Salem, New Jersey, Page: 378; NARA Roll: M19- 81; Family History Film: 0337934, Ancestry.com. 1830 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: Fifth Census of the United States, 1830. (NARA microfilm publication M19, 201 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Steward and Steward, 114.

¹⁴1840; Census Place: Upper Alloways Creek, Salem, New Jersey; Roll: 226; Page: 261; Image: 461; Family History Library Film: 0016520, Ancestry.com. 1840 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: Sixth Census of the United States, 1840. (NARA microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹⁵Combination Atlas Map of Salem and Gloucester Counties, NJ (Philadelphia: Everts and Stewart, 1876; Reprint, Gloucester County Historical Society, 1970), 34. Berry's Chapel and Pentonville, also known as Guineatown, were two of several free black settlements in Salem County (Robert Craig, New Jersey Black Historic Places Survey, 1982-1984, 53. In the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Trenton.

¹⁶1850; Census Place: Upper Alloways Creek, Salem, New Jersey; Roll: M432_462; Page: 171A; Image: 343, Ancestry.com. 1850 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹⁷Emma Marie Trusty, The Underground Railroad: Ties That Bound Unveiled (Philadelphia: Amed Library, 1997), 315.



Bus Drive: Our Students Need Your Help!

The Society is fortunate to be able to offer educational programs to the students and teachers of the region, using hand-on lessons with dedicated volunteers and instructors. These lessons help teachers meet or exceed the requirements for the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards set by the state. Further, our Summer Camp offers a unique and interactive week of hands-on activities and field trips. Last year we worked with nearly 1,000 local youth!

In the past, due to grant funding, we had been able to offer busing to and from the Society and other historical sites around the county at no cost to local school groups. This year however, **our funding source is no longer available and we are reaching out to our community to support our educational programs.** Last year's busing cost the Society \$3,200, a cost we cannot manage without your help. The cost for a single school bus is \$200, but no donation is too small! Please consider sponsoring a school bus to ensure the continued success of these programs! Please contact Sarah Hagarty at (856)935-5004 or admincurator@salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com.



(Continued from page 1) *Special Exhibition*

agricultural lifestyle, we gain a better understanding of and appreciation for this lifestyle and its participants. Our candid narrators present unique, personal perspectives of the County never before showcased.

The exhibit is based in an ongoing oral history project documenting the agricultural lifestyle of the County's residents. Society staff and volunteers have captured the memories, stories and legacies of the people, families and organizations that make this rural lifestyle possible. Our work is not done and our archive is always growing, if you have a story to share, please contact us to schedule an interview!

Oral history videos will be exhibited beside memorabilia, farming equipment, photographs, and other artifacts. This is a unique opportunity to see private family photos, videos, and artifacts that have never been exhibited. The blend of video technology, powerful images, and intriguing artifacts promises to be an immersive, engaging, and enjoyable experience that should not be missed!

After you tour the exhibit, spend some time exploring the full-length oral histories in our research library. This newly formed oral history archive offers patrons a unique and powerful resource on the county's agricultural lifestyle through personal stories. The resulting oral history archive and exhibit will place these experiences in context and provide new historical resources for the Society's community.

Make plans to become immersed in **The Farmer Feeds Them All: Reflections of Salem County Farm Life** at the Alexander Grant House. Plan to attend the March Quarterly Meeting on March 6 at 1:30 PM at Friends Village, Woodstown for a sneak preview! The exhibit is open Tuesday through Saturday, Noon to 4PM. Exhibit admission is free for members and \$5 for nonmembers.

This project was made possible with the help of many generous individuals. First, we express our thanks to the Society's Museum Committee for their countless contributions. The Society also thanks the project's oral history participants: Asa Cadwallader, Joanne Catalano, The Carpenter Family, Ginny Richie Davis, Annette Devitt, Secretary of Agriculture Douglass Fisher, Ruth Griscom, Bill Hancock, Grant Harris, David Lee, Libby Meyers, Jason Moore, Marian Patrick, Donald Pierce, Lester Richie, Jack Robinson, The Smith Family, The Spina Family, Dennis Walker, John Weber, Jean Whittaker, and Ruthanne Wright for sharing their wonderful stories and collections. We also thank Patrick Taggart of Pat Taggart Video for his work on the exhibit's films.



This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, through the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission. www.visitsalemcountynj.com



(Continued from page 1) Richard Allen

slaves to meet once every two weeks for religious meetings. He became convinced that religion made his slaves better and he even boasted of his slaves' honesty and industry. One day Richard was able to convince the master to have the Methodist preachers come and preach in the master's home. John Gray was invited to the home and he preached there the very next Wednesday. Preaching continued for a number of months and the master became convinced that it was wrong to hold slaves. When Richard was about twenty years old the master allowed him and his brother to buy their freedom for \$2,000, Continental money. Richard was converted in 1777 and then began to travel extensively and preach the gospel. He received license to preach in 1782. His extensive traveling was completed on foot. He was in Wilmington, Delaware and became sick for a period of time after which in 1783 he left on September 3rd and traveled to West Jersey. Here he strove to preach the Gospel until the spring of 1784.

While in West Jersey, namely Salem, Richard met a Methodist Minister named Benjamin Abbott. He said of Minister Abbott, "He was a man of a great faith as any that ever I saw. The Lord was with him, and blessed his labors abundantly. He was a friend and father to me."³ Joseph S. Sickler says of Abbot, "As an exhorter and weaver of spells over his listeners he had no equal in his time or possibly at all in the history of the evangelical Methodist church."⁴ Richard then visited East Jersey where he continued his ministry until 1784 when he left and labored in Pennsylvania. He went to Radnor and spent several weeks as he said laboring for the Lord. He visited Lancaster where he

"Found the people dead to religion and scarcely a form of godliness."⁵ In December of that year he attended the General Methodist Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, the first ever held in America. He said "Many of the ministers were set apart in holy orders at this conference, and were said to be entitled to the gown: and I have thought religion has been declining in the church ever since."⁶

In February 1786 after many requests from the elder in charge of Philadelphia, Richard returned and he was given responsibility to preach at five o'clock in the morning at St. George's Church. This year he also organized a society of forty-two members. When he proposed erecting a place for worship to most of the respectable colored people of the city it fell on deaf ears. There were only three colored men who united with him in this effort – The Rev. Absalom Jones, William White and Dorus Gennings. A number of colored people attended St. George's

Church but when the number of colored attendees began to grow they were viewed as a nuisance. One Sabbath morning in 1787 while on their knees at the altar one of the trustees grabbed Rev. Absalom Jones and was pulling him off his knees telling him that he could not kneel there. The trustee beckoned to another trustee for help but by this time prayer was over. Following this incident the colored people left St. George's Church, became excited and worked with Rev. Allen to get their own house of worship.

In 1791 Rev. Allen with the help of Rev. Absalom Jones, William Gray and William Wilcher purchased a lot from Mark Wilcox at 5th and Lombard Streets in Philadelphia to build a church. There was erected the first African Church built in the United States of America. In 1793 a committee was formed to engage a preacher and they asked Rev. Allen to take the position. Rev. Allen refused on the grounds that he was thoroughly convinced that Methodism was the religion that would best serve his people and his entire Christian life was spent as a Methodist.

Later the committee found a lot on 6th street, a better part of town, that had been taken for the Church of England and Rev. Allen "...brought an old frame that had formerly been occupied as a blacksmith shop."⁷ This was made into a place of worship and in July 1794 was dedicated by Bishop Asbury. This church was named Bethel. The congregation spent a number of years being harassed by the Methodist Bishops appointed to Philadelphia.

In 1816 a number of colored churches in other areas were receiving the same treatment that Bethel was experiencing so in April Rev. Allen called a general meeting by way of Conference. The attendees at this conference were: from Philadelphia, Revs. Richard Allen, Clayton Durham, Jacob Tapsico, James Champion and Mr. Thomas Webster; from Baltimore, Revs. Daniel Coker, Richard Williams, Henry Harden and Messers Nicholas Gilliard, and Edward Williamson; from Attleborough (now Langhorne), the Revs William Anderson, Edward Jackson and Jacob Marsh; from Wilmington, Mr. Peter Spencer; and from Salem New Jersey, Mr. Reuben Cuff who was elected to deacon's orders at the 1818 meeting of the Philadelphia Conference, held in Richard Allen's residence.⁸ The result of this conference was the establishment of the African Methodist Episcopal Connectional Church. This same year Rev. Allen was consecrated the first Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. Allen returned to Salem, New Jersey as Bishop, some time in the 1820s, and preached at a

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11) **Richard Allen**

Camp Meeting in Lower Alloways Creek. While he was preaching he was informed that there were about 8 or so slave owners from Salem in the area. When he called out "There's danger" one of the white men grabbed a slave and the slave hollowed "Murder" then about sixty or more men from the meeting rushed out and rescued the slave. A riot ensued and a many were cut and stabbed. The small boys helped in the fight by supplying the guards with clubs. The slave owners went home without arresting anyone and the men who inflicted the severest wounds on them were put in jail.

Bishop Allen continued his labor for the church, and work in the city and neighboring communities improving the conditions for the colored people. He left this world to be with his Creator on March 26, 1831. His body is entombed at Mother Bethel Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

End Notes

¹"Life, Experience, and Gospel Labors of the Rt. Rev. Richard Allen" Bishop Richard Allen, Philadelphia, Lee and Yecum, 1888.

²Allen, pg 6.

³Allen pg 9.

⁴"The History of Salem County New Jersey": Joseph S. Sickler, Sunbeam Publishing Company, Copyright 1937, pg 117.

⁵Allen, pg 11

⁶Allen, pg 11.

⁷Allen, pg 20

⁸Black Church Beginnings. Henry H. Mitchell Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids Michigan, 2004 pg. 104.

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 55, 2010

To receive your index send a

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Index

Salem County Historical Society

79-83 Market Street

Salem, NJ 08079

Non-Members Please Enclose \$1.00

ALEXANDER'S ANNALS

50 YEARS AGO

The Monitor-Register, Woodstown, March 1961

- Woodstown Tax Rate Up 59 Cents.
- Curtain Call Club presents *The Seven Year Itch*—Opera House.
- Pearl Buck speaker at Salem County Council of Education dinner—Elmer Grange.
- Local physician on call this weekend for emergencies only is Dr. Gordon J. Ostrum.
- Ideal Coffee—1 lb. can 69¢—Acme.

75 YEARS AGO

Elmer Times, Elmer, March 1936

- Elmer V.F.W. Post named to honor Frank DuBois Sayre.
- Chicken Pot Pie Supper-Daretown Baptist—Adults 60¢, Children 25¢.
- Former Mayor William M. Wheatley named Elmer Postmaster.
- Disease kills 8 cows at Carl Coleman farm—Aldine.
- Crow Shoot Tonight—near Sewell waterworks.

100 YEARS AGO

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, March 1911

- Woodstown Friends' Home is considering instituting an infirmary.
- Enoch Miller, Salem, catches first shad —7½ pounds.
- J. Oakford Acton, Esq. has purchased a Hudson touring car of Charles H. Ayars.
- W. H. Nuneviller's Rhode Island Reds carry the blood lines of today's best show winners.
- Elmer purchases 'ball & chain' for arrestees who are working on the streets.

Acquisitions

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Acton, James N. Jr., Salem, NJ. Salem High School Class Photo 1907 & cabinet photo of play cast, undated. (2010.097)

Bette Inez Bradway, Niskayuna, NY & **Beverly Carr Bradway**, Hancocks Bridge, NJ. Firman Bradway Genealogical Charts #23 & #43. (Family File: Bradway Charts, Reading Room)

Beverly Carr Bradway, Hancocks Bridge, NJ. Postcard 1918 Sunday School picnic, Hancocks Bridge Friends Meetinghouse. (2010.098)

Janice Brown, Mickleton, NJ. Five books and one pamphlet on genealogical methods for the Reading Room & Education. (2010.088)

Henry Bunk, Carneys Point, NJ. Rotary Club photo. (2010.085)

Dorothy Bunting, Pennsville, NJ. Graduation Program, Salem High School 2009. (2010.074)

Linda Heaton, Salem, NJ. Medical correspondence of H.F. Suter, MD with 1946 electrocardiogram found in pocket door of 69 Market Street, office of Dr. Green. (2010.048)

Robert Hoffman, Pennsville, NJ. Items from T.G. Dunn & Sons store, 168 E. Broadway, Salem. (2010.080) Three ticket booklets relating to WWII rationing of shoes from T.G. Dunn & Sons Store. (2010.081)

Rev. George P. Hutchinson, Gainesville, GA. 1. Hardcover Book: "Blue Jacket-In Harm's Way from Guadalcanal to Tokyo," by John A. Hutchinson. Photographs of Hutchinson Family. (2010.067)

Marcia Kates, Quinton, NJ. Copy of Burley Family Bible. (2010.091)

Ted Krause, Plymouth Meeting, PA. Photographs: 1939 & 1941 Salem High School, Salem HS Class of 1939 at 1964 reunion, 1960's of Harry Morrison Post 75 Legion Marching Band, Womanless Wedding Skit, books about NJ, Salem County Technical Institute yearbooks 1961-1967. (2010.086)

Lawrence B. Owen, M.D., Pilesgrove, NJ. Booklet: 1983-1984 The Women's Club of Woodstown member list. (2010.072) Update of M.W. Buzby Family News. Family Publication: Reading Room.

James Paras, Salem, NJ. DVD of PBS Television Program, "Remembering the USS Henrico PA45" which includes an interview with the late Lester Saunderlin of Quinton, NJ who served on the ship. (2010.089)

Pennsville Township Historic Society via Dorothy Bunting. Urian Family History by Joseph J. Heslen. (2010.092)

Dorothy Quirk, Pilesgrove, NJ. Twelve color photographic slides of Grant Street Schools in Salem City. (2010.084)

William Reeves, Elmer, NJ. WWI era photograph, letters & newspapers. (2009.013)

Salem High School Alumni Association via Barbara Peterson. 1948 Salem High School "Fenwick Papers" Yearbook. (2010.077)

Janet L. Sheridan, Salem, NJ. In Memory of Thomas Marshall: Products of Janet L. Sheridan's Marshalltown (Mannington Township) Survey & Documentation grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. (2010.099)

B. Harold Smick Jr., Salem, NJ. Book: Rotary Club of Salem History 75 Years 1922-1997. (2010.090) Lecture Notes: Quinton Fire of April 4, 1963 written by donor. (2010.021)

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Esteline M. Bacon, Salem, NJ. Glass for museum and education. (2010.095)

George Githens, Salem, NJ. Cloth money bag, The City National Bank & Trust Company. (2010.094)

Linda Heaton, Salem, NJ. Medical kit & pan. (2010.048)

Dr. Elizabeth Karns estate, Salem, NJ. Miniature Chippendale chest. (2010.100)

The first automobile ever in Salem County arrived in Alloway on Friday for Mr. Horace Vanleer. It created quite a sensation in the quiet little town. Mr. Vanleer went to Millville yesterday in the automobile accompanied by an expert operator from the factory at Cleveland, Ohio, where the carriage was made. The distance from Alloway to Millville is twenty-three miles and the distance was covered in less than two hours. In returning Mr. Vanleer came around by Quinton and made the trip in one and a half hours. This morning Mr. Vanleer came to Salem with his horseless wagon. He made the run from Alloway to Salem in about twenty minutes. While in this city he took out a STANDARD representative for a spin, which was hugely enjoyed. The distance from W. F. Miller's blacksmith shop to the corner of Market Street was covered in two minutes and ten seconds, including the stop.

National Standard, Salem, NJ, February 7, 1900



THANK YOU TO THE SOCIETY'S VOLUNTEERS

Our programs and services do not happen without generous support from a large group of volunteers. We thank you all for your continuing contributions of time and talent.

Library

J. Harlan Buzby
Dotty Fisher
Noel Kemm
Ellen Morrissey
Lawrence B. Owen
Jim Paras
Donald L. Pierce
Frank Powell
Ruthanne Wright
Bill Saunderlin

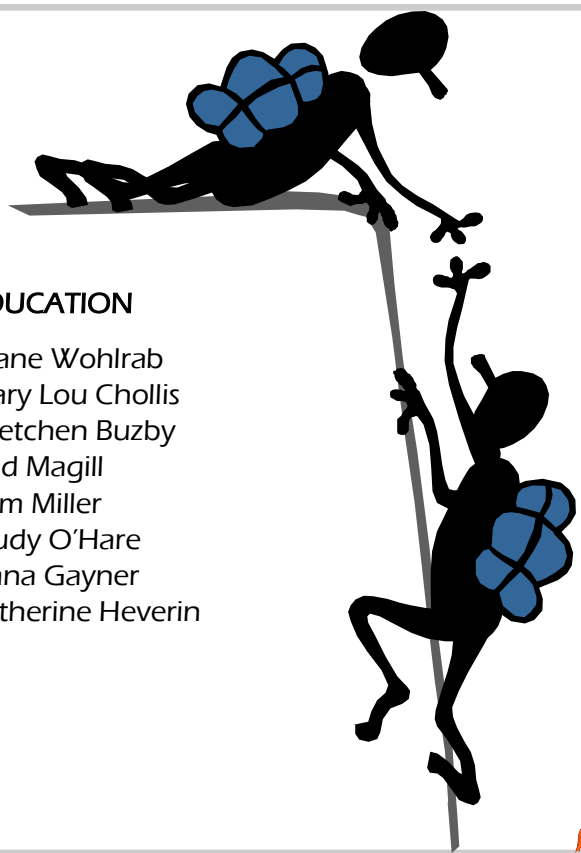
MUSEUM

Barbara Duffy
Bud Magill
Dotty Fisher
Peggy Kavanaugh
David Culver
Diane Wohlrab
Matt Greever
Ruthanne Wright
Wayne Gotwals
Joe Kimber
Bill Gallo
Ruthanne Wright

EDUCATION

Diane Wohlrab
Mary Lou Chollis
Gretchen Buzby
Bud Magill
Tom Miller
Trudy O'Hare
Dana Gayner
Katherine Heverin

We are pleased to welcome our new intern Jonathan Krause from Rowan University!



Yes, I would like to become a member of the Salem County Historical Society!

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Please check your desired category

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$10 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$250 |
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|--|---------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fenwick Benefactors | \$1000+ |

For more information on how your business can become members of the Society, please call 856-935-5004

Please make checks payable to the Salem County Historical Society. The Society now accepts credit card payments for new memberships, renewals, and upgrades through our secure website: www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

RETURN TO: SCHS, 83 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079

PENNS GROVE NATIVE AUTHOR



John Anthony Hutchinson (1922-2005) was born and lived near Carney's Point, NJ, graduating from Penns Grove Regional High School, Class of 1939. In 1935 he suggested the "Red Devils" mascot to football coach Curley Ogden.

He served as a radioman in the U. S. Navy from 1941 to 1947, including three years (1942-1945) in the Pacific War, of which he writes and records his naval experiences. After World War II he repeated his senior year at Penns Grove Re-Hi and then attended the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Georgia, leaving the latter to pursue a career in broadcasting.

Mr. Hutchinson worked in venues across the country as radio announcer, program director, station owner and television news anchor for fifty years. After an active retirement Mr. Hutchinson died July 20, 2005, in Salisbury, North Carolina and is interred in the Salem County Memorial Veterans Cemetery.

This book was donated to our Library by his half-brother, the Rev. George P. Hutchinson of Gainesville, Georgia.

A revealing story of unrelenting war at sea, [Midwest Book Review](#) (Oregon, WI USA)

"John Hutchinson was a Radioman First Class during the Pacific Campaign of World War II and in *Bluejacket: In Harm's Way From Guadalcanal To Tokyo* recounts his experiences and observations of those dramatic times. He tells of his own personal participation in the battles for the Solomons, the Marianas, the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. A revealing story of unrelenting war at sea and a sailor's contribution toward the defeat of Japan, this totally engaging military biography reads as smoothly as any novel and as dramatically as any Hollywood film. *Bluejacket* is a welcome and much appreciated memoir and a very highly recommended contribution to the growing body of descriptive literature on the Pacific engagements of World War II."

<http://www.midwestbookreview.com/>

Salem, New Jersey, August 16, 1778

THIRTY DOLLARS REWARD

Ran Away on the 26th of February last with the British light infantry at Salem, a Negro man named HARRY, but it is probable he may change his name; he is about twenty-eight years of age, five feet eight or nine inches high, a stout well made fellow, country born, a large nose, thought he may leave the soldiers and go into the country, and may perhaps endeavor to pass for a freeman; had on when he went away, a fustian coat with a red collar, light broadcloth breeches, two coarse shirts, one fine ditto, a good hat cut Macaroni fashion, good stockings and shoes. Whoever takes up said Negro and secures him in any goal, so that his master may get him again, shall have the above reward and reasonable charges, paid by
ROBET JOHNSON

N.B. All persons are forbid to harbor said Negro at their peril.

Lee, Francis B., ed. *Documents Related to the Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey: Extracts from American Newspapers, 1778*. Second Series, Vol. II. Trenton; The John L. Murphy Publishing Co., 1903, pp. 365-366.


—The new schooner, "Harriet H. Lippincott," after an unsuccessful attempt on Wednesday, was launched on Friday, and on Monday the Glassblowers started on a fishing excursion, to last a week, down the bay on this schooner for the Breakwater. These men are deserving of a short respite from their labors. For about ten months in the year they ply their arduous vocation, in the midst of a temperature exceedingly trying, and the wonder is that they get through in condition to enjoy vacation anywhere.

National Standard, Salem, N.J., August 6, 1873

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There are various other kinds of birds that visit this section in the spring, summer and fall months, that would be suitable for an Aviary. Any kind of a bird will do except birds of prey. Sportsmen and others who will interest themselves to procure birds for the undersigned, will be suitably rewarded.

W. S. SHARP
Salem, N. J.

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, N. J., May 10, 1867

The Salem County Historical Society receives general operating support grants and project grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of the State. Additional funding has been made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of the State. The Salem County Historical Society receives general operating support grants and project grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of the State, through the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Delaware River and Bay Authority.

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