

Commemorating 130 Years of our History

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Salem County Historical Society

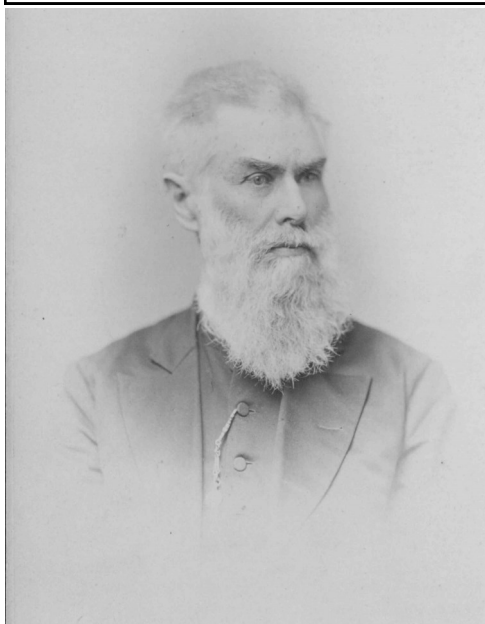
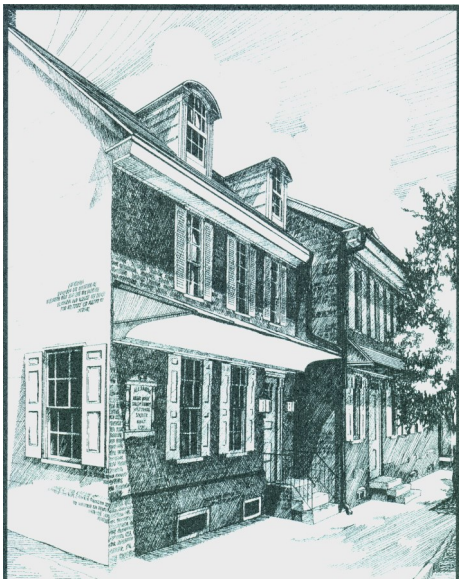
Founded July 31, 1884

Volume 59, Issue No. 3 Fall 2014

(ISSN 1525-0983)

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

(Reprint: compiled by Arthur B. Nichols, first appeared in our September 1984 Quarterly Newsletter)



The Salem County Historical Society's first presidents: William Patterson (1884-1900), *left* Edward Sharpe (1900-1922, Honorary President 1922-1927), *center* and Walter Hall (1925-1950), *right*. Not shown is the Society's third President George W. Price (1922-1925).

The plans of the founders of The Salem County Historical Society are best expressed in the words of the first meeting of July 31, 1884.

A number of gentlemen were asked to meet in the Library Hall of the Salem Library Company for the purpose of talking over the expediency of forming a Historical Society in the County. Those present were William Patterson, Joseph H. Thompson, M.D., Rev. Charles M. Perkins, Clement H. Sinnickson, Esq., Morris H. Stratton, Esq., William T. Hilliard, Esq., and George Mecum.

William Patterson was chosen Chairman and George Mecum, Secretary. After some discussion on the subject it was on the motion of Rev. C.M. Perkins:

“Resolved, That it is expedient to form a society in Salem County for the care of items of historical interest and of natural curiosities.

Resolved, The Secretary request the papers of the County to publish a statement of meeting and a notice of another on Friday, August 8th, 1884 at 3 p.m. in the Salem Library Hall with a request for the attendance of all those who are interested in these subjects.”

First Acquisition Received

The group met again in the Library Hall of the Salem Library Company on August 3, 1884 continuing with the organizational plans of the Society. The first contribution to the Society took place at this time by the presentation from Albert C. Slape, Esq. of a valuable autograph letter of Daniel Webster.

During the meeting of November 11, 1884 the constitution and by-laws for the government of the Society were adopted.

(continued on page 30)

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

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.

Research Library & Museum Hours

Tuesday through Saturday
12 Noon - 4PM
Admission Fee \$5.00
Free for Members

www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

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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.

Please Recycle your Newsletter

Message From the President

Summer is traditionally a slower season than other times of the year at the Historical Society with staff and volunteers on vacations. This summer, that tradition has been offset by an increased number of visitors from near and far researching local families and topics in our Library and touring our Museum. In addition to our loyal local patrons, researchers have come from Pennsylvania, Florida, Iowa, Ohio, California, N. Carolina, Maryland, Georgia and Washington State, some in family groups.

We are planning and looking forward to the Fall Luncheon this year to be held at Centerton Country Club on September 21st at 1:00PM. Our decision to change the day and time from our traditional Annual Dinner was made to make the event more accessible to a greater number of attendees. It should be exciting to hear the "The Salem County Historical Society's 130th Anniversary," presented by our Administrator and Curator, Andrew R. Coldren. Several of us were present to share refreshments with visitors on July 31st at the Society's Library, celebrating the 1884-2014 anniversary date. This photograph of an early meeting is a time capsule in itself; these five gentlemen knew the significance of their new organization. The Society has withstood many tests of time and continues its mission well with the assistance and contributions of our members.



October 1886 meeting. From left to right, William Patterson, Thomas Shourds, W.T. Hilliard, George Mecum and I.O. Acton.

The Society was open for visitors from 10AM to 4PM for the 40th Annual Market Street Day in Salem on Saturday, August 23rd. There have been many changes here at the Society, so if you have not visited lately, please stop in to see our buildings and collections. With new exhibits downstairs and exhibits open in the upstairs of the Grant and Rumsey Houses for the first time in many years, there is definitely more to see.

Thanks to modern technology, in addition to our mail and newsletter, Facebook® has allowed us to more easily share photos and news with everyone. Please "Like" our Facebook page to get the latest news. Also, other Facebook pages, such as Salem County, NJ Memories, West Jersey History, and Yummygal's South Jersey Adventures have allowed us to see local photos from personal collections that bring back old memories, and are each a piece of history.

Lastly, this is a great time of year for gift memberships for family and friends. Gift membership details and a membership form are included on pages 29 and 35, respectively, in this edition of the newsletter.

Trudy K. O'Hare, Ed.S.

President SCHS

Our new President, Trudy (Gertrude) O'Hare, originally hails from Deptford, Gloucester County, New Jersey. She and husband Dennis moved to Pilesgrove in 1978, later to Alloway Township, then to Elsinboro on the Salem River. They are parents to two grown sons. Trudy was a business teacher at Gateway and Pitman High School for a total of 30 years, serving as Department Chairperson of Business and Mathematics. She received a Master's from The College of New Jersey, and a Ed.S. from Florida State University in Administration of Vocational Education. She also worked part time for ten years at H&R Block. After retirement, Trudy served as a Library volunteer at the Salem County Historical Society as well as a member of the Education Committee, and she participates as a docent in various Society events. She previously served as Treasurer of the Society before moving into the Executive Vice President and now, President, positions.

Trudy also serves as Regent of Oak Tree Daughters of the American Revolution and on the vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church.

She believes that listening, reading, and watching history, both local and global, is the ideal means for understanding what is going on in the world today.

Calendar of Events

- ♦ **Sunday, September 21, 2014**
Fall Luncheon at Centerton Country Club in Pittsgrove, NJ
Refreshments: 1:00PM Luncheon: 1:45PM
- ♦ **Sunday, October 5, 2014**
Music Around the County 3:00PM
Bay Atlantic Symphony Chamber Ensemble
Pennsville High School Auditorium in Pennsville, NJ
Title: NJ Composers Celebrate New Jersey
- ♦ **Sunday, October 19, 2014**
11th John S. Rock Memorial Lecture 3:00PM
Mt. Pisgah AME Church, 15 Yorke Street, Salem, NJ
Speaker: Janet Sheridan Topic: The Domestic
Landscape of AME Church Founder Reuben Cuff
- ♦ **Friday, October 24, 2014**
Salem City Walking Ghost Tour in Salem, NJ
7:00 -10:00PM
- ♦ **Friday, December 5, 2014**
Woodstown by Candlelight Tour, Woodstown, NJ
6:00 - 10:00PM
- ♦ **Saturday, December 6, 2014**
Yuletide Tour, Salem, NJ 1:00 - 6:00PM
- ♦ **Sunday, December 14, 2014**
Quarterly Mtg. 1:30PM Friends Village in Woodstown, NJ
Speaker: Brian Temple
Topic: Philadelphia Quakers and the Fight Against Slavery
- ♦ **Holiday Closings: Christmas Day & New Year's Day**

Work of Salem County Artist Lucy D. Holme Spotted in South Carolina

We recently received a note from past President Philip Correll that we found interesting: "On the way home from Savannah, we stopped for an early breakfast at a Cracker Barrel restaurant in



Walterboro, SC. Imagine our surprise to see a reproduction print above the fireplace of a work by a Salem County artist, Lucy D. Holme (b. 1882 in Elsinboro Twp.). It was a small black and white print of Holme's large painting, "A Holiday Occupation," that is on display at the Society's headquarters."

Photo Mystery Solved!

This family photograph from our Summer Newsletter Vol. 59 Issue No. 2 has been identified. The people in the portrait are as follows: Henry Holme, *lower left corner*, his wife, Pauline Waddington Holme, *lower right corner* and their children, standing behind them, from left to right, are Hilda, Harry and Anne Holme. Henry Holme was the son of John Holme, a sergeant in the 27th New Jersey Volunteers during the Civil War and great-grandson of Colonel Benjamin Holme who fought the British at Quinton's Bridge during the Revolution. The three children in this portrait were killed when the conveyance in which they were riding was struck by a train at a level crossing. This information came courtesy of member John Holme who is seeking more information on Henry Holme, his other ancestors and his family business, the Holme & Waddington Dairy. If you have anything to contribute in regards to his request, please contact the Society.



Library Acquisitions

Fogg, Margaret, Tallahassee, Florida. Fenwick Theatre playbill 1940, Palace Theatre playbill, First National Bank deposit slip, 1911 letter from Jacob House to David Fogg, Salem Women's Club 1940 book list, Salem Co. YMCA building fund booklet, Wheeler Co. fertilizer memo booklet. (2013.057)

Greenagle, Frank L., Phillipsburg, NJ. Book, *The Salem Churchscape: Religious Architecture in Salem County, New Jersey 1676-1900*, by Frank L. Greenagle. (2013.029)

Kutner, Brian, Millville, NJ. CD with photos of six gravestones of DuBois family in New Paltz, NY (2014.029)

Robinson, Warren A., Bridgeton, NJ. Book, *A Shadow of a memory of The Seibert Family*, by Warren Robinson (2014.028) *(to be continued)*

Society Luncheon



Centerton
COUNTRY CLUB
— & —
EVENT CENTER

This year the Salem County Historical Society has moved its annual fundraising fete to a Sunday afternoon. This year's Fall Luncheon will be held at 1:00PM on Sunday, September 21st at the Centerton Country Club in Pittsgrove, NJ. The

Luncheon will be a celebration of 130 years of the Salem County Historical Society, and will feature Society curator Andrew Coldren speaking on the Historical Society and our community since its founding. Join us for drinks, lunch, conversation, and raffle and auction prizes. Our raffle item this year is a two night stay in a luxury Suite at the Queen Victoria Bed and Breakfast in historic Cape May, New Jersey. This also includes a full breakfast and afternoon tea each day at the inn as well as two \$100 gift certificates for one dinner at The Ebbitt Room and one at Tisha's Restaurant in Cape May. Additional benefits include an all-day pass for the Trolley Tours of Cape May.

Genealogically speaking....

Thirty-Five New Citizens

Last Friday was "Naturalization Day" in the Salem County Courts and the **largest class of aliens in the history of the Naturalization Court in the county** appeared before Judge Charles Mecum for examination for citizen's papers.

There was hardly a foreign country on the face of the globe that was not represented. The applicants came from Russia, Italy, Germany, Greece, Poland, Lithuania, Wales, Hungary, Turkey, Canada, England, Ireland and Nova Scotia and of the class of forty-one, citizenship was granted to thirty-five.

The Court House was packed to the doors, for in addition to those who desired to be admitted as citizens there were their witnesses and Superintendent Dohner had nearly a hundred students of the public schools present to observe the proceedings. Most of these students were from the rural districts for the Salem pupils have attended Naturalization Court on previous occasions.

The examination was conducted by Henry L. Mulle, of the Naturalization Bureau of the Government in Philadelphia, and he found all but one man was well informed on the government of the United States and could readily answer the questions that were put before them.

At the outset of the proceedings Judge Mecum stated that he was in receipt of an anonymous letter protesting the admission of one of the applicants to citizenship, and he wanted to let it be known that he could not take cognizance of any such communication. The Judge said that good, honest American citizens do not issue anonymous letters and if the writer was interested in having only aliens who will make good, law abiding citizens admitted, he should have had no hesitancy in signing his name. Judge Mecum declared he could not understand why any true American citizen should object to placing his name to a communication.

Among the candidates was one woman, Frederica Seeger, of Woodstown, a native of Germany.

Only one person was denied his papers and that was Antonie Triani, of Penns Grove, a native of Italy. The Examiner presented data to the Court to show that Triani had been convicted of passing worthless checks and sentenced to pay a fine of \$75.00. Under the rules of the Court he must wait five full years from the date of his sentence before he can apply for citizenship.

It was rather amusing in the above case for both Triani's witnesses swore under oath that they had known him for a longer period than five years and saw him almost daily, but declared they never knew him to have been convicted of crime.

The applicants and the disposition of their cases follows:

Admitted

George Brown, Salem, Germany.
George Soumakis, Penns Grove, Greece.
Frank Filipowicz, Penns Grove, Lithuania.
John Kubiel, Salem, Poland.
Paul D. Hansen, Elmer, Germany.
Frank Webber, Carney's Point, Wales.
Kashker Tishler, Elmer, Hungary.
Morris T. Lubchasky, Penns Grove, Poland.
Frederica Seeger, Woodstown, Germany.
Abe Rodofsky, Salem, Poland.

Isador Character, Salem, Russia.
Nathan Barish, Norma, Russia.
Costas Pappas, Penns Grove, Turkey.
Morris Goldfein, Elmer, Russia.
Joseph Olterman, Elmer, Poland.
Percey Lavalle, Salem, Canada.
Eugenio Vona, Carney's Point, Italy.
Salvatore Grove, Carney's Point, Italy.
John C. Foernsler, Elmer, Germany.
Giovanni Ulissi, Penns Grove, Italy.
Tomasso D'Angelo, Penns Grove, Italy.
Max Weissman, Brotmanville, Poland.
Julius Smalintsky, Norma, Russia.

John Quim, Carney's Point, Ireland.
Joseph W. Waddington, Penns Grove, England.
Vincenzo Piccirilli, Penns Grove, Italy.
James H. MacLeod, Salem, Nova Scotia.
Frank Maser, Elmer, Germany.
John McMurray, Pedricktown, Ireland.
Ettore Petrel, Penns Grove, Italy.
Louis Klein, Norma, Russia.

Angelo D'Alessio, Penns Grove, Italy.
Mariano Bucclarelli, Penns Grove, Italy.
Marano Massari, Penns Grove, Italy.
Luigi Misantone, Penns Grove, Italy.
Case Continued
Achille Vergill, Penns Grove, Italy.
Alexander Tkach, Brotmanville, Russia.
Sebastian Salila, Auburn, Italy.
No Answer
Antonio Piccone, Penns Grove, Italy.

Judge Mecum's Address

Judge Mecum in addressing the successful ones said that it was a pleasure to welcome such an intelligent looking body of persons into citizenship in the United States, and he felt confident that every one of them would prove true American citizens. He urged them to study the ideals of our government and cautioned them to do so at once so they may cast their ballots intelligently at the important election that is near at hand.

The Judge said that he did not propose to suggest for which party a person should vote but he does want them to do the voting for the man and men who will uphold the laws and institutions of this great county.

He said there are attacks being made on the very foundation of our government by men who would seek to destroy those things which true Americans hold sacred and this should not be tolerated.

In closing The Judge said he wanted to congratulate the successful applicants and felt confident everyone would do his utmost to uphold the traditions of this county.

Every one in the Court-room stood as the oath of allegiance was administered by the County Clerk, Walter P. Ballinger and at the conclusion Mrs. A. T. Beckett, representing the Oak Tree Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, took charge.

Mrs. Beckett extended a most cordial welcome to the newly made citizens and urged that those who have wives will see that the latter also become citizens of the United States. She let it be known that under a new law, a wife cannot become a citizen simply because her husband is one, but must file an application which is acted upon within one year. She asked that there be but one flag and one country in a household.

Miss Wescott, Musical Instructor in the Salem public schools, led the students in singing "America, The Beautiful," and then Mrs. Pluma Batten, of the school faculty, led the salute to the flag, in which all joined. The ceremonies concluded with all singing the National anthem.

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, October 1, 1924

Sudden Death. On Friday night last, **Jacob Specht**, a German living in Upper Penn's Neck, near Pennsgrove, died while sitting in a chair in the house of John Gallaher, a neighbor. He was about 60 years of age, and lived alone in a house built upon a small farm which he owned, and it is not known that he has any relatives in this country....

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ March 19, 1880

ALEXANDER'S ANNALS**50 YEARS AGO***The Monitor-Register*, September 1964

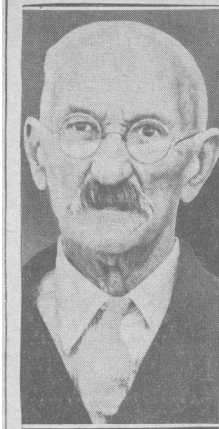
- ◆ Break Ground for New Ambulance Association Bldg.
- ◆ Sears— "Tower Citation"—Portable Typewriter—\$79.88.
[Today's currency value? See back page.]
- ◆ Kingsway Regional High Begins 2nd Year Operation.
- ◆ Sportmen's Club christens new lodge building.
- ◆ *I'd Rather Be Rich*—Sandra Dee & Robert Goulet—Palace Theatre.

75 YEARS AGO*Elmer Times*, September 1939

- ◆ Salem County's Tax Rate Fourth Lowest in the State.
- ◆ Mrs. J. E. Shaw retiring as manager of the Woodstown Greystone Inn.
- ◆ Bicycle Club to be formed in Elmer area—Howard Seibert organizer.
- ◆ G. T. Nitshe, Jr., M.D. announces opening of his office—100 S. Main Street—The Franzen Building—Phone 131.
- ◆ Lifebuoy Soap—3 cakes—16¢ —American Stores.

100 YEARS AGO*Salem Sunbeam*, September 1914

- ◆ Fireman Frank B. Treen killed in railroad wreck near Alloway—Worst wreck ever near Salem.
- ◆ Chinquapins are ripe—plenty being gathered near Burden Hill.
- ◆ First Rosh Hashanah event celebrated in Salem at Rumsey's Hall.
- ◆ Two Companies at Fort Mott will have foot-ball teams this year and will become members of the Artillery Foot Ball League.
- ◆ Dr. Booker T. Washington to address citizens of the county at Bee's Park, Salem.

Veteran Passes**Quinton Friant Dies
County's Last Civil War Vet**

Quinton Friant, the last Civil War Veteran in Salem County, died at the home of his niece, Mrs. Edwin R. Powell, on Friday evening at the age of 89 years.

He was a volunteer in the Civil War and served in Company K, 215th Pennsylvania Regiment. He served 135 days and the war ended before he had engaged in a battle.

Twice previously he tried to join the army and on both occasions he was turned down as he was only 17 years old. He was finally accepted at a Philadelphia recruiting office when he was only five days past his eighteenth birthday. He marched with his regiment at the funeral of Abraham Lincoln, the martyred President.

With the exception of the time he spent in the army and a period of 10 months when he was engaged at work at Bridgeport he spent his entire life in Salem County and more than 50 years in Quinton.

In his early life he worked mostly at farming. He was a meat cutter by trade and for a number of years he was employed in Quinton Glass Company's Store.

He had a host of friends in this neighborhood who will miss the friendly greeting of "Uncle Quint" as he was familiarly known. He had enjoyed good health most of his lifetime and not until the last few years did his health begin to decline. He is the last of the family.

Funeral services were held from his late residence on Monday with interment in East View Cemetery, Salem.

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, August 12, 1936

Volunteers

Robert A. Brooks, Ph.D.	Noel Kemm
J. Harlan Buzby	Joe Kimber
Michael J. Cooke	Judy Kimber
Dave Culver	Ronald E. Magill
Fred De Palma	Craig Maue
Peg Danner	Ellen Morrissey
Bruce Doerr	Barbara Nathan
Barbara Smith Duffy	Trudy K. O'Hare
Brian M. Duffy	Lawrence B. Owen
Dottie Fisher	Amanda Pierce
William J. Gallo, Jr.	Frank Powell
Wayne Gotwals	Bill Saunderlin
Charles Harrison	Craig Schneeman
Charlotte Harrison	Gay Schneeman
Julia Harrison	Diana Sheridan
Katherine Heverin	Janet Sheridan
Peggy Kavanaugh	Maggie Vaughan
	Diane Wohlrab

Gift Memberships**What a great gift idea for family or friends
with ties to Salem County!**

A gift membership to the Salem County Historical Society includes many special features available only through the end of the year.

Gift memberships come in a special gift package that can be sent to you, or directly to the recipient.

Simply fill in the membership form on the bottom of page 35 and attach a note with your contact information and the contact information for the individual or family receiving the gift.

For the same cost as the regular memberships, your gift membership package will also include:

- Charming personalized gift package
- A copy of *Place Names of Salem County*
- A set of 6 Grant House note cards
- 3 postcards of the Salem Oak
- A \$5 coupon towards program fees



—The editor of the *Pennsgrove Record*, after a careful canvass, reports that there are in the village 94 organs and 15 pianos, not counting hand-organs, accordeons, Jewharps and other instruments of torture.

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, July 22, 1884

—The new **naphtha lamps** have all been erected and were lighted for the first time on Thursday evening last. **Joseph Voute** has charge of them.

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, June 17, 1884

—A 25-pound ball and chain has recently been purchased by Sheriff Coles for use on refractory prisoners in Salem Jail.

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, July 22, 1884

(continued from cover)

"The object of the Society shall be to discover, procure and preserve whatever may relate to the natural, civil, literary and ecclesiastical history of Salem County."

Election of Officers

The Salem County Historical Society met in Library Hall on December 4, 1884, for the election of officers. The following individuals were duly elected: President - William Patterson; Vice Presidents - Thomas Shourds, Joseph C. Thompson, M.D., Richard M. Acton, W. Graham Tyler; Recording Secretary - J. Bernard Hilliard; Corresponding Secretary - George Mecum; Treasurer- Samuel Abbott; and Executive Committee members - C.M. Perkins, William T. Hilliard, Elijah Ware, William Patterson and George Mecum. The first regular meeting on Jan. 27, 1885 of the Salem County Historical Society met in Library Hall. Judge John Clement, historian from Haddonfield, N.J. presented to the Society eight valuable papers and books. Mrs. John V. Craven presented papers and ledgers also a copy of the will of John Fenwick and two parchment deeds of 1675. Thomas Shourds presented the Society with a

copy of "The History of Fenwick Colony." Mrs. Col. Robert C. Johnson contributed a copy of Johnsons "History of the City of Salem." Judge John Clement was then elected the first honorary member of the Society. Thomas Shourds, Richard M. Acton and William T. Hilliard read papers concerning local Salem history. The reading of historical papers was an important part of the program of the regular meetings.

During the year 1885 the Society received many manuscripts, papers of various historical items and books, valuable for the needs of the organization. A concern was raised for the proper care of the growing collection of books and papers. Early in 1886 permission was granted by the Library Company to erect alcoves in the Library Room for the storage of books. The Executive Committee had determined the approximate location of the grave of John Fenwick and proposed to erect a monument.

The Executive Committee considered purchasing the old bank building or else

building a small brick building near the library for the storage of books and records.

Anne Gibbon Collection

There is an item in the minutes of December 13, 1898, that Mrs. Susan Gibbons Duval desires to present through the Woman's Club of Salem to the Salem County Historical Society, all her valuable collection of curios, asking only that the collection may be known as the Anne Gibbon Collection. The collection consists of historic furniture, valuable pieces of

that the Society took possession of part of the Alexander Grant House shortly after this date. The memorial resolution for the late President William Patterson mentions his many contributions to the Society, in civil affairs and his business connections. He was born in Salem, November 29th, 1818, and died on August 27th, 1900. Failing health prevented him from doing all that he wished to do.

I.O. Acton informed the Society on March 13, 1917, that a new lease for the Alexander Grant House had been obtained from Miss Helena Hubbell.

The historian Frank H. Stewart presented to the Society a deed from the Penns to Andrew Sinnickson for 15 acres.

President Edward S. Sharpe tendered his resignation due to ill health in July, 1919. However, it is apparent that the Society did not accept his resignation because he was re-elected in the election December 14, 1920. The First Vice-President, Mrs. Truman H. Clayton, conducted the meetings during this period until the election of December 22, 1922.

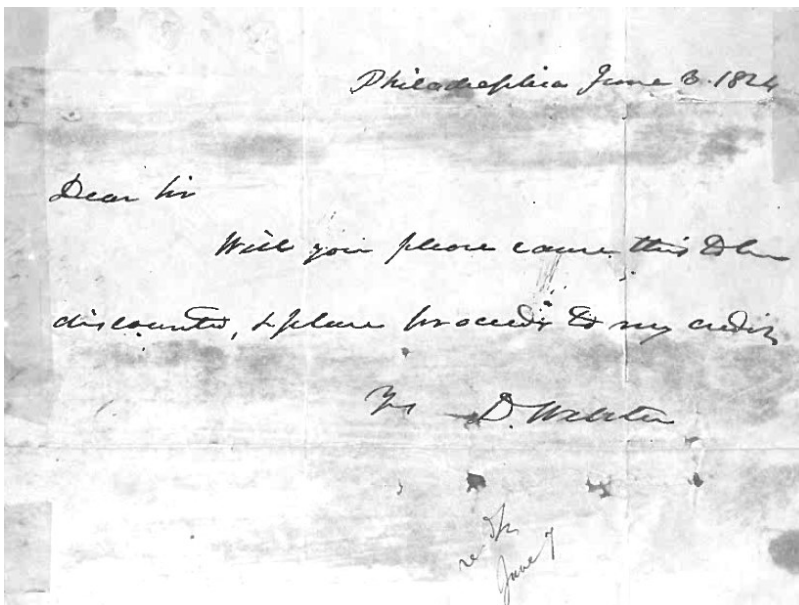
At the March 13, 1923 meeting, it was resolved, that the Society erect a Sun Dial in Johnson Park, the

foundation to be erected from bricks taken from the John Fenwick house at Ivy Point, and said Sun Dial to be erected in memory of John Fenwick.

Fenwick Memorial

In March, 1924, George B. Macaltonier on behalf of the Fenwick Memorial Committee requests that this Society in conjunction with the Gloucester County and the Cumberland County Societies unite with the said Fenwick Memorial Committee in the placing of a memorial to John Fenwick at the corner of the triangular site at Old Salem Road and the State Highway on July 4th, 1924. He also requested that a Red Oak Tree be planted at this site on Arbor Day, April 11th, 1924.

During the period 1900-1922 while Dr. Edward S. Sharpe was President, and first Howard B. Keasbey, and then followed by George M. Price Recording Secretaries the Society received many gifts of books, manuscripts, maps and other items of



Daniel Webster autographed letter, the Society's first Library acquisition donated by Albert C. Slape, Esq. The document reads, "Dear Sir, Will you please cause this to be discounted, & place proceeds to my credit. Yours, D. Webster." *From the Collection*

china, a number of exquisite cameos and many articles of interest.

Minutes for the year 1899 and most of 1900 are not available. It may well be that the Society was not active during this period because of the illness and death of President William Patterson. He served the Society well in collecting many items of historical information of Salem County. We can still remember him as we view his painting of the home of John Fenwick at Ivy Point on Salem Creek. This painting was made from a description given to him by his father.

Grant House Leased

The meeting of January 2, 1901, was devoted to consideration of renting the Alexander Grant House for the use of the Society. After careful deliberation the Trustees agreed to lease the Alexander Grant House from Miss Annie L. Hubbell for five years at the Annual rental of \$225.00 from March 25th next. It appears



Photograph of Albert C. Slape, Esq.
From the Collection

historical interest. Important was the acceptance of the "Anne Gibbon Collection" of China and Cameos. Papers written and read by members of the Society were greatly appreciated and filed in the archives; often many of them were published in the local newspapers.

Dr. Sharpe was a learned man and aside from his professional knowledge was an authority on both American and European History; he also had a command of Latin, Spanish and possibly other languages. His papers presented and read to the Society were of the greatest interest and his many years as President resulted in adding to the archives many valuable items.

The Tradition of the Mortar and Pestle



The minutes of this period contain the memorial to the many deceased members, providing additional information of a historical nature. There is a tradition continued to the present time that Dr. Sharpe as President used a mortar and pestle to grind in the names of new members; this custom has been followed by every President since then.

The 1925 Annual Meeting of the Society was held on Dec. 8 in the Grant House. Walter Hall was elected President.

Remains of Fenwick's Daughter Discovered

In Sept. 1926, Arthur B. Smith proposed that the articles belonging to the Society be carefully catalogued and that the contents of each room be kept separately. Mr. Macaltoner reported that on the old Redstrake property was found the bones of a human being together with handmade nails. This lot was owned by Edward Champney, and he believes the bones to be the remains of Priscilla Champney,

daughter of John Fenwick. He proposes that they be taken to the plot now occupied by the Fenwick Monument. On motion this proposal was approved and Mr. Macaltoner, Mr. Humphreys and Mrs. Clayton were appointed to attend to the details. Mr. Leroy Allen assisted the committee in the interment.

Plans for the celebration of 'The Battle of Quinton's Bridge' to be held May 19, 1928 were presented at the March 1928 meeting. President Hall reported that the memorial trees between Salem and Quinton had been planted. A marker would be placed at Canton to the 15 men who lost their lives at Hancocks Bridge. Also a marker in the Smith Burying Ground on the farm of Captain William Smith would be placed to those who fell at Quinton's Bridge.

81-83 Market Street Willed to Society

In March 1929, a report was made of the bequest in the will of Miss Helena Hubbell to our Society. The property at 81-83 Market Street is to be kept for historical uses. Also included were books and pictures and an additional \$500 for a tablet to be placed in 81 Market Street.

Hancock House Purchased

President Hall presented plans on March 31, 1931 for the purchase of the Hancock House at Hancocks Bridge, N.J. and the need to maintain it for historical purposes. He stated that the N.J. Sons of Pennsylvania would give \$500, the Salem County Board of Freeholders \$500, and the Sons of Colonial Wars would help. He also mentioned that a bill was introduced in the N.J. State Legislature for an appropriation of \$4,500 for the purchase of the house and about one acre of land. After discussion the Society approved the project and supported the President's efforts to secure the old house. Developments on the Hancock House are mentioned in the meetings of 1931. The State of New Jersey has purchased the House and the Society is to furnish the interior.

200th Anniversary of the Hancock House

President Hall advised the March 13, 1934 meeting that lumber from the old Tyler House built of wide cedar logs had been used to erect a house on the Hancock House lot. Men from C.W.A. performed the work for this without expense to the Society. Over 10,000 visitors have seen the display at the Hancock House since it has been opened. It was decided to celebrate the

200th Anniversary of the Hancock House on June 16, 1934. The Society has secured Benj. Applegate and his wife as the new caretakers for the house. The meetings of June and September 1934 reported that the celebration at the Hancock House was a success and enjoyed by all that attended. The December 11, 1934 meeting was the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Society, so that in view of this our President had arranged an interesting program of addresses and refreshments. Senator S. Rusling Leap brought greetings to the Society. The Recording Secretary, George B. Macaltoner then gave a resume of the fifty years that the Salem County Historical Society had been in existence, noting principal events, and recalling the administrations of the four presidents.

The "Second Fifty Years of the Society" will be continued in the December 2014 issue of our Newsletter.

THE TOMATO

Messrs. Editors—The canning of tomatoes, about commencing in our factories, induces me to offer a reminiscence that you may enter of record if you please.

The tomato was introduced into Salem in the year 1829. Mr. Jonathan Coffee, of Philadelphia, a brother of Isaac A. Coffee, then living in Salem, brought a tomato plant to this (then) town and gave it to the wife of Mr. John H. Cann, who at the time, 1829, lived in the house on Griffith St. belonging now, I think, to Amos West, and adjoining his present residence.

Mrs. Cann set the tomato plant out at the south corner of the open shed of her dwelling. It grew prosperously, being trellised up the shed. The fruit matured, and was a marked curiosity.

When ripe the writer of this partook (or at least tasted) a portion that had been cooked in cream. Perhaps not one in twenty at that time relished the dish or pronounced it good.

It was grown more for a curiosity and for its rich appearance, as this first vine, in Salem, hung in red clusters from a suspended location.

The curiosity this created, induced a number of persons in town, the next year, to have one or more plants. I remember the names of several who in 1830 had the "love apple" —some called it—in their gardens.

Mrs. James Sherron, then landlady of the hotel now kept by J. G. Garwood, in 1830 cooked some by broiling and basting with the gravy of beef steak. In this form a few pronounced the dish delicious. It was a long time, however, before tomatoes became popular or even enjoyable.

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, August 29, 1882

THOMAS SINNICKSON (1744-1817): A FEDERALIST CONGRESSMAN FROM SALEM COUNTY

By Bruce A. Bendler

Thomas Sinnickson was born near Salem, New Jersey, on December 21, 1744. He was the son of Andrew Sinnickson (1720-1790), a descendant of Andreas Sinnickson, a Swede who settled in what is now Salem County about 1645.¹ Thomas Sinnickson became involved in public affairs before the Revolutionary War. On July 1, 1774, he became a member of the Salem County Committee of Correspondence formed to protest the Coercive Acts enacted by Parliament to punish Massachusetts.² By September 22, 1776, he was a captain in the Salem County militia, in a battalion commanded by Colonel John Holme.³

On March 21, 1778, the British Colonel Charles Mawhood included Sinnickson on a list of officers who would “be the first objects to feel the vengeance of the British nation” if they did not lay down their arms and convince Salem countians to submit to British rule. Mawhood threatened that his troops would wreak further destruction upon the county if the militia officers did not comply. Colonel Elijah Hand, the battalion commander, flatly refused.⁴ Soon thereafter, Salem County was freed from the British yoke when in the early summer of 1778, the British evacuated Philadelphia and withdrew toward New York.

Before the war, Sinnickson had begun a career as a merchant, establishing offices in Salem and Philadelphia. After the war, his firm had expanded its business into the Caribbean. On October 15, 1785, Maurice Lisle, in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, wrote Sinnickson, then in Philadelphia, about distressing circumstances caused by a severe hurricane. Predictably, the slave population suffered the most. Lisle noted that the islands “still continue in the same distressed situation for Negro’s provisions.” Many plantations were still idle and masters had to “give the slaves liberty to seek some kind of sustenance.” Circumstances were “equally as badly off in St. Croix.” No goods had arrived since the hurricane, and Sinnickson’s firm could count on a “very great market for all kinds of American produce.”⁵

In addition to his responsibilities as a merchant, Sinnickson became involved in politics. Salem County voters elected him

to the New Jersey Assembly for six terms.⁶ Thus, he could see firsthand the weakness of the Articles of Confederation and the consequences of that weakness for New Jersey. The state’s commercial life was hampered by import taxes and discriminatory duties levied by its larger neighbors, Pennsylvania and New York. Reliant on goods imported through those two states, New Jerseyans had to pay added costs for such goods. The weak Confederation government did not have the power to forbid larger states from economically discriminating against their smaller neighbors.

In 1785, James Parker of Perth Amboy wrote Sinnickson complaining about the “want of an import law,” a matter that “should be taken up [in the Assembly] as soon as possible.” Sinnickson, now beginning his fourth term in that body, was in a position to address “the disagreeable situation we are in from the payment of so great a tribute to New York and Pennsylvania.” Potter urged Sinnickson to “promote that bill in the house” to apply revenue from national import duties to meet “the exigencies of government as early as possible.”⁷

When he won election to the Assembly in 1785, Sinnickson proceeded to justify Parker’s confidence. He served—with James Smith of Burlington County and John Sheppard of Cumberland County—on a committee to craft a bill to vest the United States Confederation Congress with “certain powers for the regulation of commerce” for fifteen years, provided other states enacted similar legislation.⁸ That bill passed both the Assembly and the Council before the two houses recessed in late November. The law provided that duties and imposts on commodities imported into the United States would go directly into the Continental Treasury. Its stated purpose was to put the new republic “on an equal footing” with other nations and overcome “the incompetency of the states separately to regulate trade.”⁹

Ultimately, Americans formed a completely new frame of government to solve such problems. Thomas Sinnickson supported this effort. In March 1786, he sponsored a resolution in the New Jersey Assembly to send delegates to a meeting in Annapolis, proposed by Virginia, for “framing such Regulations of Trade as may be judged necessary to promote the general interest.” Sinnickson’s resolution won unanimous support, but New Jersey was only one of five states that sent a delegation to that meeting. The delegates in Annapolis, who met in September 1786, concluded their proceedings by calling for another meeting to be held in

¹ Thomas Cushing and Charles Sheppard, *History of Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland Counties, New Jersey* (Philadelphia: Evarts and Peck, 1883), 405.

² Frank H. Stewart, *Salem County in the Revolution* (Salem: Salem County Historical Society, 1967), 6.

³ *Ibid.*, 7.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 64-5. Another future political leader in Salem County, Jacob Hufty, was on Mawhood’s list along with Sinnickson. See Bruce Bendler, “Jacob Hufty of Salem County” in *Quarterly Newsletter of the Salem County Historical Society* 56:2 (Summer 2011), 21-5.

⁵ Maurice Lisle, Tortola, to Thomas Sinnickson (hereafter: TS), October 15, 1795, Sinnickson papers, Salem County Historical Society, Salem, New Jersey (hereafter: SCHS).

⁶ Sinnickson was elected to the New Jersey Assembly in 1777, 1782, 1784, 1785, 1787, and 1788.

⁷ James Potter, Perth Amboy, to TS, October 29, 1785, Sinnickson papers, SCHS.

⁸ *Votes and Proceedings of the Tenth General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, First Sitting, October 1785* (Trenton, 1785), 36.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 47.

Philadelphia in May 1787 to consider measures to strengthen the weak Confederation government.¹⁰

That meeting in Philadelphia adopted a new Constitution and sent it to the states for ratification. New Jersey became the third state to ratify, doing so unanimously. Presumably, Sinnickson supported its ratification. On July 23, 1788, Abraham Clark, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, wrote to him expressing doubts about the new frame of government. Clark hinted that he disagreed with Sinnickson, noting that the Salem countian had not asked for his opinion. Nevertheless, Clark stated that he saw the new government as more of a "consolidated" than a "federal" one that would prove "unnecessarily aggressive in its operations." He also feared an "undefined and unbounded" judiciary. Clark was not entirely negative; he felt that amendments would improve the document while retaining "the most important parts."¹¹ Sinnickson himself would go on to play a role in implementing the new Constitution's provisions.

By the late 1780s, Sinnickson had earned the respect of political leaders across New Jersey. James Potter had already acknowledged Sinnickson's influence when asking him to secure passage of the import bill. By 1789, after the Constitution was ratified by the requisite nine states, Sinnickson became a candidate for election to the first United States Congress. On March 25, 1789, the Pennsylvania Gazette reported that Lambert Cadwallader, Elias Boudinot, James Schureman, and Sinnickson "appear to be the highest in nomination" for New Jersey's first delegation to the United States House of Representatives. The newspaper's account also mentioned "strife" between Sinnickson and Abraham Clark, reflected in Clark's letter to Sinnickson.¹²

That strife reflected both regional conflict within New Jersey and differences over the Constitution itself. Sinnickson was nominated as a candidate for the First Congress on what was known as the "Junto Ticket." That ticket received almost unanimous support in West Jersey, but encountered opposition in the east, mainly from Abraham Clark and Jonathan Dayton. The "Junto Ticket" presented itself as firmly Federalist, and its proponents portrayed Clark and Dayton as lukewarm to or even unfriendly to the new Constitution. The election itself became a test of endurance between East and West in which counties in both parts of the state kept polls open, sometimes for weeks. However obtained, a high turnout in West Jersey

put Sinnickson in fourth place in the vote totals, giving him a seat in the First Congress.¹³

As a member of Congress, Thomas Sinnickson supported the measures needed to establish a strong national government. He favored a bill to provide for payment of the public debt, and he supported Alexander Hamilton's proposals regarding public credit. He also supported the chartering of the Bank of the United States, opposing parliamentary maneuvers to recommit the bill to a Committee of the Whole, thus killing it.¹⁴ But his support for Hamilton's proposals for assumption of state debts came only after some hesitation. Initially, Sinnickson opposed that measure along with his colleague James Schureman, but both men supported the bill on its final vote on July 26, 1790, joining the other two New Jersey congressmen, Elias Boudinot and Lambert Cadwallader.¹⁵

Thomas Sinnickson's position on locating the nation's capital was unclear. He favored relocating the seat of government to the mid-Atlantic, voting on various occasions to move it from New York to a location in Pennsylvania, Maryland, or Delaware. At one point, he was supportive of a location on the Susquehanna River, provided authorities in Pennsylvania and Maryland removed "all obstructions to navigation" from the rocky and shallow Susquehanna riverbed. In one roll call vote, he even favored Wilmington, Delaware, over New York. Finally, in 1791, he supported the bill to establish a permanent location for the capital along the Potomac River.¹⁶

Sinnickson was a candidate for election to the Second, Third, and Fourth Congresses, but he did not win election again until elections for the Fifth Congress took place in 1796. By that time, he had clearly identified with the Federalist party, and was actively involved in the formation of that party's ticket. On December 19, 1796, he wrote General Anthony White of New Brunswick affirming his Federal principles while urging a geographically balanced ticket. He noted that a "more equitable dispersion of the representatives" would "harmonize the exertions of the federalists of New Jersey, east and west." Sinnickson expressed his own gratitude for being nominated, stating that he would "always consider the esteem of my fellow citizens towards me. . ."¹⁷

Opposition to Sinnickson and his running mates came from a "Farmers Ticket," "industriously circulated" across the state. Proponents of this ticket referred to the Federalists as "aristocratical," also impugning them as Tories. Sinnickson's

¹⁰ Votes and Proceedings of the Tenth General Assembly of the State of New Jersey. Second Sitting. March 1786 (Trenton, 1786), cited in Ruth Bogin, Abraham Clark and the Quest for Equality in the Revolutionary Era 1774-1794 (Rutherford, New Jersey: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1982), 131-2.

¹¹ Abraham Clark, New York, to TS, July 23, 1788, in John P. Kaminski and Gaspare J. Saladino, eds., Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution, v. 18 (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1995), 275-7.

¹² Pennsylvania Gazette, Philadelphia, March 25, 1789.

¹³ For an account of this election, see Richard P. McCormick, "New Jersey's First Congressional Election: A Case in Political Skulduggery," in William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Series, 6, # 2, April 1949, 237-50.

¹⁴ <http://www.govtrack.us/congress>, accessed February 1, 2011.

¹⁵ Kenneth R. Bowling, "Dinner at Jefferson's: A Note on Jacob E. Cooke's 'The Compromise of 1790'," in William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Series, 28, # 4, October 1971, 629-48.

¹⁶ <http://www.govtrack.us/congress>, accessed February 1, 2011.

¹⁷ TS to Anthony White, New Brunswick, December 19, 1796, Sinnickson papers, SCHS.

service, both political and military, in the Revolution, discredited the charge of Toryism, a charge the author of a Federalist broadside called “without truth or justice.” That author also charged that the opposition ticket lacked political good sense, being “disciples of Tom Paine to a man.” One proponent of the “Farmers Ticket” supposedly was “continually reviling the Christian religion and all the sacred writings.” Only followers of the “great Washington,” such as Sinnickson, would maintain the “present flourishing state” of the country.¹⁸

Having won election to Congress on the “federal ticket” in 1796, Sinnickson supported the Adams administration’s hard line against France and its efforts to suppress internal dissent. In June 1797, he supported measures to strengthen fortifications around New York and buttress its naval defenses. In 1798, he favored termination of the Treaty of Alliance with France, signed in 1778. He also voted for both the Alien and Sedition Acts, while opposing efforts to print copies of the Constitution to be distributed with those acts, an effort by the opposition to raise questions about their constitutionality.¹⁹

Sinnickson did not seek another term in Congress, but he did remain active in Federalist politics. On September 16, 1800, he chaired a Federalist meeting in Salem charged with framing a state legislative ticket and backing the reelection effort of President John Adams. The resolutions passed by the meeting refuted Democratic-Republican charges of monarchism against the Federalists, pointing out that the Federalists supported “the constitution and government of our choice” against an opposition “stiling themselves exclusively the Republicans.”²⁰

Later that year, when the Federalists were forming a congressional ticket, William Griffith of Burlington wrote Sinnickson, asking the Salem countian to attend a meeting on December 13. He noted that a general election bill would pass the legislature “this week.”²¹ Federalists thus had to form a ticket “which may combine talent, principles, and situation—so as to have more success.” Griffith hoped for and expected “pleasant weather,” hoping to induce Sinnickson to make the early December journey from Salem to Trenton.²² Furthermore, Sinnickson himself had gained the honor of serving as one of New Jersey’s presidential electors.²³

After 1800, the Federalist party declined into minority status in New Jersey, except for a brief revival in 1812 and 1813. Sinnickson, nonetheless, continued his exertions on the party’s behalf, vouching for the patriotism of the recently-deceased Federalist Samuel Stockton. Democratic-

Republicans often charged Federalists with Toryism, and Sinnickson, with his Revolutionary service, could credibly refute such charges. Lucius Stockton introduced Sinnickson’s comments by pointing to his “defense of American liberty from the earliest period of the revolutionary war.” Stockton made special note of Sinnickson’s encounter with Col. Mawhood, pointing to his “zealous attachment to the cause of American liberty” in the face of potentially dire consequences. Sinnickson himself stated that no one had ever considered Samuel Stockton a “disaffected character.” Only an “infamous and ungentlemanly attack” in the Democratic-Republican *Trenton True American* besmirched Stockton’s character.²⁴

Although Sinnickson no longer held elective office, he attended a meeting on September 21, 1808, of “friends of the system adopted and pursued during the administration of the great and good Washington.” The meeting passed resolutions that decried the embargo, calling upon New Jerseyans to elect men who “will retrieve our honor.” The Federalists again nominated Sinnickson for presidential elector, but that party’s ticket lost to candidates committed to James Madison.²⁵

Sinnickson continued to support the Federalist Party in 1812. On July 4, he and Robert G. Johnson represented Salem County at a party meeting and joined in calling for a repeal of the declaration of war against Great Britain and a renewal of efforts to negotiate a settlement of Anglo-American differences.²⁶ Later in the year, Sinnickson chaired a meeting of “Friends of Peace,” Federalists and Democratic-Republicans who disagreed with the Madison administration’s war policies. Included among the Democrats in attendance were former Congressman James Sloan and the incumbent Congressman Jacob Hufty. The “Friends of Peace” nominated Hufty, along with William Coxe, a staunch Federalist from Burlington County, as their candidates for the newly formed Third District, which included most of southern New Jersey. The two won election with virtually no opposition.

Thomas Sinnickson’s career spanned the tumultuous years from the onset of the American Revolution to the War of 1812. As a merchant, he was well acquainted with the need for a strong government that could protect American commercial interests. As a soldier, he recognized the need to defend American strategic interests. As a politician, he worked both at the state and national levels to enable those governments to accomplish those purposes, thereby securing the independence and the viability of the new American republic.



Cemetery, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Salem, New Jersey

¹⁸ “A Federalist,” “To the Public,” broadside, January 4, 1797.

¹⁹ <http://www.govtrack.us/congress>, accessed February 1, 2011.

²⁰ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, Philadelphia, September 24, 1800.

²¹ In 1798, the New Jersey legislature elected its Congressmen by district, but returned to an at-large ballot in 1800.

²² William Griffith, Burlington, to TS, Salem, November 30, 1800, Sinnickson papers, SCHS.

²³ State of New Jersey to TS, October 30, 1800, Sinnickson papers, SCHS.

²⁴ *Trenton Federalist*, Trenton, May 2, 1803.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, October 3, 1808.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, July 20, 1812.

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The **Patent Office** last week granted a patent to **Jonathan Sanderlain**, of this city, for a combined corn marker, and corn and fertilizer dropper. The invention has been fully described in these columns. *The South Jerseyman*, Salem, NJ, August 5, 1884

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