



INDEPENDENCE OF THOUGHT, WORD, AND ACTION

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# **INTRODUCTION**

## **TO THE**

# **HUNTERDON GAZETTE**

## **DVD FOR 1825 - 1866**

**Prepared by William H. Hartman, Sr.**

With the able assistance of  
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County Historical Society, 114 Main St., Flemington,  
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# THE HUNTERDON GAZETTE

Published at Flemington, New Jersey

From March 1825 until July 1866

## DEDICATION

This Project is dedicated to our ancestors who lived, worked, played, reproduced (thankfully) and interacted in various ways with each other in that place known as Hunterdon County, New Jersey, USA. May they come alive once more in our memories!

## INTRODUCTION

The Hunterdon Gazette and Farmer's Weekly Advertiser, was first published at Flemington, New Jersey, on March 24, 1825 - Volume I, Number 1 (See above). [The Logo on top of the second page came from an issue published in 1839 by the second editor – John S. Brown.] Volume II started in March one year later. With issue No. 18, July 21, 1825, the name was shortened to 'Hunterdon Gazette and Farmer's Advertiser'. No comment was made by the editor for this change. The name was again changed to 'The Hunterdon Gazette' on June 3, 1829 and finally shortened to just the 'Hunterdon Gazette' on July 16, 1839. The paper continued with this heading until July 1866 when it was combined with the "Hunterdon Democrat", a weekly newspaper. The "Hunterdon Democrat" and the "Hunterdon County Democrat" (first published in 1838) merged a year later. Nearly all extant issues of the Gazette were donated to the Hunterdon County Historical Society by the Hunterdon County Democrat which is still published today.

\* Researchers are reminded that Hunterdon County included Ewing, Hopewell, Lawrence and Trenton Townships until 1838, when Mercer County was formed. Thus the Gazette contains information on people, politics and events in those townships up to and beyond 1838! See Map of Old Hunterdon, in the miscellaneous folder entitled "HuntCoMap" \*

Mr. Charles George was the first editor. He came to Flemington and started this venture with a press, type, ink and paper that had to be brought in by horse and wagon. Hubert G. Schmidt (The Press in Hunterdon County 1825–1925; reprinted from the Hunterdon County Democrat 1960–1961), suggested that Mr. George came from Philadelphia and had some newspaper experience. [Note: this book is reproduced in the "Misc, Files" Folder]. In another published account of the early newspapers in Hunterdon, the author only summarized the content and history of the Gazette and did not comment about Mr. George. [The story of the Hunterdon County Democrat, reprinted from the Hunterdon County Democrat, Feb. 23, Mar. 1 & 8, 1928.].

William Hughes Hartman, who prepared this computerized reproduction of the Gazette, grew up in Flemington and attended both the elementary and high schools which were located on Bonnell Street. He traces his Hunterdon ancestors back to the early 1700s with the surnames: Smith (John Smith – Johannes Schmidt) and Stires [John Stires – Johannes Stier – (Stür)]. To the 1800s: Hughes (William Hughes, 1830s) and Hartman (William Rudolph Hartman, early

1900s). Other surnames in the family tree who resided in Hunterdon County include: Carcoff, Harshall, Hendricks, Polhemus, Rederick and Rodenbaugh – which are the female side of his Ancestral Tree!

During Mr. Hartman's search for his ancestors and documentation of specific individuals, he reviewed the Hunterdon Gazette and found items with reference to the surnames Hughes and Stires. He was amazed at the number of Hunterdon County names mentioned in each issue and as he progressed in his research, the names seemed to call out for remembrance! This happened in 1999 following the death of his Father who had started documenting the "Family Genealogy". Mr. Hartman decided to continue the work, looking to expand and verify the Family Tree.

One finding tipped the balance for the preservation and indexing of the Gazette. An advertisement for his Great, great grandfather's shoe business. The people were indeed real and were more than a birth, marriage, or death date! They lived and breathed and interacted with each other and established the basis for our present existence and way of life. The advertisement is noted below - [and you can only imagine the emotional effect it had on Mr. Hartman]. [Subsequently, he learned that a son of William Hughes, William Barwell Hughes apprenticed on the Gazette]:

Issue No. 198: April 27, 1842

### REMOVAL

**William Hughes, Boot & Shoe Manufacturer,**

Respectfully informs the inhabitants of Flemington and the public in general, that he has removed his SHOE STORE to the new frame building between Mr. Burk's Tailor Shop and Mr. Fisher's Cabinet Ware Room. Thankful for past favors, His friends and the public still favor him --- and they will find

Boots and shoes made quite neat,  
Although my work's trod under feet;  
The leather's good, the work is strong,  
I'll warrant you may wear them long.

Boots to fit the full grown man,  
Shoes no longer than a span;  
Shoes to fit the slender shape,  
Black or colored, I will make.

Already made, or made to measure,  
To suit my customers at their pleasure;  
I'll do my best, pray call and see,  
Your money's worth you'll get from me.

Flemington, April 27, 1842

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Hartman stopped his ancestor search, discussed his intent to preserve and index the names found in the Gazette with the personnel at the Hunterdon County Historical Society and went back to "square one" that is, Issue No. 1. What follows is the fruit of that endeavor which was started on April 13, 2000 and has now been completed on Dec. 15, 2005.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Hartman learned to type in High School and has typed his way through various undertakings over the years, so he never lost the “touch!” He typed in the Army, he typed as a Science Teacher and he typed in jobs that he held while employed by the Pharmaceutical Industry for over 30 years. He started using computers at work in the early 1980s when his company slowly did away with secretaries by requiring the workers to do their own typing! He is experienced with Microsoft software since that is all the company purchased. And now he is retired and having a ball and enjoying to the utmost this opportunity to give back to others some of his talents and abilities!

So now lets get serious!

The newspaper format, spelling of words and use of images from ‘Wood Cuts’ were reproduced as close to the original as possible. Word Fonts were also matched and resemble the original. The typed text and names were proofed against the original and every attempt was made to ensure accuracy. Any entry enclosed in brackets “[ ]” include comments made by Mr. Hartman and are intended to clarify the information for the researcher. The use of the word “Item” throughout this presentation refers to a defined unit of information contained in the Gazette. It could be an editorial comment, advertisement, marriage or death notice, legal or other notification, report of some public event, or “Letters Remaining at the Post Office”. These items are reproduced and separated by a line in the “TEXT” documents. The computer software program used to document, reproduce, and index the material is Microsoft Word ©. The MSWord documents in .doc and .xls format were converted to .pdf files [Portable Document Format] by Adobe Acrobat © software and are the only format included on the DVD edition.

## SPECIAL NOTE, RE

### LETTERS REMAINING AT THE POST OFFICE

Many names in the Index are from “Letters Remaining at the P.O.” Letters were not delivered back then. The Post Master published the list periodically so people could be informed to come on in, get them and pay for them – sender did not pay yet. The basic conclusion that you can make from this listing of names is: “Someone sent a letter addressed to the named person and sent it to the Post Office nearest to where they thought the person lived.” **No More and No Less! So please don’t ask for further clarification, I don’t know anymore than you can surmise!**

## PROCEDURE

Initially (April 2000), the first few newspaper issues were reviewed and the items were hand written at the HCHS Library and entered into MSWord on a PC at home. Tedious and prone to errors, this was soon

stopped and the items were typed using a notebook computer at the HCHS Library. Both processes were slow and time consuming. In an effort to speed up the collection process, Mr. Hartman investigated a voice activation program and dictated the items using L & H Voice Xpress Professional ©. Since he only visited the Library for 4 hours on Thursdays when it was open to the public [and not wanting to get additional grief from his wife!], progress was slow and an alternate system was sought. Again, proofing back to the original newspaper took time and was only done during the regular Thursday visit.

Investigation of Web Sites for Digital cameras indicated that a Sony Cybershot © 4.1 Mega Pixel digital camera had the potential to capture the newspaper text with minimal peripheral distortion. [Brief note about the condition of the newspapers – the text is a faded brown and the paper is a discolored tan – so the contrast is not always ideal. You’ll see when you open the “Photo” files on this DVD!] The camera was purchased in July 2001, and after much experimentation, has been used exclusively to photo the items. Ideal distance is 20 inches, on a tripod, at maximum resolution with flash. Each photo runs about 1.6 to 1.8 MB initially. The memory stick is 128 MB and approximately 60 to 70 photos can be taken before downloading to the PC. This was about 2 hours of shooting and worked out nicely with the HCHS Library hours. [One shoot in the afternoon, home to download and have dinner, then back to shoot again!] Four photos will usually take one newspaper page [so that I can read the type, See full-page photo on the second page above and you will know why one photo per page is not adequate for readable resolution.]. The early pages were approximately 12” by 19” but the size varied slightly over the years.

Now, an entire year of the Gazette could be captured electronically and worked on at any time on the home PC away from the HCHS Library. Typing and proofing became easier and more reliable since a split screen was used. That is, the image was brought up on one half the PC monitor and the Word document was on the other half. Either typing or proofing could proceed quickly and reliably as the newspaper image was closely available and could be magnified to clarify spelling, etc. Many times when the Index was being created, names that looked ‘funny’ or were not spelled the same as before, were proofed back to the original photo image for verification, and some were proofed back to the newspaper when the photo was not clear! The work progressed!

As noted before, the contrast between the printed word and the color of the paper varied over the years in the collection of the original newspapers at the HCHS Library – these were the source of the microfilm records available at a few libraries in New Jersey. Paper quality was rated as ‘Good’ – which meant good contrast, no rips, no tears, no tape, no water stains, etc. ‘Fair’ – ink faded, paper no longer white, all words

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could be read. 'Poor' – water stains, rips, taping, contrast between type and paper color getting worse. 'Very Poor' – rips, tears, severe water marks, sections of the page missing, parts of the page flaking off during use, etc. The condition of each issue is noted in the "Issue" Section in the Misc. Folder. Due to the inconsistency in the quality of the newspapers, the digital photo images could not be relied on to give clear readable print for the Text documents. That is the reason, all items were typed! You have probably been frustrated trying to read Census records or records that are microfilmed, I did not want descendants of our ancestors to suffer through another poor reproduction!

## INDEX FILES

As noted, the Text was created in MSWord with the file extension (.doc). The 'Year-Text' file was duplicated by renaming to 'Year-Index'. All text was deleted line by line, leaving only the names of people and key-words [selected as items of general interest to Hunterdon, i.e.: Amwell Township Meeting, Delaware and Raritan Canal, Hunterdon County Freeholders, etc.]. The MSWord software program has an indexing macro. This was used to mark each entry and then the Index was created with a couple of clicks! The Text and Index were printed and every name and key-word in the Text was checked against the Index and vice versa! There were always corrections! The yearly indexes were then merged in MSExcel © since it is exceeding easy to enter, sort, edit, etc. in this program. The Yearly Indices and the Cumulative Index for 1825–1866 were converted from MSExcel to Adobe Acrobat PDF files.

To conserve space, listings for a name, regardless of titles are on one line. Thus "Smith, John" is on one line followed by whatever titles he may have had, such as "Jr., Sr., Capt., Dr., Rev.", etc. These 'titles' are in brackets to indicate that the title was not seen in every item in which the name appeared. If a title such as "Rev." for Reverend or "Dr." for Doctor is not in brackets, then that title was consistently associated with the name.

The Cumulative Index should be used to locate the year in which the name(s) you are researching appeared in the Hunterdon Gazette. Note the year and then go to the "Text Files" folder which contains a file for each year. Open the year of interest and use the "Find" function on the top Toolbar to locate your name. But Please read the "ReadMe" documents for information and tips on how to navigate the PDF files.

## TEXT FILES

The 'TEXT' documents contain the typed reproductions of the newspaper items. A hard copy is at the HCHS Library. Microfilm copies are also available at these libraries in New Jersey: Hunterdon County Library, Rte. 12, Flemington; New Jersey Historical Society, Newark; and Rutgers, The State University, New Brunswick. The Text was copied (for

issues after 1828, by digital photos) from the original copies of the newspaper which were also used when the microfilm copies were obtained a number of years ago. All extant issues of the Gazette were photographed digitally and are included on the DVD.

As you review the different years, you will see a subtle change in how the newspaper items are formatted. During the first few years before the digital photos, some items were shortened and a reference given back to the original newspaper for some material that "did not contain the name of a person". [But see next section on the Photos.] After the photo images could be viewed by split-screen, typing was easier and formatting of the items became more sophisticated. Thus in the years after 1840, you will note formatting very close to the original. The Text files were converted to Adobe Acrobat PDF format and are located in the Folder – "Text Files".

## DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

As noted, digital photos were first used for collection of the newspaper items for the Year 1829. The paper was scanned by "eye ball" to identify the relevant items. For the first few years, "Post-its" © were used to identify the selected items. This slowed the process of collection, so later, up to 4 and sometimes 6 shots were taken of one page on which the item(s) were noted and the relevant items were cut and pasted into one or two files for each Issue. You may feel more comfortable with the material, by proofing your items back to the photo image! See Folder "Digital Photos on the DVD" which contains a Folder for each year. You must have a Photo Software program on your computer to read these files with the extension ".jpg"

## PROOFING

In order to gain your confidence in the accuracy of this project, the process of proofing and verification went something like this:

1. Identify pertinent items in the newspaper
2. Type them and proof the typing by eye and by "Spell check"
3. Proof spelling of all names at least 3 times –
  - a. as they were being typed
  - b. when Yearly Index was produced
  - c. when name was added and sorted into Overall Index. Check any spelling not conforming.
4. Ensure all items captured.
  - a. Proof typed text back to newspaper
  - b. Proof the photo files for each Issue back to the original, Issue by Issue!
5. And the ultimate proof of the "Pudding!" Include the photos with the DVD so YOU can proof also!

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## PROGRESS

The project started in April 2000 and typing of the text and indexes was completed on Dec. 15, 2005. The Project, except for perhaps a few corrections, is completed! The original material was put out on 4 CDs each encompassing a span of approximately 10 years. This was done to get the material out to researchers as the material was being prepared, rather than to wait for all to be completed. Now the DVD edition is being offered as a convenience and at a cheaper price than the set of 4 CDs!

See the 'Statistics' file in the 'Misc File' Folder for the number of pages of Text and the number of Index entries. The total time involved with the production of this project has not been recorded but can be measured in the thousands of hours!

## SPELLING of Names and Words

The researcher should be aware as you review the Indexes that names were variously spelled by the newspaper staff. Mr. Charles George, the editor during the early years of the newspaper, included an article that indicated this fact:

Hunterdon Gazette: No. 142, December 5, 1827.

### [Printing trivia]

*Errors of the press.* – when it is noted that from fifty to a hundred thousand types are picked up *singly* and put in their proper places for each day's paper, it will not appear extraordinary that occasionally one or two of them will get into the wrong places, or that in making up a body containing so many small parts, errors should sometimes occur.

In addition, you must remember how information was handled and communicated 175 years ago. Some of the information the editor received was oral and some was handwritten – the typewriter and linotype were not yet invented. Mr. George or his apprentice then interpreted this information and set it to type by picking up and setting it letter by letter. In the case of handwritten material, the scribe or clerk would sound out the name as best he could unless he knew the name of the person or the person knew how he or she preferred to spell it. The handwritten material was then read by Mr. George or the apprentice, providing another chance for error. **So please be aware and alert** to the fact that names may not even be close to the spelling that you expect. Rev. **Clark** is printed as Rev. **Quark!** **Updike** is **Opdycke** and other various spellings; **Wirts: Werts, Wurts, Wearts!** M'Cann is also listed as McCann; Van Fleet is also Vanfleet. So please be diligent and thorough in your search!

Be careful in your research and enjoy with as much fun, enthusiasm, discovery, and yes – emotion, the little bits of information contained herein as I have had reading these stories and finding out something about the people and events that made the "Headlines" back in the early to mid 1800s. My friends – this project is in memory of the interaction of my ancestors with your ancestors. It is a "Labor of LOVE" – Please pass it on!

## FEEDBACK

I want to hear your comments, Good and Constructive, so that this project can be improved. Please be forewarned that many Issues starting around 1850 are either missing or the quality of the paper which has been damaged by water, etc. may be extremely difficult to reproduce, but we did our best. I say "We" because I have assistants typing the Text. This has allowed me to continue the proofing process and construction of all the indexes. I was also able to photograph all pertinent pages of the Gazette prior to my relocation.

I am now living in Florida from whence the earlier set of 4 CDs were mailed! Now the DVD version with the entire newspaper in PDF only format is available. You must order them from the Hunterdon County Historical Society. I will remain in contact with personnel at the Society via email and regular mail so your orders will be sent as soon as received by me. You may write to me in care of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, 114 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822.

I wish you well in your investigations and if you don't find exactly what you had hoped for, at least you will get some understanding of how our ancestors lived over 150 years ago!

WHH: December 15, 2005

A New Project to computerize the Hunterdon Republican newspaper has been underway since October 2007. The text material will be put-up slowly, probably over the next 10 years. It is free to all and has been done in memory of all our ancestors, especially my two great uncles who apprenticed on the Hunterdon Republican – Lester Barwell Hughes and George Crater Hughes.

GO TO: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njhrna/>

William Hughes Hartman: Feb. 2010