







PIONEERS OF OLD HOPEWELL

With Sketches of Her Revolutionary Heroes

By

RALPH EGE

Reprinted with the addition of index and introduction



HOPEWELL MUSEUM
Hopewell, N. J.

will reveal many names that are very familiar to the people of old Hopewell.

The writer has a copy of this original writ of ejection, together with the names of those on whom it was served, dated "May term of Supreme Court of New Jersey 1733," and a number of interesting documents in connection with it, which will appear later.

Thomas Tindall, who in 1696 purchased the 300 acre tract referred to died in 1713, and in his will dated July 18, 1713, leaves to son John, the tract in Hopewell "where John Pullen now dwells."

This tract passed from John Tindall to his brother Thomas, Jr., and from him, by will dated April 6, 1715, to his brother Robert.

These wills of Thomas, Sr., and Thomas, Jr., were witnessed by their neighbors in Nottingham, viz: Isaac Atkinson, Mary Embly, John Rodgers and Joshua Wright to the first, and Jacob Bailjerjeau, Edmond Beakes and Wm. Embly to the second.

Thomas Houghton, the purchaser of this tract, had at least nine children, viz.: John, Absalom, Thomas, Joab, Elizabeth, the first wife of Abraham Stout; Sarah, wife of John Merrill; Annie, wife of John Smith; Mary, wife of William Drake, and Alice, second wife of Abraham Stout.

Only one of the four sons of Thomas Houghton left a will, viz: Thomas, Jr. His will is dated December 21, 1784, proved April 4, 1795. So far as we have been able to ascertain he never married, and resided in the vicinity of Harbourton, possibly with Josiah Hart or his son Nathaniel, who, with his neighbor, John Muirheid, was made executor of the will, which is a lengthy and very interesting document, proving him to have been a man of more than average ability, and blessed with a fair share of this world's goods.

His white beaver hat, silk coat and jacket, silver knee and shoe buckles, (which he divides between his nephew, Joab Stout,* and his friend, Nathaniel Hart) show him to have been a man who dressed in the style of the period, and becoming a gentleman of the old school.

The first bequest in his will is to his nephew, Joab Stout, to whom he leaves silverware, saddle and bridle, large bible, and a

*This Joab Stout was the nephew and namesake of Col. Joab Houghton, and also a nephew of "Esq. Nathan" Stout, who wrote the Stout history. [See "History of the Stout Family," page 18.] Joab Stout lived on the farm now occupied by his grandson, Wm. S. Stout, two miles west of the borough.

JOAB STOUT WIFE'S HEIR Wm. S. STOUT

number of other articles, and also all the money on the note of Peter and John Phillips, and a piece of woodland which he purchased of Wm. Drake. He leaves to his nephews and nieces, Eli, John, Mary and Rachel Stout, "all the money due in bank," and household goods to be divided between them, and a considerable sum of money to Eli and John in addition.†

He gives the nephews, William Houghton and Joab Houghton, Jr., (sons of Col. Joab) household furniture and a considerable sum of money, and to Catherine, wife of Col. Joab, mentioned as Joab Senior, and his neices, Elizabeth Houghton, Mary Drake and Sarah Merrill, bedding, etc.

He gives all his remainder of his wearing apparel to his two brothers, Joab and Absalom.

The following is the closing clause of the will: "I give and bequeath to the Presbyterian congregation of Hopewell‡ eight pounds, to be paid within one year after my decease, and all the balance of my estate to the children of my brothers, John and Joab Houghton."

This will is witnessed by the neighbors of Thomas Houghton, viz.: Daniel Howell, Jonathan Muirheid and George Muirheid.

July 10, 1901.

†The above named children had a brother, Solomon, who deserves special mention as a hero of the revolution. He was killed in the battle of White Plains, New York, October 28, 1776, in the unequal contest of 1600 Americans against 13000 well drilled troops under General Howe. Abraham Stout, the father of Solomon, was in the same battle, and will be given special notice in a subsequent article.

‡The Pennington Presbyterian Church was organized probably as early as 1710, and was designated on the records as "The Presbyterian Church of Hopewell," which name it bore for about one hundred and seventy years, and until the Presbyterian Church of Hopewell was organized in the village of Hopewell in 1877, when the Pennington church dropped the name of Hopewell and the name Pennington was substituted. Thomas Houghton, Jr., was a liberal contributor to the salary of Rev. John Guild in 1769.

PETER & JOHN PHILLIPS BORROWER OF THOMAS HOUGHTON JR.

Esquire William (32), son of Samuel (29), who was a magistrate. Died 1842, aged 56, having married Abigail, daughter of John Howell (38); she died 1854, aged 69. Their children were: Charles, died 1832, aged 22; Samuel (33); John, a graduate of Princeton College and Seminary, married Jane Cox, of Western Virginia, where he was settled till his death, leaving children: John, William and Maria; Addison Alexander (34); Horatio Stockton (35); William (36); Sarah Maria, married Rev. William H. McFarer, a Presbyterian clergyman, settled at Evansville, Ind.

Samuel (33), son of William (32), married, first, Harriet Cook, of Philadelphia, by whom he had Horatio, married Maggie Conway; Joshua, married Anna E. Wilkins; William A.; Sarah M.; and Mary C.; his second wife was Mary, half sister of the former.

Dr. Addison Alexander (34), son of William (32), a physician, married Isabella, daughter of Richard Beatty, (see Beatty family, No. 7, of Allentown, N. J., where he practices. Their children are: Isabella B., wife of Edward J. Wright, a merchant of New York; John B., a graduate of Princeton College and Seminary, and is a missionary in Brazil, South America; Catharine Louisa, married Wilson Reynolds, of Connecticut, and moved to Iowa; and Susan, married Charles Reeves.

Horatio Stockton (35), son of William (32), was a graduate of Princeton College and Seminary. He married Isabella Graham, of New York city, and was settled at Delaware Water Gap. He was chaplain during the war, and killed in the hospital by a stray ball, during the battle of Gettysburg. He left children: Mary P., wife of Frederic B. Carter; Horatio Stockton, married Catharine D. Leonard; and James Wilson.

William (36), son of William (32), a merchant of Philadelphia, where he married Hester Roberts, of Montgomery county, Pa. Their children are: Mary A., married Isaac B. Bunting; John R., married Flora M. Shannon; Clara; William, married Sarah Jane Melbury; Lydia R.; and Warren R.

David (30), son of Joseph (10), lived in Taylorville, Pa., married Susan Scott, and by her had: Elizabeth, not married; Samuel, married Joanna Johnson, and had children: Susan, Phebe, Letitia, and Theodore; Charles, married Mary, daughter of Samuel Taylor, had one son, David; Moore Scott, married the widow of his brother Charles, and had children: Susanna, Elizabeth, and Lydia; Joseph, married.

Timothy (31), son of Joseph (10), married Mary or Rebecca

Ketcham, of Pennington, N. J.; had children: Levi, married, first, Sarah, daughter of John Reeder, (see Reeder family, No. 6); second, Rebecca Marjoram, by whom he had children: John; David; Sarah; Mary; and Martha.

Daniel (3), son of Daniel (1), died 1763, aged 46, having married Abigail, daughter of Charles Clark, (see Clark family, No. 1.) She died 1785, aged 69. Their children were: Daniel (37); Charles, died young; Prudence, died in infancy; Phebe, married Job Phillips, (see Phillips family, No. 7); Eunice, married John Phillips, went West, had a daughter, Sarah; John; Hezekiah, died 1754, aged 23; Abigail, married John Guild, (see Guild family, No. 3.)

Daniel (37), son of Daniel (3), married Mary, daughter of William Green, (see Green family, No. 4.) Their children were: Rhoda, born 1766, married John Green, of Easton, Pa.; Sarah, married Nathaniel Green, brother of John, (see Green family, No. 12); Elizabeth, died in youth; Daniel G. (39); at his death, 1779, aged 36, he left £20 to the Presbyterian Church.

Daniel (39), son of Daniel (37), died 1852, aged 75; married Sarah, daughter of Benjamin Clark, (see Clark family, No. 2,) and had children: Elizabeth, married John G. Muirheid, (see Muirheid family, No. 6); John, married, had a daughter, Sarah, wife of Henry Sanford; Charles, married Esther Hyatt, had children: Thomas, Charles, Alfred, Daniel, William, Elizabeth, Margaret, Sarah, Caroline, Ella, Mary; William, married Ellen Sutphen, had children: Robert, Peter, and John G.; Robert, married Harriet Judson, had a daughter, Harriet; Joseph; and Mary, died in infancy.

John (38), son of Daniel (3), died 1823, aged 74; was an elder in the Ewing Church. He married Mary, daughter of Rev. John Guild, (see Guild family, No. 2.) Their children were: Phebe, married Samuel Clark, (see Clark family, No. 6); Charles, died in childhood; Letitia, died 1839, aged 56; Abigail, married William Howell (32); and John (40).

Maj. John (40), son of John (38), was an elder in the Ewing Church till his death, 1855, aged 56. He married Mary, daughter of Nathaniel Green, (see Green family, No. 9,) by whom he had children: Edward, died in childhood; Bradley Atwood, married, first, Julia, daughter of Benjamin Hendrickson, (see Hendrickson family, No. 7); second, Arabella Morgan, have one son, Charles; Theodore Sitgreaves, married Phebe, daughter of John

The Muirheid Family.

John Muirheid (1) was one of that valuable class of men which Scotland has sent us, having been born in Glasgow. After his arrival his residence was, for a time, on Long Island, where he married, November 22d, 1706, Rebecca Bailey; removed to Hopewell, N. J., in the early part of the last century, and became a man of mark. He was both an elder and a trustee of the Presbyterian Church of Pennington, and was, in 1713-1714, appointed to be the first high sheriff of Burlington county, then including Hunterdon county. He died January, 1725; his widow, December 25th, 1759. Both are buried in the Ewing church-ground. They had children: Jane, born August 29th, 1710, and became the wife of Edward Burrowes, son of Thomas, and had children: John, Anthony, Zebulon, Edward, Hannah, wife of John Moore, Catharine, wife of Jesse Atchley, ancestor of all the Atchleys of this region, Rebecca, wife of Francis Reed, and Jane; George, born March 1st, 1711; John, born February 5th, 1713; William, born February 14th, 1715; Andrew (2), born February 11th, 1717; Rebecca, born December 25th, 1719; Ruth, born May 4th, 1723; and Elizabeth, born 1725.

Andrew (2), son of John (1), in 1745 bought a farm near Harborton, on which he lived, and which is still the family homestead, and died 1794, aged 77, having married Elizabeth, daughter of Jonathan Waters. She died 1771, aged 49. Their children: John, born October 18th, 1750, died unmarried 1830; Deborah, born March 20th, 1753, died unmarried, 1784; Jonathan (3), born May 7th, 1755; William, born October 18th, 1757, died 1776; Rebecca, born February 8th, 1759, died unmarried, 1793; George (4), born June 25th, 1760; and Andrew, born December 7th, 1764, died 1830, at his residence in Amwell, having married, in succession, without children, Hannah, daughter of John Stevenson, and Anna, sister of Edward Hunt. Andrew Muirheid (2) had a second wife, Anne, who died September 10th, 1776, aged 45.

Jonathan (3), son of Andrew (2), was an officer in the Third Regiment of Hunterdon county, in 1777. He died 1837, aged 83, having married Mary, daughter of Richard Lott, (see Lott family, No. 2.) She died 1817, aged 57; had children: Andrew, not married; Elizabeth, wife of William Beakes, whose children are: Julia Ann, who became the second wife of Isaac Scudder, of Cranbury, (see Scudder family, No. 126.) Mary, wife of Aaron Stout, Jane, wife of Mr. Beatty, Rebecca, wife of Mr. Vancleve, Abigail, George, Samuel, and William; Mary, married James Disborough; William (5); Ann, married George Schenck; and Phebe, married, first, Andrew McDowell, second, George McDowell.

William (5), son of Jonathan (3), married Amy Housell, of Easton, Pa. Their children were: Mary, married Benjamin Ehrle; Sarah, married Benjamin Clark; and Jonathan, married, first, Miss Williamson, had a son, William, a lawyer of Jersey City, and by his second wife, had John and Benjamin C.

George (4), son of Andrew (2), was a trustee of the Presbyterian Church of Pennington. He married, June 9th, 1788, Charity, daughter of the Rev. John Guild, (see Guild family, No. 2.) Their children were: Deborah, married Jesse Howell, (see Howell family, No. 21); John Guild (6); Benjamin (7); William, not married; George, married Sarah, daughter of Amos Wilson, has one son, Abner Wilson; and Elizabeth, wife of George Woolsey, (see Woolsey family, No. 8.)

John Guild (6), son of George (4), was both an elder and trustee of the Pennington Church. By his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Daniel Howell, (see Howell family, No. 39); had children: Mary, died in childhood; Charity, married John, son of the Rev. Benjamin Ogden, of Michigan; Charles H., married Elizabeth, daughter of Michael Nesbit, of Philadelphia, of which city he was a well-known and prominent business man; Sarah; Elizabeth, married Samuel Titus; Alfred (8); Henry P., a volunteer in the late war, and first lieutenant in Rush's Lancers; John Guild, married Prescilla, daughter of Joseph Bunn, of Pennington; and William Harrison, married Elizabeth, daughter of Moore Hart.

Alfred (8), son of John Guild (6), died May 25th, 1875, aged 44, having married Sarah Ann, daughter of Maj. John Howell, (see Howell family, No. 40.) Their children are: John Guild; Sarah, died in infancy; George; Anna; Henry; and Lillie.

Benjamin (7), son of George (4), by his marriage with Sarah, daughter of Noah Howell, (see Howell family, No. 15); had chil-

dren: Maria, wife of John S. Van Cleve; John (9); William B.; and Susan.

John (9), son of Benjamin (7), sheriff of Mercer county in 1858, married Mary, daughter of Roswell Howe, and had children: Ella, wife of Aaron Van Cleve; and Charles.

The Phillips Family.

The Rev. George Phillips, of Boxford, England, with his wife, Elizabeth, and children, Samuel, Elizabeth, and Abigail, came over with Governor Winthrop, in 1630, and settled in Watertown, Mass. By a second wife he had Zerubabel; Jonathan; Theophilus; Annabel; Ephraim; Obadiah; and Abigail. His son, Rev. Samuel, settled at Rowley, Mass. One of the Rev. Samuel's sons was the Rev. George Phillips, graduated at Harvard, came to Jamaica, L. I., where he preached till 1697, when he removed to Setauket, L. I., and there remained till his death in 1739, and is buried in the Presbyterian church-grounds of that place.

The three brothers, Theophilus (1), Joseph, and Daniel, whose names appear among the grantees of the new charter of Newtown, granted in 1686, by Governor Dongan, of New York, are supposed by Riker, who carefully investigated the matter, to be the grandsons of the first Rev. George, either by the Rev. Samuel, or a brother of his.

The name of Theophilus (1), first appears in 1676, in the business transactions of Newtown, in which he was an active participant and a highly useful man. He was thrice married, first, to Ann, daughter of Ralph Hunt, (see Hunt family, No. 1,) by whom he had three sons: Theophilus (2), born May 15th, 1673; William, born June 28th, 1676, settled in New York; and Philip (3), born December 27th, 1678, who with his brother, Theophilus (2), removed to Maidenhead at least as early as March, 1698, as their names are among the grantees of a tract of land for a church. His third wife was Elizabeth, by whom he had children: Hannah; Elizabeth; and Mary.

Theophilus (2), son of Theophilus (1), by his wife, Elizabeth, had children: Theophilus (4); John (5); William (6); Joseph, had a wife, Mary, a daughter, Mary, and other children; Philip; Frances, wife of Joseph Hart, (see Hart family, No. 14); Hannah, wife of John Hart, (see Hart family, No. 3); Mary, wife of Benja-

HISTORICAL DISCOURSE.

BY

Rev. GEORGE HALE, D.D.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR REBUILDING THE CHURCH,
1874-75.

The following record of the offerings of the donors to replace the church that was burnt down in January, 1874, is due to those who gave, and to others also, as an example of a prompt answer to a call of God for free-will offerings:

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| George Woolsey, | \$1100 00 | Daniel C. Titus, | \$350 00 |
| John Smith Hunt, | 1000 00 | Archibald Updike, | 325 00 |
| Joseph A. Frisbie, | 1104 50 | John Stevenson Hunt, | 300 00 |
| C. H. & H. P. Muirheid, | | George Laning & Sons, | 380 00 |
| for Bell, \$371 58 | | Theod. F. Titus, | 310 00 |
| Cash, 740 00 | 1111 58 | Reuben Titus, Jr., | 250 00 |
| Enoch Ketcham, N. Y., | 1000 00 | H. P. & E. L. Welling, | 300 00 |
| Wm. Harrison Muirheid, | 180 00 | David B. Burd, | 225 00 |
| John G. Muirheid, | 240 00 | Aaron Hart, | 200 00 |
| Sallie Muirheid, | 150 00 | John S. Vancleve, | 200 00 |
| E. M. Titus, | 15 00 | Reuben Titus, Sr., | 225 00 |
| John Ogden, | 200 00 | Henry J. Blackwell, | 250 00 |
| Wm. B. Muirheid, | 200 00 | Azariah Hunt, | 200 00 |
| Rev. Daniel R. Foster, | 700 00 | William C. Lewis, | 200 00 |
| John E. Burd, | 600 00 | Lizzie M'Lenahan, | 225 00 |
| Samuel B. Ketcham, | 650 00 | William Pomyea, | 125 00 |
| Catharine Ketcham, | 450 00 | Jesse Atchley, | 125 00 |
| Geo. W. Ketcham, Newark, | 50 00 | Joseph Pierson Blackwell, | 110 00 |
| Wm. Smith Ketcham, " | 500 00 | John Phillips Hart, | 105 00 |
| Louisa Ketcham, | 100 00 | John H. Drake, | 100 00 |
| Mary M. Ketcham, | 60 00 | Susan Chamberlain, | 100 00 |
| Maggie S. Ketcham, | 60 00 | Sarah S. Vannoy, | 100 00 |
| Henry B. Perrine, | 580 00 | John L. Phillips, | 100 00 |
| Isaac Voorhees, | 525 00 | Elizabeth Wiley, | 100 00 |
| Enoch A. Titus, | 500 00 | J. E. Parker, | 150 00 |
| Timothy H. Hunt, | 550 00 | Moses H. Burroughs, | 150 00 |
| Andrew Ege, | 500 00 | Enoch Armitage Blackwell, | 100 00 |
| Enoch Blackwell, | 500 00 | John H. E. Bake, | 100 00 |
| Joseph H. Golden, | 300 00 | Charles T. Blackwell, | 100 00 |
| Ralph Ege, | 300 00 | John Fleming, | 100 00 |
| Mary Lay Hale, | 300 00 | William B. Curtis, | 100 00 |
| Rev. George Hale, D.D., | 300 00 | Hannah Atchley, | 100 00 |
| George Hale, Jr., M.D. | 25 00 | R. S. Leaming, | 100 00 |

heat, the trustees convened informally and appointed a meeting for their own body on Monday, and for the whole congregation on Wednesday, to consider what must be done. These meetings were held; and at that of the congregation on Wednesday it was resolved unanimously that measures be adopted to rebuild at once. Three gentlemen subscribed one thousand dollars each (George Woolsey, John Smith Hunt and Joseph A. Frisbie), and that afternoon a subscription of over fifteen thousand dollars gave assurance that the work would be done. The proper committees were appointed, a plan selected, a contract formed, and the work begun. The corner-stone of the new church was laid May 5, 1874, on the 27th anniversary of the laying of the corner-stone of the church just burned down. While destitute of a sanctuary, the people assembled for worship in the spacious room of the public school in the morning, and held a joint meeting with the congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the evening.

The 14th of January, 1875, was a joyful day with the Presbyterians of Pennington, the day of the opening of the new church. After the reading of the report of the building committee by Major John Guild Muirheid, which showed a balance of over five thousand dollars yet due on the building, a check of one thousand dollars from Mr. Enoch Ketcham, of New York, was offered by Samuel Ketcham, his nephew, on condition that the whole debt be paid at once. The proposition met with favor. Messrs. C. H. and H. P. Muirheid (who had already given the new bell) made a joint donation of five hundred dollars, and other liberal contributions were pledged, so that within twenty minutes the whole amount was raised; and then the building, which cost

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had children John, Andrew, William, Elizabeth wife of William Beakes, Mary wife of James Disborough, Ann wife of George Schenck, and Rebecca wife of George McDowell. Jonathan Muirheid, died Nov. 2, 1837, and Mary, his wife, died July 30, 1817, in her fifty-seventh year.

GEORGE MUIRHEID was married to Charity, daughter of the Rev. John Guild, by the Rev. Joseph Rue, June 9, 1788, and their children were, 1st. John Guild, who, by his wife, Elizabeth Howell, had eleven children, five only of whom, Charles H., John Guild, William Harrison and two daughters survive.* 2nd. Benjamin, who by his wife, Sarah Howell, had children, of whom two sons, John and William B., and two daughters are now living; 3d. Deborah wife of Jesse M. Howell, and mother of several daughters, and of the Rev. Jesse L. Howell. 4th. William. 5th. George. 6th. Elizabeth wife of George Woolsey and mother of a son, Theodore F., and three daughters now living.

This Muirheid family has furnished to this church two ruling elders and five trustees, and to the Church at large one minister of the gospel. In each generation, they have been efficient aids in upholding the interests of the congregation in both temporal and spiritual things.

On the 4th of January, 1745, Andrew Muirheid bought of Joseph Furman a farm near Harbourtown, lately conveyed to him by John Titus, Jr., and that has been the homestead of the Muirheid family for one hundred and thirty-six years.

* The patriotic devotion of Charity wife of John Ogden, and the gallant conduct of General Henry P. Muirheid, of the regiment of Rush Lancers in the late war, are held in cherished remembrance by the people of this township.



THE MUIRHEID FAMILY AND THE HOMESTEAD



(Much of this article was prepared for the writer, by the late Margaret H. Jones, for the Tercentenary Stories of 1964.)

ON THE FOURTH of January, 1745, Andrew Muirheid bought a farm near Harbourton from Joseph Furman. The title had been conveyed to Furman by John Titus, Jr. This farm was the Muirheid homestead for a period of 157 years. It was located on what is now the Harbourton-Pleasant Valley Road and is presently occupied by Mrs. William H. Holden.

Andrew was a son of John Muirheid, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland, settled in Jamaica, Long Island, and immigrated to Hopewell Township early in the 1700's. In 1714 he became the first Sheriff of Hunterdon County and ran the county jail, one mile south of Pennington. It was built of logs. Andrew had five sons, four of whom were revolutionary soldiers, and all serving in the same company. Included was John who became one of the guides to Washington's army from the eight mile ferry (now Washington Crossing) to Trenton on the morning of December 26, 1776. The brothers, who were such patriotic men, are all buried in the Presbyterian Churchyard in Pennington. Each generation of this family has served their church faithfully.

The British Soldiers in Pursuit

John Muirheid was personally selected by Washington as a guide because of his familiarity with the roads. This assignment so embittered the British soldiers, who had been quartered in and near the Presbyterian Church at Pennington, that sometime afterwards, learning that he was at the old farm home on a short furlough, they determined to capture him. To do so, an

officer and two soldiers, all mounted on horseback, left Pennington for home. His friends were apprised in time, so they secreted themselves in dense woods. This was along the road about a half mile west of Pennington. One of the hidden party was Deacon James Hunt,* who shot and killed one of the British soldiers and was later buried there by his comrades. This was after the flight to Pennington and after the hidden squad had retired. It occurred within a few days after the Battle of Trenton.

Farm Descended From Father to Son

From Andrew the farm descended to his son, George, who was born there and died there at the age of 91, in 1851. He prided himself that he had never taken a chew of tobacco, smoked a pipe, or seen a locomotive; was a revolutionary soldier at the age of 17. He often told friends of seeing blood-stained snow from the bare feet of the soldiers on their march to the Battle of Trenton.

From George the farm descended to his oldest son, John Guild Muirheid who always lived there and died in 1866. He was the tax assessor in Hopewell Township in 1836. His duplicate (tax list) at that time contained the names of 785 taxpayers. The amount of the township tax was \$4,571.88 and county tax was \$1,981.75. The largest payments were from Joseph Titus (\$51.20), Ruth Hunt (\$28.95), and Isaac Welling (\$27.82) with very few reaching \$20.00. The number of dogs listed was 226.

After the death of John Guild Muirheid, the farm became the property of his son, Charles H. Muirheid, and later of another son, William Harrison Muirheid, who lived there surrounded by his children and grandchildren until 1902 when he sold the farm to George B. Lutes, whose granddaughter, Mrs. Holden, still resides there.

The last and seventh generation of the Muirheid family to live on the farm were the children of Mary Muirheid Jones and her husband Samuel R. Jones. She was the daughter of William Harrison Muirheid. These children were:—late Harrison Muirheid Jones, the late Margaret H. Jones, and W. Radcliff Jones, of Pennington. The Muirheid family was closely related to the Hart family of Old Hopewell. Major Ralph Hart, an early settler, was one of the ancestors. Ernest Hart of Harbourton, also descended from this branch of the Hart family. He was most helpful in preparing this article.

*The place of this incident was west on Delaware Avenue, past the intersection of Highway 31 toward the present High School. James Hunt's powder horn, having been given to the Hopewell Museum by Herbert Hunt, is properly identified. Hand-carved on its side is this record: "James Hunt, His Horn, October 1776." The writer thinks the horn filled the gun that shot and killed the British soldier.

retirement the place was managed by the following: Arthur Wagner, Wayne Savidge, Harold Fisher and Robert Johnson, who was the grandson of Silas Lawrence and the last merchant. Today the Robertson family (from New York) own the quaint old house.

The Post Office and The Tavern

In 1875 the Post Office was established. Silas Lawrence was the Postmaster and a small space in his store accommodated the new postal setup. Wilson Hart, who lived nearby was instrumental in establishing this post office. He was so eager to help have this service that he volunteered to carry the mail from Titusville to Harbourton daily. He did this one year without pay and he had to walk the distance back and forth. He later delivered mail to Woodsville and New Market (now Linvale). Robert Johnson was the last Postmaster. Both the post office and the store went out of existence in 1963.

A tavern was started about 1820. Isaac Williamson conducted this business in his house directly across the road from the store. In 1826 he was succeeded



Country Store at Harbourton, about 1912. At left—Samuel Burns in 1908 Ford Runabout with extra seat in back; Helen Jones and Silas Lawrence on porch; Joseph Johnson in front of horse; Mrs. Edward Jones' jagger-wagon. (Courtesy of George W. Hart)

by Ira S. Williamson. About ten years later Jacob Hoff became the landlord. In 1837 or 1838 he was succeeded by Samuel Cornell, who soon abandoned the enterprise. William Hart purchased the property and it was later passed to his son Henry Hart. It remained in the Hart family for many years. Today this house is owned and occupied by Frank Van Dyke and his family.

Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shops

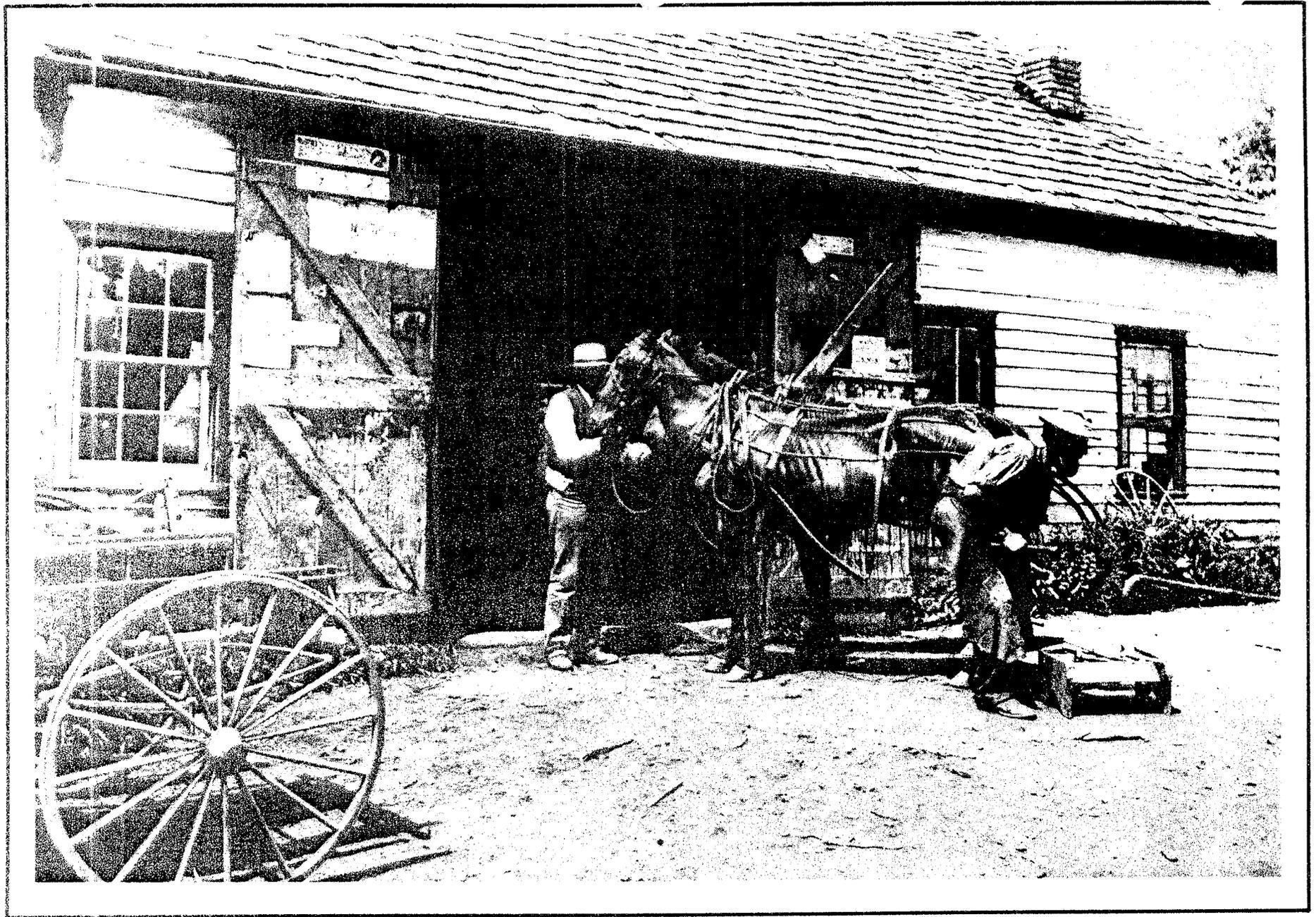
A quarter of a mile south of Harbourton just below the intersection of the Trenton-Harbourton and Pleasant Valley-Harbourton roads a blacksmith shop was located. It was owned by William Smith Hunt and started operation in 1849. At one time it supported two forges and employed two blacksmiths. The last smith to operate the shop was Lemuel Soden. A long time ago the building was demolished. The Joseph Atkinson's own the land today. Their lovely colonial home with spacious lawn and gracious whispering trees is a delightful place to visit. They have found small articles of iron under the sod where the smith shop once operated. This gives them delightful visions of the long ago, when they think of the busy smithy operating his forge on a corner of the land they own.

On the other corner of the road stood the wheelwright shop. It had a paint shop overhead. William Smith Hunt established this in 1853. He operated it for many years and the cross-road was called Hunt's Corner for some time. Later John Howell operated this shop. One to four men were employed to make the wagons, sleds, harrows, etc. It is said the last wagon was made in the early part of this century. This building has also been demolished.

A Stranger Arrives

Shortly after the Civil War was over a stranger arrived in the community of Harbourton. He appeared to be a genteel man but refused to divulge where he came from or where he was born. He tarried at the wheelwright shop and Smith Hunt, the owner, took an interest in him and decided to let him have board and lodging in his home next door. The stranger was very grateful and soon began to paint the buildings for Mr. Hunt. He was good at interior painting as well as exterior work in this field. Soon some of the neighbors became interested and asked that he paint at their homes. Alpheus Phillips employed him and was pleased with the work done. Today that home belongs to the McLaughlin family. The Hart family appreciated the man's workmanship in doing an excellent painting job for them. (Seven generations of Harts lived there, Ernest being the last one. Today it is the home of the Theodore Cart family and called "The Cartwheel.") Major John Muirheid was delighted with the work done on his building situated on the Pleasant Valley Road. That place became known as the Maddock house. Today it is owned by the Isaac Newhouse family.

Eventually a letter arrived from West Virginia. The gentleman was delighted with the contents of the letter, and he soon told the Hunts and a few of his friends about the supposed tragedy which brought him to the area. He was from a good southern family but occasionally enjoyed an evening at a tavern where he would drink with other young men. On one such occasion he



A scene at Lemuel Soden's Blacksmith Shop in Harbourton around 1910.
The business on Route 579 was located just south of Pleasant Valley-Harbourton Road.

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voluntary act and deed by him signed sealed and delivered
for the purposes therein mentioned - and the said deed
being examined by me separate and apart from her said
husband did acknowledge that she signed the same
freely without any fear threat or compulsion in the part of
her said husband -

Recorded June 12th 1826 -

Wm Halsted Junr
Master in chancery

William Atchley & Richard Burroughs } This Indenture made this eighth day of
to - May in the year of our Lord one thousand and

Richard Burroughs & eight hundred and twenty six, Between
X William Atchley of the Township of Papemill in the county
of Cumberland, and State of a new Jersey party of the first
part and Richard Burroughs of the same place party of
the second part Witnesseth that the said party of the first part
for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred Dollars
lawful money of the United States to him in hand well and truly
paid by the said party of the second part before the sealing and
delivery of these presents the receipt whereof in the said party of the
first part does hereby acknowledge having granted bargained
sold aliened enfeoffed released, and confirmed and by these
presents does grant bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff release and
confirm unto the said party of the second part his heirs and
assigns all that certain tract or parcel of land situated lying
and being in the Township of Papemill aforesaid better and
bounded as follows, Beginning at a stone for a corner to
said tract standing in the middle of the road leading from
thence to Delaware river and east side of the Trenton road
corner also to land of Nathaniel Park from thence along the
same south twelve degrees East three chains and fifty links to a
stone in said Park line and corner to land of William Atchley thence
along the same north eighty five degrees west three chains and twenty
three links to a stone corner also to said Atchley's land thence
along the same north twelve degrees west three chains and fifty
links to a stone for a corner to said William Atchley's land in the middle
of the aforesaid road leading to Delaware river from thence
along the middle of said road south eighty five degrees East three
chains and twenty three links to the place of beginning containing
one acre and fourteen perches of land be the same more or less
together with all and singular the buildings, improvements, ways
woods, waters, watercourses rights liberties, privileges heredita-
ments and appurtenances to the same belonging or in any wise
appertaining and the reversion and reversions hereunder and
remainders, rents issues and profits thereof and of every part
and parcel thereof. And also all the estate right title interest
use possession property claim and demands whatsoever both
in law and equity of him the said party of the first part of in
and to the said premises with the appurtenances to have
and to hold the said tract of land hereditarily and forever

true intent and meaning of these presents: And also, that it shall and may be lawful for the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, at all times forever hereafter, peaceably and quietly to hold, use, occupy, possess and enjoy, the said premises, with the appurtenances, and every part and parcel thereof, without the lawful let, suit, eviction, interruption or disturbance, of the said party of the first part, or his heirs, or any other person or persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same: And that the said premises are free and clear and fully and entirely acquitted and discharged of and from all former mortgages judgments, executions, and of and from all other incumbrances whatsoever: And lastly, that he the said party of the first part, and his heirs all and singular the said lot of land herebefore mentioned and premises hereby granted, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against him the said party of the first part and his heirs, and against all and every other person or persons whomsoever, lawfully claiming or to claim the same, shall and will warrant and forever defend. In witness whereof the said party of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of
 George & Peter Thos Gordon)

Wm Potts
 Anna Potts

State of New Jersey, ss: Be it known that on the thirty first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty six before me, Thomas Gordon one of the Justices of the Court of Chancery in said State personally appeared William Potts and Anna his wife who are to me satisfied, the grantors mentioned in the foregoing deed of conveyance, and to whom the contents thereof were to me made known, and they did thereupon acknowledge the same to be their voluntary act and deed, by them signed, sealed and delivered for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and the said Anna on a private examination before me apart from her husband acknowledged she signed, sealed and delivered the same as aforesaid freely and without any fear, threats or compulsion from her said husband.

Recorded August 1. 1826

Thos Gordon J. C.

George Muirhead & John Scudder Executors
 to
 William Atchley

This Indenture made this eighteenth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty six between George Muirhead and John Scudder, Executors of the last will and testament of Daniel Howell, late of the township of Hopewell in Hunterdon County and State of New Jersey deceased, of the first part, and William Atchley of the place aforesaid, of the other part; Whereas the said Daniel Howell in his life time and at the time of his decease was lawfully seized, as of his demesne in fee, of certain lands and real estate, situated in the township of Hopewell

as aforesaid, herein after described. And whereas the said
Daniel Howell departed this life, having first made his last
will and testament in writing, duly executed under his hand
and seal, in which among other things therein contained, he did
order and direct his executors aforesaid to sell and convey the
same, as by reference to the said last will and testament
bearing date the first day of April A.D. 1809 and duly proved
and recorded will fully and at large appear. Now this
Indenture, witnesseth that the said George Mearhead
and John Scudder, executors of the last will and testament
of Daniel Howell, deceased, as aforesaid, in discharge
of the trust reposed in them, and in pursuance of the
power and authority given them by the said last will and
testament, for the consideration of the sum of two thousand
four hundred and sixty one dollars and forty cents, law
ful money, to them paid, or sufficiently secured to be paid,
by the said William Mchley, the receipt whereof they do
hereby acknowledge, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened
enjoyed, released, conveyed and confirmed and by these
presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, enjoy, release, convey
and confirm unto the said William Mchley and to his
heirs and assigns, all that plantation or tract of land, situa
ted in the place aforesaid, which is better and bounded
as follows. Viz. Beginning at an old white oak stump
being a corner of Col. Cox's thirty thousand acre tract, and
of a lot in possession of Mary Wilson; thence by her
lot and Benjamin Mearhead's land, North fifteen
degrees and thirty minutes west, five chains and eighty nine
links to a stone, corner to John Booth's land; thence by said Booth's
land, along the road, south eighty five degrees and fifteen min
utes east, fifteen chains and fifty one links to a stone, corner of
said Booth's & Abner Hart's land, and of the school house lot;
thence by said lot and Nathaniel Hart's land along the
east side of the road leading from Harbour town to Trenton
south twelve degrees and five minutes east forty six chains to
a stake, near the east side of the road, corner of said Nathaniel
Hart's land, in Philip Hart's line; thence by said Philip Hart's
land, south eighty six degrees and forty five minutes west
ten chains and eighty six links to a stake, corner of said Philip
Hart's land; thence still by Philip Hart's land, south three degrees
and thirty minutes east twelve chains to a stake, corner of
Philip Hart's land; thence still by Philip Hart's land, south
eighty six degrees and fifteen minutes west, twenty six chains
and fifty links to a stone heap, corner of Philip Hart's land; thence
still by Philip Hart's land, North three degrees west, three chains
and twenty one links to a stone corner, corner of Philip Hart's land;
thence still by Philip Hart's land, south eighty six degrees west
two chains to a stone heap corner of his land in George Mearhead's
line; thence by said Mearhead's land North seven degrees and
thirty

thirty minutes past, fifty one chains and sixty five links to a stone corner of said Mearns land in the road and on said Mary Wilson's line; thence by her land along a line of the thirty thousand acre tract, South eighty six degrees East, eight chains and forty five links to the place of beginning, containing one hundred and sixty six acres, three woods and twenty porches. Together with all things thereto appertaining or belonging as part or parcel of the same, or reputed to be, and the reversions and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof, with the appurtenances; and also all the estate, rights, title, interest, use, possession, property, claim and demand whatsoever both at law and in equity of him the said Daniel Howell at the time of his decease, of, in and to the same to have and to hold all the said premises unto the said William Ashley his heirs and assigns, to the only proper use of the said William Ashley his heirs and assigns forever. And the said George Mearns and John Scudder executors as aforesaid for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant with the said William Ashley his heirs and assigns, that they have not done any act, matter or thing by reason whereof the premises hereby granted is or claimeth hereafter, may be charged, but the same or encumbered in any manner whatsoever, and that the said William Ashley his heirs and assigns shall hold and enjoy the said premises without the lawful let, exception, or disturbance of them the said George Mearns and John Scudder, executors as aforesaid or either of them, or of any person or persons lawfully claiming by, from or under them or either of them. In witness whereof the said George Mearns and John Scudder, executors as aforesaid have to these presents set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

State and delivered in the presence of
Joseph Ross Levi Ashley

Geo. Mearns
John Scudder

State of New Jersey, Hudson County, I do hereby certify that on this eighth day of May one thousand eight hundred and twenty six personally appeared before me Joseph Ross one of the commissioners of said county for taking the proof of deeds and other instruments of writings George Mearns and John Scudder executors of the estate of Daniel Howell deceased and having made known to them the contents thereof and am satisfied that they are the grantors above mentioned, did acknowledge that they signed, sealed and delivered the above deed as their voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein expressed. Taken before me the day and year above mentioned
Recorded August 1, 1826
Joseph Ross

Daniel Van Dyke & wife
to
Daniel M. Disborough

This Indenture made this first day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty six, between Daniel Van Dyke and Mary his wife of the township of Alexander in the county of Hudson and state of New Jersey party of the first part and Daniel M. Disborough of the city of New Brunswick in the state of New Jersey aforesaid party of the second part: Whereas Edward M. Stedman Esquire (then being) to wit on the tenth day of

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