



NEWSLETTER WINTER 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members & Friends of the Hackettstown Historical Society:

The holidays are over and the museum is bustling with activity as we work on new displays.

The theme this year features artifacts and exhibits relating to our new books that are available for purchase.

Our **Holiday Open House** in December was a great success. A special thank you to **John Covert** who lent us his collection of vintage Santas. It was a treat for young and old alike.

As a fundraiser for the museum we made Christmas ornaments depicting historic town buildings. Thanks to board trustee **Cindy Cassini** who gave us the idea. The ornaments will be available at the museum all year. Special orders will be taken if you would like an ornament made of your home, pet or family photo. They really are quite nice; please stop by the museum and take a look.

This past year we have been working on interior renovations. We purchased new cabinets from the Habitat for Humanity's Re-Store in Washington for the research room and office area at a great price.

Over the years hard rains have resulted in water in the basement. **Rich Marsaie** has put Drylok paint on the walls and sealed the window wells where water might enter. We have also vented the basement so air circulation is better. Our house is shaping up quite nicely.

We have a new sign out front, "Hackettstown News," announcing events at the museum and with our society.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT — Gwen Chaar (12/2019)

VICE-PRESIDENT — James Newquist
(12/2020)

SECRETARY — Dale Hart (12/2020)

TREASURER — Betsy Browder (12/2019)

TRUSTEES

Cindy Cassini (12/2019)

Ray Lemasters (12/2020)

Joan Roehrich (12/2019)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR — Susan Morgan

(term expires)

☞ UPCOMING PROGRAMS ☞

March 5, 2019

In Search of Yankee Doodle
Presenter: Robert Mayers

April 2, 2019

"A Man, a Plan, a Canal, Panama"
Film by David McCullough

May 7, 2019

How to do Basic Genealogy
Presenters: Gwen Chaar & Ray Lemasters

**ABOVE PROGRAMS HELD AT 7:30 PM
AMERICAN LEGION HALL
494 Willow Grove Street, Hackettstown**

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MARCH IS

HACKETTSTOWN HISTORY MONTH!

Celebrate History Month by cheering for the Society's float at the **St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 10 at 3:30 PM.**

I've heard many people say when visiting the museum, "What a wonderful place, and I didn't even know it was here." Please stop in, the museum is a nice place to reflect on past memories and experiences. Knowledge for the past may help you understand the present and perhaps plan for the future.

We have history at our house!

**Gwen Chaar,
President**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome **Bob Loder** of Glen Gardner and **Susan Morgan** of Washington.

HONORARY MEMBER FOR 2019

We are very grateful to **Amine Chaar** for his continued maintenance of our HHS website and congratulate him on his honorary membership.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As we begin 2019, we have a total of **75** members, including **22** lifetime members.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2019

Our annual membership renewal period is **January 1st to March 15th**. To remain in good standing please fill out the renewal form enclosed with this newsletter and send it with your check to the address on the form. May we suggest a Lifetime Membership so that you do not have to remember to renew yearly?

Any questions? Send an e-mail to the Treasurer at **betsybrowder@earthlink.net**

**DUES MAY BE PAID IN PERSON
AT THE MARCH 5 MEETING.**

We thank all our members for your continued support of the Society.

☞ MUSEUM HOURS ☞

Mon & Tues — 10-3

Wed — 10-4

Fri — 2-4

**Special hours and tours by
Appointment**

HAPPENINGS AT THE MUSEUM

A lot of activity has occurred at the museum over the last few months. Major improvements were made in the reference room. An old cabinet that had been used for book storage was passed on to Rutherford Hall in Allamuchy. Thanks to the talents of our museum assistant **Rich Mesaric**, the cabinet was replaced with lateral file cabinets that serve as bases topped with new open book shelves that match the two existing bookcases. The change represents a very attractive improvement to the reference room.

Readers may recall the announcement in the Summer 2018 Newsletter that we had been lent a collection of photographs from the Saxton Falls and Waterloo area. Included was a request for help to make digital copies of the ones that were desirable for the museum collection. The call was answered by Newsletter Editor **Susan Morgan**. Through her efforts, along with identifications provided by member **Myra Snook**, we have a CD of digital photos along with germane information for the museum archives and for visitors to view.

We received a donation of an old auditorium seat from the Hackettstown Middle School, that also served as the High School until 1959. No doubt many members and museum visitors will recall sitting in these wooden seats and viewing it should bring back fond memories.

During the Fall, museum assistant **Rich Mesaric**, HHS Secretary **Dale Hart** and volunteer **Michael Veres** conducted a cleanup of the museum attic. Unfortunately, the attic had become a catch-all space over the years. Items to be kept were organized and a considerable amount of unneeded material was disposed of. A few items without historic significance are available for a donation. Stop by the museum or

watch for items to be offered occasionally at upcoming meetings.

Feature exhibits at the museum for 2019 are based on recently published books. They include a large display of World War II memorabilia and uniforms associated with **Ken O'Brien's** book, *The War Effort in Hackettstown: 1940-1945*; a display of memorabilia associated with the century-long horse-drawn vehicle manufacturing industry associated with **Ray Lemasters'** book, *A History of the Carriage Industry, Hackettstown, New Jersey* and an exhibit of Main Street businesses associated with the book *Historic Main Street, Hackettstown, New Jersey* by **Len Frank** and **Ray Lemasters**.

Stop by to see what's new that's old!

IN MEMORIUM

Doris Yvonne Lemasters, age 83, passed away on December 6, 2018 at home. A daughter of the late Clayton and Irma (Hoffman) Mooney, she was raised in Hackettstown and was a lifelong area resident. Doris was the co-owner of Norm's Auto Parts with her late husband Norman for 35 years. She was a life member of the Hackettstown Historical Society and assisted with event publicity for several years.

CONTACT US:

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Web - www.hackettstownhistory.com

www.facebook.com/HackettstownHistoricalsociety

Phone — 908-852-8797

Warren County History Expo
Saturday, April 13
10 am – 3 pm
Masonic Lodge, Rt. 31 North,
Washington, NJ
Visit the HHS Exhibit Table and Say Hello



ANNUAL JUNE FIELD TRIP FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY

**MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE TRIP
INFORMATION VIA EMAIL**

THE MUSEUM STORE

Books:

Historic Main Street, Hackettstown, New Jersey by Len Frank and Ray Lemasters - \$23.00.

A History of the Carriage Industry, Hackettstown, New Jersey by Ray Lemasters - \$20.00.

The War Effort in Hackettstown: 1940-1945 by Kenneth E. O'Brien - \$15.00

Books can be mailed for \$4.00 each p&h or any two for \$5.00.

CDs:

The History of Hackettstown by Dr. Ernest Dalton.

Union Cemetery Headstone photos, Vol. 1

Hackettstown Postcard views, Vol. 1

Hackettstown Centennial photos

All CDs - \$5.00 (\$7.00 mailed)

Holiday ornaments:

Holiday ornaments featuring images of thirteen different historic site will be on sale at the society's monthly meetings and in the museum. Special orders will be considered. \$5.00 each

Maps:

Reproduction of the beautiful Bailey & Fowler aerial view of Hackettstown originally printed in 1883. These two map makers are well known for producing accurate and highly detailed maps of many U.S. towns. The

Hackettstown map is done in sepia tone and is available in four sizes, all suitable for framing:

8 x 10 - \$10.00	16 x 20 - \$25.00
11 x 14 - \$18.00	20 x 24 - \$40.00

Arrangements can be made to mail these. The three larger ones would be rolled and in a tube.

Note Cards:

Vintage Hackettstown scenes.

Single	\$1.50
Pack of four	\$5.00

There are a few vintage postcards available. They are priced individually.

AN UNLIKELY INVENTOR

William H. Hann was born in Pleasant Grove, Morris County, on March 28, 1902. He was a son of Sidney and Mary Hance Hann. William moved to Hackettstown where he spent his adult life, residing at 200 Main Street. Although employed as an accountant at the Reliable Furniture store, he was by avocation an avid tinkerer and an inventor.

A vast archive of personal correspondence and papers in the possession of the Hackettstown Historical Society documents his many ideas and numerous inquiries as to the possibility of patenting his ideas. At least one of those efforts bore fruit. Over the years he contacted patent attorneys about the following ideas: Improved neck tie closure - 1921; Pastry shell filled with whipped cream - 1928; Car inner tube leak detector - 1933; Sanitary paper covers for toilet seats - 1936; New type of drinking glass - 1939; Device to hold an auto spring off the ground while jacking a car - 1946; Improved ice cube tray - 1947; New fountain pen design - 1949; Improved check valve for pumps - 1950; Car mop - 1953. It is obvious by this list of widely varying subjects that the inventive wheels were always turning in Hann's mind.

He did have successes however. In 1927 he obtained his first of two patents for a machine to mark tennis courts with lime. He obtained his second patent for the device on June 5, 1945. Both original patents are on display here. He was quite successful building and selling markers of the latter design under the name "Supreme Marker." He sold them to a vast number of universities including Princeton, the State of New Jersey, and even one to Ebbets

Field in Brooklyn, New York, the former home field of the present Los Angeles Dodgers. Paperwork for the sales mentioned is on display along with flyers and sports magazine ads for the machine.

Hann enlisted in the U. S. Army on September 25, 1942 and served as a bookkeeper. He was discharged on March 9, 1943 with a medical disability. William Hann died on January 2, 1966 at the age of only 63.



The Supreme Field Marker