



# NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021

## ✧ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ✧

To the members of the Hackettstown Historical Society:

I hope that you, your family, and your loved ones are safe and healthy. Even though the museum has been closed due to the pandemic, we have been working on new displays, organization and accessioning. Of course, we maintain social distancing, wear facial coverings, and work in small groups.

The museum is a small house and because of that the board does not feel that we can provide enough safety measures to protect our staff and visitors during the pandemic. Therefore, the museum has remained closed to the public since March, 2020. It's hard to believe that it's going on a year.

We have been working on planning presentations and hopefully our monthly meetings can resume in September at the American Legion.

If you have questions please send an email to [info@hackettstownhistory.com](mailto:info@hackettstownhistory.com) and we will answer as promptly as possible.

**Gwen Chaar**

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

We take this opportunity to remind our members that, due to the forced inactivity in 2020, membership dues have been waived for 2021. Your membership will remain current for 2021. Any questions? E-mail Betsy at

**[betsybrowder@earthlink.net](mailto:betsybrowder@earthlink.net)**

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

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT — Gwen Chaar  
VICE-PRESIDENT — OPEN  
SECRETARY — Dale Hart  
TREASURER — Betsy Browder

### TRUSTEES

Cindy Cassini  
Phil Dzielski  
Ray Lemasters  
Joan Roehrich

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR — Susan Morgan

The extraordinary circumstances brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic have precluded a normal election of officers and trustees for 2021. Therefore, the Executive Board voted to freeze all positions until an election can be held. At that time all terms will be reset so that the two-year terms of president and treasurer and vice-president and secretary are elected on alternate years and the three-year trustee terms are staggered.

The vice-president's office is presently vacant because **Jim Newquist** is dealing with serious health issues that necessitated his resignation.

You will also see that **Phil Dzielski** appears as a trustee. He was nominated last fall and the Executive Board voted to allow him to serve on an interim basis and have voting privileges until normal elections are held.

### CONTACT US:

Email — [info@hackettstownhistory.com](mailto:info@hackettstownhistory.com)  
Web — [www.hackettstownhistory.com](http://www.hackettstownhistory.com)  
[www.facebook.com/HackettstownHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/HackettstownHistoricalSociety)

## HAPPENINGS AT THE MUSEUM

A lot of activity has occurred at the museum over the last year in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In January 2020 the Display Committee arranged new feature exhibits of dolls and toys in the museum parlor. Due to the museum closure necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic, these exhibits will remain through the end of 2021.

During 2020 the Display Committee was also busy at the museum rearranging the second floor displays. The textile holdings are being sorted and assessed in order to better reflect the mission of the museum.

Some archival work was accomplished, although not as much as in a normal year. On a positive note, we have received some very interesting donations from far and wide.

In July **Barbara Ayers Wyckoff**, of Kent, Ohio, visited town. Barbara, a descendant of the **Ayers family** of Hackettstown, brought along and donated 43 pieces of family memorabilia.

In November a clarinet dating from the turn of the 20th century was shipped to us by **Deborah Ritter** of Seattle, Washington. Ms. Ritter is a descendant of the **Ackley family** of Hackettstown. It is known that the owner of the clarinet, **Lewis Arthur Ackley**, was a member of the Hackettstown Cornet Band and possibly other musical groups.



Above is a picture of the Hackettstown Cornet Band taken in 1905. Lewis Arthur Ackley is shown at the far left most likely holding the same clarinet recently donated to the museum.

In December the Hackettstown High School Sports Hall of Fame Committee passed forward several pieces of memorabilia that belonged to the late **Edgar Hart** of Hackettstown. He was a 1931 graduate of Hackettstown High School and a standout football player. Included were:

A Centenary Collegiate Institute football pin from 1903.

A framed photograph of the 1898 Hackettstown High School football team.

A framed photograph of the 1931 Hackettstown High School football team.

A program from the 1931 Hackettstown vs. Roxbury football game.

A Hackettstown High School varsity "H" certificate awarded to Ray Hart.

Hackettstown High School varsity football pins from 1929 and 1930 presented to Edgar Hart.

Another nice donation was just received in February 2021. **Linn Johnson**, a former resident whose father operated Hackettstown Nurseries from 1928 to 1960, donated several items associated with the business including an oil painting of the nursery done by his mother. He also donated five Lenni Lenape artifacts he found along the Musconetcong River when he was a boy.

*When we are able to reopen, please remember to stop by to see what's new that's old!*

## THE MUSEUM STORE

### Books:

*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.  
*Historic Main Street, Hackettstown, New Jersey* by Len Frank and Ray Lemasters.

Union Cemetery Headstone photos, Vol. 1

Hackettstown Postcard views, Vol. 1

Hackettstown Centennial photos

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

## MUSEUM STORE *continued*

### **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

Arrangements can be made to mail these. The two 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.

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## IN MEMORIUM

**Richard Arthur Smith**, 93, passed away at his home on August 4, 2020. He was a lifetime resident of the Drakestown and Smithtown Road area of Mount Olive. A Hackettstown High School graduate, Dick, as he was known, farmed in his early life. He resided for seventy-two years in the house he and his wife Dorothy had built. Dick and his wife owned and operated Smith's Greenhouses. He worked for the New Jersey Forest Fire Service, and he retired from M & M Mars in 1991. Dick had a broad interest in history and was a long-time member of the Hackettstown Historical Society.

## IN MEMORIUM *continued*

**Myra J. Snook**, 81, of Fredon Township, passed away on December 4, 2020. She was a lifelong resident of Fredon, most of that time spent on Maple Crest Farm owned and operated by her parents. Myra graduated from Newton High School in 1957 and attended Rutgers University graduating in 1961. She worked on the Sussex County Mobile Book Library for 2 years, was the Librarian for Byram Township Schools for 2 years, and was a Library Media Specialist for the Sparta School District for more than 30 years. Myra was the Fredon Township Historian and was involved in local history with numerous historical and canal societies, including the Hackettstown Historical Society. She was instrumental in starting the Paulinskill Valley Trail.

**Leonard Frank**, 96, of Newton, NJ, passed away on January 17, 2021. During WW II, Len served in the Pacific Theater with the Army Air Force. Through the G.I. Bill of Rights, Len went to the University of Wisconsin and earned a degree in Metallurgical Engineering. While at the university, he met and married his wife Erica. Employment at Picatinny Arsenal brought he and Erica to Hackettstown in 1960. Len loved his adopted town and served with Reverend Clarence Sickles on the committee to establish the retirement community of Heath Village. After retirement, Len devoted himself to his passions of preserving the environment. Together with his wife Erica, he backpacked all over America, hiked some of the highest mountains, and led Sierra Club hikes in the tri-state area. In the 1970s, Len started the Northwest NJ chapter of the Sierra Club. An early proponent of converting railroads to hiking trails, he was also a founder and first president of the Paulinskill Valley Trail Committee. Len was an avid stamp collector and amateur historian, specializing in New Jersey postal history, industrial development, the Morris Canal, and the Town of Hackettstown. He co-authored, with **Raymond Lemasters**, *Historic Main Street, Hackettstown, New Jersey*.



As mentioned, the Covid-19 pandemic has necessitated the ongoing closure of the museum. However, Display Committee members **Betsy Browder, Cindy Cassini, Gwen Chaar, and Phil Dzielski** have been very busy working on a museum makeover. On the second floor designated exhibit rooms were shifted around, and the displays are being updated. Here are a few views of the work in progress.



Above and below are two views of the newly created Early American Room on the second floor.



The three second floor display cabinets were placed atop cabinets and lighting was added.



The Newberry 5 & 10 candy case, circa 1960, now holds candy like it did when in use circa.



The seating has been rearranged in the parlor to create a cozy setting in front of the fireplace.

