



NEWSLETTER WINTER 2022

☞ UPCOMING PROGRAMS ☞

March 1, 2022

History of Rutherford Hall
Presenter: Joan Salvas

April 5, 2022

The Convoluted History of Slavery
in Warren County
Presenter: Shalyse Blakely-Oliver

May 3, 2022

US Army Medical Service in the Civil War
Presenter: Jason Dilts

**ABOVE PROGRAMS HELD AT 7:00 PM
AMERICAN LEGION HALL**

494 Willow Grove Street, Hackettstown



**MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING
REQUIRED AT MEETINGS**

The **Holiday Open House** in December was a well-attended success. Thank you to **John Covert** for once again displaying his vast array of collectible Santas, including vintage dolls, ornaments, and ephemera.

The museum has a new look. While we were closed we refreshed existing displays and added a few new ones. Curator **Ray Lemasters** put together an exhibit replicating an old-time Newberry's store candy counter. Once a familiar five-and-dime attraction for young and old alike, this display is quite amazing and brings back so many memories. Please plan on visiting soon. I know you will enjoy it.

Finally, as outgoing President, I would like to thank the Board and all the members for the privilege of serving you these past six years. It's been a great run! Join me in welcoming our new President, former Treasurer **Betsy Browder**.

Gwen Chaar

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To the Members & Friends of the Hackettstown Historical Society:

I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year! After a season of pandemic closures, we re-opened the museum and started the fall line-up of public programs last September. New rules are in place for masks and social distancing both in the museum and at the American Legion Hall. Everything seems to be working well.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

We are very grateful to **Ken and Joan Roehrich** and **Melinda Burdge** for supporting HHS by becoming Lifetime members.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We warmly welcome new members **Colleen Bain** of the Taylor Memorial Library at Centenary University, and **Susan Buechle**.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2022

Once again, it is that time of year for annual dues. Please fill out and return the attached renewal form either via mail or in person at the **March 1** meeting.

Gwen Chaar is now serving as Treasurer. Membership questions may be directed to her at **chaar@optonline.net**

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

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT — Betsy Browder (12/2022)
 VICE PRESIDENT — Susan Morgan (12/2023)
 SECRETARY — Dale Hart (12/2023)
 TREASURER — Gwen Chaar (12/2022)

TRUSTEES

Ray Lemasters (12/2022)
 Cindy Cassini (12/2023)
 Joan Roehrich (12/2023)
 Phil Dzielski (12/2024)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR — Susan Morgan
 (Term expirations)

☞ MUSEUM HOURS ☞

Wed — 2-4

Sun — 2-4

Special Hours and Tours by Appointment

106 Church Street

Phone — 908-852-8797

Email — info@hackettstownhistory.com

**Web — www.hackettstownhistoricalsociety.com
www.facebook.com/HackettstownHistoricalsociety**

HAPPENINGS AT THE MUSEUM

A town VIP of sorts stopped by the museum while visiting her birthplace in December. Catherine Ann Disbrow of Ontario, Canada holds the distinction of being the first baby born in the new Hackettstown Community Hospital when it opened in 1973.

In November we received an inquiry from Richard Doerner, a museum specialist in the Office of the Senate Curator in Washington, D.C. They are in the process of restoring some Senate office chairs that were purchased in the 1950s. They were originally upholstered with leather from the **Lackawanna Leather Company** in Hackettstown. Mr. Doerner was pleased that we were able to supply him with sample information for three of the four colors they were seeking.

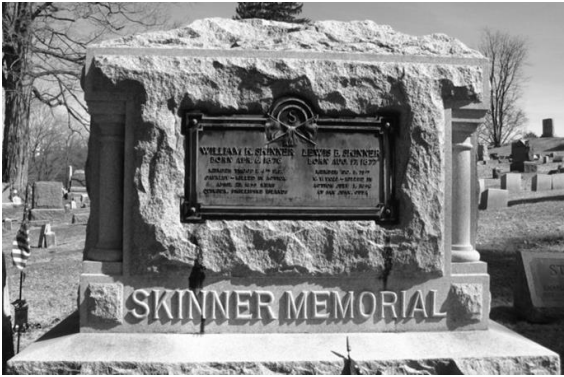
During the fall the **Display Committee** put the finishing touches on exhibits dedicated to the town's former businesses. Since the Museum's re-opening we have received visitors' compliments on the new displays and the increased exhibit signage. The **Display Committee** should take pride in their fine efforts!

Activities have continued elsewhere in the museum. With the help of volunteer **Maureen Lyons** work has resumed on updating our inventory of houses and buildings in the Historic District. Almost six hundred pages have recently been added to these binders, which continue to be a valuable resource for those seeking information about their home's age, architecture, or prior ownership.

In August a small collection of history books from the estate of **Robert Stiff** was gifted to the museum's **reference library**. Speaking of books, three recent additions to the library are of particular interest: *The Story of Waterloo Village from Colonial Forge to Canal Town* by John R. Giles, *A History of the Andover Iron Works*, and *The Morris Canal and the Age of Ingenuity*, the latter two by Kevin W. Wright.

New accessions include a wicker baby carriage, an unusual baby pull cart, and a patent model for a railroad car coupling device. These items, on loan since the 1970s, have been donated by their owners and are now part of the permanent museum collection.

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



The Skinner Brothers

This familiar monument in Union Cemetery commemorates the sacrifice of two brothers who were the only Hackettstown residents to lose their lives in the Spanish American War. It was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1916.

William K. Skinner and **Lewis B. Skinner** were two of the seven children of Albert H. and Christie Ann (Bowlby) Skinner. The family moved to Hackettstown in 1888 when Professor Albert Skinner became principal of the Hackettstown Public School. William and Lewis attended Hackettstown High School, graduating in 1894 and 1895 respectively. William's activities after graduation are not known. Lewis attended the Centenary Collegiate Institute, graduating in 1896. After brief periods of employment, the two brothers joined the U. S. Army in 1897.

The United States declared war on Spain on April 25, 1898 following the sinking of the Battleship USS *Maine* in Havana Harbor, Cuba on February 15, 1898. Among the many reasons for the war, the two primary ones are America's support of the ongoing struggle by Cubans and Filipinos against Spanish rule, and the mysterious explosion of the USS *Maine*. While questions remain to this day as to the actual cause of the sinking of the *Maine*, it nevertheless contributed to the declaration of war. The Spanish-American war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on December 10, 1898.

Private Lewis B. Skinner died on July 1, 1898 during a three-day battle at Santiago, Cuba. He was a member of Company B, 71st New York Volunteers. William K. Skinner died on April 25, 1899 in continued fighting in the Philippines. He was a member of the cavalry and was killed instantly while trying to recover his horse that had broken loose and run towards enemy lines.

HACKETTSTOWN HISTORY DAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 13



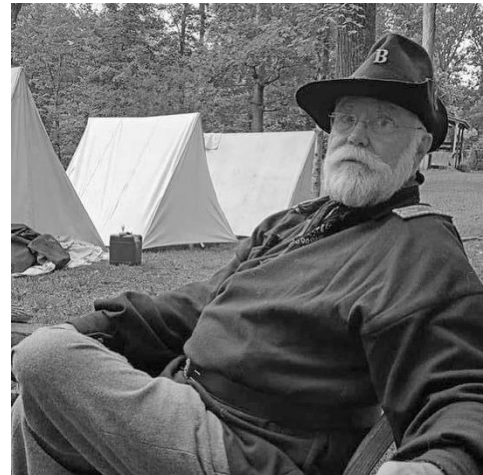
Museum Open House

Noon – 2pm

St. Patrick's Day Parade at 3:30

**Join Our Annual Celebration of
Hackettstown's Founding on
March 9, 1853**

IN MEMORIUM



Dr. Henry P. Shotwell IV, 77, passed away on January 14, 2022. He was born at the US Naval Hospital, Brooklyn, grew up in Staten Island, NY and most recently lived in Independence Township. At the time of his passing Hank was a semi-retired Senior Health and Safety consultant with HP Shotwell. He was a Certified Industrial Hygienist and held a PhD in safety engineering. His lengthy career in environmental, health, and safety fields included clinical experience at the Yale Arbovirus Research Unit, where he did research on dengue fever. Hank also worked at the 9/11 site assisting with air quality monitoring. A man of varied interests, "Major Shotwell" was a Civil War reenactor with the 2nd Rhode Island Company B Regiment based in NJ.

Hackettstown Historical Society, Inc.
 106 Church Street
 Hackettstown, New Jersey 07840

2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please renew my membership in the Hackettstown Historical Society.

Name(s) _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Email _____ **Phone** _____
 (Please **PRINT** clearly in block letters with case sensitive spelling. Email for member updates only.)

Amount enclosed \$ _____

One-year membership levels: \$20 single; \$35 couple; \$5 student.

Lifetime membership: \$200 single; \$300 couple.

MUSEUM STORE ORDER FORM

DELIVERY VIA MAIL OR PICK UP AT MUSEUM OR AT REGULAR MEETINGS

BOOKS Please add postage - \$4 for 1 book or \$5 for 2

_____ *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

MAPS

Reproduction of the beautiful **1883 Bailey & Fowler aerial view of Hackettstown**. 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. **Pick up at the museum or inquire to arrange mail delivery.**

_____ 8 x 10 - \$10.00

_____ 16 x 20 - \$25.00

_____ 11 x 14 - \$18.00

_____ 20 x 24 - \$40.00

Orders received before March 1 may be picked up in person at the regular Society Meeting at 7 pm in the American Legion Hall, Willow Grove Street.