



**In Celebration  
of  
Hunterdon County's Tricentennial**

**300 Fun Facts**

**A special thanks to  
County Historian John Kuhl, the Creator of This Collection**

Hunterdon County  
1714-2014  
300 Years of History  
[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The present day counties of Morris, Sussex,  
Warren, and the northern half of Mercer, all sit  
on land that once was Hunterdon's.  
The northern portion split off in 1739, the  
Mercer section in 1838.**

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**The frigate U.S.S. Philadelphia ran aground on the approaches to Tripoli harbor in today's Libya. It was burned in 1804 by a U.S. Navy raid to deny its use to the enemy. It was built of oak and hickory timber from Hunterdon.**

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**Lambertville was long the center of the county's  
manufactories. From the Civil  
War to 1872, its railroad shops there  
built 17 4-4-0 steam locomotives that ran on the  
Belvidere-Delaware RR line.**

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**From Civil War days through WW I Hunterdon's black walnut forests were highly prized by the federal government for rifle stocks and wooden airplane propeller blades.**

**Their delicious nuts are a bonus for cookie and cake bakers.**

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**William Griffith of Three Bridges was featured on 1937 ABC radio as the inventor of pink lemonade. Wind had blown the fat lady's pink tights into his vat of circus lemonade. He sold it anyway and a new popular craze was born.**

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**With early transportation incapable of rapidly hauling bulky, perishable cargo, the county's apple orchards turned to distilling the cider at home. Hunterdon became the late 1700s apple whiskey capitol of the colonies.**

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***Liver Eating Johns(t)on* was born a Garrison in the 1820s near the Hickory above Pattenburg. He took revenge on the Crow tribe who had killed his wife. The 1972 Robert Redford movie, *Jeremiah Johnson* popularized his life.**

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**Of 3,141 counties in the U.S. Hunterdon is the  
only county of its name.**

**It was named after its founding after  
Robert Hunter, the Scottish Royal Governor of  
New York & New Jersey in 1710-1720**

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**The ex-Governor and ex-Chief Justice  
(John Penn & Benjamin Chew) of Pennsylvania  
were prisoners at the Taylor homestead in  
High Bridge during the Revolution.  
They reportedly gave it its name, *Solitude*.**

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**Holland Township forms the western knob of the County. The last township to be added in Hunterdon, it was a difficult birth. It took from 1874 to 1879 to fully accomplish the process of separating it off from Alexandria Township.**

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**High Bridge was once a township. It was formed in 1871 from parts of Clinton, Lebanon, & Bethlehem Townships. In 1898 part of High Bridge was incorporated as a Borough and the rest returned to Clinton and Lebanon Townships.**

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**Jersey Barriers have long been used as road dividers and defense measures against terrorists. Their first use in the U.S. was as dividers on Jugtown Mountain above West Portal on old U.S. 22.**

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**Named for early owner Hannah Quick, Hannah's Rock above West Portal was said to be the largest uncovered rock in N.J. Local legend says a shoemaker and a ladder maker lived and worked beneath it years ago.**

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**The 1834 Delaware & Raritan feeder canal ran from Bull's Island near Raven Rock to Trenton to supply water to the main canal running then north to New Brunswick. It closed in 1932 and in 1974 it all became a state park.**

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**Hunterdon's brownstone was a popular building material for years in New York and other cities. A type of Jurassic sandstone, it was plentiful and was for a long time quarried in great amounts along the western edge of Hunterdon.**

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**Tisco is not a town name in our Hunterdon County but there is an avenue so named in High Bridge. Standing as the abbreviation for Taylor Iron & Steel Company, a 1909 attempt fell short of changing the name of High Bridge to Tisco.**

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**From the Landsdown station of the Lehigh Valley RR, ran a 1+ mile branch line into Clinton carrying freight and up to 6-8 passenger trains daily. Passenger service ended in 1936, freight in the 1960s. It is now a hiking trail.**

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**Though Flemington has been the county seat of Hunterdon since 1785, only three men have been hung in the town, all for murder. The last was Little Jim Guise in 1828. Thereafter, executions were carried out at Trenton.**

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**Trolley lines were once proposed all across north Hunterdon but only Lambertville had such service in the county from 1905 until 1924.**

**The line ran up the west side of the Delaware from Trenton to New Hope and then crossed the river.**

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**The four mile Pittstown branch of the Lehigh Valley RR ran from there to Landsdown. Built in 1890 mainly to haul peaches to the main line, it was characterized as**  
***The crookedest road in the world.***  
**Service on this line ended in 1968.**

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**Lambertville lays claim to being the only city in the county. In 1849 it was incorporated as the county's first borough and in 1872 with the population boost from its industrial activities, it became a city though Flemington now has more people.**

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**He may be little remembered today but Daniel Morgan, born in 1736 near New Hampton, became a famous leader on the frontier in the wars from 1750 through 1783. He served in the U.S. Congress after the war and died in 1802.**

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**Chet Huntley was a popular and well-remembered co-anchor of the long-running *Huntley Brinkley Report* on NBC Television. He owned a cattle farm in Delaware Township just above the covered bridge where he lived part-time.**

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**Lambertville resident James W. Marshall was building a sawmill at Sutter's Fort in California in 1848 when he discovered gold. He never profited personally but his discovery precipitated the famous California Gold Rush of 1849.**

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**The schoolhouse in Stockton has the distinction of being the smallest and oldest continuously operated public school in the state. The 1872 structure replaced an 1832 octagonal schoolhouse on the same site.**

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**The last gallows in Flemington was one borrowed from the state to hang convicted murderer John Schuyler in 1907. It was put up in the yard next to the county jail but was never used here because Schuyler received a reprieve.**

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**In 1886 Clinton saw the launching of  
*The Morning Star*, a 12 by 23 foot  
2 horsepower steamboat that would carry  
about fifty people on a pleasure trip of about  
two miles on the South Branch of the Raritan. It  
is pictured on local map drawings.**

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**City house-to-house mail delivery began in Hunterdon on February 1, 1909 in the City of Lambertville. Village Delivery of mail came to Flemington on November 15th of 1912. Before that, customers had to go to the post office for pickup.**

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**The Hunterdon Medical Center opened in 1953 to provide needed health care. Prior to that, much smaller doctor-run centers served basic needs in towns such as Ringoes, Glen Gardner, and Lambertville. The local hospital before that was in Somerville, now named Somerset Medical Center.**

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**The County is today blanketed by rescue squads and ambulances in every corner of the County.**

**But in the WW II era,  
much of the County was served by one  
ambulance operated by the  
American Legion out of Flemington.**

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**Hunterdon has long been a leader in the state's agriculture. In 1939 the nation's first artificially inseminated calf was born on the Stanton farm of Richard Schomp located just north of the Reformed Church in that town.**

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**Peaches were king in Hunterdon in the 1890s. The county had over 2 million peach trees, nearly half of all those in the state. Several railroad branches were built just to haul the peaches. It all ended by 1900 with an infestation of an insect named San Jose Scale.**

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**Slaves born in N.J. after July 1804 were somewhat liberated as of that date but older slaves still lived in Hunterdon in 1860. County voters went against Abraham Lincoln in both his presidential elections of 1860 & 1864.**

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**Dinkeys were gasoline propelled passenger coaches that ran lesser used rail spurs. Hunterdon's most noted was that which ran from Flemington to Flemington Junction on the Lehigh Valley RR. Clinton and other towns had theirs, too.**

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**Hunterdon's only Civil War general was George William Taylor of the High Bridge iron family. Taylor led the famed 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Brigade but died of wounds received at Second Manassas in 1862.**

**He lies buried at Clinton.**

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**Born in 1950, Danny Federici of Flemington made an early name in the musical field. He went on to greatness as a keyboardist in Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band. He died in 2008.**

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**One Hunterdon town derived its name totally from railroad activity. Junction became the 1800s name of the town that grew up where the New Jersey Central met the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western RR. By 1909 it became Hampton.**

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**Though poultry are gone from the  
Hunterdon of today, it was king here from the  
1930s to its death in the middle 1960s.  
Flemington's 1930s Cooperative Egg Auction on  
Park Avenue was the  
first and largest in the world.**

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**Not only locomotives were manufactured in Lambertville shops. Freight and especially passenger cars were made there too in the 1870s. Panel paintings by local artist Tom Van Camp decorated the passenger cars.**

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**Opera singer Anna Case was born in Clinton in 1888 and became one of the leading sopranos of her time. She recorded with Thomas A. Edison and at many top recording studios. She retired in 1930 and died in New York City in 1984.**

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**To provide water for an inland waterway during late WW II, a proposal would have dammed up the South Branch of the Raritan all the way from Two Bridges, wiping out Neshanic and Three Bridges back up to Flemington Junction.**

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**Older country folks well remember the annoying swarms of oats gnats which appeared in late July about the time of oats harvest. Those opposed to the Civil War policies of President Lincoln in the 1860s called them *Lincoln Lice*.**

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**Blue Jingers are a fact of life for many locals.  
They are a form of argillite common to the  
western part of the county. The early Indians  
used some argillites to form weapons and tools,  
but little other use has  
been found since.**

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**Proposals in 1930 would have dammed up the South Branch of the Raritan from Hoffman's Crossing all the way back through Califon to Long Valley. Available funds were not sufficient and the project was never completed.**

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**Land of Joseph Boss just south of the old fairgrounds was used in 1862 and 1863 for a Civil War recruiting camp. The 15<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, & 31<sup>st</sup> NJ Infantry regiments were formed there in 1862, and a fourth regiment in 1863, the 35<sup>th</sup> N.J.**

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**Starting in the 1720s much of northern Hunterdon was settled by Germans. But the WW I anti-German hysteria saw the town of New Germantown renamed Oldwick. To the north, German Valley became Long Valley.**

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**In the 1960s, both the Croton Flats and the Solberg Airport in Readington were leading options for a fourth NY Port Authority jetport. Determined opposition by locals finally put this to rest.**

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**In 1935 Hunterdon's courthouse became temporarily the center of world attention for the trial of Bruno Hauptmann, accused of the 1932 kidnapping and death of the son of aviator Charles Lindbergh from their home near Wertsville.**

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**Little trace remains of the giant Central Railroad coal storage yard just west of today's Hampton. In the early 1900's coal was shipped in on both the town's railroads, stored here, and then sent on East in the winter as needed.**

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**Before state police protection came to rural areas, concerned citizens across the county joined to form local vigilante societies for mutual protection. One of these formed in 1731 in the Flemington area was still active in 1930.**

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**Covered Bridges once dotted the county,  
their purpose being to lessen the effect  
of weather on their wooden construction. Only  
one remains in New Jersey,  
Green Sergeants' Bridge  
between Rosemont and Sergeantsville**

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**Asbel Welch of Lambertville was a leading construction engineer of his time. He built the Delaware & Raritan feeder Canal along the Delaware in the 1830s, and its paralleling route, the Belvidere & Delaware railroad by 1853.**

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**In the late 1700s, Hunterdon could lay claim to containing the nation's capital.**

**On several occasions, Congress met in Trenton (which was then within the county) because N.J. granted concessions that Philadelphia would not make.**

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**In the days of slow back-country travel, local inns were important. The section of today's County Route 517, north of Oldwick was known as *The Dinner Pot* where travelers stopped at a local boarding house to get food from their dinner pot.**

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**Built in 1763 by David Reynolds just south of today's Norton is Van Syckel's Tavern which served local Militia, Sons of Liberty, and nearby iron workers. Reynolds was hung in 1773 at Morristown for counterfeiting British currency.**

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**In 1776 Cornet Francis Geary led a British scouting party north to Flemington. He was killed in a skirmish with local militia & his men fled back to Trenton. He still lies in a grave east of Route 31/202 a mile north of Larison's Corner.**

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**The 15<sup>th</sup> NJ Infantry Regiment formed in Flemington in 1862. Its nearly 1,000 men included 253 from Hunterdon. Ninety one of the Hunterdon soldiers did not survive. Only 11 of the more than 2200 Union infantry regiments, lost more in battle.**

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**In 1816 copper ore was located in the area between Flemington and south towards Copper Hill. Companies formed to profit from this find but it never proved commercially viable.**

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**The Lindbergh home sat on land in Hunterdon  
and Mercer County.  
Because the window where the kidnapping took  
place was in Hunterdon County,  
the Trial of the Century was held in Flemington,  
the County Seat.**

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**Clinton's Red Mill is one of the iconic views of Hunterdon. Built along the river ca. 1810 it in turn, processed wool, plaster, grist, talc, and graphite. It also had lime kilns on the property and once generated area electricity. It is now one of the most photographed structures in the United States.**

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1714-2014

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**In 1956 during the period of real nuclear fear after WWII, searchers detected uranium ore near Raven Rock.**

**A mining company was formed amid much controversy but this discovery too, never proved commercially viable.**

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**Built during the Civil War to span the valley of the South Branch of the Raritan, the 100+ foot high Central Railroad bridge gave High Bridge its name. When safety concerns arose, today's dirt embankment was laid beneath it.**

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**Just off State Route 57 lies the  
Village of Penwell.**

**Most of it lies south of the Musconetcong,  
thereby placing it within Hunterdon and  
definitely making it our county's northernmost  
town.**

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**When service began in 1769,  
Bodine's Tavern at Three Bridges became  
the first overnight stage stop on the  
New York to Philadelphia stage line  
along the Old York Road. It took two days of  
hard riding to go from city to city.**

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**Hunterdon County can claim two native sons  
who became New Jersey governor.  
One was George C. Ludlow was born in Milford  
in 1830 and served as the 25<sup>th</sup> governor from  
1881 to 1884.  
Ludlow Station was named for him.**

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1714-2014  
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**Foster M. Voorhees (1856-1927) was the second  
Hunterdon native son to become Governor.  
Born in Clinton, he served from 1899 to 1902.  
His High Bridge farm  
became Voorhees State Park after his death.  
Burial was in Clinton.**

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**The area off State Route 12, near today's County complex, was once known as Bonetown which evolved from a tradition that a chicken-stealing family lived there and when forced to move, they left huge piles of chicken bones.**

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**Located first in Lambertville in 1949  
and later in West Amwell Township off Route  
179, the Lambertville Music Circus  
was one of the country's first tent theaters.  
Many famous performers got their start here. It  
closed in 1971.**

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**The Keith line ran northwest from  
Little Egg Harbor on the coast in 1686 to divide  
East Jersey from West Jersey.  
At today's Three Bridges, surveyors found they  
were too far West and stopped.  
The line south of there still stands.**

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1714-2014

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**Hunterdon was once the largest county in the colony of New Jersey. It was formed on March 22nd in 1714 from Burlington County and stretched from Trenton to the New York state border. In 1790 it had 1/9<sup>th</sup> of the state's population.**

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1714-2014

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**Clinton was the scene of a popular music hall from 1890 that seated up to 300 people. It had regular shows until 1904 and was revived briefly in the mid-1960s & 1970s. Popular western movie villain,  
Lee Van Cleef got his start there.**

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1714-2014

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**The first Flemington Fairgrounds  
was opened in 1856. By the time it moved  
to the new Fairground location below Ringoes in  
2001, it had become the  
second oldest continuously operated  
fairgrounds in the United States.**

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1714-2014

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**Hunterdon is dotted with old limestone kilns. When continuous cropping began to deplete local soils, and lower the essential pH, these kilns burned limestone to make it more usable for the plant.**

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1714-2014

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**From 1876 to 1909 in Ringoes,  
Dr. Cornelius Larison conducted his  
*Academy of Arts and Science*, and also published  
his *Fonic Speling Wurks* (Fonic Spelling Works).  
Not surprisingly, his unique method of spelling  
never caught on.**

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1714-2014

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**Quakers have a long history in Franklin Township. They acquired land for their Quakertown church there in 1733 and then rebuilt their present church at that site in 1862, thriftily utilizing the stone from the old original building.**

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1714-2014

300 Years of History

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**The South Branch Railroad opened a line in 1864 from Flemington through Three Bridges and Neshanic to Somerville. It was eventually absorbed into the Central RR system and today is run by the Black River & Western Railroad.**

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1714-2014

300 Years of History

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**Another of Hunterdon's older churches is the Dutch Reformed Church of Readington. Formed a bit to the east in 1719, it was moved to the town of Readington in 1738 and has operated there ever since.**

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1714-2014

300 Years of History

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**The Rockaway Valley Railroad was a short line that connected with the Central at Whitehouse & ran north through Oldwick to Watnong near Morristown. Hauling peaches and passengers, it was built by 1892 but failed by 1913.**

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1714-2014

300 Years of History

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**Flemington eventually had three railroads  
all of which ended in the town. The  
Pennsylvania and the Central each had  
turntables to reverse their engines.  
One of them gave the town's  
Turntable Junction its name.**

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1714-2014

300 Years of History

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**A point in central Clinton marks the junction of two branches of the Minisink Trail much used by the Lenape Indians for early travel. These routes were later utilized for the subsequent settlers' roads.**

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1714-2014

300 Years of History

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**A steeply banked wooden track for bicycle racing was torn down in 1932 inside New York's Madison Square Garden and was reconstructed outdoors just north of Sergeantsville. It was popular here until its wood fell apart by exposure to the elements**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**There are few records to mark the very earliest European settlers in the county.**

**The first fully credited settlers were the Holcombe family who came to Lambertville in 1705. Readington was a close second and may actually have been first.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Some think that the oldest house still standing  
in Hunterdon is that on today's Holcombe-  
Jimison Farmstead Museum on the northern  
edge of Lambertville. John Holcombe built it in  
1711.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**George Opdyke was born in 1805 on a Baptistown farm. A school teacher by age 16, he went on to national business success. As Mayor of New York City during the infamous 1863 draft riots, he firmly put down the uprising.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**When the interrupted stage service from Philadelphia to New York was resumed on the Old York Road after the Revolution, Centerville became the overnight stop for the travelers on what became the Swift-Sure Stage line.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**A ferry was operating by at least 1726 at what is now known as Lambertville. First known as Coates Ferry, it became Coryell's Ferry after its owner in 1733. It received its present name in 1814 after a prominent local, John Lambert.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The small town of Three Bridges in Readington Twp. was shocked in 1942 when the FBI moved in & arrested Richard Ernst Weber, a German spy and radio agent operating on a local poultry farm.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Thomas Jones built a stone tavern in 1760 between today's Clinton & Annandale. He was recruited from this tavern as a militia captain. It was here he was raided, robbed, and beaten in 1776 by Loyalists under neighbor John Vought, local Tory leader.**

•

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In 1759 Christoffel Vought bought land and built a stone bank house outside today's Clinton. He and son John were active area Loyalist leaders. Because of this their farm and contents were seized. They ended their lives in N.Y. state.**

•

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Continental troops camped in December of 1778  
at Oak Summit 1.5 miles north of Baptistown  
while escorting British and Hessian prisoners  
they had captured at the battle of Saratoga.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Once known as Neighbor's Mill, Califon got its name in reaction to the 1849 California Gold Rush. Legend says that it was shortened to Califon when a local sign painter could not fit the full name on his signboard.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Opposite the Red Mill in Clinton is the Hunterdon Museum of Art. This had functioned as a grist mill from 1837 until 1952 when it became a cultural center. Its art programs are known throughout the state.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The High Bridge & Longwood Valley RR was a branch of the NJ Central RR and was completed in 1875 to carry iron ore from the mines in Morris County down to the main line at High Bridge.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Just above Changewater in Lebanon Twp. was the site of Butler's Park. Built in 1929, its carousel and other attractions made it a popular local picnic destination for many until it closed in the early 1950s.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The oval 5/8ths mile Flemington Speedway on the site of the old fairgrounds once accommodated both horses and racing cars. Clay was put down on the track after 3 days of fair horse racing to make a tighter surface for the race cars.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**At age 21 Three Bridges farm girl  
Mildred Saums won the international milking  
contest at the 1939 World's Fair.  
She brought home a cash prize of \$25 plus a  
handsome silver trophy, and went on to a  
lifetime of farming.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**One of the earlier amusement parks in Hunterdon was Packer's Island along the Lehigh Valley RR near Rowlands Mills. Its carnivals and picnics attracted many until Bellewood Park opened in 1904 and put it out of business.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**For a time more than a century ago, the Delaware was home to sturgeon in numbers enough to make that fish's roe (eggs) a real competitor here in the United States to the classic caviar produced abroad in Russia and elsewhere.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Colvin's Ferry, Sun Beam, Sherrard's Ferry in  
1778, Lowrey's Ferry just later; all were  
preceding names for Frenchtown  
named after French officer  
Paul Henry Mallet-Prevost as of 1794.  
He was actually Swiss.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The 1759 house of Loyalist leader Christoffel Vought still stands on Greyrock Road outside of Clinton. A local group is now attempting to preserve its history & its unique interior architectural features.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**One of the more imposing homes in today's Hunterdon is the brick Georgian-style house built in 1760 for N.J. Governor John Reading. Owned today by the Stothoff family, it sits just off River Road in Raritan Township.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Charles Stewart came in 1750 to the Hamden area and built a house along the river. He was an early opponent of the British and was a Colonel in the NJ Militia, under General Washington serving as Commissary of Subsistence.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**When the Flemington Speedway (on the site of the old fairgrounds) ceased operations in 2002, it had featured auto racing since 1910. In 2014 it is the site of a Walmart super store, Lowes, & other shops**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**A quaking bog is a long-time wet area that features specialized plant species and layers of sphagnum moss and peat that undulate underfoot. Hunterdon has one of the last bogs, located off Black Brook Road in Bethlehem Township.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**A delightful hike up the hill from  
Erin Morales Park in Flemington will lead you to  
Uplands, the former imposing estate of  
George K. Large.**

**The buildings are gone and the road is no  
longer passable but the view is impressive.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Some history is no longer with us. An impressive three-story station house once sat at Landsdown where the Pittstown and Clinton branches met the main line of the Lehigh Valley. The station was torn down before WW II.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**After the Flemington Railroad (later the Pennsylvania RR) came into Flemington in 1854, the South Branch RR (later the NJ Central) through Three Bridges from Somerville in 1864 became the town's second railroad.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Another piece of history lost to Hunterdon was the American Hotel in High Bridge. Built in the 1740s, it served the town as an inn and meeting place until being razed in 1979. It is now a parking lot next to the post office.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Colonel John Mehelm house off New Bromley Rd. in Tewksbury Twp. boarded George Washington while his troops camped between White House and New Bromley. Tragically the house was destroyed by fire in the 1960s.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**During the Revolution, French General Lafayette recuperated in the Landis House along the Old York Road in Ringoes while a patient of local doctor, Gershom Craven. The house had been built in 1750.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The 1720 settler, John Ringo built a tavern where two Indian paths crossed. The village took his name and became Ringoes. The tavern was a meeting place for activities of the Revolution. Unfortunately it was destroyed by fire in 1840.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**An 1900s homestead along the Old York Road  
where it crosses the Neshanic River between  
Reaville and Ringoes acquired the popular  
nickname of “*Hollywood*”  
for certain interesting activities there.  
No trace remains today.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Another of the older, still active Hunterdon churches is St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Sky Manor Road near Pittstown.**

**From their original log church they moved across the road to their present stone church building in 1769.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Charles Stewart, was born in 1795 in Flemington. After a Princeton education, he went to Hawaii as a missionary. In 1828 he joined the Navy as a chaplain and had become senior chaplain in the service when he retired in 1862.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**One of Hunterdon's most valuable minerals was the high-grade magnetite (iron ore) deposits found along the ridge from Kingwood to beyond High Bridge.**

**These were mined as early as the mid 1700s all the way to WW II.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In 1885 a heavy ore train buckled the bridge over the South Branch of the Raritan in the gorge above High Bridge. One trainman was killed but the bridge was rebuilt and used for years. Today it serves pedestrians on the Columbia Trail.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Swayze Iron mine off Mine Road was a rich one. Ore was sent by a tramway downhill to rail access at West Portal. From 1939 to 1943 this mine produced over 250,000 tons of ore per year. It is county parkland today.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**A 50-sq. mile area in Alexandria Township southwest of county route 579 and Mechlins Corner has long been known as “*The Barrens*”. It was minimally farmed because of its less than productive soil but was known for its chestnut wood.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**George Washington, Lafayette, Von Steuben and others of the highest rank were entertained at the Hamden home of Charles Stewart.**

**Destroyed by fire in 1800, an imposing new residence was rebuilt across Hamden Road.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**You might not want to advertise that you lived  
at Bedbug point but it was the fine old local  
name of the area where the Barbertown-Point  
Breeze Road intersects with Old Route 12.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Nestled along the Delaware and County Route 627 in Holland Township, lies Hunterdon's westernmost town. Snell says the first house in Mt. Joy was put up in 1829. Its relatively secluded location has kept it largely a residential area.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Confusion has existed over the years about the name Holland. Holland Station was a small river town in Alexandria Township until 1879. After Holland Township was formed, the town name gradually went out of use.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Pottersville in the northeast corner of Tewksbury is the easternmost of the County's towns. First called Lamington Falls, and then Potter's Mills, it became Pottersville after its first post office was established in 1829.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Landing Ship Tank (LST 838) was built in 1944 and survived kamikazes off of Okinawa. In 1955 she was renamed the U.S.S. Hunterdon County and was one of just four of her class to distinguish herself in the Vietnam river wars.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The section of Delaware and Raritan Townships about .6 miles south of Croton, along County Route 579, got its name from the Boars Head Tavern established there as early as 1756.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Bull's (sometimes Bool's) Island in the Delaware, just off Raven Rock was called Ponnacussing by the Indians. Surveyed by Richard Bull in 1712, it has figured prominently in shad fishing and history over the years.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



***Hunterdon County Place Names***  
**cites Butler's Hole as a 60-foot depression in the  
bed of the Musconetcong about a mile below  
Bloomsbury. Legend says that pirate gold is  
buried nearby.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Rake Factory Road in Raritan and Franklin townships was named for Hiram Gary, farm tool maker from the 1850s on. Using local hickory and oak, he turned out rakes, but was even better known for his revolutionary wooden oat forks.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Molasses was a staple of the 1860s kitchen table. When the Civil War cut off the usual suppliers in Louisiana, sorghum became an important crop here. A quarter acre of good sorghum would yield 50-75 gallons of syrup.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Another vanished Hunterdon crop is flax. Its harvested seed yielded oil and by-products for animal feed. Mainly it provided fiber for spinning and weaving in the making of linen and linsey-woolsey.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Grandfather's clocks were the expensive central timepieces of both then and now. What helped keep them running was the oil from a hickory nut, squeezed out and applied in small quantities to the running parts.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**During the blizzard of 1888, the Lehigh Valley Railroad used an early system of wireless telegraphy to summon aid in plowing snow and righting a derailed train between Three Bridges and Higginsville.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Local newspapers of 1899 reported plans for a colony of several hundred Negroes in the area of Oak Grove in Franklin Township. It was proposed to extend the LVRR spur from Pittstown to this new town of “Rome”.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Interstate 78 was constructed in the 1950s. Most in Hunterdon today have never known the County before it. Old U.S. Route 22 (now partly Route 173) from East to West was a two- and sometimes four-lane road that preceded it.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The once more plentiful milkweed was a WW II strategic resource.**

**Hunterdon was second in the state in 1944 for milkweed pod collection.**

**Its fiber was used as a substitute for kapok vital for sleeping bags, life vests, etc.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**A town called Camelsville shows up in 1839 on a tavern license on the Flemington-Whitehouse road. By the 1850s it was Farmersville and shortly after became Barley Sheaf after its tavern which stayed on regardless of name changes.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In WW II Hunterdon lost 77 men dead from battle & all causes from a population of about 36,000+. Contrast that with the Civil War when 247 Hunterdon servicemen died from a population of 33,000+, a death rate almost 3 times higher.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Goat Hill, a rocky prominence overlooking Lambertville was used by both sides in the Revolution as an overlook to view up and down the Delaware. Goat Hill Road has recently been given public access so as to allow visitors.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The area where County Route 579 branches off from State Route 31, just north of Linvale, was once known as Satan's Corner for a theological squabble amongst members of the Linvale Methodist Episcopalian Church.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Sergeantsville was named for the Sergeant family of the area but its residents today would probably overwhelmingly choose that new name over Skunktown, as it was known prior to 1827.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Pigs were an important part of the early farm economy. Somehow, “*Sow and Pigs*” was the name given in 1881 to a shoal in the Delaware River about six miles north of Well’s Falls at Lambertville.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Delaware, Lackawanna, & Western  
from Scranton came into Hunterdon at  
Changewater in 1857 & connected at Hampton  
(then Junction) to the Jersey Central RR  
to run eastward.  
This 1857 line was abandoned in 1958.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In 1814 John Teeter purchased an existing mill in eastern Lebanon Twp. It became Teetertown but was subsequently called Wack's Mills and still later, Catertown. But by 1901 it was back to its original Teetertown.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Three Bridges third wooden bridge over the South Branch was built in 1813, thus giving the 1860s railroad town its name. By 1909 it was down to two metal bridges, and by 1970 the river was spanned by one concrete bridge.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Troutdale in Bethlehem Twp. along the Musconetcong between Asbury and Bloomsbury is the site of a fish hatchery established in the 1870s by Dr. J. H. Slack, a NJ Fish Commissioner to stock local rivers with trout and salmon.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Turkey Hill is a draw running south up hill from West Portal. It was the site of early iron mines, a sawmill, and was apparently named for its abundant wild turkey population.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**No original Lenape Indians remain in Hunterdon  
but Wissashawken,  
Wickecheoke, Nishisackaway, Neshanic, and  
Harikokake are only a few of the many  
waterway and area names they left behind.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Eleven died in Lebanon on December 30,1918 when the Odd Fellows Hall & Post Office was leveled by a gas explosion. Others were injured and the town's Post Office moved across the street to continue its operations.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Union Forge Iron works of High Bridge was established by Allen & Turner in 1742. Taken over by Robert Taylor by 1769, the ironworks turned out heavy arms and armaments for our nation's many wars for over 200 years.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Railroad service to Hunterdon came in 1847 when the Central RR reached Whitehouse from its initial base of Elizabeth. The road pushed on to Easton by 1852 and one of N.J.'s major transportation routes was completed.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Beech trees still abound in wetter ground in Hunterdon, but are of little practical use. A fact of local legend is confirmed by Indians who would always point out that lightning “No Hit Um Beech”.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**A 1999 photograph pictures a huge KC-135E, one of the tankers of the 108<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing based at McGuire Air Force Base adjoining Fort Dix. Prominently emblazoned on the nose of the plane is “Hunterdon County”.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Constructed between 1960 & 1964, Round Valley Reservoir in Clinton Twp. was not completely filled until 1975. Covering 2,300 acres and containing 55 billion gallons of water, it is New Jersey's largest reservoir.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Devil's Tea Table sits in a limited access area of Kingwood Twp about 250 feet above the Delaware. On its level summit sits a 12 foot high rock shaft with an extended top that resembles an old one-legged table.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**From the middle of Trenton north in 1776 was old Hunterdon and therefore, most of the 1776 Christmas battle of Trenton took place within the county lines. Hunterdon militia had gathered the boats and helped to lead the way.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Being all of Hunterdon in 1714,  
Amwell soon lost the northern & western  
townships. In 1838 the remainder was  
separated into Raritan, Delaware and Amwell  
townships. In 1846 Amwell was divided into  
East & West Amwell.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Surrounding the Round Valley Reservoir is the horseshoe formation of trap rock called by the Indian name, Cushetunk meaning place of Hogs. This was also called Hog Mountain as late as 1844.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**On July 4, 1826 Flemington was the host to mark  
the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
Declaration of the Independence.**

**A parade of surviving Revolutionary War vets,  
speeches, toasts, food, (and no doubt also,  
drink) marked the day.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Besides their valuable wood, local black walnut trees also provide a delicious but tedious nut fruit. Collected, dried, and then shelled, their flavor is unsurpassed. It takes John Kuhl (the author of these fun facts) today, 1.5 TV football games to shell out one quart!**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**The majority of Hunterdon area Indians lived along the Delaware & Raritan Rivers. But, Indian relics found in Round Valley date as early as 6,300 B.C. With plentiful game, plant life, and water, it was an ideal habitat for Indians.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Flemington became the county seat in 1790 but it was not a unanimous choice. People south continued to think it should be Trenton. Those to the north wanted Clinton. This envy seems to have lasted to the present.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Offering commercial opportunity to West Portal in 1897, a promoter moved in some 200 Italians and began building a large stone wall. He took off after this great hoax with his loans unpaid, leaving the town with nothing but the wall.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Whitehouse born attorney George H. Large was the last survivor of America's first football game, that of Rutgers versus Princeton in 1869. Playing for Rutgers, he was knocked cold. Once NJ Senate President, he died at 88 in 1939.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Another Hunterdon agricultural first was that of Stockton area poultryman, Joseph Wilson. In 1892 he was the very first to ship newly hatched chicks by rail to his customers, a practice soon followed by many others.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Hunterdon's fertile soils and widely available water powered grinding mills supplied a grainery and bakery to feed Washington's army. NJ Deputy QM General & Forage-Master Moore Furman operated out of Pittstown.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Hunterdon's Freeholder Board now consists of five members. Prior to 2000, it was just three.**

**But before 1902 it was composed of one representative from each town or township, and you had to own land to be eligible for election.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Transportation magnate John Stevens developed the first steam locomotive, invented the now widely used T-rails, and became one of the most well-known men of his time. He grew up on his father's farm in Round Valley.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Water for the Round Valley Reservoir had to be pumped uphill nearly 3 miles through a huge pipe from the pump station down along the South Branch at Hamden. It took nine years of pumping to finally fill the reservoir in 1975.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Daniel F. Beatty, born in 1848 in Lebanon Township, was a natural musician who commenced making and selling pianos and organs in Washington, N.J. on a huge scale. He was the first to sell them via mail orders. He sold out in 1892.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The largest town in Readington Township is Whitehouse, the location of its town hall. It is named for the pre-revolutionary, white plastered wall of the old tavern of Abraham Van Horn. It was briefly also known as Fairville.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Sourland rocks are known for their diversity of size and shape. On Pero Hill in East Amwell Township is the notable formation known locally as the *Three Brothers*. It is worth the trip to see this unusual creation of nature.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**They were completing the recently closed old Brick Tavern along the old New Jersey Turnpike (I-78) in Union Township when came the news of Commodore Oliver H. Perry's decisive naval victory on Lake Erie in 1813. Perryville got his name.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Hunterdon has 8,280 acres of county parks in 26 different locations that serve a variety of purposes from nature to history and culture. Hiking opportunities are fantastic from easy up to relatively hard at Point Mountain.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Unless there has been a death or disruption in the family, few encounter the Hunterdon County Surrogate who administers to the estates of those deceased, also matters involving the Orphan's Court, adoption, and guardianship.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The office of the County Clerk is an important one in Hunterdon. Its concerns include elections, deeds, mortgages, veteran's matters, i.d. cards and passports, plus many others of a clerical nature.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Lambertville's great annual Shad Festival  
is largely ceremonial today but these fish were a  
mainstay for many centuries.  
This herring relative came up the Delaware each  
Spring to spawn.  
It all but petered out by 1900.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**One of the older churches in the county, the  
Zion Lutheran Church was organized  
three hundred years ago in Oldwick  
on August 1, 1714.**

**Several structures have served the congregation  
over the years.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The office of Freeholder was early on a bastion of landowners, but until recently it was also male dominated.**

**Marcia Karrow was elected Hunterdon's first female Freeholder in 1999.**

**She went on to the State Assembly in 2006 and State Senate in 2009.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**John Hart of Hopewell in old Hunterdon,  
was a NJ delegate to the Continental Congress  
and signer of the Declaration  
of Independence. Pursued by the British,  
he lost many of his possessions and  
died in 1779.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Pattenburg, according to Howard Lance Jr. got its name from a patented rye whiskey made in the town. The stuff sold in cities for about 30 cents a gallon. The town, once called Calvins Mills, was named, he said, in honor of the Patent Office.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937)  
became the richest man in the U.S.  
with his Standard Oil and a near monopoly on  
all U.S. oil. It all started with his immigrant  
ancestor who farmed and is buried near  
Rocktown below Ringoes.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Flemington got its first courthouse in 1791. It burned in 1828 and was rebuilt on the same platform but not before people urged moving the county seat to Lambertville. Frenchtown also campaigned for consideration.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Since its opening, there have been nearly 25 drownings in Round Valley. With its huge expanse and waves up to three feet, the user must stay alert. The cool waters at its 180-foot depth have never yielded up many of the bodies.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**John Wanamaker is a famous department store name stemming from the first in Philadelphia in the 1860s. His immigrant grandfather, Henry Wanamaker was a 1700s German Palatine immigrant to the Sandbrook area of Hunterdon.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Crossing the Musconetcong between  
Warren & Hunterdon counties  
at the extreme northern tip of Hunterdon  
is the recently refurbished, old classic  
triple arch stone bridge,  
the only one left in Hunterdon.  
It is worth the trip.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Pottery has been a prime business in Flemington since Samuel Hill set up in 1814. Hill's employee, Abram Fulper took over in 1858. Fulper's employee, Martin Stangl took control in 1928. Production ceased in 1979.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**An 1858 Fink, iron truss bridge over the South Branch at Hamden was completely collapsed when a car hit a vertical support in 1978. It was thought to be the last of its kind. The road was realigned and only a footbridge ever replaced it.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**On the Readington side of the  
Flemington-Whitehouse Road  
is the old site of Dart's Mill.  
It had once been Reading's Ford.  
It had been a flax mill and a grist mill and after  
that a Lace mill. It burned in 1982.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Militia Colonel John Taylor's 1760 Mill east of Bissell was the last of Readington Township's pre-Revolutionary grist mills. It ground grain for Washington's Army but its mill operation ceased in 1929. It was afterwards a power plant.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In the archives of the Hunterdon County Historical society are issues of the newspapers from ten of the eleven county towns that have published them here from the first (Hunterdon Gazette in Flemington) in 1825 to the present.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Hunterdon has no movie theater today but in 1909 Flemington's Lorio Brothers started a theatre for which they charged 5 cents per admission. New owners in 1920 transformed it into the Palace Theater on Flemington's Main Street.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**By 1760 Asher Mott was operating a mill at Teetertown in Lebanon Township. It eventually was owned from 1961-1980 by show business personality, Merv Griffith. He named his TV company Califon Productions after that nearby town.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



***The Sage of Hunterdon County,***  
**Hiram Deats died in 1963 at age 92. Author,**  
**publisher, collector of coins, stamps, and**  
**anything historic, he was one of the founders**  
**and chief benefactors of the**  
**Hunterdon County Historical Society.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Van's 1940s pool in West Portal was locally popular and was one of the East's largest. A bar and grill of Jerry Colona's brother later opened on the spot. But the spring-fed pool water was ice cold and by the 1960s was out of use.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**On U.S. 202 in Raritan Twp. just south of Three Bridges is Northlandz the largest model RR in the world. With up to 100 trains running on 8+ miles of track through unique scenery, plus other attractions, it is a must see for all.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**It is not easy to divide a township into two.  
There are many matters to consider. When  
Franklin was set off from Kingwood in 1845, it  
took much deliberation to divide the paupers.  
Franklin got 9, but Kingwood  
was saddled with 14.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In 1929 Jacob Todd Jr. told the story of one of Hunterdon's real old-timers. In 1894 an aged tortoise was found with carvings on his back; "Tobias Nevius, 1737" and "John Hagaman 1777". One wonders if the turtle might still be out there.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**According to the G.I.S. Division of the county,  
the highest elevation in Hunterdon is  
1,064 ft. in Lebanon Township southeast of  
Point Mountain. The lowest is just 50 feet above  
sea level on the Mercer-Hunterdon county line  
on the Delaware.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Spruce Run Reservoir sitting mostly in Union Township, became operational in 1963. Built both for flood protection and supply downstream, it is the state's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest reservoir at 11 billion gallons.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**The prevailing cloth for home-made everyday clothing in the 1700s and 1800s was linsey-woolsey. Its warp was made of flax and its woof of wool. Home-dyed, this was a strong and durable cloth for everyday use.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Potterstown in Readington Township was never a populous town in the 1730s and is not still. One notable business was its fenced in skunkery that produced pelts without trapping for them. Food was an occasional horse carcass.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Paul “Pops” “The King of Jazz” Whiteman (1890-1967) was a big name dance band leader of the 1920s & 1930s. He lived on a farm west of Rosemont from 1938 to 1959 when he sold it to Lloyd Westcott & moved to New Hope.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Peggy Shippen lived in 1776 with her parents on today's River Road in Raritan Township. She is believed to have played a considerable role in the treachery of her husband, Benedict Arnold. The couple fled & lived out their lives in England.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**German-born artist Kurt Wiese established his Idell home & studio in 1930.**

**Parts of the murals of the Union Hotel in Flemington are among his works. He died in 1974 at age 87 having illustrated over 300 children's books.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**“The greatest invention of the age”  
was a small, horse-drawn wooden corn  
cultivator patented in 1874 by Three Bridges  
area farmer, Oliver Kugler.  
Its simplicity, repairability, and low cost saw it  
sold across much of the country.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Five Gardner brothers established a chair making business in Clarksville in 1863. So successful was their stronger & cheaper chair that they were soon employing 700 people. By 1873 the town was renamed Glen Gardner.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Another *Jutland* Massacre saw the Meany family of Jutland chasing off SPCA officials in 1926. Police shot two Meany's, killing Beatrice. Two police officers were convicted of theft. It nearly short-circuited the new State Police force.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Flemington-born Bessie Vosseller became nationally known for the training of child choirs. She was a founder of Flemington's famed Choir School in 1895 that located on Chorister's Place in 1910. She died in 1939 at the age of 65.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Fulling mills once dotted the county. Fulling itself consisted of turning and pounding the wool cloth and compressing it in water to tangle the fibers. This smoother, harder fabric was then more resistant to wear and weather.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The small Doric style 1811 office building near the Hall of Records in the town of Flemington once served Samuel Southard, NJ Governor, Secretary of the Navy, and U.S. Senator. In the 1900s, it was a ladies retreat and restroom.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Snakes were not just snakes here in  
Civil War times. Republicans called those who  
opposed Lincoln and his war measures**

***Copperheads.***

**Copperheads, in turn, termed their  
hated opposition Republicans,**

***Blacksnakes.***

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**A High Bridge historian recalled that Arline Pretty had gone to school in that town. She became a popular leading lady in silent films starting in 1910, and did rise to star with Douglas Fairbanks Sr. She died in 1978 aged 92.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**A new observatory was opened in Hunterdon in 1970. Its 18 acre site within Voorhees State Park had a large 26 inch telescope and sat at an elevation of 840 feet in a dark area to provide good viewing of the heavens.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Hunterdon's leading ski lift area was situated between West Portal and Asbury on County Route 643. Operated from 1961 to 1971 on land owned by the Osmun family, it was then the largest in the state.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**At eye level just a few feet off the speeding lanes of traffic on I-78 at exit 15 at Clinton is Abraham Bonnell's 1767 tavern along the old Brunswick Pike. It was a gathering place for both the public and militia during the Revolution.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Some say Jutland in Union Township was named for the 1916 WW I sea battle in the North Sea. The split decision saw a massacre with heavy losses on both sides. But the name was in use by 1905 at a coroner's inquest in Union Township.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Two different newspapers in 1866 vied for the support of local Democrats.**

**The Democrat and the *Hunterdon County Democrat* both published side by side in Flemington. After a year new owners combined them.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Mildred Preen Mortimer's father owned  
the stone quarry at Oldwick.  
She grew up as a hands-on person.  
In 1941 at age 22 she was elected to the NJ  
State Assembly, the youngest ever.  
Born in 1918, she died in 1979.**

Hunterdon County  
1714-2014  
300 Years of History  
[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The cowboy hat of Glen Gardner resident Ruth Carpenter, was well earned. She worked her way up through the Hunterdon County Sheriff's office from 1959 to 1977 when she was elected Sheriff for six years, New Jersey's first woman Sheriff.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**One of the four Herr brothers from Whitehouse  
fought in WW I,  
Major General John K. Herr, from 1938 to 1942  
when the horse arm was abolished,  
the last Chief of U.S. Cavalry.  
He defended his horses to the last and  
died in 1955.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**War is costly.**

**Rebecca Clifton, owner of a farm in Quakertown, saw her real estate taxes climb from a norm of \$12.80 in 1861 to \$72.00 in 1865.**

**All of the increase went to the township's share of providing troops for the Civil War.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Washington, NJ. born Christian Sharps invented a breech-loading rifle that was a main-stay in the frontier and Civil War era. He was said to have tried out his weapons at the Lance farm in Tewksbury Township, now a county park area.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Tuccamirgin was chief of a small band of Delawares found living on land bought in 1738 by J. Phillip Kase just west of Flemington. He and Kase became friends. The chief died in 1750 and was buried on Kase's land on Bonnell Street.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Dr. George Andrew Viesselius  
(the red-cheeked doctor) emigrated & set up his  
medical practice near Three Bridges in 1740. A  
very delightful story is too long to relate here.  
He died in 1767 and was buried on his own  
property.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**On the night of October 4, 1877 a bad storm washed out a Del-Bel Railroad bridge spanning the Quequacommissicong Creek at Milford. A passenger train, the Oswego Express, plunged into the void. Tragically, eight died.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**German immigrant in 1890, Max Schrabisch became the expert archaeologist of N.J. Indians. His 1917 N.J. Conservation Bulletin #18 detailed and mapped some 400 Indian sites and settlements in the confines of present Hunterdon.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Norwegian air figure Thor Solberg established an airport just north of Readington in 1941. With two 3,000+ foot runways on 725 acres. it is the busiest of the three county commercial airports and the site of an annual balloon festival.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**It was a perilous occupation but log rafting of a thousand or more logs, was the most expedient method of sending timber down the Delaware. Begun before 1750, it continued until the timber supply had petered out by 1900.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Hunterdon's abundant rainfall of between 45 & 50 inches per year plus its hilly topography provided unsurpassed water power resources. Hunterdon had more mills than any other county in the 1700s.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In the 1940s there were seven feed mills for animal feed in Flemington alone. In 2014 there is only one left in all the county, in Penwell up on the northern fringe of Hunterdon.  
Agriculture has evolved  
mostly to crops.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**There are only two farm fertilizer plants in all of northern New Jersey. But such is Hunterdon's hold on the remaining crops industry that they are both in Hunterdon County, one in Jutland and the other in Bloomsbury,**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**The term “King’s Highway” in English Common Law was any public passage for the use of the Sovereign and all his or her subjects. So roads like today’s County Route 579 & State Route 202 were once termed King’s Highways.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Brunswick Turnpike was started in 1806 to connect New Brunswick to Phillipsburg through White House, Clinton, & on to Bloomsbury. Tolls were charged initially, but not for long. This was also known as the NJ Turnpike.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**I-78 road signs at Newark already read “Clinton”. Why? By a 1970’s U.S. Government definition, a township was not a place but a unit of land. The borough of Clinton is the first exit after Newark that is not in a N.J. township.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**On I-95 east of Ewing is an exit marked Federal City Road. In the 1790's the U.S. Congress passed enabling legislation to make that area the capitol of the new U.S. It didn't happen but old Hunterdon could have been the U.S. Capitol.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Hunterdon's only "home" railroad today is the Black River & Western. It runs along the old South Branch RR from a connection to the old LVRR at Three Bridges through Flemington to Ringoes on the old Penn. RR.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Its liquor license was shifted to Whitehouse  
some years ago, but the Three Bridges Tavern  
was the first in the County to be raided during  
the early Prohibition Days in the 1920's.  
Prohibition lasted until 1933  
when it was repealed.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**With poultry gone and dairy about defunct in Hunterdon, farmers are turning to alternate agriculture. Interestingly, Hunterdon probably leads all state counties in its number of Christmas Tree growers.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Trusted by Washington, General  
“Scotch Willie” Maxwell ably led N.J. Militia.  
Though he lived just north of the county, he  
operated out of Bonnell’s Tavern in Clinton &  
died in 1796 while visiting Gen. Charles Stewart  
at Landsdown.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





***Hardscrabble Hill* was the Flemington hill along today's State Route 12 to Frenchtown; it was named for the hard pull up for horse teams. The old Model "T" Fords had more power in reverse, so drivers sometimes backed up steep hills.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Hunterdon County Place names says the small country town of Spring Mills in Holland Township had the former name of Helltown in the 1760s from a local tavern which apparently often got a bit boisterous in the evenings.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**George Coryell, army Lieutenant during the Revolutionary War, is perhaps better known as a last minute substitute as a pallbearer for George Washington. Coryell died in 1850 at age 91 and is buried in Lambertville.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**A theater in a reworked barn opened in 1939 off Baptist Church Road in Union Township that attracted main line stars of the time. It closed in 1962 but was being renovated by a new theatre group when it burned in 1979.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In 1981 this new theater group opened the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in a brand new building on 90 acres just off I-78 at Perryville. It has enjoyed continued success as a popular dinner theater ever since.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In Hunterdon and indeed much of the country,  
the year 1816 was a different one.  
It was remembered in local papers as the year  
of no summer with snow and cold  
from January to December.  
Obviously it was especially tough on farmers.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**George Rea of Pittstown in 1796, and three  
early 1800s Flemington men,  
Joachim Hill, Richard Hooley, and  
Thomas Williams were all noted  
grandfather clock makers of Hunterdon.  
Their tall, stately clocks still tick today.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Before WW II the Northwest New Jersey Airport was sited on land of the Fritsche family in Union Township where the office building of Foster-Wheeler now sits. After the war the family moved its airport to the present site at Alexandria Field.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Built along the South Branch of the Raritan in 1742, the undershot grist mill had been known since the 1870s as Rockafellow's Mill. It was regarded as the oldest and best mill site on the river when it was destroyed by fire in 1928.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Rural Free Delivery (R.F.D.) is still yet a fact of today's beleaguered Postal Service. Hunterdon's first R.F.D. route was centered about the Oak Grove Grange in Franklin Township on November 1, 1900. Pittstown was second in 1903.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Joseph Kugler was a respected farmer of Frenchtown. A firm and out-spoken Democrat, he was arrested in 1862 for treason and taken to the Old Capital Prison in Washington D.C. Influence got him released but he died in 1864.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Dick (“Nick”) Foran appeared in over  
200 movie films after 1933.**

**He appeared with the famous, was nominated  
for an Academy Award and has a star on the  
Hollywood Walk of Fame. Born 1910 in  
Flemington, he died in 1979.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**American Tobacco, United Fruit,  
Eastman Kodak, and Quaker Oats are only four  
of some 150 large U.S. corporations that called  
Flemington home in the  
1940s to the 1970s until they lost  
their tax advantages for doing so.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In the days when Hunterdon's old  
1791/1828 court house was the  
full symbol of county justice, there was a large  
bell in the belfry that was used to call the legal  
parties back to the courthouse when a jury  
decision had been reached.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**One of Hunterdon's more unusual sights is the seven story high Volendam windmill on Adamic Road in Holland Township.**

**Built in 1965 by Paul Jorgenson, the 68 foot sail arms operated until damaged by wind in 2007. It is now closed.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The stone office building of the Tisco complex in High Bridge ranks as one of the oldest office buildings in the United States. Built in 1741, it served the (Taylor) iron company continuously until being abandoned in the 1970s.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Hunterdon's Great Swamp was known to early residents as a broad area of tableland in Raritan and Delaware Townships near Croton. It is not a true swamp but its heavy soils prevent water from rapidly draining away in wet times.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Hickory, or sometimes Hickory Corners, is an old area of Union and Alexandria Townships where County Routes 579 and 614 meet. It got its name from the old tavern at the intersection that hosted stagecoaches as early as 1756.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Hunterdon has a long history of capable fire companies. The first was in Lambertville just before 1830 when that town and New Hope across the river started a mutual company. Flemington's fire department was next in 1845.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Belvidere and Delaware RR reached Lambertville from Trenton in 1851 and pushed north by 1854 to Phillipsburg. Its passenger route was also used by other RRs. The Penna. RR bought it in 1872.  
Its operations ceased in 1978.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Relative newcomers to the county cannot appreciate our recent growth. From a 1940 population of 36,766 which was less than its 1870 population of 36,963, its population in 2010 had zoomed to 128,349, a 350% increase!  
(from the 2010 census)**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Some 500,000 million years ago a chain of islands collided with early North America and rode up over the top of its geologic plate. The rock from the islands created the New Jersey Highlands. Before that Hunterdon was a shallow sea.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Newspapers of 1902 reported that “Indian Peak” on West Sidney Road in Franklin Township slid to reveal underground ceremonial caverns with old hieroglyphics. Tourists flocked to the area, inundating local hotels and taverns. Hoax???**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Hunterdon's average temperature is 51.22 degrees, slightly under the 54.45 degree average temperature for the U.S. Hunterdon's all time low recorded was -18 degrees in January of 1984, its high was 106 degrees in July of 1936.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Lambertville was known in 1726 as Coates Ferry and from 1733 Coryell's Ferry, both after its ferry owners. After a few years as Georgetown, it officially became Lambertville in 1814, named for the local Lambert family.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Union Township today has neither a post office nor a grocery store. It is home to the Hunterdon Developmental Center, Edna Mahon Correctional Facility, Spruce Run Reservoir, public hunting grounds, and several parks which take up a good percentage of its total 20.6 sq. mi.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Hunterdon County Historical Society was formed in 1885. In its River Road archives building & in its Main St. location in Flemington, is the largest collection of local historical material anywhere. It is now becoming more accessible.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Once large in local economy but now a thing of the past, are the paper mills at Lambertville (1857), at Milford (1907), and from the 1870s on the Musconetcong between Warren & Hunterdon at Hughesville, Warren Glen, & Riegelsville.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**A British scouting party found  
Charles Pidcock of today's West Amwell Twp.  
home on leave from his Revolutionary War unit.  
He scrambled to escape & hid under a rock. He  
gained a valued trophy,  
the lost hat of the British officer.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Flemington Fur is the country's largest fur outlet under one roof and is familiar to many outside Hunterdon. Open since 1921, their impressive store in Flemington on Spring Street has long been an attraction to out-of-town shoppers.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**With increasing auto traffic, the first automatic railroad crossing gates ever to be installed by the Jersey Central RR, were at the Whitehouse Station grade crossing after a Hunterdon Grand Jury had requested it in 1946.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Star football athlete and black political activist Paul Robeson was New Jersey born in 1898. He was best known for his singing and got his initial musical instruction in Bessie Vosseller's Flemington Choir School on Chorister Place.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Delaware River Flooding  
was especially bad in 1841, 1955, and 2004-6.  
But the standard by which all are judged, is the  
Flood of 1903 in which all but one of the  
county's bridges over the Delaware were  
destroyed. Stockton's bridge survived.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**To commemorate Airmail Week in 1938  
Hunterdon's only airmail flight left an airstrip in  
Union Township for Newark. Piloted by  
Marvin Everitt in a Piper Cub & funded by  
Riegler Paper of Milford, it carried 3,084 letters  
from local senders.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In December of 1965, First Lady Claudia “Lady Bird” Johnson visited Lambertville to inaugurate The War on Poverty, the theme of her husband, Lyndon, the President. Lambertville was a leader in fair housing programs.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Ringoes' doctor, Gershom Craven treated General Lafayette in the 1770's. His grandson, Commander T.A.M. Craven commanded the U.S.S. Tecumseh in 1864 at Mobile Bay, Alabama and went down with his ship under heroic circumstances.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**From the founding of a small clothing store in Flemington in 1878 by the Nevius brothers, the business expanded to become a leading department store in Somerville, Trenton, and New Brunswick through the 1970's.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Today's mega-stores have driven many small hardware stores out of business. But for knowledge of their product & the sheer diversity of their inventory, few hardware stores anywhere can match that of Finkels in Lambertville.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**A recent planning board exhibit underlines the changes in local agriculture. Hunterdon has lost out in cows, hogs, and poultry but is now ranked #1 in the state in squabs & pigeon production, and # 2 in both horses, and pheasants.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**It is difficult to determine the oldest library in Hunterdon, but certainly one in Flemington was among them. It was incorporated in 1800 with just 75 titles to loan at first but soon expanded to over 200. It operated until about 1834.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Granges were once pre-eminent in the economic and social affairs of farming. Hunterdon's first was Ringoes in 1873 and within the next 20 years they grew up all around the county. Only several such organizations survive today.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Historian Snell stated in 1881 “that there were no villages of importance” in West Amwell Township but residents of Mt. Airy would disagree. It was a stage stop along the Old York Road and was the site of the mid 1700’s Holcombe storehouse.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Pittstown's picturesque Century Inn has been serving patrons since the 1760s. It was enlarged and rebuilt in 1800 by Moore Furman, gutted by fire in 1913, rebuilt, and enlarged and rebuilt still once more in 2001.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**On the Musconetcong in Lebanon Township is  
New Hampton. It had several early 1800's  
taverns and mills and is ironically much  
older than today's nearby town of  
Hampton (once Junction).**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Not all blacks in colonial days were under-privileged slaves. Aray Van Guinea (Genee) owned considerable property in the area of Potterstown in Tewksbury Township. In 1740 he sold one of his farms in Readington Township.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Something in the air, here?  
Mary Slaney Decker was born in 1958 at  
Bunnvale in Lebanon Township.  
From 1972 to 1982 she held six world  
records as a middle to long distance runner.  
Several injuries combined to end her career.**

Hunterdon County  
1714-2014  
300 Years of History  
[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**North Hunterdon High School graduate Anna Marie Lauck (nee Letko) grew up in Glen Gardner. Running in middle to long distance races, she was twice NJ state champion and in the 1990s, finished high in many Olympic & world class races.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Hog Hollow Road in Alexandria is today a very nice residential and rural area but its unromantic name comes from a depression along the Little Nishisakawick Creek where presumably hogs ran wild.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**When Union Twp. was divided from Bethlehem in 1852, some said it should be called Rockhill Township for its prominent colonial family. But it took its name from the Union Forge Iron works in the northeastern part of the township.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**A plaque in Hampton's town park marks the 1715 site of Pelouesse, a town of the Minsi or Munsee tribe of Delaware Indians. Their name comes from the hard, black chert rock they used to make and trade arrowheads and tools.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Riegel Ridge Community Center was opened in 1938 by the Riegel Paper Company for its employees and their families. It is now operated by Holland Township and offers a wide range of recreational and social activities.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Stockton Inn (Colligan's) was built in 1710 &  
has been a tavern since 1796.  
Immortalized in 1933 with the  
Richard Rogers/Lorenz Hart show tune;  
"There's a Small Hotel",  
it has hosted such notable visitors as  
Paul Whiteman & Jackie Onassis.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Despite declining numbers of sizeable farm operations, Hunterdon County still has over 100,000 acres of farmland, about one-seventh of all in the state.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**In front of the old courthouse on Main Street in Flemington is a unique water fountain erected by the Flemington Woman's Club in 1902. On three different levels it offers water to people, dogs, and yes, even then to horses.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Little Easton was an area just west of Flemington off Route. 12. In the early 1800s local residents applied the name for the activities of an unsavory family in that area. The name Easton was then known far and wide as a place of sin.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**The Sourland Mountains form the rocky and long-time superstitious eastern border of Hunterdon. The name “Sauerland” was applied by German settlers before the Revolution to indicate its infertile or poor crop land.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)





**Clover Hill is a small town that lies partly in both  
Hunterdon and Somerset.**

**It has long been inhabited. Early names were  
Coughstown, Koughstown, and Cuxtown before  
it finally became  
Clover Hill in 1848.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



**Dreahook (triangle in Dutch) is a mid 1800's hamlet a mile south of Whitehouse. A previous name dating to 1818 was Scrabbletown. Except for large poultry operations of a few decades ago, commerce has pretty much passed it by.**

Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)



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Hunterdon County

1714-2014

300 Years of History

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For additional information on these facts visit:

Hunterdon County Historical Society  
114 Main Street—Flemington, NJ 08822  
or the  
Hunterdon County Library  
314 State Route 12—Flemington, NJ 08822

Hunterdon County  
1714-2014  
300 Years of History  
[www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org)