

TRADITIONS OF HUNTERDON

To jump-start your holiday gift-giving, the Hunterdon County Historical Society plans to sell 250 copies of the rare, classic book *Traditions of Hunterdon*, which recounts the county's early history and legends. John W. Lequear is believed to have written the material in 1869-70 when it first appeared in the old *Hunterdon Republican* newspaper as a series of articles entitled *Traditions of our Ancestors*.

Those articles were re-edited and published by D.H. Moreau, owner of the *Hunterdon County Democrat* newspaper in 1957. The current owners of the newspaper recently gave the books to the Historical Society for its fundraising purposes. These soft-cover books were reproduced photographically in the early 1980s from an original hard-bound copy. Those originals cost \$5 in 1957, but they now list for up to \$125 on the Internet. The Historical Society is offering these books at \$12.

Traditions of Hunterdon has 210 pages, including an index, a map, and 82 photographs taken in 1957 of places mentioned in the text. According to the author, in Revolutionary days Hunterdon was largely unsettled frontier territory and people who lived here were generally loyal to the Colonial cause. The text contains a wealth of genealogical material and data on early land holders, ghosts and heroes. Sample chapter titles include *John Ringo's Buried Fortune*, *General Lafayette a Guest Here*, *Seven Wild Turkeys in One Shot*, and *The Bewitched Pig*.

John Lequear, a farmer and land surveyor, was a founding member of the Historical Society and served as its secretary for 20 years. He lived in Kingwood Township from age two to 82 when he died in 1905.

Books may be purchased at the Historical Society at 114 Main Street in Flemington on Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. and on the second and fourth Saturdays, excepting holidays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. By mail, send a check payable to the Hunterdon Historical Society for \$17, which includes \$5 for shipping. Call 908.782.1091 during the hours above if you have questions.