

## **Local Spotlight: Repository Holdings**

### **Hanover Township Landmark Commission**

*by Carole Flatley & Mary-Jo Solomon*

The Hanover Township Landmark Commission (HTLC) Archive is located in the Hanover Township Community Center Building at 15 N. Jefferson Avenue, Whippany, NJ. The archive is open by appointment only.

On Wednesday April 11, 2018 MAGS Special Projects Group members Carole Flatley and Mary-Jo Solomon met with Rachel Conti, archivist, and Theresa Swala, volunteer, members of the Hanover Township Landmark Commission. The HTLC is a branch of the Hanover Township governing body. It began in 1976 when the town agreed to accept the responsibility for the historic Whippany Burying Yard. The commission members and volunteers have been working diligently to preserve as many artifacts of town life as possible. We met in the Archive Room at the Community Center and there our guides showed us many of the historical items in the collection.

The archive has a unique variety of local treasures including 1841 and 1864 ledgers, the Morris County Beers 1868 and 1887 maps, 1887 Hanover Township Map, the Township Charter 1740 - Incorporated in 1798, the Crane Family History binder, the Men and Women in Service 1944, a Blue and White 1919 yearbook, the autobiography of Rev. Jacob Green, the 1778-1781 tax ratable abstracts, and the 1895 Innkeeper's License. Time prevented us from delving into and investigating other treasures, but allows us an opportunity to return again.

For New Jersey's Tercentennial, Hanover Township compiled the History of Hanover Township, New Jersey 1676 – 1976 in the book: "Along the Whippanong". In 2006 Leonardo A. Fariello, a HTLC member, wrote the book, "A Place Called Whippany", which includes the aboriginal history of Whippanong, colonial history, and background on the villages of Whippany, Monroe, Malapardis and Cedar Knolls, which compose modern day Hanover Township. In 2016 the HTLC created the booklet; "Journey through Old Whippenny" written by Len Fariello, Barbara Blumenfeld and Michael Czuchnicki. This includes photographs of many historic homes, town landmarks and historical markers. The rich history of the people and their contributions to the area is well documented in these books. These books are in the Whippanong Library which is adjacent to the community center.

The MAGS indexing Group has indexed many of the Images of America books on local history. Please go to the MAGS website, <https://mags-public.weebly.com/books.html> to "Search" to "Books" to *Hanover Township, Whippany and Cedar Knolls* (Arcadia, 1998) and look up your ancestor's name.

The Hanover Township Landmark Commission has done a magnificent job with documenting the history of "The Whippany Burying Yard". At the following website, [www.hanovertownship.com/Portals/1/Landmark/BY\\_Tour.pdf](http://www.hanovertownship.com/Portals/1/Landmark/BY_Tour.pdf) you can view the booklets, "Tour of the Whippany Burying Yard 1718" and the "Walking Tour Map of Whippany Burying Yard". The HTLC will again be celebrating Independence Day with a

July 4 guided tour of the burying yard. It is the best way in Morris County to commemorate this important day. [Note: The September 2016 Issue of the MAGS Newsletter has an article on "Whippany Burying Yard".]

In 2006, April Plantamura, a student at the College of St. Elizabeth, completed an internship project, "Who's Who in the Whippany Burying Yard". She improved on an earlier project done by the local Boy Scouts, researching the lives of the individuals buried in the yard and including biographical information. April searched the USA Census records from 1830 to 1930 to document more fully many of occupants of the Burying Yard. The research includes a complete list of all the soldiers buried in this cemetery. The HTLC has had markers created with the military information about them to honor the veterans.

Part of the duties of the Commission is the care and preservation of the existing gravestones in the Burying Yard. Due to age and weathering, they have had several of the badly worn stones repaired and reinforced. In the process of doing this, the Commission has stumbled upon a mystery. While doing restoration on Colonel Joseph Tuttle's above ground crypt, a broken part of a tombstone was discovered. The half piece was for a John Price, son of Daniel Price and Sarah Price, but no record of any Price Family was found. Thus interesting questions arise, who were the Price Family, where did they come from and how did the tombstone piece come to be in the crypt?



The Whippany Burying Yard is celebrating its 300th Anniversary this year. On Saturday, October 20, 2018, the Hanover Township Landmark Commission will hold a "Gathering of Old and New Families" at the Whippany Presbyterian Church at 494 NJ Route 10. The HTLC is inviting descendants of the founding families – Bates, Bigelow, Burnet, Cory, Crane, Fairchild, Flatt, Ford, Hopping, Kitchell, Richards, Stills, Tuttle and all other local families to come to the Tricentennial celebration. Please contact HTLC Chairperson, Michael Czuchnicki, at [Michael.czuchnicki@verizon.net](mailto:Michael.czuchnicki@verizon.net) directly for more information and to sign up for the event. It will be a wonderful time to recount local stories and family memories. Also use the email above if you have local memorabilia: old photos, flyers, postcards, pamphlets, yearbooks or family genealogies that you wish to donate or if you want to visit the archive.

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The Special Projects Group (SPG) members have been visiting local repositories to learn what genealogy related materials might be available for review by our members in researching their ancestors and/or gaining historical context to enhance their stories. The SPG has completed the inventory of genealogical and historical information in the Denville Historical Society and Museum. This information is now up on the MAGS Public website. If you know of a local repository that the SPG should visit, please contact the Special Projects Group at [maryjosolomon@gmail.com](mailto:maryjosolomon@gmail.com)