

# THE MOUNT AMWELL NEWS

## Locktown Cemetery

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On April 27th the following letter was sent to Mary MacConnell, Kingwood Township Clerk for presentation to the next township Committee meeting:

*Township of Kingwood  
599 Oak Grove Rd.  
Baptistown, New Jersey 08803-0199*

*Township Committee:*

*It has recently come to our attention that the cemetery located at 15 Locktown Road (Block 17,*

*lot 4, Class 15E, tax-exempt cemetery) is inactive and in a deteriorating state. Moreover, the property is listed as "owner "unknown." The Mount Amwell Project 501(C) 3 qualified non-profit New Jersey Corporation dedicated to historic preservation within Hunterdon County. Preserving and stabilizing inactive historic cemeteries is one of the types of projects that we pursue. The cemetery on Locktown Rd. is a perfect candidate for restoration and we are very interested in taking it on as a restoration project.*

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*Proposal: Kingwood Township transfer ownership to the Mount Amwell Project for a nominal fee (e.g. \$1.00). The Mount Amwell Project will restore and maintain the property in perpetuity. The restoration and maintenance will provide many benefits to the township and county including historic preservation, a clean and attractive site, and demonstrate respect to the families of the individuals buried there.*

*We would appreciate your consideration of this proposal whenever it is convenient.*

*Respectfully Yours,  
David R. Reading  
Executive Director*



**Bob Leith and Bill McCrea at the Moore Cemetery**

The MTAP has not received an official response from the committee as of this writing, but the results were reported by Rick Epstein of the Hunterdon County Democrat on June 11, 2013. He writes that the letter was discussed by the Committee at their June 6th meeting and quoted the Mayor, Phil Lubitz, speaking of the MTAP, “the organization looks after, restores, and maintains abandoned cemeteries in the county, something that’s near and dear to us here in Kingwood.” He also reported that there were problems associated with the proposal, the most significant being that the current owner is unknown. The next step will be to follow-up with the township historian, Sal DeSapio, who according to Epstein is the designated point-of-contact for Kingwood Township regarding our proposal.

The MTAP was alerted to this plot by Robert Leith of Flemington. Bob has single handedly restored

the Moore cemetery in Delaware Township (see picture) which we visited on May 11th. When we ask about potential restoration projects for the MTAP he took us to Locktown Road.

It is hoped that we can restore one cemetery a year and that Locktown is the first. We will continue to locate other potential restoration candidates in the county.



### **The Reading Family of New Jersey Collection**

**By David R. Reading**

Josiah Granville Leach reproduces portions of letters from George Reading to his brother Thomas during the Revolutionary War. In the foot notes, he notes that the letters are currently (1898) in the possession of Mrs. Alexander Gulick. A recent reorganization at Princeton University Library’s, Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections Manuscripts Division has uncovered the location of these letters, although not all. The collection contents contain two of George’s letter (Leach mentions 5), several letters from concerning Thomas service as a Hunterdon contractor supplying hay to the Continental Army, and the original four vellum sheets of Gov. John Reading’s Will. A complete citation of the collection is shown in the sidebar.

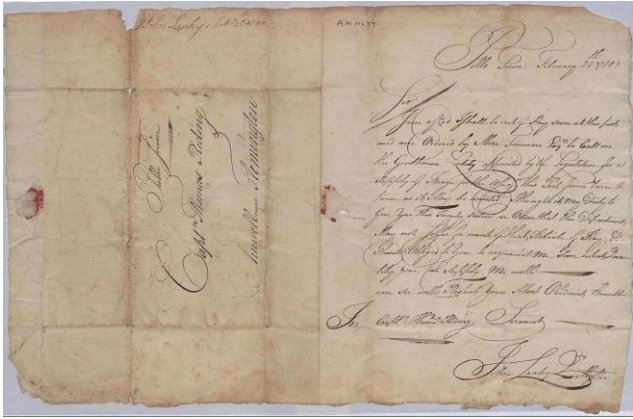
Princeton has recorded that the collection was donated to the library in 1936 by Mrs. James Donaldson Paxton, Class of 1895. Mrs. Paxton was Myra Reading Gulick, daughter of Almira Reading and Alexander Gulick. Almira certainly was the Mrs. Alexander Gulick mentioned by Leach. Myra’s brother, Alexander Reading Gulick, left in his estate all of his “family heirlooms...historical papers” to her in 1934. He probably inherited the historical papers from his mother when she died in 1913. Almira Reading was the daughter of Robert Kennedy Reading (1790-1853). Robert Kennedy was the son of John Reid Reading and grandson of Captain Daniel Reading. Daniel was the son Gov. John Reading.

A new and interesting discovery in the collection are the letters form members of the New Jersey legislature to Thomas Reading regarding his contracts to supply hay to the Gen. Washington’s



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army. We have obtained photo copies of the letters and as far as we know no transcriptions exist. We will provide transcriptions in the future. An example of a particularly elegant note addressed to Capt<sup>n</sup> Thomas Reding, Amwell<sub>near</sub> Flemington from John Leahy.



**Letter to Thomas Reading from John Leahy,  
Feb 25th, 1780**

We have also purchased high resolution photo copies of Gov. John's will. The will is written on four large sheets of vellum.



**Dave Reading examines Gov. John Reading's will in Rare Books and Manuscripts Reading Room at the at Princeton University's Firestone Library.**

### Reading Family of New Jersey Collection, 1757-1787 (bulk 1765-1781)

**Call number:** C1253

**Repository:** Princeton University. Library, Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections

Manuscripts Division, One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA

Size: 2.5 linear feet, 1 oversized flat box, Language(s) of Material: English

**Abstract:** Consists of correspondence and documents of three members of the Reading family of New Jersey: Thomas Reading, his brother George, and their father, Governor John Reading. Most of the material deals with incidences during the time of the American Revolutionary War.

**Location:** This collection is stored onsite at Firestone Library.

All material, except for the marriage license, was a gift of Mrs. James Donaldson Paxton, Princeton Class of 1895, on November 4, 1936.

Marriage Certificate Between Jacob Green and Mary Brailey, 20 October 1757

Letters from Sydney Berry to Captain Thomas Reading, 1780

Documents by William Chamberlin, January 1780

Document by Philip Dils to Thomas Reading, 25 August 1781

Letters from Azariah Dunham to Thomas Reading, 1780-1781

Letters from John Leahy to Thomas Reading, 1780

Letter from John Matthews to Thomas Reading, 15 June 1780

Letters from George Reading to Thomas Reading, 1779-1787

Documents (Will) by John Reading, 29 October 1767

Document by Thomas Reading, 1780

Document by Thomas Reading, 1 March 1769

Document by Thomas Reading to William Chamberlin, 25 August 1781

Documents by Thomas Reading, 1779

Indenture Document by Thomas Reading to William Humphrys, 30 August 176

Document by Thomas Reading to William Chamberlin, 25 August 1781

Documents by Thomas Reading, 1779

Indenture Document by Thomas Reading to William Humphrys, 30 August 1765

## Cemetery Protection Legislation Update

The New Jersey Assembly passed the “Family and Private Burial Grounds Preservation Act” on December 3, 2012 and sent it to the Senate where it was referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. The bill (A1580) was inspired by the tragic destruction of the Hendricks/Hendrickson family cemetery in Holmdel, NJ in 2010.

The act provides the legal protection necessary to prevent the disturbance and destruction of burial grounds in the State that have been established and used exclusively by private persons or families. The bill would make it unlawful to disturb, destroy or mutilate remains, tombstones, or fences.

The current status of the bill as reported to the MTAP by Charles T. Burton, Chief of Staff of Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski is as follows:

“A-1580 (Private Burial Grounds Preservation) passed the Assembly on December 3, 2012. It awaits consideration by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. Senator Joe Kyrillos is the Senate sponsor. We’ve asked that the bill be posted for a hearing.”

Everyone is encouraged to contact Sen. Kyrillos and express their support for this bill.

Email: senkyrillos@njleg.org,  
Tel: 732-671-3206.

Contributions to this important effort can be made to:  
Andrew A Hendricks, MD,  
President, Hendricks and Hendrickson  
Family Association,  
103 Rosewood Drive,  
Lumberton, NC 28358.

## John W. Kuhl to Speak at Annual Meeting

The fall meeting for 2013 will be held again at the Frenchtown Inn. The speaker will be life-long Hunterdon County resident and Civil War scholar John W. Kuhl. He will speak about his recently published book, *Hunterdon County in the Civil War: the Times, the Men, their Stories*. Save the date: October 26th at 12:00 noon. Details will be mailed out in September.

## Change of Address

The Mount Amwell Project is moving to New Jersey. The new address effective June 25th 2013 is:

97 Bissell Road  
Lebanon, New Jersey 08833

Telephone 908-236-0276

## New Member

We welcome new lifetime member Canadian Jean Pfleiderer to the MTAP.

## Web site Members Access

The MTAP web site ([www.mtamwell.org](http://www.mtamwell.org)) includes a member’s only page. Content includes current newsletters. To access simply click on the members page and enter user: member, password: mtap2008

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**Phone:**  
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