

THE MOUNT AMWELL NEWS

MTAP Establishes Chapter

The group that is preserving the Swackhammer cemetery have agreed in principle to organize and become the first chapter of the Mount Amwell Project. They will form an unincorporated association and the MTAP will grant the association a charter establishing the chapter. This arrangement affords the Swackhammer group an administrative convenience for obtaining non-profit status through the MTAP. The MTAP acting as a central organization and can request the IRS to issue a group exemption letter directly to the Swackhammer association. The chapter will independently maintain the Swackhammer cemetery and churchyard and upon

Inside This Issue

First Chapter	1
Quit Claim Deed	2
Reading-Howell Connection	3
Announcements	4

receipt of the exemption letter be able to accept tax-exempt contributions from the public. In a related action, the MTAP has been granted a deed to churchyard property by the Lutheran Synod of New Jersey. (See below).



Left to right: Sharon Smith, Margret Rowland, Karen Hulick, Kelly Lindheimer, Tom Bodell, Jeff Chiu, Jeff Williamson, Dave Reading, Patricia Barber, Joan Chiu (photo by Bob Leith)

Swackhammer Deed to MTAP

The Lutheran Synod of New Jersey has granted a quit claim deed to the MTAP (see sidebar for abstract). It was the culmination of the efforts of many people but primarily Joan Chiu, representing the Swackhammer group, and Tom Kull, Treasurer of the Synod. The site had been listed on the Township’s tax map as “owner unknown” which presented complications to the group for long term maintenance, liabilities, etc.

Informal talks between Joan Chiu and Tom Kull resulted in the Synod’s agreement to grant a “Quit Claim” deed to any non-profit organization with the proper qualifications. At a meeting organized by Bob Leith, in August 2013, Jeff Williamson, representing the Swackhammer group, presented the idea to Dave Reading, representing the MTAP. Dave supported the concept but explained that his Board of Directors would have to approve it. With this verbal commitment, Jeff passed this back to Joan, who passed it to Tom Kull.

The Synod’s governing board approved a resolution on 6 March 2014 to convey any interest in the Swackhammer property to the Mount Amwell Project and the MTAP board subsequently unanimously approved a resolution to acquire Swackhammer cemetery on 9 April 2014. On June 17th 2014 the deed and associated paper work was hand delivered to the Hunterdon County Clerk’s Office in Flemington for recording.

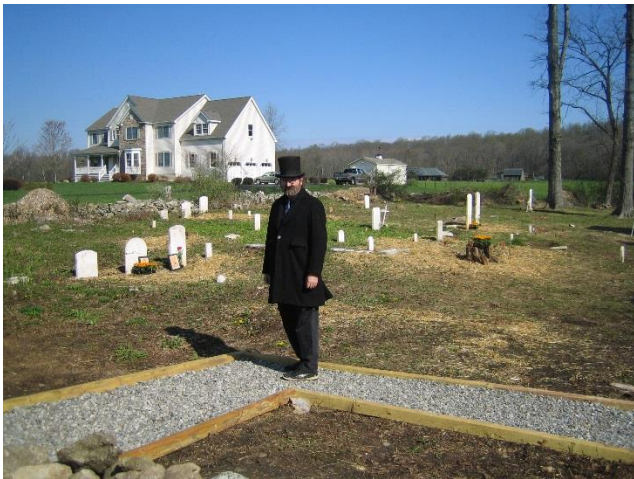


Figure 1: John O'Brian at the Swackhmaer Cemetery for the 300th Hunterdon tour in May 2014

Swackhammer Deed Abstract

Lutheran Synod of New Jersey to the Mount Amwell Project Inc., Quitclaim Deed
Hunterdon County New Jersey
Deed Book __, page __
Drawn March 2014, recorded 13 June 2014

This Deed is made on March 10, 2014, between New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, referred to as the Grantor, and The Mount Amwell Project, Inc., a New Jersey Corporation, referred to as the Grantee.

The Grantor grants and conveys (transfers ownership of) the property described below to the Grantee. The Property consists of the land and all the buildings and structures on the land in the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, and State of New Jersey. The legal description is: Tax Map Reference Municipality of Lebanon Township Block No. 57, Lot No. 32, commonly known as 110 Anthony Road, Lebanon, New Jersey 08826.

Grantor makes this Deed to the Grantee to relinquish whatever right, title and interest the Grantor has upon information and belief, the Property was at one time previously owned and utilized by a group practicing the Lutheran religion. Grantor is unaware the duration of time that this group operated at the Property, when such operations ceases, or how title ownership of the Property has derived to the present. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 16:5-26, all property owned by an incorporated Lutheran Church of New Jersey at the time such Church disbands, or ceases to function or conduct worship passes to and becomes vested in the synod with which the said Church is affiliated at the time of such default. The Grantor is one of sixty-five (65) synods in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and it is likely, though not subject to confirmation, that the Property would be within the territorial boundary of the Grantor through merger and succession.

Accordingly, to the extent that the group practicing the Lutheran religion at the Property would have been deemed an incorporated Lutheran Church of New Jersey within the ambit of N.J.S.A. 16:5-26 such that title to the Property would have vested in the Grantor by operation of law, then Grantor is authorized to execute and deliver this Deed to the Grantee.

The Grantor makes no promises whatsoever as to ownership or title, but simply transfers whatever interest the Grantor has to the Grantee.

GRANTOR: The Rev Tracey L. Bartholomew, Bishop, NEW JERSEY SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

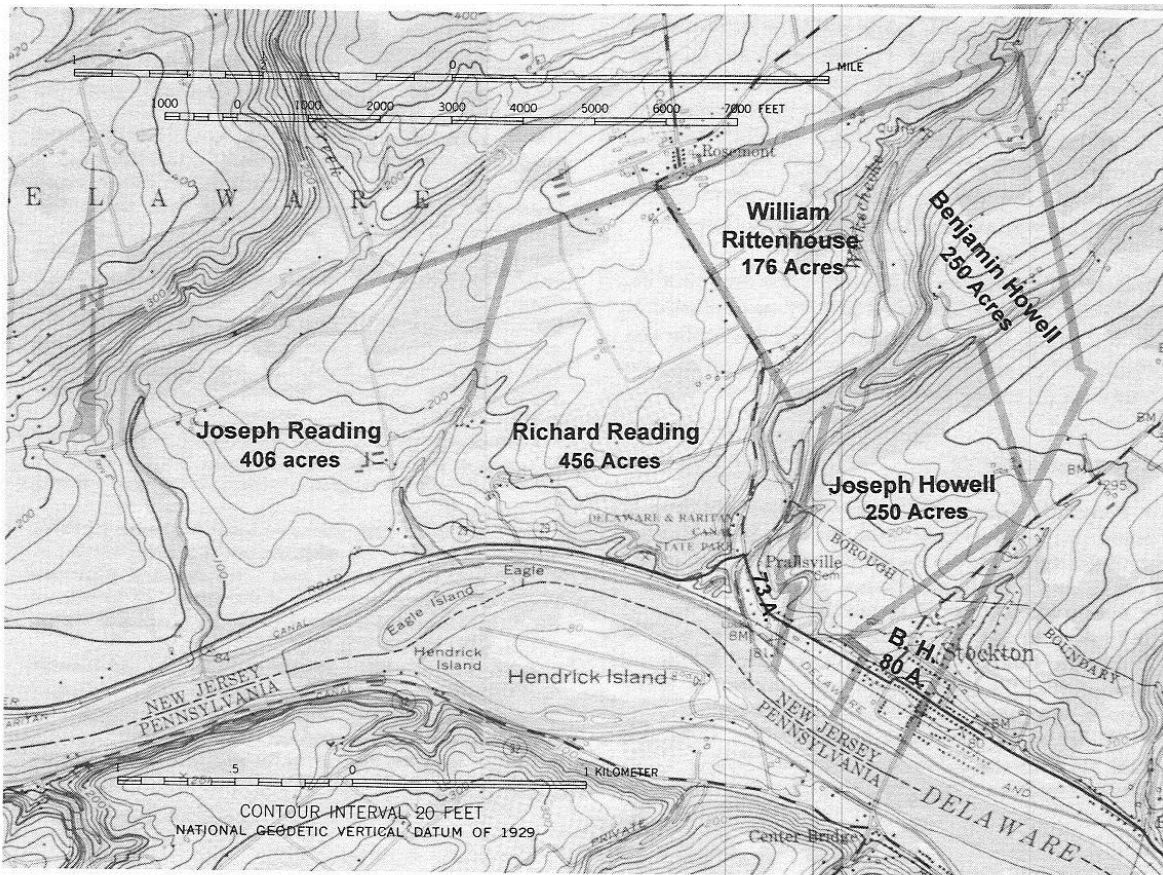


Figure 2: Land distribution based on 1744 Survey Map by John Reading Jr.

The Reading-Howell Connection

This article is based on the a Lecture given by David Reading at the Stockton Inn on May 10th, 2014 as part of the Hunterdon 300th Tavern Tour.

It's well known that Col. John Reading gifted a large tract of land near present day Stockton to his daughter Elsie and her husband Captain Daniel Howell as a wedding gift near the time of the their marriage in ca. 1710. But what is not so well know is the relationship between the Readings and Howells in subsequent generations. Elsie Reading and Daniel Howell had six children: Elizabeth, Daniel Jr., John, Joseph, Benjamin, and Mary. Although we do not know the exact dates of their birth, except for John (1721-1808), it is known that all of them were not of legal age when their father died in 1733. As their mother Elsie died the previous year, the children

were unable to take possession of the property left to them by their father. According to Iris H. Taylor writing in her book on the history of Stockton, the children were taken in by Reading and Howell relatives. Col. John's son John Reading Jr. (Gov. John) took Daniel Jr., Joseph, and Benjamin to live with him near present day Flemington Junction, John went to live with his uncle Benjamin Howell in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and the girls, Mary and Elizabeth, went to live with their Aunt Catherine, wife of William Rittenhouse (1695-1767) and sister of their father Daniel.

The map shown in Figure 2 shows the distribution to his sons as described in Daniel Howell's will dated 9 Sep 1733. The Ferry property of 80 acres and the adjoining farm of 250 acres went to Benjamin, the Mill property of 73 acres went to John and Daniel Jr. Not shown on the map was the property left to Elizabeth & Mary and described as "all that tract of

land farm or plantation situate at Aliashokkhin [Alexauken]...with the buildings & improvements there unto..."

Again, according to Naylor, John Reading Jr. issued confirmation deeds for the property left to Captain Daniel's sons in 1744 after they came of age. The survey map from which the map in the Figure 2 is derived, is dated 1744 and was previously believed by the author drawn in order to lay out land for John Reading's sons Joseph and Richard. It certainly does that but in addition it provides a survey to support the confirmation deeds for the Howell sons.

In summary:

- Col. John Reading's daughter married Captain Daniel Howell ca. 1710.
- John Reading Jr.'s brother-in-law, Lucas Ryerson, married Elizabeth Howell.
- Three of Daniel Howell's children lived with John Reading Jr. until they were of age.
- John Reading, Jr. surveyed the land inherited by Daniel's sons and issued confirmation deeds.
- John Reading Jr. was one of the executors (with William Rittenhouse) of Daniel Howell's estate.
- Daniel Howell Jr., named one of his sons Reading. Reading Howell became an accomplished and noted civil engineer.

Sources:

Hunterdon County Land Drafts, MSC 163 F1, Spruance Library, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, PA. 1744 Map of Rosemont farms.

Iris H. Naylor, *Stockton, New Jersey, 300 Years of History*, (Albion Printers, Stockton, NJ 1998).

Josiah Granville Leach, *Genealogical and Biographical Memorials of the Reading, Howell, Yerkes, Watts, Latham, and Elkins Families*, (Philadelphia, 1898)

Web site Members Access

The MTAP web site (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

The Mount Amwell News

The newsletter of the Mount Amwell Project

© Copyright 2014

Published Spring and Fall

97 Bissell Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833

908-236-0276

Board of Directors

David R. Reading.....Executive Director
Jennifer Ellsworth.....Director
Richard B. Reading.....Director

Fall Meeting

The fall meeting will again be held at the Frenchtown Inn on Saturday October 18th at noon. Our speaker will Mike Alfano who will present a short lecture on the role Hunterdon residents on the Delaware played during the Revolutionary War.

New Members

We welcome new members Margaret Rowland, Jeff and Joan Chiu, Jeff Williamson, John O'Brian, Karen, Bud Hulick, and new life member Craig Reading.

Members

Carl Shuster, Ph.D. - life	John & Marielle Reading
Brian & Cindy Murphy - life	Romy Reading, Ph.D.
Jen Ellsworth- life	Sybil Albrecht Lewis-life
Bill & Marjorie Luken, Ph.D. - life	John G. & Susan Reading- life
Rick Hayes-Roth, Ph.D. - life	Leigh Braun-life
David & Jan Reading - life	Eugenia Klein-life
Chris Solliday - life	Shawn & Theresa Reading
Albert Reading -life	Jerry Rosco- life
Richard B. Reading IV – life	George Muller
Audrey R. McAbee – life	Bruce Hotchkiss
Fred Lathrop-life	Nancy Herman
Marfy Goodspeed - life	John Stevenson
Stephen H. Case – life	Sharon Lake
Mark Reading- life	Peter Kinsella- life
Richard Stothoff- life	William McCrea
Susan Alexander-life	Lorena Bennett
Charles William Poley, Jr.	Bill Fenton-life
Bob Leith	Jean Pfeleiderer –life
Margaret Rowland	Mike Alfano
Joan & Jeff Chiu	John O'Brian
Karen & Bud Hulick	Jeff Williamson
Craig Reading-life	