

THE MOUNT AMWELL NEWS

Howell graveyard now owned by the Borough of Stockton, Leased to Mount Amwell Project

After more than two years legal action the Borough of Stockton, NJ at last owns the previously abandoned Howell graveyard, a.k.a. the Rittenhouse/Prall cemetery. Attorney Michael O'Grodnick recorded the order vesting title to the Borough of Stockton on February 22, 2018 at the County Clerk's office in Flemington. The order was issued by the Superior Court on January 16th on the approval of the petition to claim ownership filed by Mr. O'Grodnick on December 28, 2017.

The Mount Amwell Project presented the case for ownership under to the Stockton Borough Council on September 14, 2015 and agreed to enter into an agreement to maintain the graveyard. The Council decided to consider the idea and the Mount Amwell Project reported additional information at the council meeting on November 9, 2015. The Council then agreed to do a title search on the property.

The title search was completed on April 6, 2016 which prompted a meeting on May 25, 2016 with the Mayor Tim Nemeth, Clerk Michelle Hovan, attorney Michael Butler, and Mount Amwell Project's Executive Director David Reading to discuss the way forward regarding the graveyard. The salient points of the verbal agreement reached at the meeting were 1) the Borough would pursue ownership under NJSA40:60-25.61, 2) The Borough would formalize the agreement with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and 3) the Borough would "be made whole" for the costs incurred by the Mount Amwell Project.

Finally, on March 13, 2017, the MOU was agreed upon and accepted by the Borough Council. The council approved Ordinance No.17-02 entitled "ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION BY THE BOROUGH

OF STOCKTON OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE HOWELL GRAVEYARD, AND DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 2 LOT 10 ON THE TAX MAPS FOR THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, BY APPLICATION TO THE SUPERIOR COURT VESTING TITLE UNDER N.J.S.A. 40:60-25.61." Attorney Michael O'Grodnick then proceeded to prepare a petition the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Hunterdon Count to vest title to Stockton. The court approved the petition thus enabling attorney O'Grodnick to record the Order of title with County on February 22, 2018.



The Howell/Rittenhouse Graveyard in summer

In June, just prior to the publication of this newsletter The Mount Amwell Project, Inc. and the Borough of Stockton executed a lease giving us the responsibility to clear and maintain the graveyard for the next 50 years.

We are contemplating a general cleanup day in September. Access to the graveyard is over the service road through the adjacent land owned by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Fortunately we executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NJCF in 2015 that allows us use of the road which is normally off limits to the general public. If you wish to participate in the initial cleanup, please email the MTAP at info@mtamwell.org or call 908-801-3125.

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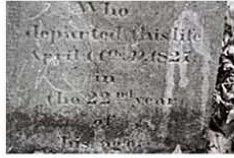
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Howell gravestone photos by Stephen Harris. Stephen has graciously offered these photos to us to promote and document the graveyard. Learn more about the photography services offered by Photography by Stephen Harris including his NJ Photography Classes and Seminars, NJ Real Estate Photography, Classic Automobile Portraits and more. <http://www.stephen-harris-photography.com/>

The Mount Amwell Project has a home



The Mount Amwell Project, Inc. has a home 13 years after our founding. We signed a two year lease with Bremen Associates on April 26th for a small office on the second floor of the historic structure at 122 Main Street in Flemington. The Deats Building was constructed in 1881 and is adjacent to the Flemington Public Library and near the Hunterdon County Historical society. We will use it for record storage, meetings, and general administrative purposes. The site has ample parking in the rear with easy access and elevator.



Thank you donors

The Mount Amwell Project gratefully acknowledges those who have generously supported us during last year's annual campaign.

\$500 and over

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New Board Members

Jennifer Ellsworth, long time board member, resigned in December leaving 3 open seats. She is the granddaughter of Hunterdon philanthropist Lloyd Wescott and was enthusiastic and knowable supporter. We thank her for her contribution to the organization. New members George Muller and Richard Stothoff were elected for two year terms at a special board meeting held on December 28th 2017.

George D. Muller served as a Freeholder of Hunterdon County for eighteen years, six of which he was the Board's director. He was president of both Flemington Cut Glass, Inc., and Hunterdon Importing, Inc. He has been active in a variety of community service organizations and has served as a trustee of the Hunterdon Medical Center and Centenary College.

Richard H. Stothoff is the president of Samuel Stothoff Company Inc. and is a past councilman in Flemington. He is a trustee and past president of the Hunterdon County Historical Society and a member of the Raritan Township Historians.

Fall Meeting

The annual fall meeting and luncheon will be held at the Frenchtown Inn on October 6th. We have scheduled a tour of the Prall's Mill complex in Stockton following the luncheon. The luncheon cost is \$35 and the Mill tour is \$10. Please send your advance reservation to The Mount Amwell Project, Inc., P.O. Box 226, Lebanon, NJ 08833.

The Grist Mill



The Grist Mill, considered the heart of the Prallsville Mill complex, is one of the most beloved buildings in the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park. The sprawling stone building still houses complex milling machines and delightful architectural details. Many of the various gears and wheels that once powered the mill operation remain intact today. The building was last used as a grist mill in the 1950s, and then served as a lumberyard and feed store until acquired by the state of New Jersey in 1973.

The Saw Mill

The Saw Mill, which has existed intermittently on the site since 1750, has been beautifully restored to showcase its massive 9x12 hewn oak timbers and weatherboards. The building serves as a learning tool for 19th-century construction methods, and is a welcoming, open space, perfect for hosting art shows, receptions or other special events.

The tour will be hosted by Anna Wyman, Head Docent for the Delaware River Mill Society. The Delaware River Mill Society was established in 1976 to maintain and operate the land and properties of the historic Prallsville Mills,



Volunteers Dave Voorhees and John Loughlin reset a headstone at the Haypress cemetery in Whitehouse Station.



Stone broken in three pieces repaired at Slacktown cemetery in Kingwood Township

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