

1932

Lambert
Family

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Lamberts
of
Amwell



OCCGS

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

THE LAMBERTS
OF
AMWELL

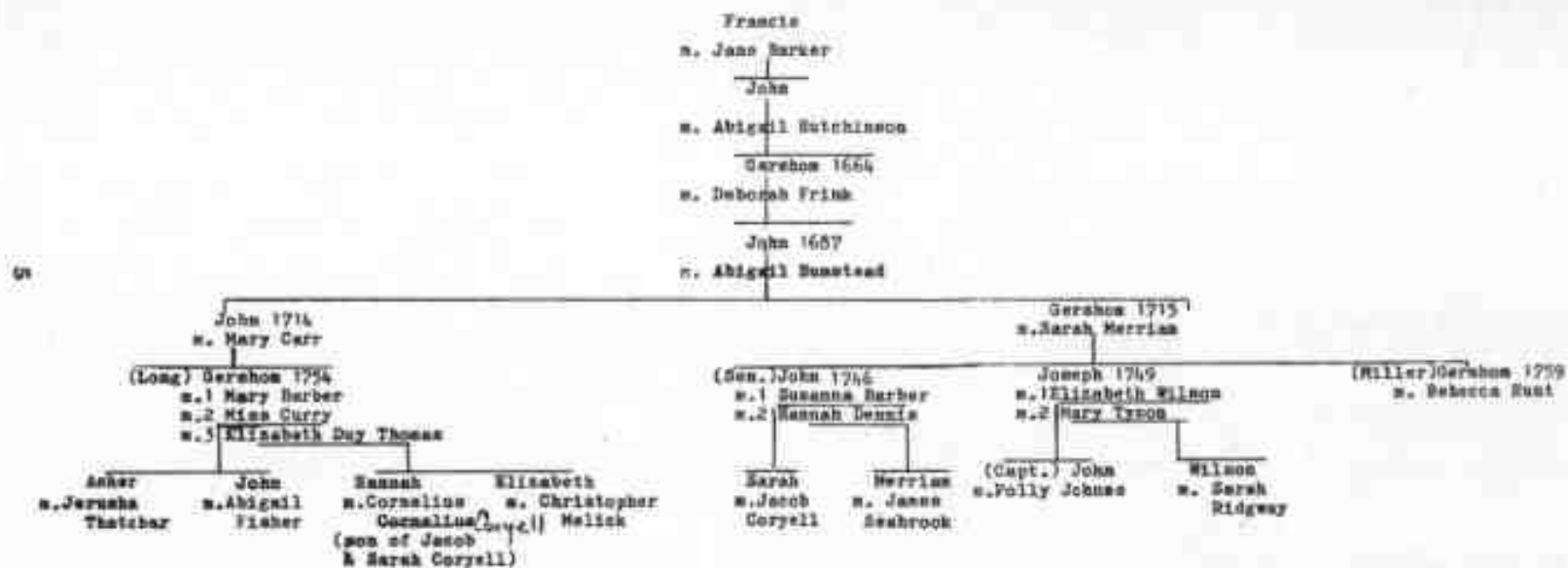


BY HENRIETTA VAN SYCKLE
AND
EMILY ABBOTT NORDFELDT

Lambertville, 1916.

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED
FOR
THE LAMBERTVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BICENTENNIAL
1976

Lamberts of Jewell



The name Lambert is an ancient one which has been traced from a roving clan in Scandanavia with ensuing settlement in Germany in the first century A.D., thence to the Kingdom of the Lombards in Italy. The name Lumbard was translated as "Long Beard." The first Lambert in England was Rodolph de Lambert who was a Knight at Arms to William the Conqueror in the eleventh century. The family coat-of-arms shows this service.

In September 1638 the first American Lamberts landed at Salem, Mass. Francis Lambert, his wife Jane, son John and daughter Ann were among the twenty families who sailed from Hull, England on the ship "John of London." The Reverend Ezekiel Rogers who was Rector of the Episcopal Church in Rowley, England, led the band of settlers.

In 1639 Frances Lambert was among those who settled in the area that became Rowley, Mass.. He was admitted as a free man May 13, 1640 on Rowley and became a property owner. By 1643 he owned a 2 acre house lot besides various farming tracts, wood lots and marsh lands. The Lambert house built in 1699 is still standing and remained in the family until 1971. House plans show that it contained a cheese room, various store rooms, a huge fireplace and in New England fashion was connected to the barn.

Other children were born to Francis and Jane Lambert in Rowley. It is said that Thomas who was born in 1645 had a son Thomas born 1678 who built the house. Francis died in 1647 leaving a considerable estate which by his will of 1647

provided well for his wife and six children. His wife and his brother-in-law Thomas Barker were co-executors. It is interesting to note that the executors were "to have the ordering of my children except my son Thomas, which I give unto my brother Thomas Barker to order and dispose of—." This became an adoption by which Thomas Lambert became an heir of Thomas Barker.

John Lambert, son of Francis who came to Rowley from England inherited land, house, and a share of Hog Island Marshes. He also bought 80 acres of village lands. In 1662 he married Abigail Hutchinson of Salem. They had two children, Gershom (sometimes spelled Gershorn) born in 1664, and Abigail born 1665.

In 1686 Gershom married Deborah Frink of Stonington, Connecticut, and moved to Stonington, later to New London, thus beginning the Lambert travels to New Jersey. John Lambert, son of Gershom and Deborah was born in 1687.

According to records John Lambert lived in Stonington, Lebanon, New London, Lyme, and New Salem, Conn. before coming to Amwell in New Jersey before the middle of the 18th century. He is said to have accompanied or followed his four sons. Sons John and Gershom bought adjoining tracts of land in Kingwood (now Delaware Township). Son Thomas settled at what is now Oldwick and son Jeremiah in another part of Amwell. Jeremiah left no children so it is with the descendants of son John, born in 1714 and of Gershom born 1715, that we are concerned, as ancestors of the Lamberts so closely associated with present day Lambertville.

The Pennsylvania Historical Society has given permission to publish excerpts from letters between Jeremiah Bumstead, a Boston merchant, and his sister married to John Lambert. Through these letters we can verify their wanderings in Connecticut between 1714 and 1731. There are also a few letters from Abigail's sister, Sarah, written in a more domestic vein but echoing the same piety as Jeremiah's.

During the years in Connecticut, Abigail bore five children and apparently her letters to her brother showed rebellion at

her lot: constant moves, many children, lack of a church to attend, and want of material success seem to have been complaints to her brother.

Jeremiah's solution to her problems lay in fostering pious thoughts and over the years he sent her various tracts and admonitions calculated to establish peace of mind. In 1720 he wrote, "I have sent you a small Token of my love namely a Psalm book bound in Turkey leather and a book entitled ye young mans calling or as we used to call it when we were children ye Little Martyr Book." When his sister moved to Lebanon, Conn., in 1720 he sent a letter full of references to Lebanon as found in the Bible and hopes that the modern Lebanon would be as filled with Holy Joy. Occasionally his letters dealt with practical matters and in 1724 he reports, "I have put your things on board Mr. Daniel Warer this day—2 Iron kittles, 3 iron pots, 2 stools and a bundle—and I sent you 6 turned trenchers and a brass lamp." Not forgetting her spiritual welfare he concludes, "I thrust in 2 small Books, Viz Mr. Gouge on Walking with god & Mr. Increase Mather on Ye Sabbath Day."

The next year he writes, "I have not time to inlarge but o sister go strictly careful lest the gain and cares of ye world should prove the loss of your soul." He sends her a sheet of eighty signs by which she might try her soul god-ward. Then reverting to domestic matters he reports that his daughter Betty "went about several shops to get ye silk and att length gott 2 yards, very good and Reasonable as times are for twenty six shillings, as for ye nutt megs I have sent you an ounce of them with my love and my wifes." As to her regrets that she had no church to attend he advises in 1726 the reading of certain Psalms and sent her a small book of Mr. Thomas Wattsons on contentment saying, "it is a very quieting comforting book."

The letters from Abigail's sister Sarah are both pious and domestic. She apparently did some shopping for her sister and was anxious to know if the ridenhood and stays were satisfactory. According to Jeremiah she had also sent "ye warming pan and Mrs. Donisson's Blankett itt cost 17 shillings and five pence. She sent a tablecloth also and put ys

on board Mr. Atkinson with order to haul it att Mr. Timothy Greens ye printers at New London not having an opportunity to land them nearer at present ye hopefully sailing tomorrow. Nor can I as yet learn of a Jerney man to send you." In 1719, Sarah wrote, "I have no news to wright but couzen Page had a grat fall of a ship and is very bad but they hope he will get over it." A second letter in the same year sent to Stonington she reports, "I have done the business you did desire me to do concerning a Childe at ye almes house but cannot hear of anyone their or anywhere." Perhaps Abigail was hoping to find an almshouse child to be of help to her with house and children.

"That you meet with troubles and afflictions is no wonder. Since we live in a World of Sin and born to trouble as ye sparks fly upwards," was Jeremiah's introduction to a letter April 13, 1728. He follows with a quotation from Job who had his troubles too. Then comes our favorite: "Surely (as Dr. Gibbs says) it is better to go weeping to Heaven than laughing to Hell."

He continues in the voice of doom, "And may that awful judgment of ye Earth quake which wee have felt terribly shaking our house over us be sanctified to us for our awakening to our present duty I have sent you some discourses of sermons printed on that occasion (on ye Earthquake) namely Dr. Sewalls, Mr. Princes and Mr. Gees funeral sermon for Dr. Mather wherein you will find an entertaining account of the Dr. in his last hours." The letter ends with news of the drowning of two young sons of an acquaintance "about 14 and 15 years of age while scattting on ye ice at ye Bottom."

Apparently Abigail still laments the lack of a church in her area because in 1731 when she was living at New Salem, Conn., her brother wrote that he hoped a place of worship might be established with the agreement of the proprietors and meanwhile sent her "2 of Mr. Eliots letters & a small book Titled The Christian daily practice of piety or holy walking with god." It is interesting to note that Jeremiah gives Sin a capital S but god is always in lower case.

When the Lamberts came to New Jersey they took up land which had been part of the Dimsdale Tract. To quote from an early record of the Dimsdale Grant, "Whereas Robert Dimsdale, State of Edmonton in the County of Middlesex in the Kingdom of Great Britain, Physician deceased, in his lifetime stood lawfully seized of and in one third part of one full square and undivided ninetyth part of ninety full, equal and undivided Hundred part of all that tract of land in America formerly known by the name of West New Jersey but now called The Western Division of the Province of New Jersey as by Indentures of Lease and Release made or mentioned between Nicholas Lucas of Hertford of County Hertford in the Kingdom of Great Britain aforesaid on one part and Robert Dimsdale—" Dated February 27, 1682 the deed continues, "By which proprietary rights to Unlocated Lands, surveyed in the County of Hunterdon formerly County of Burlington—" became the property of John Lambert when he purchased 831 acres for 750 pounds sterling of good and lawful money, "A Tract or Parcel of Land Situate in Amwell aforesaid containing 831 acres." In 1750 John Lambert sold for 750 pounds, 410 of these acres thus leaving himself 421 acres at no cost. Records of these transactions are to be found in the Archives at Trenton. Earlier land purchases are verified by deeds in the keeping of the West Jersey Proprietors in Burlington.

The Tax List for Amwell in 1794 shows that collectively the Lamberts were taxed on 846 acres. They owned 14 horses, 30 cattle, 2 negroes, 1 sedan chair, 4 sleighs and 2 dogs. John Esq., Gershom and Joseph were holders of the greatest assets. The total tax quota for Amwell in 1794 was L693:11:0 and the added poor tax was L60.

By 1807 Lambert holdings had increased to 1,191 acres. Their horses now numbered 27, cattle 51, slaves 2, 1 covered wagon, 1 wheel chair, 2 Sedan chairs and now there are four dogs.

SENATOR JOHN LAMBERT 1746-1823

Senator John Lambert undoubtedly attained the greatest prominence of any member of the family. He was the son of Gershom and Sarah Merriam Lambert and was born in the old homestead which later became known as the Seabrook house, because it was acquired by his grandson Thomas Seabrook. He was born February 24, 1746, and it is told that his mother had to wait for flax to grow to be spun and woven to make his baby clothes. Elizabeth Seabrook, a granddaughter of the Senator's told Hannah Coryell that her home was being built in 1787. The original house on the farm and occupied by the Lamberts was there in 1746 but is gone now. That house burned down while William Anderson was the tenant farming the place. At one time there were three houses on the farm.

As a young boy John Lambert went to the Runk School in the neighborhood. Beyond this he apparently had no further advantages but he soon became prominent in local affairs. He drew up wills and legal documents and in the Hall of Records in Flemington in *The Record of Marriages*, Vol. 1, one finds John Lambert's name as officiating justice of the Peace as early as 1797. In 1793 he was the tax collector for Amwell Township, then comprising what is now Delaware, Raritan, East and West Amwell. Not only was he one of Hunterdon's Justices, but he also was a Freeholder. He is said to have built up one of the finest Libraries in the area.

Extracts from the Docket of the Hon. John Lambert, 1791-1801 show some of the following items.

"Dec. 1, 1791—The first case is Thomas Holcombe against William Herden on account of debt. Amount 7L 13s 7d. They called a 12 man jury."—"Verdict in favor of Plaintiff 7L 9s 5d bal. due."

"1792 Aug. 30—John Covenhoven against Dagon, a negro man of James Stone, and Pete, a negro man belonging to Isaac Larew for stealing tobacco, about 60 lb. Both negroes confessed selling the tobacco to James Jones, John Lambert and Jos. Reading, gave judgment against the negroes and sentenced Dagon to be stripped to the bare back and to be

tied up to the shed post and receive 39 stripes on his bare back with a cow hide well laid on by the constable or some other person that will do his duty, and Peter shall receive 30 stripes in the same manner. Constable fees for whipping 10 shillings, and the two masters pay for the property and cost.

Value of property 1L 15s, for time, 1L 2s, for warrant, 6s, for judgment 1s 6d, Constable for whipping 10s, whole amt. 3L 15s."

"1792 Aug. 31—John Reed Asher Atkinson Administrators of the estate of Benjamin Prall dec'd against Henry Matthews."

"1793 Dec. 26—Delinquent taxpayers. Distress Warrant made out for Thomas Holcombe."

"1795 Aug. 22—The State vs John Horner—a warrant issued on the complaint of John Ely, for the abuse of his wife, Sarah."

"1797 Aug. 16—John Anderson got judgment against John Hide for L5 1s 6½d."

The Newark News, 5-27-1931 wrote, "John Lambert was a man of considerable power in state politics. He was made Acting Governor in 1802, as a result of the bitter political fight for office between Joseph Bloomfield and Richard Stockton which resulted in a tie 26-26 vote."

As a republican John Lambert held the following offices: Member of the State Legislature, 1780-88; Member Legislative Council, 1791-1805; Vice President of Council, 1798-1800; President of Council, 1802-1803; Acting Governor, Oct. 1802-Jan. 1803; U.S. Representative, 1805-1809; U.S. Senator, 1809-1815.

Letter of 1805

From John Lambert to his son-in-law Thomas Dennis.

Mr. Thomas Dennis
Near Coryell's Ferry
New Jersey

To Post Office at Trenton, Mr. Wilson's care.

Washington, Dec. 26, 1805

Sir:

I received yours of the 13th inst. and I am obliged to you for it, you give a good account of the work, if you will continue during my absence to manage well, it will be a very pleasing thing to me. I am sorry for poor Elijah's troubles and for his wife, but he should be resigned, tell him that although I do not write him a letter I have not forgot him, and I hope he will do the best he can for me in my absence. I want my sweet grape vines laid down and covered with straw, be sure you stop the windows of the cellar well with horse dung, to save the potatoes, if we should get cold weather this winter. The time past hath been very warm here and but little rain. I have been to Alexandria last Saturday, George Coryell was well but his wife much amis with s'anthony fire. I came back the same day. I dined with the President the 25th. That likeness at home is pretty good. I have wrote to you about the young cattle to be fed at the Hay Barracks at the river last week, I suppose you must have it by this time. I shall continue to send papers to New Hope which Mr. Rap will send to Uncle Jo' Lambert. I am sorry I have no picture to send my little Achsah, tell her I don't forget her, and suppose you must remember me to Amelia Hannath and Betsey. If they will want more hay, you must hall it from the river, and put it up safe for them. I am well my love to Achsah and yourself and you will please to tell John Lambert and his wife I think of them and Tho' and Achsah, Dennis and little Achsah.

Jno. Lambert

Letter to Senator John Lambert from Thomas Jefferson

The President of the United States to John Lambert,
Senator for the State of New Jersey.

Certain matters touching the public good requiring
that the Senate shall be convened on Saturday the 4th of March
next, you are desired to attend at the Senate Chamber in the
City of Washington on that day, there and there to receive and
deliberate on such communications as shall be made to you.

Washington Dec. 30. 1808.

Th: Jefferson

He was deeply opposed to the war of 1812 as is well indicated by the letter he wrote to his nephew Capt. John Lambert on Dec. 14, 1812.

Captain John Lambert
Near Coryell's Ferry, N.J.
New Hope, Pa.

Free
John Lambert
Monday morning, Washington, December 14, 1812

Dear Sir,

I send you two more "Auroras." I don't hear from any of my old friends in Amwell, except from home and once from your uncle Gershom and yourself. I have not had a single line from your father or Wilson. I know that my vote against war hath displeased those with whom I used to act. All I can say is that I believe that I was acting for the best interests of my country. I did not believe that we ought to declare war until we was ready and no other alternative consistent with our rights and the Liberty of our country could have been obtained. That we was not ready might be seen by everyone that will divest himself of prejudice and party feelings. Our forces hath not been sufficient to penetrate Canada. But I will not trouble you with my thoughts on our political situation. I know that I have made myself obnoxious and hateful to my old friends by being true to my country. When they get the film from before their eyes they will think better of my conduct. They need not lay the change in our state to me. It is the conduct of the war party hath us down and the 14th. Congress will show more what the still voice of the people is if they are suffered to express their opinions. Although I have lost the happiness of sociability and friendship I used to have amongst you I retain one consolation, the approbation of my own conscience. I am in middling good health and hope these may find you and yours well. Give my love to Polly and daughters.

I am yours &c, John Lambert

Capt. John Lambert

One hears complaints today about the indecisiveness of Congress, but in 1812, the same feelings were being expressed. Apparently Senator John had left Washington since a letter from a Jacob Hufty reached him by way of New Hope, Pennsylvania. It was written Washington, May 7, 1812.

"Dear Sir: Your favor of the 4th was received yesterday. I am very sorry to hear you had so unpleasant a time on the roads owing to the rain but it was no more than I had expected as it rained almost constantly at this place until Monday afternoon. I am however glad to hear that you have not taken cold. We still continue in the same state as when you left us. Nothing new nor do I believe it is expected that anything will happen to change the existing state of things in less than two months. We are now only killing time as the saying is. Many of the gentlemen who so much opposed a short recess are now absent without leave—

You know that according to the manner in which the business is done in our House is as soon as the journal is read for the speaker to call for Petitions from the several states beginning with New Hampshire. This is called the morning business. It turned out so yesterday that we got no further on than New York altho we did not adjourn until half past three P.M. A petition was offered by a member from New York signed by between five and six hundred persons in the neighborhood of Albany couched in the most respectful language and praying to repeal or modification of the Embargo law. The members moved to commit it to a select committee. Mr. Ray opposed the motion and moved that the consideration of it should be postponed until the 4th of July next as it had been read, which motion was supported by (name illegible), Calhoun, Grundy, Johnson & c and opposed by the gentleman from New York whose name is not recollected, and Mr. Randolph, very warmly on both sides. The question was at last, say half past three taken by yeas and nays and carried to postpone till July—. Thus you see that altho the Constitution decrees the right to Petition yet Congress defeats its success by postponement. How long will the people put up with such things, ten minutes would have given it a

respectful direction, it took four hours to do otherwise. — what would we not have given for such conduct in the times of Mr. Adams—.

On the 11th of August 1813 Mr. Hufty writes another letter to the Hon. John Lambert from Salem—

"Dear Sir: On the morning of the afternoon which I parted with you at Wilmington I reached home about 10 o'clock. I think you could not have been above one mile on the road when a Horse and Chair appeared at the door to carry me to Newcastle at which place I arrived in about an hour and reached the Jersey Shore about ten minutes after sundown and about the time I had gotten a little refreshment the landlord was ready to carry me to Salem — so you see I did much better than to have gone on with you and left you less crowded than you would have been had I continued on with you—. As to the politics of this country I can say very little not having been much out but from what I can learn the war party are rather decreasing in numbers which I hope they will do in every section of the Union because I believe nothing else can save the nation."

In 1814 Senator Lambert procured the first Post office for the town and his nephew Capt. John was designated Postmaster. The name Coryell's Ferry was changed to Lamberts' Ville, which was thoroughly resented by many of the older residents and the upper part of the town north of John Holcombe's line was dubbed Georgetown in honor of Capt. George Coryell. Sarah Gallagher in her account of the Post office amusingly told how the Coryells indignant at the name of Lambertsville called it "Lambertsvillainy" instead. To quote from Dr. Petrie's book on Lambertville; "From records in the Post Office Department in Washington we are informed that the present post office of Lambertville, New Jersey, was established under the name of Amwell on December 21, 1814, with John Lambert as postmaster. The name of the post Office was changed to Lambertsville on July 1, 1822." In 1849 when the town was incorporated the "S" was dropped.

POSTAL COVERS OF YESTERDAY

These photos of many years ago show Lambertville was known by other names: Amwell, Amwell-Hunterdon, Coryell's Ferry, Lambertville, also in care of New Hope.



To Amy Hoppock from her father, Senator John Lambert, 1804

As we have discovered from seeing many of the original covers, or envelopes, addresses varied considerably especially before the establishment of the Post Office. In 1804 a letter came to Amy Hoppock, daughter of Senator John's, addressed to Amwell, New Jersey, in care of New Hope, Pa. In 1805, a son-in-law of Senator John's, Mr. Thomas Dennis, received his letter addressed to near Coryell's Ferry, New Jersey and on the side to Post Office at Trenton Mr. Wilson's care. In 1812 Hon. John Lambert received a letter addressed to Amwell, Hunterdon, N. Jersey and on the side Post Office New Hope. Yet another letter addressed to Captain John Lambert came to near Coryell's Ferry, N.J. New Hope Pa. In 1814 a few months before the establishment of the Post Office Senator John wrote to his brother Joseph at Coryell's Ferry New Jersey and on the side New Hope, Pa. By 1817 Amwell was used with P. Office Lambertsville on the side.

John Lambert, House
Free

Mr Gershom Lambert,
near Allishocking Creek
New Hope Pa }
care of Mr Lambert }

New Jersey

To Gershom Lambert from his brother Senator John Lambert in
Washington. Dated December 14, 1809

1810

Hon. John Lambert, 17
Pinecoll,
New Jersey

at Mr. Benton's

To. Hon. John Lambert, 1810

1812

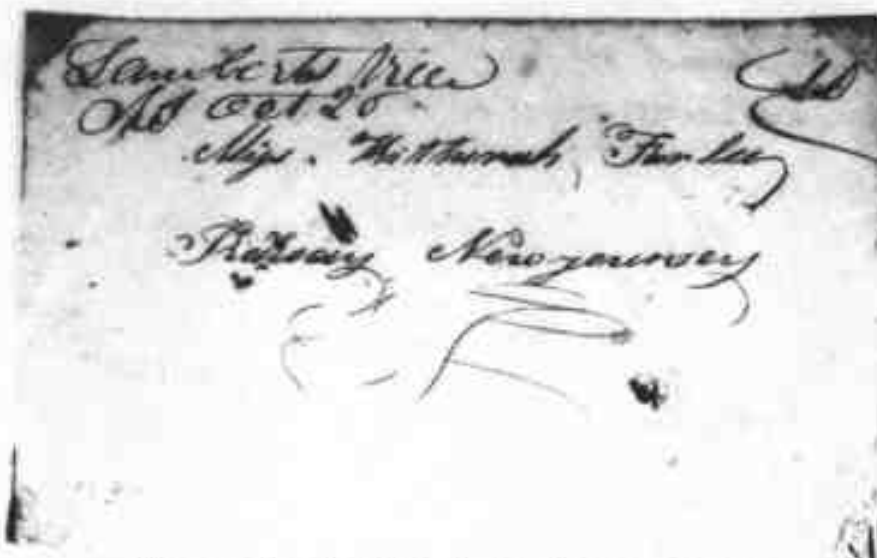
PHE
 Sackett's Harbor 20
 14 May
 Hon. John Lambert
 Amwell
 Hunterdon
 Post office
 New Hope
 N. Jersey

To Hon. John Lambert from his nephew Capt. John Lambert at Sackett's Harbor 1812

Mr Joseph Lambert
 Congress Dury
 New Hope }
 N. J.
 New Jersey

Letter to Joseph Lambert from his brother Senator John Lambert in Washington. Dated March 23, 1814 (letter quoted)

1834



Shows spelling Lambertville, dated October 20, 1834



Lambertville postmark, dated September 3, 1839

Senator Lamberts first marriage was to Susanna Barber, daughter of John Barber in 1765. There were eight children, three of whom died in infancy, the last one, a son, at which time John wrote to his brother, "I have not only lost a son, but my dear and loving wife." Sarah their oldest daughter married Jacob Coryell, and their son, married Hannah, daughter of Gershom and Sarah Merriam. Their three daughters were, Myra who married Martin Coryell, Sarah married Charles Imlay and Cornelia married John Anderson. This family and their children were closely identified with Lambertville, and many of their names are found in a guest book that belonged to the John Anderson family, and is now at the Lambertville Historical Society.¹ Camille a granddaughter of Myra was born in Geneva, Switzerland, her father being Swiss, but came back to Lambertville to live and married Ashbel Bryan. She had many items of historic interest which she gave to various museums. Upon her death, she turned her house on North Union, over to the First Presbyterian Church for use as the "Manse." To quote from a newspaper clipping, "Last of her family, the 82 year old woman is a descendant of both the Coryells and the Lamberts who were prominently identified with much of Lambertville's early history.

His second marriage in 1781, was to Hannah Little Dennis, widow of Major Benjamin Dennis. Thus she had been an army officer's wife during the Revolution, and as a great-granddaughter wrote, "The Torys took her captive and tried to make her tell where her husband was hiding. She wouldn't tell, so they hung her until she was nearly dead, then beat her with a rifle butt, leaving her for dead. In spite of all she lived to be ninety." She possessed unusual strength of interest and soundness of judgment. About six years before her death she received an injury from a fall and thereafter was confined to her bed.

¹ Myra once owned the Philip Marshall house given her by her grandfather Gershom. On a table in the livingroom are found a book and glasses once owned belonging to Myra. These items were donated by Dr. Alfred Petrie.

John and Hannah had six children, the 3 boys dying in early infancy. So that John was left without a male heir. Jerusha married Abraham Holmes, Merriam married James Seabrook, her first cousin, and their son Thomas acquired the homestead through litigation as John left no will. Maria married William Wilson. Mary Hannah Seabrook, a sister, of Thomas, married Ashbel Welch, prominent engineer who was nationally known for his work. Their home is now the Van Horn Funeral Parlor. A stained glass window in the Chapel of the Presbyterian Church was given by a member of the Welch family in memory of the daughter of the Ashbel Welch's who died in Rome.

While John Lambert was in Congress in 1805, two portraits of him were made in colored wax, artist unknown. It is said that one went to his wife and one to his friend Governor Bloomfield who later gave it to Jerusha one of John's daughters. She married Abraham Holmes of Shrewsbury, and it is believed that it is now owned by one of her descendants but it has never been found. In a letter that Thomas Seabrook wrote to Miss Anderson, he said that he had one of the wax portraits and "Jerusha has the other." There is also a silhouette of the Senator, one of which can be seen at the Lambertville House.

Extracts from Hon. John Lambert's diary beginning March 12, 1805 ending February 1, 1823 included such items as:

1806 June 21—Elijah Wilson mowing, got drunk and laid in the shade one hour.

1810 Nov. 28—Set out to Washington.

1811 Mar. 11—Got home from Washington this evening.

1813 Aug. 19—Gershom Lambert pulled down his kitchen roof.

1813 Oct. 18—James Jones and sister Jerusha came to see us.

1817 April 1—John Hide moved in John Lambert's house at \$24 per year rent and 10 to work for said Lambert at 60 cts. per day except mowing and harvesting.

1817 April 22—Paid John Hide \$20 for his colt.

1817 April 28—Brother Gershom came this evening from Juniatta Co. to see us.

1818 Sept. 30—John Hide and his father cut up corn for John Lambert.

1821 Feb. 21—Joseph Lambert was buried.
And other such family items.

In 1817 a letter addressed to Senator John came from his nephew John H. Lambert.

"Huntingdon 22 Nov.

John Lambert Esq.

Amwell, New Jersey

P. Office

Lambertsville

Huntingdon Nov. 21, 1817

Dear Uncle

I have taken the liberty to request of you the favour of one or two introductory letters to some gentlemen in Ohio, Indiana or Kentudky. I have changed my opinion of returning to Philadelphia and intend to visit those states this winter and as you are acquainted with some of the most respectable gentlemen I shall consider it a particular favour for a few lines to such as you can take the liberty with. My father informs me that Mr. G. Knox was gone out into that county. I should be glad to have letter to him." And with further suggestions as to his plans he ends the letter "I shall remain until the middle or last of December. Give my respects to Aunt and the rest of your family. With respect I am

Dear Uncle Yours

John H. Lambert

And in 1819 a letter from another nephew, this time Daniel son of his brother Gershom

"Huntingdon P 18½
19 Pine
Mr. John Lambert Esq
Amwell
New Jersey

answered

July 25 1819

By the care of
Lambertsville Post Office

Porter Township
June 15 1819

Dear Uncle

I thought I would write a few lines once more to you it has been sometime since I wrote to you. Father said he would write so I delayed writing till this time we have had a very fine spring. Every thing looks very promising grain looks fine and grass to. We had a frost on the 18th of May. Killed all the fruit.—I expect father will be in to see you this fall and then he will make all things straight. I think he is making money pretty fast. He is getting custom every day he says he takes from three to four dollars a day our money is not much better but they say by August they will hand out the silver. My grafts is the most of them a growing and I thank you for sending them to me. Father and Mother sends their best respects to you and Aunt Hannah and all the rest of your family and Sarah likewise sends her love to you all. The little girls Ann and Rebecca is at fathers a going to school.

It makes my family very small we live very lonesome. We have not had a letter from the Doctor since last August but we understand he is in Illinois Territory. In the town of Carlisle—grain will be very scarce in this county before Harvest there has been more flour went down our river this spring than there has been in four years put it all together.—

Give our respects to Uncle James an Aunt Jerusha Jones an to all inquiring friends—

Yours & c
Daniel Lambert

John Lambert died in 1823 and Hannah in 1835. Both are buried in the Barber Burying Ground near Dilts Corner. On John's tombstone there is simply inscribed Hon. John Lambert, his dates and offices he held. As has been stated he died intestate throwing his estate into the hands of administrators. "April 1st 1826 commissioners were appointed by the Orphans Court to divide sell and convey the real estate of John Lambert Esq. late of the Township of Amwell County of Hunterdon Deceased. The commissioners named were Dr. John Bowne, Caleb Runk, and James Fisher."

Recorded Inventory

Hon. John Lambert dec'd

Filed Feb. 28 1823 Jos. Bonnele, Surgt.

A true Inventory of all & singular the goods & chattels rights & credits of John Lambert Esq. late of Amwell in the County of Hunterdon State of New Jersey deceased this 18th day of February 1823.

(illegible)	116.10	
Purse & apparel cash	30.00	
New Hope notes	138.00	284.10
Horses		138.00
20 Horned cattle		196.00
2 Sheep		3.00
9 Swine		20.00
Grain in the ground		75.00
Grain in the Granary		375.00
Clover seed		50.00
Hay in the barn		223.00
Farming utensils		280.42
Potatoes		44.00
Groceries in the cellar		206.60
Library		264.11
Household goods		447.25
2 receipts against W. Lambert		83.89
2 Bonds against James Seabrook		817.50

1 Bond against Amy Hoppock	300.00
1 Bond against John & Cornelius Coryell	500.00
1 Bond against Jerusha Holmes	1150.00
1 Bond against Benjamin Longstreth	348.16
1 Bond against John & Thomas Skillman	465.94
4 shares in the New Hope Bridge	100.00
2 Loan office certificates	319.73
1 Bond against Joseph Lambert Doubtful	837.47
1 Bond against Daniel & J. Daniel Lambert Desparate	619.36
4 Bonds against Gersham & John Lambert Desparate	814.65
1 Bond against Gersham Lambert Desparate	126.83
	<hr/>
	9124.31

appraised by Sam'l Barber
appraised by John Hoppock

Hunterdon—George Larason & William L. Hoppock
Administrators of the within named John Lambert Esq.
dec'd

True inventory

Sworn & subscribed Feb. 20, 1823

Hunterdon—Samuel Barber & John Hoppock the appraisers
of the goods & chattels etc.

Feb. 28, 1823 (both sworn before Joseph Bonnell surg)

The Bridge

(reprinted from *The Beacon*)

Items Relating to the "New Hope Delaware Bridge Company," and its Bank of Issues.

At a meeting of the Council of New Hope Borough, held on Tuesday evening, January 13th, 1885, there were presented to the Borough two framed papers, having much interest to the present generation of Lambertville and New Hope people; these, together with other valuable historic papers had belonged long since to the late Benjamin Parry, of New Hope, in his day and for many years a most prominent and influential man in this section; and were found in looking over the contents of some old boxes and barrels in an upper attic of "The Old Parry Mansion," in New Hope Borough, where he lived and died. Benjamin Parry was born on March 1st, 1757, and died November 22d, 1839.

No. 1—is the framed proceedings of a meeting held at the tavern of Garret Muldrum, in New Hope, September 25th, 1811, at which vigorous action was taken towards securing the building of the bridge at this point, much influence having been previously brought to bear to have it erected at "Mitchell's Ferry," (now Centre Bridge) several miles above. The Committee appointed at that meeting to act, were Benjamin Parry, Samuel D. Ingham, Jos. Lambert, Cephus Ross and Jeremiah Kershaw—Benjamin Parry being made chairman of the Committee. How well the Committee succeeded in carrying out the objects of that early meeting the bridge itself for nearly three-quarters of a century past attests.

No. 2—is a Bank Bill of "The New Delaware Bridge Company," and was one of the many others of their Bank Notes then in circulation. The Notes are exceedingly rare at this day. I have heard of some of the Bank ones which were never signed, or issued, being in existence, but have never seen but the one given to New Hope Borough and one yet in possession of the writer.

The Bridge Company was incorporated by the Legislatures of the States of Penn-

sylvania and New Jersey Dec. 23, 1812, or in about 15 months after that eventful meeting at Garret Muldrum's tavern, at which the first steps were taken in the matter, and a Committee appointed to act. Memorandums in the hand-writing of Benjamin Parry state that the first vehicle which ever crossed the bridge, did so on September 13th, 1814; and that the cost of the bridge was \$67,934.37, as stated in "Davis' History of Bucks County, Pa." Under the charters granted to the bridge in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey they could conduct the business of banking in each of said States; and so did, as evidenced by this Bill; the Bank being at one time in New Hope, in the large double brick building on Bridge street, subsequently purchased by the late John C. Parry—the first Chief Burgess of New Hope Borough—and now owned and occupied by J. Simpson Betts. In Lambertville, N. J., the Bank was located in the brick building at the corner of Union and York streets, now owned and occupied by the family of the late Ashbel Welch, Esq. When Mr. A. St. John was President of the Bank and S. M. Robinson, Cashier, the former occupied this Bank building, also as his private residence. "The New Hope Delaware Bridge Company's" Bank was also once established in the brick offices on Bridge street, Lambertville, now occupied by John Lilly and A. D. Anderson, Esqs., Attorneys-at-Law.

The bridge was originally planned to be built for the sum of \$50,000 [so memorandums of Benjamin Parry show] but it was found to be impossible to complete it for that amount, and the total cost was \$67,934.37, as has been stated. Recent newspaper articles referring to this bridge have been published in THE LAMBERTVILLE BEACON of December 26th, 1884, and the Philadelphia *Germanstown Telegraph* of January 7th, 1885. In the *Doylestown Democrat* of March 22d, 1880, a list was published of most of the original subscribers, with amounts set opposite their names. The name of Benjamin Parry heads the

list, and the amount he subscribed first was \$2,000; afterwards increased to \$7,200. The original list is in possession of the writer. Only three others—Hugh Ely, John Beaumont and R. T. Neeley—subscribed at first as largely as \$2,000; others following with \$1,000, the Hon. Samuel D. Ingham, once Secretary of the United States Treasury, headed that list, which gradually ran down into the smaller sums. In THE LANRERVILLE BEACON article of December 26th, 1884, referred to above, it is stated in error that Timothy Atkinson was the first person recorded as taking stock in the bridge enterprise, and that he took three hundred dollars (\$300). That he was the first person, is clearly a mistake, as evidenced by the original list still in existence, the writer of THE BEACON article having no doubt fallen into his error by the Bridge Company's Ledger having been kept alphabetically. The subscribers under letter "A" all being together; then letter "B;" then letter "C" and so on, down to "Z." Timothy Atkinson being the first man under letter "A," at the beginning of the Ledger, which has no reference whatever to the order or time of subscriptions made. It is said that the first work done on the bridge was in April, 1813, and the first vehicle crossing it did so as previously mentioned, on September 13th, 1814, which is no doubt correct, as per memorandum of Benjamin Parry, made at the time; and he is known to have been a very careful and exact man. A part of the bridge was carried away by a freshet in A. D. 1841, and rebuilt as it now appears. Daniel Parry, Esq., (a brother of Benjamin Parry) was Treasurer of the Bridge Company, having been elected November 22d of that year. In the list of subscribers appears the name of Charles Stewart—U. S. Navy—the same famous Commodore Stewart, known everywhere as "Old Ironsides," Commander of the historic U. S. man-of-war "Constitution," until very recently in the Government service. Commodore Stewart [then Admiral] died a number of years ago at his country residence at Bordentown, N. J. He was grandfather of the now popular Liberal

Member of British Parliament, Charles Stewart Parrell, Esq., leader of the Irish cause. Commodore Stewart was probably induced to take stock in the Bridge Company, through the Hon. Samuel D. Ingham, of Ingham's Springs, in Bucks Co., Pa., as Mr. Ingham always received the dividends on his Bridge stock and received for the Commodore for the same, on the Company's books. In the year 1823 the Bridge Company's Bank failed; causing as much excitement in Bucks county and the surrounding country in New Jersey, as the failure of the Bank of the United States did, to the country at large, when it succumbed. As the writer in THE BEACON remarks, "Our few old people who remember the building of the bridge, remember and talk of the event with a zeal ~~which~~ ^{partly} shows that the bridge was a glory of past years in this section; and that the Brooklyn bridge of to-day is in our admiration, what the New Hope Delaware Bridge was to our fathers and grandfathers at the time of its building." An aged lady, now in her 80th year, informs us that she well remembers the roof of the bridge on the Pennsylvania side being blown off in a high wind, many years since, and carried over to the Jersey side, and then floating a considerable distance down the river, where it lodged and was broken up. Fortunately no one sustained any personal injury by this disaster. The lady cannot state accurately in what year this occurred, but says it was when she was comparatively young. The bridge has upon several occasions taken fire, but no serious damage has ever been done in that way. The last time was very recently, on the night of Friday, January 9th, 1885, and it is thought was the work of an incendiary. The fire was near the Pennsylvania end of the bridge, by the first pier, and on the north (or upper) side. Fortunately it was discovered at once, and soon put out. The staunch old structure, with its mighty timbers and frame work still stands, having withstood the elements of wind, fire and flood, and long may it continue to stand, all will say, a memorial of the efforts of those enterprising and enlightened citizens, who not only enjoyed

the benefits in their own day, but have passed it on to ours, a public convenience and comfort to the many hundreds of people so often obliged to cross the noble river, which it spans. The bridge with all its franchises, is now owned by the

Estate of the late Samuel Grant, Esq., of Philadelphia, who was long one of the foremost shipping merchants of that city, and the representative there of the great English Banking House of Baring Brothers.
January 19th, 1885. A.B.

Mr. Joseph Lambert
Coryell's Ferry, N.J.

New Hope, P.A.

Washington
March 23, 1814

Dear Brother

Yours of the 14th inst. is received and should have been answered before, but having nothing more than you see in the papers. This morning we have European News, Wellington hath taken Bayone and opened a trade up the river and it is said that Switzerland have joined the allies and that there is great commotion in France.

I hope the tyrant Bonnaparte will be obliged to make a peace. Then may we have an honorable peace and put an end to this most destructive war. If our government is disposed to make peace I believe it can be obtained. The downfall of Bonnaparte may save us from ruin, at least I hope our liberties may not be quite destroyed. I know that the present ruling party have given a death blow to the once happy situation of all honest industrious men. The Debt must be paid, and taxes will have to be borne a long time. We shall never see the times we had before the declaration of war. I know I have become unpopular for the stand I made in favour of their true liberty. If we had been at Peace we should have paid of the debt of our revolution and our revenue, with the common duty; would have supported the general government and each state government; and had monies for cannals and a general turnpike from Main to Orleans. But the Majority have done otherwise. The President hath only to ask and we give to the extent of his wishes. (I will quit) I shall be in want of money. I fear this spring I have promised to help John and Cornelius Coryell to pay for that Lot whereon they live, and I had promised \$500 to

Abraham Holmes to help him to clear of his payments for his place. If you can help me it will oblige me much. You say they have begun to work at the buttment of the Bridge. And you have laid out a street, and will sell of Lotts you will do well. If you sell only for cash, I can assure you if this war, and the restrictions are continued. All the specie will find its way out of our country. It is impossible for our Banks to maintain their credit. There is great danger that our credit as a government is in a most critical situation.

Our measures are all tending to destroy our credit & c. The seizure of the specie that was a going to Boston, from the Manhattan Bank is believed to have given a rise to the eastern people to call for their specie from our Banks' Lc. I don't want you to make this letter public. I give you timely notice not to depend on paper credit. I am well. and hope to be at the River by the 15th April. Although Senate have not acted yet, on the resolution from the other house. Give my love to Polly and Amelia Lc I am yours etc.

John Lambert

Joseph

Joseph Lambert, son of Gershom Lambert and Sarah Merriam was born in 1749 and died in 1821. He was brother to Senator John and father of Captain John who was referred to in many instances as John Jr. to distinguish him from his uncle Senator John, who in turn was referred to in various deeds and transactions as John Lambert Esq.

It was Joseph who played an important role in the portion of Amwell that became Lambertville. Numerous land transactions among family members and other property owners left him in possession of considerable acreage, the most important of which centered in Lambertville.

Joseph's two marriages to (1) Elizabeth Wilson and (2) Mrs. Mary Tyson produced 11 children. Of these Captain John born 1777 of his first marriage and Wilson born 1787 of his second took an active part in the development of the community.

It was from Joseph Lambert that Philip Marshall bought the land on which to build the Marshall House. The house is now the home of The Lambertville Historical Society and registered as an Historic Site.

Joseph was in competitive merchandise and produce business with the Parrys on the other side of the river. Snell, the much quoted historian for Hunterdon County says that his warehouse burned in 1823. This disaster would have occurred 2 years after his death in 1821. We do have indications that his once large and thriving ventures were in difficulty before his death.

Among the projects in which he was involved was the Ferry which he acquired late in the 18th century and ran between N.J. and Penna. until the opening of the bridge across the Delaware. His will written in 1807 directs that his executors rent the ferry and warehouse to the best advantage. In neither case were the instructions carried out, the bridge replaced the ferry and fire had destroyed the warehouse.

The active parts played by Joseph and his sons John and

Wilson in the establishment of what is now the First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville is thus recorded in the Historical Sketch of the 100 years of The 1st. Presbyterian Church, Lambertville, New Jersey. Printed for the Centennial Celebration, May 23-30, 1920.

"Our town was then of not more than 150 inhabitants, 24 houses, with not a mill or factory. The community had not yet completely rid itself of an unenviable name it had borne for years as the center of rioting and dissipation for the surrounding territory, despite the noble citizens it contained."

"On the 7th of August 1816 met at the home of John Lambert, Jr. in the little village of Lambertsville-Georgetown to organize a church to be called the Union Presbyterian Church of Georgetown-Lambertsville." Subscription solicitors were appointed, among them John Lambert Jr. and Wilson Lambert. The original plan was for a joint effort with Solebury, Penna. but this idea was abandoned. On August 31 the group again met at John Jrs. and the fund solicitors announced that \$1,500 had been raised and that building could begin. John Coryell, John Lambert Jr., Cornelius Van Horn and Wilson Lambert were appointed as managers. John Coryell and Joseph Lambert for \$1 each deeded portions of land bounding the graveyard on the East. It was decided that the church should be of brick, accordingly the bricks were made at a site on Main street (near the 3rd Ward School). Timber was contributed from woods owned by country people and the pillars were turned on a huge lathe set up in an apple orchard east of the church. The cornerstone was laid August 18, 1817 and the dedication took place May 20, 1820 although the building was not completed until 1825.

For his services a Pastor was to receive \$200 per year with a further \$100 allowed as house rent. The house could not be for the comfort of the Pastor and his family alone but must be used as a school which was to accept pupils to be taught as an other pastoral duty.

Religious lines were apparently rather finely drawn as shown by the situation which arose when Wilson Lambert

married Sarah Ridgway July 16, 1818. She had been a Quaker and The Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy by W.A. Hinshaw contains the following entry: 1818,12, 24—SARAH (late Ridgway) disowned, married contrary to discipline.

In 1826 the 50th year Celebration of The Declaration of Independence was observed at the new church. A brief description of the event was concerned mainly with the decorations—"A spreadeagle of moss hung over the pulpit, while from a circular centerpiece in the ceiling was suspended a large cedar bush filled with hollyhocks. The Declaration was read and an appropriate song rendered with a chorus beginning with the words "Just 50 years ago."

By 1844 the population of Lambertville had increased to nearly 1,000 and there were 8 streets. Boats for use on the canal were built in the village. There were 2 brick yards, 2 grist and 3 sawmills, 4 lime kilns, 2 iron foundries, 7 stores and 16 mechanic shops. In less than 50 years Lambertville had grown from the 1797 listing. In 1797 there were but 4 dwellings in Georgetown the owners being Joseph Lambert, George Hoppock, George Tanner and George Coryell.

Joseph—In 1793 Joseph was a member of the committee to obtain land in Flemington on which to build Court House and Gaol. He was a Freeholder 1800-1811.

GERSHOM LAMBERT

Gershom Lambert who was born at Stonington, Conn. in 1715, was the son of John Lambert and Abigail Bumstead. He died in Amwell, March 26, 1763 presumably of small pox. His will dated March 19, 1763 was written shortly before his death. The inventory of his personal estate dated April 23, 1763 was appraised by Joseph Higgins and John Barber who consented in all things. Sarah Lambert (wife Sarah Merriam) and brother Jeremiah deposed "it is a true inventory of Goods and chattels."

TOTAL ESTATE L 421 17S 1½ p

Wearing apparel & purs.	21	0	0
Notes	152	1	1½
Household goods	22	10	0
Waggon cart & hay	13	0	0
Corn & lumber	5	17	0
Brass & copper tools & stuff	5	11	0
Wheat & oats & cleaning mill	22	10	0
11 horses & attachments	122	12	0
Sheep & swines	15	10	0
Trammil & wheat	41	10	0
	421	17	1½

Settlement of the Estate took place at Burlington in December 1769. Among the expenses were pay for nursing small pox to two men L3 10S. A coffin at 18 S, cryer for the vendue L 1, Widow L 29 5 S, a Dr. was paid L 9 for inoculations and William Gano received 12 S for writing and proving the will. After these obligations were paid the balance remaining was L 224 9 S 10½ p.

Gershom divided his estate among his three sons and two daughters as well as making provision for his widow and his father John. His father died March 20, 1763 after making his will on February 4, 1763 perhaps he too died of small pox, just six days before the death of his son.

The sons who inherited his estate were, John, who became Senator and acting Governor, Joseph, whose interests were in Lambertville and Gershom, who was called Miller Gershom to distinguish him from his cousin "Long" Gershom.

THE LAMBERTVILLE HOUSE

From Deeds recorded at Hunterdon County Hall of Records we learn that in 1806 Joseph Lambert bought a large tract of land which included the area where the Lambertville House stands. He held the property until 1817 when he conveyed this land for \$30,000 to his son Jacob Lambert who in turn returned part of the land to Joseph his father for \$18,000.

On the same date (Jan. 28, 1818) Joseph conveyed a portion 1½ acres for \$5,000 to his son Captain John. This deed makes the first mention of "the Tavern Lot" and it remained in possession of the Lamberts until Captain John's estate was settled. Captain John had two daughters, Eliza who married Edward Varian and died within the year of her marriage, and Deborah who married Samuel Corle. There was no son to inherit and when Captain John died in 1828 his widow (Polly Jones) settled his estate. On April 1, 1831 "The Tavern Lot" was conveyed to John Matthews, thus ending the Lambert connection with the Lambertville House. For \$3,512 sold "Tavern House & Lot of land to 1½ acres."

FERRY

We are uncertain of the date on which Joseph acquired the Ferry rights. Certainly it was in the late eighteenth century and we have several references to his ownership. "The act to build the bridge across the Delaware at Joseph Lambert's formerly Coryell's Ferry" passed the New Jersey Legislature in 1809.

GERSHOM LAMBERT 1754-1847

Gershom oldest son of John and Mary Carr was born in 1754. He was called "Long Gershom" because of his height and to distinguish him from his cousin Gershom, son of Gershom and Sarah Merriam, who was called "Miller Gershom." He was a large man with broad shoulders, slightly stooped. He had good features with brown eyes and dark brown hair which as his granddaughter Malvina Melick said, when she remembered him it was iron grey but not white. She went on to say "I never remember his doing any work. Every day he would go out over the farm to see the men at work. His arm chair stood by the fireplace and no one ever thought of sitting in grandfather's chair. His hat and cane were not far off. When he got up to go out Tarry got up too, wagged his stubby little tail. Tarry the little yellow dog went with grandfather whenever he moved. When he was old he used to smoke a pipe. Sometimes, but never used tobacco in any other form."

Gershom was married three times, first to Mary Barber, then to a Miss Curry and from this marriage there were two children, Asher and John. John was elected to the Assembly for two terms while Parker was Governor, and Sarah, a niece, said she was at the State Assembly in Trenton when he spoke and met Governor Parker who praised the work of John Lambert in the Assembly. He married Abigail Fisher but there were no children. He died in his ninety first year. Asher the other son married Jerusha Thatcher and there were six children. We the compilers were fortunate enough to know Mrs. William Maple (Anne Louisa Lambert) a granddaughter who lived at 32 York Street in Lambertville and where her Uncle John also lived "late in life." She pointed out to us the old homestead where she lived as a girl and where her great-grandfather Gershom lived, now owned by the James Hoovens. In letters she wrote to her brother she spoke of Uncle John living to be ninety one, that he was a widower, but that she could not remember "Aunt Abbie." At one time she said "Uncle John and Aunt Abbie lived on our

farm." Uncle John had a mortgage on the house on York Street and eventually the deed was made out to Mrs. Maple. As she said, "It was in a dilapidated condition and cost twice as much as I got for the farm to make it livable."

At the time that John and Abigail lived on the farm they took in a distant relative, Lib Lambert Pidcock when she was twelve years old. When he, John, died he left a life right in the house to her with the furniture that he had not willed otherwise. She sold the grandfather clock to Mrs. Erismann (Alice Coryell) for fifty dollars in gold, hid it away for burial. When she went to the hospital and thinking she was going to die she told where she had hidden it. However, when she came back the money was gone. Other recollections of Mrs. Maple's were that "Father or Aunt Sarah told me Myra Coryell lived at great-grandfather Gershom's and read to him" and Aunt Sarah describing Uncle John's death bed scene said he was in a deep coma and the doctor said not to move him. However "Aunt Lizzie murdered him because she moved his head against the doctor's orders."

Another descendant of Asher's was Mrs. G. Bartle Tourison who until her recent death lived in Princeton. She was a niece of Mrs. Maples and she too left a lot of biographical information and anecdotes. One of the most amusing was about a set of dishes that belonged to the Van Dolah family, when an estate was being settled "Uncle Garrett sold the wedding dishes his sister Mary Catherine Wilson wanted." She bid for them but was outbid by Garrett. So she stole one. The "red" plate was inherited by Mary Van Dolah Wilson Lambert and was handed down another two generations when it ended up in a rummage sale because the owner did not know its history.

Gershom's third marriage was to Elizabeth Duy Thomas, a widow. He was introduced to her as a wealthy farmer. When he drove home with his bride from Germantown he drove up to an old log house which stood on the farm making believe that it was his home. She was quiet and very gentle. She had thick brown hair and brown eyes. She wore a cap made of thin white material with a fluted piece around the face and tied under the chin. She wore plain bonnets and a shawl,

usually grey. Her granddaughter Malvina Melick remembers her walking across the fields and as she grew older and could not climb the fences Malvina's father Christopher Melick made stiles over the three fences and put a rail on so she could get over quite easily. Gershom and Elizabeth had two daughters, Hannah and Elizabeth. Hannah married Cornelius Coryell who was a son of Jacob Coryell and Sarah Lambert, a daughter of Senator John Lambert and Susanna Barber. Thus again appear the three sisters Myra Alice, Sarah Ann and Cornelia Elizabeth, their daughters. Elizabeth, Gershom's and Elizabeth's second daughter married Christopher Melick and it is Malvina Melick, one of their children who tells about her mother and father going to Germantown to live after their marriage. They were there for two years when her grandfather Gershom bought the farm adjoining his and they came to live there. He bought it from David Johns "very cheaply" Christopher Melick was a cabinet maker and when he took the farm he altered the house, tearing out almost all the interior leaving not much but the walls standing. Malvina inherited the farm.

Elizabeth Duy's sister Hannah came to live with them after they had yellow fever in Philadelphia and Germantown and when her father Christian Duy and her stepmother died of the fever. Gershom drove to Germantown and brought her and other members of the family to stay until the epidemic subsided. Hannah lived with them until her sister died.

Gershom helped to build the small boats which Washington commissioned for his crossing to Trenton. They were hidden on Lambert property, according to Mrs. Tourison, which bordered on the Delaware River. He saw Washington the General several times. Before the battle of Monmouth, Washington came to Amwell and arranged for food and fodder to be sent to his headquarters and Gershom sent a substitute to the war and with a Charles Cozzens, a cooper, had the barrels made and carted to Morristown. Gershom's war record will be found under Military Services of the Lamberts.

Gershom died March 1847 and the newspaper clipping reads as follows:

"On March 1st, 1847 Mr. Gershom Lambert in the 94th year of his age, a soldier of the Revolution
Mark the Upright Man
For the end of that man is peace."

MILITARY SERVICE

Service during the Revolution is documented in research by Lambert descendants who have used the records to gain admission to the D.A.R. and S.A.R. organizations.

Gershom Lambert's service has already been mentioned. He enlisted as Private in the New Jersey Militia, September 25, 1777 in Captain Henry Philip's Company and in 1782 was elected Lieutenant in Captain Joseph Smith's Company, Third Regiment Hunterdon County Militia. On the same date of his enlistment Jeremiah Lambert also joined Captain Philip's Company. This is of particular interest because Jeremiah was twelve years old at the time. He was mustered out October 7, 1777 by order of General Dickinson when his true age was discovered. He later served in 1781 and was a signer of two petitions to the Legislature in 1784 and 1785. He is said to have been the son of John Lambert and Mary Carr and is the ancestor of present day Lamberts in this area. The petition of November 1784 was addressed to

The Honourable the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey.

The Petition of a number of the inhabitants of the County of Hunterdon humbly sheweth that whereas a number of men in this County, Encourage by the promise of receiving at the rate of four pounds, ten shillings per month entered into the service of this State for three months in the year 1781 & after having served out their time do contrary to their expectations and contrary to an express Law of the state & the practice of other Counties find that the Paymaster will not pay or account with them for more than the rate of fifty shillings per month, therefore your petitioners pray that you

would take their case into consideration and order such Relief in the Premises as you in your wisdom shall think just and your Petitioners as in their Duty Bound shall Ever Pray.

The signatures include familiar names of Holcombe, Corle, Coryell, Hoppock as well as those of Jeremiah, Gershom and Joseph Lambert.

The second petition of November 1785 carries the same wording. We have no record of settlement of the claim but know that finances in the new Republic were in chaos and it is probable that the reduced pay offered was all that the state could afford.

Service in The Hunterdon County Militia was based on an act passed in the Provincial Congress of New Jersey, in session at Trenton June 3, 1775. The act provided a plan for regulating the Militia of the Colony. There were to be 4 Regiments for Hunterdon. On July 16, 1776 Congress requested the Convention of New Jersey to supply with Militia the places of 2,000 men of General Washington's army who had been ordered to march in to New Jersey to form a "flying camp." Service was to be for 1 month only. The 2,000 men were divided into 4 battalions. One battalion was formed by 2 Companies of Somerset men, 2 Companies from Sussex and 4 Companies of Hunterdon men.

The military organization consisted of the Continental Army, Minute Men and Militia. Many of the Minute Men became Militia in districts where they resided.

Uniform requirements as set forth August 31, 1775 directed men to "wear hunting frocks as near as may be to riflemen in the Continental Army." In October 1775 men capable of bearing arms who had been "requested" to enroll were now "directed" to do so. They were to be responsible for furnishing themselves with a good musket or firelock and bayonet, sword or tomahawk, a steel ram-rod, worm, priming wire and brush fitted thereto, cartouche box to contain 23 rounds of cartridges, 12 flints and a knapsack. To keep at home 1 pound of powder and 3 pounds of bullets. To form at the Captain's home in case of alarm. With these obligations placed upon them their petitions for promised pay are understandable, although their hardships in no way compared to those suffered by the Continental Army.

WAR OF 1812

The War of 1812 was declared June 18 and President Madison's message to Congress in June listed 4 major grounds for war. (1) Impressment of American seamen (2) Violation of U.S. neutral rights and territorial waters (3) The blockade of U.S. ports and (4) Refusal to revoke The Orders of Council. The House (4 June) supported the declaration of war (79-49). In the Senate the vote was delayed by Federalist and "Old Republican" opposition. The vote on June 18 in favor of war was 19-13. New Jersey and other maritime states voted for peace. Senator John Lambert's letter to Captain John expresses his feelings on the subject of involvement in the war.

In spite of his uncle's opposition to war Captain John served at Plattsburg in 1812, was in cantonment on the Sacanach in 1813 and also at Sacketts Harbor. He had predicted the coming of war in a letter to his Uncle Gershom in 1812. From Natchez, U.S. Territory he wrote that he had traveled by ship from New Orleans to New York and had spent three weeks looking at land on the "seaboard" and went back to New Orleans predicting war soon. He was correct in his prophecy and after the Battle of New Orleans wrote as follows to Senator John. "After 6 hours of battle they (English) had to retreat. Under General Jackson our force was 6,000 and that of the enemy 7,000 plus 2 negro regiments from the West Indies." The Battle of New Orleans was fought two weeks after signing of the peace at Ghent, 24 December 1814.

John Lambert Hoppock who was a son of Amy Lambert and grandson of Senator John, also served in the war. He was a Captain in the 15th Regiment of the Army of the United States, commanded by General Zebulon Pike. He lost his life April 27, 1813 during the battle and capture of York, (Toronto) Upper Canada. General Pike was also killed when a powder magazine exploded, wounding or killing 320 Americans.

THE LAMBERT'S

The Lamberts who came to Amwell were of New England stock, but their descendants married into New Jersey and Pennsylvania families establishing connection with the Barber, Holcombe, Van Dolah, Coryell, Wilson, Hunt, Rittenhouse, Thatcher, Prall, Reading, Hoppock, Woolverton, Larison, Welch, Anderson, and others whose names are still familiar in Hunterdon County.

They migrated to all parts of the United States and as recently as the summer of 1975 there was a Lambert Reunion held at Fort Worth, Texas which was attended by Mrs. Shannon Brown of Tempe, Arizona. She is the Recorder for the family and has supplied much valuable information. A glance at local directories will show that the Lambert name is still well represented in Hunterdon County.

Senator John Lambert is buried at Barber's Burying Ground, some graves are to be found in the old First Presbyterian Church cemetery, others at Mt. Airy, while the earliest burials are said to have been on the farms where the family lived. Of these we have found no trace.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to those who helped us make this history of the Lambert family possible. Research is always difficult, but doubly so when dealing with events of more than a hundred years ago.

PUBLIC RECORDS

Archives, Trenton, New Jersey
Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington, New Jersey
Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Hall of Records, Flemington, New Jersey
Hopewell Museum Library, Flemington, New Jersey
Hunterdon County Library, Flemington, New Jersey
Earlier publications by: Dr. Alfred G. Petrie, Sarah Gallagher, Hannah Coryell Anderson

Family Records Made Available By:

Mrs. Howard Prentice, Naples, Florida
Mrs. Hazel Tourison (deceased) Princeton, New Jersey
Mr. and Mrs. James Lambert, West Amwell Township, Lambertville, New Jersey
Mrs. Shannon Browd, Recorder for the Lambert Family, Tempe, Arizona
Mr. Maurice Ely, New Hope, Pennsylvania
Dr. J. Clyde Henry, First Presbyterian Church, Lambertville, New Jersey.

We want to express our deep gratitude to Mr. John Hazen, Editor and Publisher of the Beacon, for his invaluable assistance.

We gratefully acknowledge the clues and facts given us by the many who have shown an interest in our project.

Henrietta Van Syckle
Emily Abbott Nordfeldt