

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Salem County Historical Society

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A Crown in Hiding: Eleazar’s Concealment in Upper Pittsgrove Part II, The Coronets of Salem County

By Janet Sheridan

Part I of this article presented a patterned brickwork design concealed for 228 years which depicts a “coronet,” or crown, pattern on the Stanford and Esther Mayhew House in Upper Pittsgrove (Fig. 1).¹ The discovery and documentation of the Mayhew coronet triggered this study of coronet patterns. Where are others and when were they built? Who built them and why?

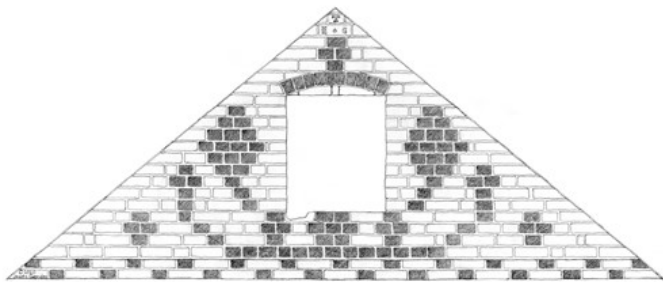


Figure 1. The recently discovered coronet pattern on the concealed east wall of the 1762 Mayhew house, Upper Pittsgrove, looking west. Drawing ©2020 Janet L. Sheridan.

In New Jersey, and perhaps in all the American colonies, coronets came into being with the house built in 1754 by John and Mary Dickinson in Alloway Township on which a depiction of a crown exuberantly fills the entire gable end wall. (Fig. 2).² The Dickinson coronet has become iconic for patterned brickwork in America.

Coronets departed markedly in time and design from the open diamond and zig-zag diaper patterns—meaning they covered an entire wall—that prevailed on brick houses between 1691 and 1746 in Salem County. Joseph Sickler, who chronicled the county’s early houses in 1949, while noting the English precedents of the early diaper patterns, declared, “It remained for some unknown master-craftsman...to advance to sheer artistry by audacious innovations on the wall of the 1754 Dickinson house, Salem’s crowning glory.”³ Sickler may have been too provincial; the Dickinson coronet is likely the crowning glory of both *New Jersey and American* patterned brickwork.

Paul Love, whose 1950 eastern seaboard survey of American patterned brickwork was the first scholarly work on the topic, called the Dickinson design “almost baroque in character and absolutely unique.”⁴ Love also coins the terms “sprouting diamond” and “vertical diamond string” to describe the design elements of coronets. Indeed, the Dickinson coronet introduced not only the coronet, but the solid diamond to patterned brickwork.⁵

Coronets utilized combinations of solid diamonds, hollow diamonds, sprouting diamonds, and vertical diamond strings. Solid diamonds range

from three to fifteen courses high. Small solid diamonds are often used as a sort of punctuation or framing device. Sprouting diamonds consist of solid diamonds terminating diagonal lines. Vertical diamond strings consist of solid and hollow diamonds connected vertically, either touching or overlapping. The use of single diamonds or vertical diamond strings is widely documented—in Philadelphia, Delaware, New York, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Louisiana—but in no other state than New Jersey, and in no other county than Salem, did coronets develop from these building blocks.⁶

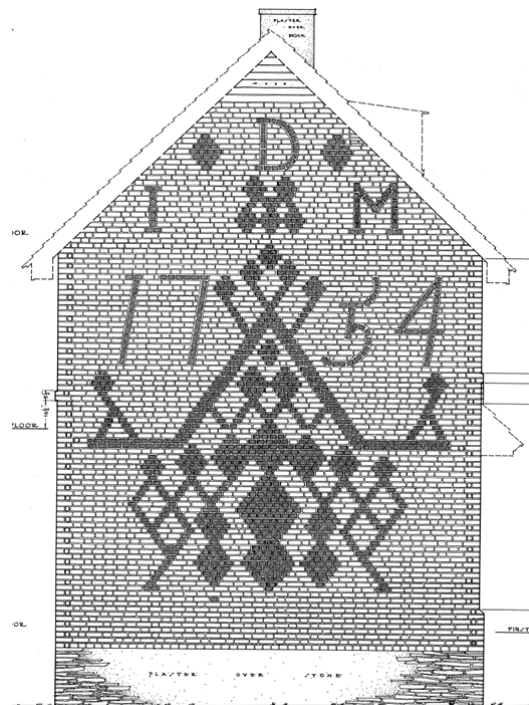


Figure 2. John and Mary Dickinson house, 1754, Alloway (formerly Upper Alloways Creek). The first and most elaborate coronet pattern, and the only one to cover an entire wall. Drawing from the Historic American Building Survey, HABS NJ,17-OAKL,1-, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/>

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The *Quarterly Newsletter* is published by the Salem County Historical Society Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Salem County Historical Society is to seek, document, preserve, interpret and perpetuate Salem County's heritage, and to enhance the awareness and appreciation of that heritage, through its research, collections, functions, exhibits, educational programs and publications, for the benefit of future generations and for the betterment of the community.

Research Library & Museum Hours

Tuesday through Saturday

Noon - 4PM

Admission Fee \$5.00

Free for Members

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This publication may include historical materials that contain language or stereotypes reflecting the culture or language of a particular period or place. These items are presented as part of the historical record.



Salem County Historical Society

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Message From the President

Dear Reader:

Please enjoy reading our newsletter. I'm hoping the Society's newsletters can provide glimpses into the past showing how Salem County ancestors banded together to take on tough times. This quarter's main article continues the investigation into a pattern brick house which celebrates early American architecture as art and ingenuity.

Although the Society has been closed to the public our museum committee volunteers have continued preparation (while safely offsite) of an exhibit on the Salem County glass industry. Staff are returning to the campus (practicing social distancing) to be the feet and hands of all the committees in planning the eventual reopening of the Society.

The Society's reopening will be staged and may include permanent changes for access, touring and research. Your patience is appreciated and feel free to make suggestions as we interpret the regulations to maximize staff and visitor safety.

I'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Curtis W. Harker, President

Message From the Administrator

As the Society continues to be closed to the public due to COVID-19 I wanted to give you some updates on what is going on behind the scenes during this closure. I, along with President Curt Harker have been coming into the Society frequently to ensure all is well and to gather materials needed for staff and myself to work from home. I have also been working on several Library projects including sorting and re-cataloging Salem County Directories, documenting acquisitions from late 2019 - early 2020, rehousing archival collections in the vault, and reorganizing and more clearly documenting our numerous photograph collections.

Our Museum Collections Coordinator, Alyssa Caltabiano is working with our Museum Committee on plans for the Society's upcoming Glass Room exhibit. She has been doing research on our glass collections and on the history of glassmaking in Salem County. In conjunction with this work, she has also been reorganizing items in the glass collection as well as sorting through other small objects boxes in the Society's Annex building.

Our Administrative Assistant, Amanda Pierce has continued with the daunting task of documenting in one place all of the items donated to the Society over the past 100 years. Once completed, our list of donated objects will be fully searchable in a digital format.

We greatly thank the staff and the volunteers for their work during these difficult times and for adapting to the best of their ability. Should you wish to make a donation to our organization during this closure please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon,

Richard J. Guido, Jr.
Administrator & Librarian

Calendar of Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**17TH JOHN STEWART ROCK
MEMORIAL LECTURE**



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020
3:00 P.M.**

Speaker and Topic: To be Announced
Location: Mount Pisgah AME Church
17 York Street
Salem, NJ 08079

SAVE THE DATE!

**Salem County Historical Society's Annual Luncheon
Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 1:00 P.M.**

Location: Inn at Salem Country Club in Elsinboro Township
Speaker and Topic: To be Announced

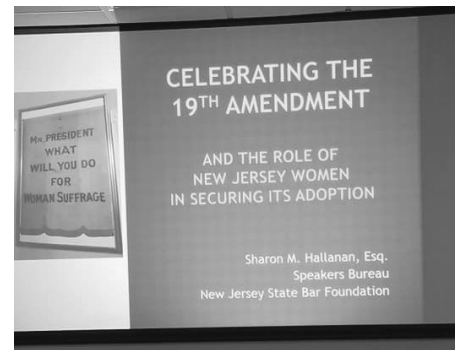


March Quarterly Meeting 2020



At our past March meeting we celebrated International Women's Day! Our presenter, Sharon M. Hallanan, Esq., taught us about Alice Paul and her work in the suffragette movement in New Jersey including her work in Washington,

organizing nationwide events and protests and involvement in the beginnings of Congressional Union for Women's Suffrage and the National Women's Party. The even was well attended and well received by our audience!



Additional Annual Appeal Donors 2019

As always, we greatly thank our donors for their donations and their continued generosity towards the Society!

New donations from the 2019 Annual Appeal:

Lauraine Chestnut in honor of Elizabeth D. Chestnut
Mr. and Mrs. James S. Davis in memory of Joanne S. Davis

Library Acquisitions:

- Allen, Patricia** in memory of Mrs. Ida Accoo, Cora Wallace and Gloria Brown Green, Salem, NJ. Pamphlet entitled, "Happy Anniversary: 60 Years Together Singing God's Praises: Salem Community Women's Choir. February 1, 2020." (2020.006)
- Barbera, Lorie** in memory of Robert Barbera, Mullica Hill, NJ. Mortgages and deeds relating to the Stow, Hillman and Colson families of Salem County. (2020.003)
- Buzby, J. Harlan**, Pennsville, NJ. Materials relating to the Algonkin Club." (2020.007)
- Githens, Thomas**, Pennsville, NJ. Certificate to Thomas Githens regarding the purchase of a the new town clock in Salem, NJ dated January 30, 1947. (2019.072)
- Mecum, Bill** in memory of Mary S. Mecum, Pennsville, NJ. Items relating to Admiral Byrd's visit to Salem County, photocopies of old Salem City buildings, and items relating to Mecum family ancestry. (2020.002)
- Rucci, Mary Ellen**, Bridgeton, NJ. Items relating to Thomas Dickeson purchased at Bob Brooks auction. (2020.001)
- Ziegler, William F.**, Mullica Hill, NJ. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1932 specific to Deepwater and DuPont City, Salem County, NJ. (2019.054)

ALEXANDER'S ANNALS

50 YEARS AGO

Pennsville Progress, Pennsville, NJ
June 1970

- Dave Romansky's record breaking spree, 1,500 meters—5 mins., 48 secs. Fastest that anyone had ever walked in the U. S.
- The "Hummingbird" roller coaster at old Riverview Park was bulldozed this week.
- Ames Department Store building is beginning to rise. A shopping complex is planned.
- DuPont to continue production of smokeless powder.
- Salem County Memorial Hospital rates boosted—Double rooms increased \$37 to \$47.
- Trinity United Methodist Church re-dedicates its original bell. donated in 1886. Took place on Sunday, May 31st.
- Pennsville National Bank has its Grand Opening.
- Crisco Shortening—1 lb.—81¢—Acme.

75 YEARS AGO

The Monitor-Register, Woodstown, NJ
June 1945

- 70-75% of all tomatoes grown in the U. S. are raised from seed produced in New Jersey.
- Joseph H. Ewart Re-elected President of the Tri-County Conference.
- You can solo in as little as 8 hours at the Pennsgrove Airport—Salem County flying Service.
- Catholic picnic at Riverview Beach Park—Saint Ann's and Saint Joseph.
- Governor signs bill requiring high schools to teach two-year courses in American history.
- Howell Rogers of the Woodstown Airport has secured the agency for Piper Cubs in Salem County.
- Woodstown Boy Scouts move headquarters from Andrews Building to new and modern quarters in the Nixon Building.
- *Kismet*—Ronald Colman & Marlene Dietrich—Grand Theatre.

100 YEARS AGO

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ
June 1920

- Sturgeon fishing records of the last 20 years have been shattered in the last 3 weeks of the present fishing season.
- Pennsville Township Committee has posted that all dogs found running at large will be killed.
- The Woodstown National Bank opens officially on June 28th in the Opera House Building.
- "Salem police force consists of only two members, one for day and the other for night duty."—City Council Meeting.
- J. S. Bates, Alloway, took 16 persons in his bus on Sunday to the County Home, it being the annual "Flower Day".
- The Penns Grove Public Library at 15 Penn Street was opened formally, last week.
- The spring outing of the Gloucester and Salem County Historical Societies to be held at Bonaparte Park, Bordentown.
- Penns Grove Camp Meeting! Greatest religious event of the year. In the Tabernacle, June 20th – 27th.

The Tabard Inn Library

"A branch of the Tabard Inn Library has been established in the store of Carpenter & Mitchell in this city.

"The Tabard Inn idea is entirely modern unlike its name which is derived from so ancient a source as Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, and yet the library carries with it a touch of antiquity which adds a charm to the very modern system of distribution which is one of its chief characteristics.

"In the smaller cities such as Salem the business is carried on through the medium of revolving book cases placed in drug stores and other attractive places which are kept constantly supplied with books from the large libraries.



"These stands, like the inns, are unique in appearance. They are made of quartered Oak and Mahogany, are richly carved, and hold from one hundred and twenty-five to two hundred and fifty books.

"Public libraries are among the best of modern contributions to the social welfare, but so far they have not been able to keep pace with the demand for the newest books. It is impossible that they should do so. The local demand for a new book will exhaust itself in a month if sufficient copies are supplied by the Library. It has then no further use for the book and the stock is a dead loss.

"It is just at this point that the economic features of the Tabard Inn Library come into play. It has stations all over the country and the books are shifted from town to town, from city to city. The book which is popular in Salem to-day may be popular in Los Angeles next week. Mutability is the order of the day. Because its librarian has found a way of meeting this law of public taste, the Tabard Inn Library has become the success of the hour.

"The Tabard Inn Library has been extensively advertised but there are a number of people in this section who do not just understand its workings. The plan is simply this: If you desire to join go to Carpenter & Mitchell's store, pay three dollars for a life membership in the library and then upon the payment of five cents per week you are entitled to any book in the library.

"People taking books from the Salem branch of the Library can exchange them at any other branch of the Library in any other part of the United States. There are now in the Salem branch of the Library one hundred and twenty-five of the latest books. These are kept here for a week and then replaced by one hundred and twenty-five more books and so on thus enabling the subscribers to always have a fresh lot to select from."

National Standard, Salem, NJ, April 30, 1902

Genealogically speaking....

**OHEB SHOLOM GROUP
TO UNVEIL PLAQUE**

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, June 29, 1944

FIFTY-FOUR NAMES APPEAR

“At the Synagogue on Church Street, this city, this evening a plaque honoring 54 men and women of the Congregation Oheb Sholom will be dedicated with appropriate ceremonies, under the direction of Rabbi A. H. Kahn.

“Attorney George A. Friedman will be the master of ceremonies and the President of the Congregation, Attorney J. Bernard Rogovoy, will deliver the opening address. The Rev. Samuel Jones will be the guest of honor.

“The musical portion of the program is under the direction of Mrs. Bernard Polish, Benjamin Smith, Dr. Maurice Chesler, Sol Greenberg and Isadore Sendrow.

“The principal address will be by Aaron Smith, State Commander of the American Legion.

“On the honor roll will appear the names of the following:

Albert Blitzstein	Benjamin Jones	Abram H. Levitsky	Seymour Sendrow
Myer Bross	Joel Jones	Isadore B. Levitsky	Harry Shapiro
Frank Budofaky	Joseph Jones	Maurice Marks	Sarah Shapiro
Hyman Character	Maurice Jones	Abraham Meltzer	Bennie Smith
Harold Glick	Bernard L. Kahn	Ralph Morin	David H. Smith
Joseph Goldstein	Jonas H. Kahn	Joseph Rubenstein	Robert S. Smith
Leon Goldstein	Max Levinson	Samuel L. Rubenstein	David Waltz
Samuel Goldstein	Albert Levin	Arnold K. Saltzburg	Maurice Weinstein
George G. Jonas	Alfred Levin	Julius D. Saltzburg	Alfred Woldoff’
Abraham Jones	Aaron D. Levitsky	Sidney Saltzburg	
Allen Jones	Aaron David Levitsky	Leonard Schwartz	

Unclaimed Letters

The following is the list of unclaimed letters remaining in the Salem Post-office for the week ending Monday, April 26, 1897:

Jos. S. **Ayars**, Catharine **Brandiff**, Luitr **Boyd**, E. J. **Brown**, Mrs. Bessie **Brown**, Mrs. Mary **Butcher**, George **Danrilo**, E. B. **Fritz**, Harry **Hish**, Harry **Haney**, Sarah Ellen **Hall**, (colored,) G. H. **Hallaway**, Chas. **Johnson**, (colored,) Jos. **James**, B. B. **Lawrence**, Mrs. Ed. **McQuilton**, Hanna G. **Myers**, Chas. L. **Maures**, Gust. L. **Nilson**, Mrs. W. E. **Oagheltree**, Jane E. **Pedrick**, Jos. **Smith**, (colored,) Miss Louise P. **Taylor**.

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, April 27, 1897

Letters remaining in the Quinton post-office. April 30, 1890—James A. **Rowel**, Edward **Rainey**, Rebecca T. **Brown**, Eliza **McCloskey**, Pasguala **Colosimo**, Lidia **McCloskey**, Miss A. M. **Shinfe**, Jas. H. **Vannaman**. Persons calling for the above will please say advertised.

The South Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, May 6, 1890

Salem County Marriages from the National Standard, Salem, NJ that do NOT appear in the Salem County Clerk’s Records

- In Allowaystown on the 16th instant, by the Rev. Wm. Maul, Mr. James **Currie**, to Miss Mary Jane **Nelson**, both of Woodstown. May 19, 1846
- In this town, on Tuesday the 5th of May last, by Rev. Mr. Helm, Mr. Hiram S. **Bright**, to Miss Margaret **Simpkins**, all of Salem. June 16, 1846
- On the 7th inst, by the Rev. W. M. C. **Smith**, Mr. James **Garton** to Miss Catharine **Hepner**, all of Centreville, Salem Co., N. J. June 23, 1846
- In Allowaystown, on the 8th inst., by the Rev. William **Maul**, Mr. William M. **Remester**, of Lower Penn’s Neck, to Miss Christiana **Hitchner**, of Friesburgh, N. J. October 20, 1846
- On the 3rd of August by the Rev. A. W. **Wayman**, Mr. John N. **Bouyoure** to Miss Mary **Emory**, both of Salem County. November 10, 1846
- On the 12th inst., by the Rev. Mr. **Helm**, Mr. Stephen **Murphey**, of Pilesgrove to Miss Sarah **Caruthers**, of Pittsgrove. November 17, 1846
- On the 25th inst., by the Rev. J. W. **Gibbs**, Mrs. James S. **Flanagin**, of Philadelphia, to Miss Margaretta M., daughter of William **Johnson**, Esq., of Lower Penn’s Neck. December 1, 1846
- In Salem on the 27th of September, by the same, Mr. Thomas **Borrandalf** to Miss Catharine H. **Kiple**, both of Philadelphia. December 1, 1846
- In Salem on the 24th inst., by the Rev. E. K. **Shaw**, Mr. Elijah W. **Dunn**, of Salem, to Miss Susan E., daughter of James **Newell**, of L. Penn’s Neck. December 29, 1846

(continued from cover)

Based upon the known documentary sources and my own observations, seven versions of the coronet occur in Salem County. They were made in various forms and sizes between 1754 and 1783, but a cluster of five made in the ten-year period 1754-1764 seem to mark the ascendance for this type of pattern. Four of the seven stand in Upper Pittsgrove, where expressions of the coronet were made over twenty-one years between 1762 and 1783.

Chronologically, the seven coronet designs started very large and scaled down greatly in the extent of their coverage of the gable end as the years passed. No two are alike. Some are quite small, and resemble crowns only after very close examination and heretofore were

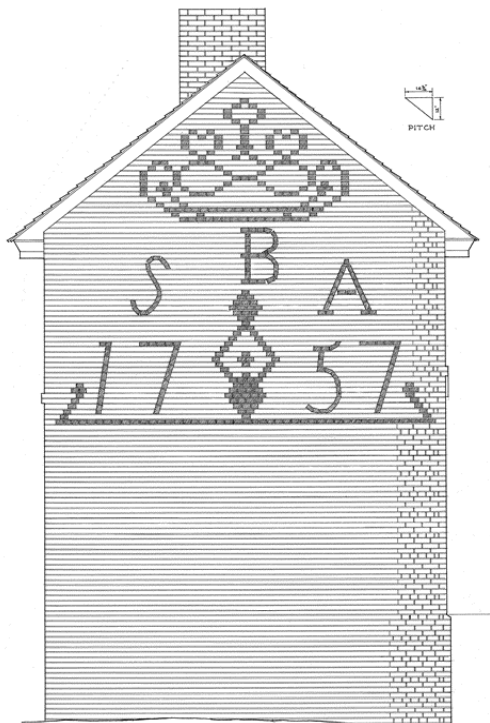


Figure 3. Samuel and Ann Bassett house, 1757, Pilesgrove. Find the missing header in this drawing from the Historic American Building Survey, HABS NJ,17-WOOTO.V,3-. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/>

unrecognized as such. Geographically, they began in Alloway, spread northeast into Pilesgrove and Carney's Point, then appeared in Upper Pittsgrove, where they flourished and died.⁷

The very complex Dickinson coronet in Alloway fills the entire wall from the peak to the water table (Fig. 2). The gable above the eaves is filled with the initials, two seven-course solid diamonds flanking the D, and a matrix of five-course sprouting diamonds between the J and the M. The coronet rises from a base of thick horizontal lines with sprouting diamond outer edges that meet a central inverted "V" bisecting the date, and topped by four sprouting diamonds with a central terminal diamond. Below the base is a symmetrical matrix of solid and hollow, sprouting and vertically strung diamonds in five sizes, including a horizontal zigzag and flanking fragments of the hollow diamond diaper of yore. The axis of this array is a string of the three largest solid diamonds touching and overlapping. Whether the lower matrix is representational or simply a geometric pattern is not clear. Nevertheless, it is workmanship of great imagination and perfection.

Samuel and Ann Bassett's coronet of 1757 (Fig. 3) in Pilesgrove is



Figure 4. John and Catherine Biddle house, 1763, in Carney's Point (formerly Upper Penn's Neck), demolished 1980s. Photo by and courtesy of Dr. David Orr.

the most literal crown of all, and is confined to the gable, as is the Mayhew's. It features two hearts flanking what could be a key above two oval shapes nested in the base of the crown, which encloses two sprouting diamonds. Immediately under the base of the coronet are their initials, then the date bifurcated by a triple vertical diamond string. A solid seven-course diamond sits upon a fifteen-course open diamond dotted with a centered three-course diamond (or cross) that overlaps a nine-course solid diamond standing on an underscore terminated by sprouting diamonds. The hollow diamond with central cross is a holdover from earlier times, seen in the diamond diaper of the 1695 John and Sarah Mason House in Elsinboro, and on the 1698 Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Church in Philadelphia.

Hearts appear not only in the Bassett coronet, but also inside their house as a pair of cut-outs in a door in a second floor chamber, which may have signified the couple's bedchamber. This practice is also seen in the Abel and Mary Nicholson House in Elsinboro, where cut-out hearts pierce the parlor overdoor panel, and in the Cooper family's Pomona Hall in Camden, where an overdoor heart reputedly marks the master bed chamber.⁸



Figure 5. Michael and Rebecca Richman house, 1764, Upper Pittsgrove. The coronet is the uppermost shape below the upper "R." Photo from Historic American Building Survey HABS NJ,17-PIT. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/>

Five years after the Bassett house, in 1762, Stanford and Esther Mayhew introduced the coronet to Upper Pittsgrove (Fig. 1). Theirs is more akin to the Dickinson's in its use of sprouting diamonds, though it matches the Bassett's in size. It is the only one that accommodated a window, which appears to provide a cap with a cross finial to the crown. It is also distinctive for its sprouting crosses. The Mayhews added their initials and the date to the opposite gable end (see Part I), an uncommon practice.

One year later in 1763, in Carney's Point, John and Catherine Biddle arranged a small crown that seems to adopt fragments of the Dickinson's, but reduced the crown to a nine-course checkered diamond under three upwardly radiating sprouting diamonds. The central one is more complex—a column of two, three-course diamonds topped with a five-course solid diamond. (Fig. 4).

Again in one year, 1764, Michael and Rebecca Richman placed a triple vertical string of shapes centered between the initials and date as did the Bassetts, but much more tightly arranged (Fig. 5). Paul Love saw all these shapes as diamonds.⁹ But, a closer look reveals a checkered diamond exactly like the Biddle's below a seven-course open diamond, which is below a third unique shape, noted as "irregular in design" by the only other writer who described it in any detail.¹⁰ In my view, this is the subtly crafted shape of a tiny crown—pointed at the top, pinched in further down, and flaring out again to meet a flat base. Framing the whole are four, three-course solid diamonds topped with a five-course diamond in the apex of the gable, and what Paul Love called "a sprinkling of vitrified headers" suggesting an underline.

The similarity of the Biddle and Richman patterns is striking. In addition to the overall arrangement of elements, the identical checkered diamond between the numerals, and the building dates one year apart, the numerals "1," "7," and "6" are identical in shape and height, suggesting the same bricklayer built both houses.



Figure 6. Samuel and Sarah Swing house, 1775, Upper Pittsgrove. These white bricks are rare. Photo ©2020 Janet L. Sheridan

After three in such rapid succession, it was not until eleven years later that another coronet was built. Samuel and Sarah Swing's 1775 version is a simple and compact arrangement of five, sprouting five-course solid diamonds surrounded by the initials and the date below (Fig. 6). Three and five-course solid diamonds in the gable peak frame the upper "S." The whole appears to be underlined by a course that was disrupted in some way and filled with mortar. A nineteenth century photo shows a distinct shadow at this line, indicating that it likely was a projecting brick string course.¹¹

Lastly, in 1783, eight years after the Swings, Cornelius and Mary Nieu Kirk, like the Mayhews, decorated both sides of their house with initials and date on the east and a unique diminutive shape on the west that might be mistaken for a diamond (Fig. 7). The design depicts a crown eleven courses high with a cross in the center, similar to the Richman coronet, but larger and more distinct. Pointed at the top, it rounds down into lateral points, then tapers inward to a flat base.

Though patterned brickwork was introduced by Quakers at the inception of English settlement (1675), the coronet makers, save one



Figure 7. Cornelius and Mary Nieu Kirk house, 1783, Upper Pittsgrove. Initials and date were laid in the opposite gable end. Photo ©2020 Janet L. Sheridan

(Bassetts), were Protestants of other stripes—Baptists, Lutherans, and Presbyterians—and mostly non-English. The Mayhews were Cornish who moved to Ireland, the Nieu Kirks were Dutch and German, the Swings were French and German, and the Richmans were German, French and Swedish. They descended from Swedish Lutheran, Dutch Reformed, and French Huguenot settlers. These families eventually allied with the Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church established in 1741.¹²

The Dickinson house in Alloway has been attributed to Quakers, but Dickinsons were not members of the Salem Monthly Meeting of Friends. Rather, they were likely the John and Mary Dickinson among the Pilesgrove Baptists who were initially associated with the Cohansey Baptist Church before they organized their own church in Upper Pittsgrove in 1771.¹³

The Bassetts were Quakers from Massachusetts who settled in Pilesgrove and Mannington. At the close of 1757, one "Samuel Bassett Produced a paper condemning his Outgoings in Marriage which was Received and Accepted as Satisfaction." Apparently his repentance in the form of a self-condemnation for marrying a non-Quaker was convincing to the Meeting, saving his Quaker status. Samuel's transgressiveness toward Quaker discipline in marriage, however, may be a window into a rebellious spirit which led him to the innovation of his coronet. His brother Elisha was evidently not as willing to repent of not only his out-marriage but military activities as well, as he was disowned in 1761 for these infractions. Samuel was eventually disowned for other reasons in 1764.¹⁴

The Richman family originally settled in western Pilesgrove and was associated with the Swedish Lutheran Church, as were the Biddles. So, it would not be surprising if the two families knew each other, used the same mason, and shared their design idea. The Richmans migrated to Pittsgrove and joined the nearby Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church, where the Swings, Mayhews, and Nieu Kirks were also members.¹⁵

These leading families chose to decorate their houses with vitrified brick patterns, a tradition initiated and particularly embraced in West Jersey by the Society of Friends. Among Quakers, patterned brickwork, an art of the bricklayer, "was a profound expression of their social, economic, religious, and political power."¹⁶ They set down a landscape tradition that came to be embraced by Friends of substance.

The practice was not lost on others, however, as later in the eighteenth century it was appropriated by people of these other religious groups who aspired to the same meanings.¹⁷

Geographically, the earliest patterned brickwork houses were in the southern river townships initially settled by Quakers—Salem, Elsinboro, and Lower Alloways Creek. As the diamond diapers waned in the 1740s, the coronets waxed in northern areas not dominated by Quakers—Upper Alloways Creek, Upper Penns Neck, Pilesgrove, with the final four in Pittsgrove. Pittsgrove, the eastern portion of the county, was settled not by Quakers, but by other Protestants from Holland, France, Germany, and England who colonized this region between 1714 and mid-century.¹⁸



Figure 8. Jacob and Catherine Richman house, 1746, Upper Pittsgrove. Two facades are Flemish checker bond. Decorations include two Flemish checker string courses, checkered segmental window/door arches and a date plaque. Photo ©2020 Janet L. Sheridan

Their brick houses appeared between 1746 and 1792 as those settlers were getting established in this later-settled region. The most prosperous of them built in brick, with twelve examples standing in 1798, representing only 7% of houses valued over \$100.¹⁹

Of the six patterned brickwork survivors that stand today in Upper Pittsgrove (formerly was the middle portion of Pilesgrove), only one was built by a Quaker—David Davis. His house was considerably earlier (1731), is decorated with a diamond diaper, and is located very near the Pilesgrove boundary established in 1769. In 1746, Jacob and Catherine Richman built the next patterned brickwork house—solely in Flemish checker bond on two walls, featuring two Flemish checker string courses in the gable end, and a date plaque in the gable peak, a less common dating practice (Fig. 8). Predating by eight years the advent of the coronet, it conspicuously lacks the diamond diaper, and stands as a transition between the decorative modes of Quakers and others.

Diverse Protestant and ethnic people appropriated the Quaker's patterned brickwork tradition for the frontier of Upper Pittsgrove. But why did the coronet motif gain so much traction in Upper Pittsgrove, and what did it signify to those elite brick house owners?

We would not expect any colonist who suffered oppression in England or Europe or their descendants to adopt a symbol of European royalty, the source of their sufferings and emigration. Members of these families fought against Britain, serving under the command of Captain Cornelius Nieukirk, who, at the close of the war, produced the last patterned brickwork coronet.²⁰ Perhaps there is a religious connotation, as in "Christ the King," as all of these owners were associated with Christian societies, and perhaps they were more inclined to outwardly express Christian symbolism than the Quakers were. If so, they may have been connecting their secular, domestic lives with their religious lives and brick meeting houses as the Quakers did, creating a public, architectural association with the cultural influence of their churches, and reflecting their own social status within them.²¹

In addition, the consistent use of initials and dates among these powerful landed families might suggest that they appropriated the Quaker intention of making their homes ancestral estates, domiciles capable of expressing their tribal tendencies, to keep their families and religious practice closely intertwined. After all, in considering where to place his 1792 lateral addition, Eleazar Mayhew chose to cover his parents' coronet on the east, instead of their names on the west. His and Sarah's initials and the year 1792, the last vitrified brick pattern in the county, visually bookended their legacy with that of his parents, creating a monument to family identity and landed power for their present and future.

Many thanks to Libby Myers, who graciously invited me into her home to stumble upon and record this forgotten pattern, and who intrepidly helped me measure the house on a cold day with her arm in a sling intertwined through time. I also thank my friend and colleague Maria Cerda-Moreno for helping me measure the brick pattern, mortar joint by mortar joint, Bonny Beth Elwell and Armando Martinez for their genealogical knowledge about the house builders, and my readers, Michael Chiarappa and Bonny Beth Elwell, who provided excellent insights and corrections for which I am grateful.

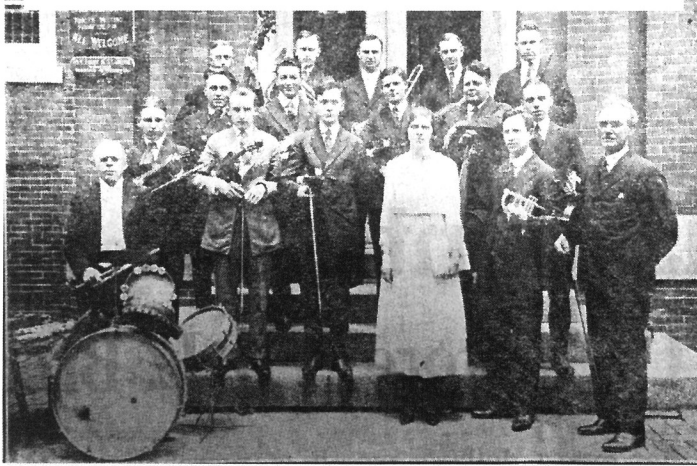
End Notes:

- ¹Salem County Historical Society *Quarterly Newsletter*, Vol. 65, No. 1 (Spring 2020), 1, 10-11.
- ²Robert W. Craig, "Traditional Patterned Brick in New Jersey," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2017, E-29;
- ³Joseph S. Sickler, *The Old Houses of Salem County* (Salem, NJ: Sunbeam Publishing, 1949), 6.
- ⁴Paul Love, "Patterned Brickwork in the American Colonies." (Columbia University, PhD diss. 1950), 44.
- ⁵Craig, E29.
- ⁶Love, Appendix A; Robert A. Craig, personal communication, February 4, 2020.
- ⁷This article will reference locations by today's townships to avoid the confusion of boundary and name changes over time.
- ⁸The Pomona Hall example is via personal communication, Bonnie Beth Elwell, April 26, 2020.
- ⁹Love, 159.
- ¹⁰Johnson, George Walter, 27 in 76: *Patterned-Brick Houses of Salem County* (Pennsville, N. J.: George Walter Johnson, 1977), 95.
- ¹¹Bonny Beth Elwell, *Upper Pittsgrove, Elmer, and Pittsgrove* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2013), 50.
- ¹²Harry S. Mayhew, "A History of the Mayhew Family" (Salem County Genealogical Society, 2014 (revised), 3; Bonny Beth Elwell, personal communication 2/2/2020; Historic American Building Survey, Michael Richman House, HABS- NJ 17-PIT, Data pages.
- ¹³William Wade Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy Vol II*; "Pastor's Book of Cohansey Baptist Church, commenced by Rev. Robert Kelsay in January 1757, Members Living in or near Pilesgrove." *Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1669-2013*, Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Ancestry.com; Thomas Shourds, *History and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony, New Jersey* (Bridgetown, NJ: G.F. Nixon, 1876. Repr. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1991), 413-414.
- ¹⁴Hinshaw, 54; "Minutes 1740-1788, Salem Monthly Meeting," (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Minutes (MR-Ph572), 183, 212, 240. Swarthmore College, Ancestry.com database.
- ¹⁵Chiarappa, 454-455; Bonny Beth Elwell, personal communication, January 16, 2020.
- ¹⁶Chiarappa, xvii.
- ¹⁷Chiarappa, 39, 361.
- ¹⁸Thomas Cushing and Charles E. Sheppard, *History of the Counties of Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland, New Jersey* (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1883; repr. Woodbury, NJ: Gloucester County Historical Society, 1974), 490.
- ¹⁹1798 Direct Tax List, Pittsgrove Twp. The missing houses may or may not have had patterned brickwork, but in the pre-Revolutionary War period, it was likely that they at least used Flemish checker bond.
- ²⁰Frank H. Stewart, *Salem County in the Revolution*, (Salem County Historical Society, 1967), 7-10, 25, 31.
- ²¹Chiarappa, 349-360.

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**Orchestra of the First Baptist Sunday-School,
Salem N. J.**



“Top row reading from left to right—Lee Hummel, Russell S. Morton, Frank Morton, Clarence Penton, Charles Sheppard.
Middle Row—Herman Ahl, Russell Bassett, Walter Whitaker, Dr. Franklin I. Church, Merwin Hummel.
Bottom Row—George Bolton, Parker Hall, Josiah Carll, Oscar Hutchinson, Miss Myrna Yourinson, Albert C. Robinson, William R. Franklin, director.

“The orchestra is now touring the towns of South Jersey and the recitals are drawing large crowds.”

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, November 17, 1920

**The Mascot
Bijou Opera Company**

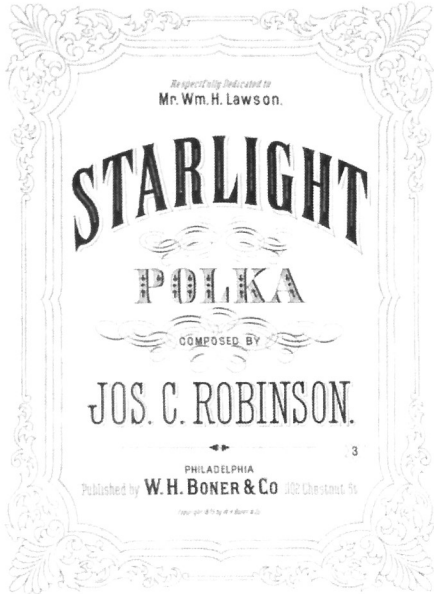


“A fair audience, composed of our best citizens, assembled in the Lecture Hall last evening to hear the Bijou Opera Company render the opera of “The Mascot.” This company, though small, is unexceptionally good; in fact, its equal never visited our city. The applause was frequent and hearty.

“Every member of the company is an artist. Miss Randall as “Bettina,” Mr. Hamilton as “Lorenzo,” and Mr. Pepper as “Pippo,” the leading characters, were perfect, while Misses Harrington and Tutein, and Messrs. Pepper, Paxton and Talbot excellently sustained their character. The costumes worn by the ladies were handsome.

“To-night the company will present the charming opera of “Olivette,” and we bespeak for them a good house.”

*The South Jerseyman,
Salem, NJ, June 9, 1885*



“We have another music composer in our midst, the result of the good musical instruction and growing taste for that branch of science lately introduced here.

“Mr. Jos. C. Robinson, a young townsman of much musical skill, has composed and published a piece entitled, “Starlight Polka,” which is receiving ready sale and much favor in musical circles.”

*Salem Sunbeam,
Salem, NJ, July 2, 1875*

**Music While At Work
For Women at Anchor Hocking**

“A new innovation is to be tried at one of the industrial plants in Salem within a few days. It is music for the women employed at the plant of the Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation on Griffith Street.

“Equipment is now being installed in several departments over which recorded music will be played during each shift. This has been tried and proven a success in other industries throughout the country as a relief of fatigue. The women are anxiously awaiting the day when the music is turned on.”

Salem Standard & Jerseyman, Salem, NJ, October 5, 1944

The Old Baptist Church

Yorke Street, Salem, New Jersey



From the Collection 000.711.1413

“A Relic.—A painting [left] may be seen in the window of Patterson’s Jewelry store, 201 E. Broadway, representing the old Baptist Church which stood in the cemetery lot on Yorke Street, and was pulled down about 35 years ago. It is a faithful representation of the venerable building, as we remember it, and reflect credit upon the artist, Mrs. John C. Mulford [Georgia B. Mulford], who took a sketch of it at the time, and now puts it on canvas for the Salem County Historical Society, for the information of future generations.”

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, June 5, 1885

Minutes, Baptist Church, Salem, NJ

October 15, 1853, p. 313

“6th Resolved that the trustees of the church be authorized to dispose of the old meeting house according as it may in their judgment be to the best advantage for the church.”

☞ “That time-honored edifice, the Old Baptist Church on Yorke Street, Salem, (long since vacated) will soon be classed among the things that were. The material of which the building is composed is advertised to be sold on Saturday, the 4th February next.”

Salem Sunbeam, Salem, NJ, January 20, 1854

“The materials of the Old Baptist Church on Yorke Street, were purchased by Mr. R. C. Ballinger, [Richard E. Ballinger] on Saturday last, for \$250;—and the work of demolition is now going on.”

Ibid. February 10, 1854

“The purchaser of the Old Baptist Church edifice on Yorke Street, Mr. Ballinger, desires us to inform “Antiquary” and all others interested, that he has not as yet taken up the foundation stones; and that, when he does so, and should any relics of “auld lang syne” appear, he will cheerfully and promptly place them before the public.”

Ibid., March 31, 1854

Minutes, Baptist Church, Salem, NJ

September 16, 1854, p. 36

“6th Resolved that the velvets from the Old Baptist Church be given to the Roadstown Baptist Church as a present for their lecture room.”

PUBLIC SALE OF BUILDING MATERIALS.

WILL be sold at Public Sale, on SATURDAY the 4th day of February next, on the premises, all the Building Materials of which the Old Baptist Meeting-house on Yorke street, Salem, is composed—consisting of a large quantity of Bricks; Lumber, Building Stone, Sash, Window Frames, Doors, Roof, 3 Marble Steps, &c. &c.

The attention of builders and all persons wanting materials for building purposes, is requested, as the sale will be positive.

Sale to commence at 2 o’clock, P. M., on said day, when attendance will be given and conditions made known by

JOSEPH FOSTER,

President of the Board of Trustees.

January 19, 1854. ts

REFLECTIONS

SUGGESTED BY THE DEMOLITION OF THE OLD BAPTIST CHURCH, ON YORKE STREET, SALEM, N. J., FEBRUARY, 1854

DEVOTED FANE! A sacrilegious hand

Hath hurl’d thee down, and laid thine altar low:

And the foundations whereon thou didst stand,

Have been exhumed, and scatter’d to and fro;

And not a fragment doth remain to show

Thou e’er hadst being, or to future times declare

(What by tradition they alone may know)

How in the past a House decreed to prayer—

A Temple of the Lord, had stood sequester’d there.

First stanza; *A Collection of Selected Poems and Essays of Jacob M. Lippincott of Salem, New Jersey*; privately printed by the Chiswick Press Took’s Court, Chancery Lane, London—MDCCCXCVIII

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Membership Report

New Members:

A. Sinclair Dunlop
 Turnersville, NJ
Michael Patterson
 Wilmington, DE

Deceased Members:

Alice Kathryn Saunderlin
 Salem, NJ
Joel L. Vittori Sr.
 Salem, NJ

Articles of Note

- Saunderlin, Bill, "19th Century Birth Ledger by Martha Austin Reeves (1760-1832) Part 4", *Cumberland Patriot*: Spring 2020, Vol. 52, No.1. The Cumberland County Historical Society, Greenwich, New Jersey.
- Klett, Joseph R., "The Weavers of Pilesgrove, Salem County, and Their Compatriots", "Addendum to Part II: Allied German Families", *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, January 2020; Volume 95, Number 1, Whole No. 320.

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RETURN TO: SCHS, 83 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079

!PHOTOGRAPH ID PLEASE!



Haynes/Haines Family Reunion 1948

This gathering of family and friends was organized by **Clet and Bess (Gannon) Haynes** of Woodstown, NJ at the Algonkin Club in the summer of 1948. Twelve people have been identified to date. Please let us know if you can identify anyone? Thank you.

The Salem County Historical Society receives general operating support grants and project grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of the Department of State. Additional funding has been made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of the Department of State, through the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.



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