
Unique Discoveries from the Archives

Murder, Mystery, and Mayhem in Cape May County



Laurie Boyd Thomas

Cape May County
NEW JERSEY

Recognizance
for
John Hatton,
Ned the Slave,
Jedidiah Mills,
and Memucan
Hughes

The Court Adjourned till 8 o'Clock to-morrow Morning.
Wednesday 9 o'Clock, At Meriden.
The Court Met according to Adjournment.
Present, as at first.
Dom. Pro. } On a Recognizance.
Jedidiah Mills } Being called appears.
Dom. Pro. } On a Recognizance for peace and good Behaviour
John Hatton Pro. } to Jedidiah Mills. &c.
Being called appears.
Dom. Pro. } On a Recognizance for peace and good Behaviour
Memucan Hughes } to John Hatton &c.
Being called appears
and is discharged from the same.
Dom. Pro. } On a Recognizance for the good Behaviour of
Negro Ned, a } said Slave, to all his Majesty's Lige
Mollato Slave } People, and especially to Jedidiah Mills.
of said Hatton. } Being called appears.
The Court Adjourned for Half an Hour.
The Court Met according to Adjournment.
Present as before.

Dom. Prop
at
Jedidiah Mills

One Recognizance
Jedidiah Mills appeared in Open Court
and acknowledged him self Indebted to our
Sovereign Lord the King in the sum of Forty
Pounds proclamation Money; And at the
same time likewise appeared Levi Mills
and under took for the said Jedidiah
Mills in the sum of Twenty pounds mon-
ey as said. To be levied upon their lands
and Sundry Goods and Chattles to the
use of our said Lord the King his Heirs
and Successors if Default shall be made
in the following Condition. The Condition
is that he the said Jedidiah Mills shall
personally appear at the Next Court of
General Quarter Sessions of the Peace
to be holden for this County; and in the me-
an times shall be of good Behaviour to
all his Majesty's Liege People; and
Specially to John Walton Esq then the
Recognizance to be void; Otherwise in
force.

The Court adjourned till tomorrow morning 9 o'clock
Friday 3. O'Clock. At Meriden. 2
The Court met according to adjournment. 2
Present.
James Wallden Esq
He as before

The King VS. Jedidiah Mills

John Hatton's Oath

(Copy John Hatton's Oath.)

November 9th day 1775.

Then John Hatton Esq. his Majesty's Collector for the County of
Salem and Chancery and the Districts of the Province of New Jersey,
came before me James Whitted Esq. one of his Majesty's Justices
of the Peace for the County of Cape May and Province of
New Jersey, and made Oath, that on this day the Eighth day
of this Instant, that he the said John Hatton Esq. having lawfully
seized a pilot boat deeply laden with what he supposed
forbidden goods, being a boat about three of the Clock on the fore day,
as she was lying at Anchor off the Cape, near the Mouth of
Delaware Bay; he was then and there assaulted on the Sea,
by one Memucan Hughes, of the County of Cape May, with Eight
other persons who came from a Ship, which lay at Anchor
about three miles off, whose names are unknown to the
said John Hatton Esq. then and there by force of Arms Robbed
the Deponent by taking from him by force, the aforesaid
Pilot Boat and Cargo, that was lawfully seized with one
Negro man slave, Three Guns, Two hangers and a Rifle Shot,
the whole of which he the said John Hatton Esq. doth value to
the sum of Two Hundred Pounds lawful Money of the
Province.

Sworn before me this day and year above written.

James Whitted

This is a True Copy.

Attest
E. Hughes

Cape May County
NEW JERSEY

John Hatton - Perjury

10
Whereas John Hatton Esq. was on the day this present Term, in Open Session, qualified to go to the Grand Jury to give in his Vidance, on the behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, and the said John Hatton, on taking his solemn Oath, went before the said Jury, who asking the said Hatton such matters, on the part of ^{our} Sovereign Lord the King, as they in the Duty of their places, were desirous to be informed off; but the said John Hatton, notwithstanding his having come under the solemnity of an oath for that purpose, absolutely refused to answer, or give in his Vidance to such matters as they found cause to ask him.

On which the Grand Jury on their return in to Court complained to the said Court, of the said John Hatton, who never the less still persisted in his resolution of not giving in his Vidance.

Wherefore, at the Request of the Grand Jury, it is Ordered that the same be Entered on the Minutes of this Court; and the same is Entered accordingly.

Constables appointed for the ensuing year viz

Lower Precinct	David Hall, Ruben
Middle Precinct	Swain
Upper Precinct	Jonathan Hand &
	Nathaniel Perkins,
	James Williams &
	Thomas Scott.

Letter from Governor William Franklin

11 (C. Will. L. 1770.)

By His Excellency
William Franklin, Esquire, Captain
General Governor & Commander in Chief
in and over the Province of New Jersey and
Territories thereon depending in America,
Chancellor and Vice Admiral in the same Sea,
The Earl of Sandwich, His Majesty's
Attorney General of New Jersey, or whomsoever
effect may Concern.

You are hereby commanded to enter a Non vult
Petition Prosequi upon a certain Petition now
depending & lately exhibited on the Oath of Affidavit
with regard to John Hallen Esq. Collector of his
Majesty's Customs, in the Court of General Quarter
Sessions of the Peace in the County of Cape May
or in any other Court of Record in the said County
by what ever Name, or Name, or Name, or Name
one the said John Hallen may be called or described,
and a general Process thereupon issued or to be
issued, or any Disobedience by him entered in to, or
to be entered in to, for his appearance in any of his
Majesty's Courts or otherwise for or by reason of the
Petition aforesaid; for which this shall be your
Warrant.

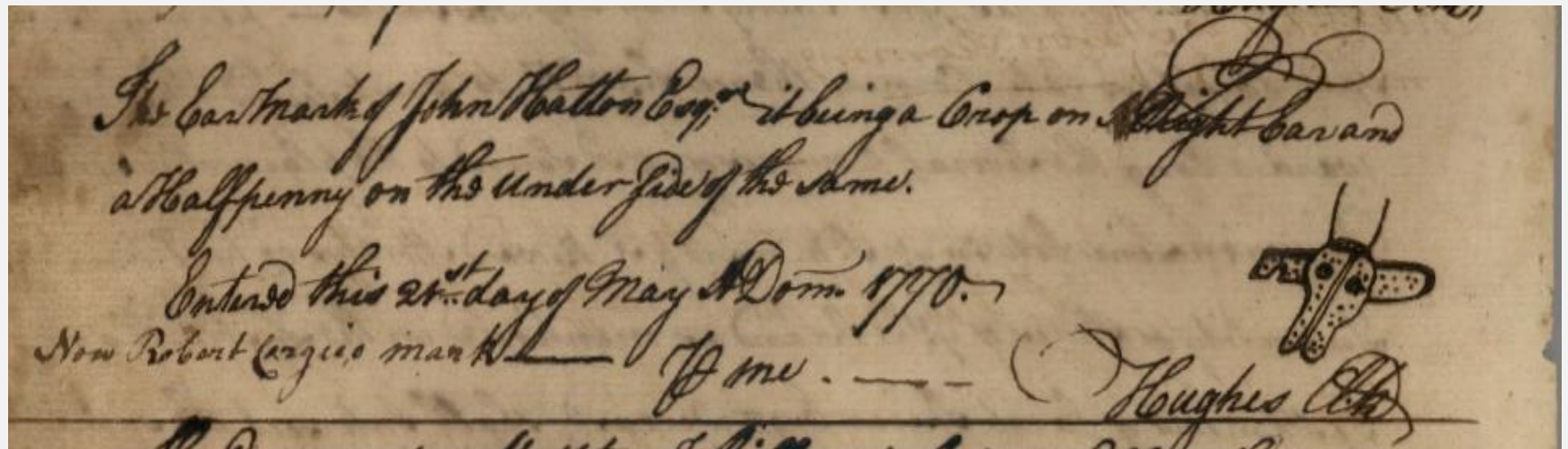
Given under my Hand & Seal at New
at Burlington the twentieth Day of
December in the Seventh Year of the Reign
of His Majesty George the third King of
Great Britain &c. Anno Dom. 1770.

By His Excellency's Command. W. Franklin
John Hallen Esq.

Cape May County

NEW JERSEY

John Hatton's Earmark



Oh my.....



Cape May County
NEW JERSEY

The Murder of Thomas J. W. Hand

1831

posed to the distance of three miles, to take and secure for
the benefit of their Owners a Number of supposed run-
away Negroes from Virginia that were in a small clinker
built Open Boat with two masts and two sails and that
the aforesaid Whale Boat in coming up with the sup-
posed runaway, fired a gun over them with the view of alar-
ming them that they might take and secure them as
aforesaid, and that the supposed aforesaid runaway
Negroes did then and there upon the Open Sea as is
supposed between the hours of 4 and 5 o'clock Afternoon, in
return fire in upon one of the Whale Boat of the Prison
and killed the aforesaid Thomas J. W. Hand the ball entering
the side of the head near his left ear and past out of the
back of head from which wound he instantly died
We therefore do agree that it was murder in the second
degree in his own wrong, by the said supposed runaway
Negroes. In witness whereof, as well the aforesaid Coroner
as the Jurors aforesaid, have to this Inquisition put
their hands and seals on the day and Year aforesaid
and at the place aforesaid.

Enoch Edmunds Coroner

Isaac Whillbier (L.S.)
Wm. Hughes (L.S.)
Jas. Eldredge (L.S.)
James S. Thompson (L.S.)
David Hughes (L.S.)
David Reever (L.S.)
Andrew H. Reever (L.S.)
Agas. Thompson (L.S.)
Enoch Edmunds (L.S.)
Jonathan H. Reever (L.S.)
Ezekiel Eldredge (L.S.)
John A. Reever (L.S.)
E. H. Reever (L.S.)

Cape May County

NEW JERSEY

Isaac Van Meter

CAPE MAY COUNTY, TO WIT. *The State of New Jersey, To the Sheriff
of the County aforesaid, or to any or either of the Constables of
the said County—Greeting.*

THESE are to charge and command you to take

Isaac Vanmeter

and *him* safely keep so that
you may have *him* before the Justices of the Court of General Quarter Sessions of
the Peace, to be holden at the Court House in the Middle Township, in and for the County
aforesaid, on *Tuesday* the *fourth* day of *February*
next, at the hour of Ten in the Forenoon of the same Day, or bring *him* before
some Justice of the Peace of said County, to enter into Recognizance for *his*
Appearance at the said Court at the time aforesaid, to *answer*
to *a* certain Indictment

lately found against *him* for *Adultery, on Janet Ruthersford,*
and have you then and there this precept:—Hereof fail not at your peril.
WITNESS *Joseph Goff* presiding Justice of the said Court,
at the Middle township aforesaid, the *fourth* day of *October*
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty *three*
Jonathan Hand Clerk.

CAPE MAY COUNTY, TO WIT. *The State of New Jersey, To the Sheriff
of the County aforesaid, or to any or either of the Constables of
the said County—Greeting.*

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next, at the hour of Ten in the Forenoon of the same Day, or bring *him* before
some Justice of the Peace of said County, to enter into Recognizance for *his*
Appearance at the said Court at the time aforesaid, to *answer*
to *a* certain Indictment.

lately found against *him* for *Misdemeanor, upon Lydia Mickle.*
and have you then and there this precept:—Hereof fail not at your peril.
WITNESS *Joseph Goff* presiding Justice of the said Court,
at the Middle township aforesaid, the *fourth* day of *October*
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty *three*
Jonathan Hand Clerk.

CAPE MAY COUNTY, TO WIT. *The State of New Jersey, To the Sheriff
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Appearance at the said Court at the time aforesaid, to *answer*
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lately found against *him* for *Adultery, on Janet Ruthersford,*
and have you then and there this precept:—Hereof fail not at your peril.
WITNESS *Joseph Goff* presiding Justice of the said Court,
at the Middle township aforesaid, the *fourth* day of *October*
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty *three*
Jonathan Hand Clerk.

Cape May County
NEW JERSEY

Prohibition:
bahhhhh....

R. S. 3082 -- If any person shall fraudulently or knowingly import or BRING INTO the United States, or ASSIST in so doing, any merchandise, contrary to law, or SHALL RECEIVE, conceal, buy, sell, or in ANY MANNER FACILITATE THE TRANSPORTATION, concealment, or sale of such merchandise after importation, knowing the same to have been imported contrary to law, such MERCHANDISE SHALL BE FORFEITED and the OFFENDER shall be fined in any sum not exceeding FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS nor less than FIFTY DOLLARS, or be IMPRISONED for any time not exceeding TWO YEARS, OR BOTH. Whenever, on trial for a violation of this section, the defendant is shown to have or to have had possession of such goods, SUCH POSSESSION SHALL BE DEEMED EVIDENCE sufficient to AUTHORIZE CONVICTION, unless the defendant SHALL EXPLAIN THE POSSESSION TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE JURY.

R. S. 909: In suits or informations brought, where any seizure is made pursuant to any act providing for or regulating the collection of duties on imports or tonnage, if the property is claimed by any person, THE BURDEN OF PROOF SHALL LIE UPON SUCH CLAIMANT; Provided, That probable cause is shown for such prosecution, to be judged of by the Court.

Cape May County
NEW JERSEY

Hotel Henle - Wildwood

Before Mr. Henry H. Blaridge, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Cape May County,
acting under the Prohibition Enforcement Act as a Magistrate.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY Cape May County CAPE MAY COUNTY, N.J.

Engineer Cole, Prosecutor of the Peace, alleging himself competently derelict of
taking an oath, and being duly affirmed, on information believed, on his oath, says that on the
Twenty seventh day of November 1921, at 219 East Lincoln
in the City of Wildwood County of Cape May and State of New Jersey, one
Stephen Henle did unlawfully
sell to Aaron Bozanth, and to Beverly Ford, and to another
person to complainant as yet unknown certain liquor
in and about the place aforesaid commonly called Henle's Hotel.
and was thereby a disorderly person, contrary to Section 16 of an Act of the Legislature of the
State of New Jersey, entitled "The Prohibition Enforcement Act," (P. L. 1921, P. 171) and against the
peace of the State, the government and dignity of the same.

THEREFORE, he asks that the said Stephen Henle
may be apprehended, held to answer to said complaint, and be further dealt with as law and justice
may require.

Offered
Seventh day of December
1921

Magistrate. Engineer C. Cole.
(Name)
Cape May Court House
(Address)

Cape May County
NEW JERSEY

Caught with 152 cases of Johnnie Walker

State of New Jersey, } ss.
County of Cape May, }

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this Fifteenth (15th) day of July, A. D. 1921, before me, Sheriff in and for said County of Cape May, personally appeared George C. Loeffler and William G. Loeffler, defendants, and Abraham Konowitch, surety.

and did severally acknowledge themselves to be indebted to the State of New Jersey, ~~as~~ as follows: George C. Loeffler and William G. Loeffler in the sum of Five hundred and Dollars and the said Abraham Konowitch in the sum of One thousand Dollars each, to be levied on their respective goods and chattels, lands and tenements, if default be made, in the following conditions, to wit:

THAT THE SAID George C. Loeffler and William G. Loeffler shall personally be and appear before the Court of Quarter Sessions, to be holden at Cape May Court House, in and for said County of Cape May, when notified to appear to answer unto a certain charge for violation of the Prohibition Enforcement Act, P.L. 1921, and shall not depart the Court without leave, this recognizance to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Taken before me this 15th day of July, A. D. 1921.

Mead Pomilio
Sheriff of the County of Cape May.

George C. Loeffler [L. S.]
William G. Loeffler [L. S.]
Abraham Konowitch [L. S.]

Cape May County

NEW JERSEY

Yep,
152 cases...

MEMORANDUM.
copy
Marks and Numbers of 152 Cases "Johnnie Walker" Whiskey seized at Ocean City, night of July 11th, 1921, by the New Jersey State officials.

W D.A.C.
NASSAU N.P.
BAHAMA via NEW YORK.

NUMBERS							
5504	5600	5702	5800	5900	6000	6111	6213
5507	5602	5703	5802	5904	6009	6116	6241
5508	5607	5707	5812	5921	6010	6132	6245
5517	5609	5718	5818	5929	6012	6137	6246
5529	5612	5720	5821	5933	6014	6146	4
5530	5614	5724	5823	5934	6015	6168	
5539	5618	5734	5826	5938	6021	6162	
5544	5624	5737	5827	5941	6024	6163	
5549	5633	5738	5829	5947	6025	6175	
5550	5640	5739	5835	5953	6029	6183	
5552	5648	5740	5836	5956	6030	6187	
5555	5651	5751	5843	5963	6036	6194	
5557	5664	5755	5850	5965	6037	12	
5561	5676	5756	5853	5966	6043		
5567	5678	5758	5857	5967	6050		
5573	5679	5761	5859	5975	6051		
5579	5680	5787	5862	5980	6056		
5583	5687	5790	5863	5981	6059		
5588	5690	5797	5865	5982	6060		
19	5696	5798	5872	5991	6069		
	20	20	5874	5994	6077		
			5882	5996	6080		
			5888	5997	6082		
			5889	23	6090		
			5891		6094		
			5893		6099		
			5894		26		
			5895				
			28				

Total-- 19
20
20
28
23
26
12
4
152 cases

State of New Jersey, }
County of Cape May, } ss.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this Fifteenth (15th) day of July, A. D. 1921, before me, Sheriff in and for said County of Cape May, personally appeared George C. Loeffler and William G. Loeffler, defendants, and Abraham Konowitch, surety,

and did severally acknowledge themselves to be indebted to the State of New Jersey, ~~as~~ as follows: George C. Loeffler and William G. Loeffler in the sum of Five hundred Dollars and the said Abraham Konowitch all the sum of One thousand Dollars each, to be levied on their respective goods and chattels, lands and tenements, if default be made, in the following conditions, to wit:

THAT THE SAID George C. Loeffler and William G. Loeffler shall personally be and appear before the Court of Quarter Sessions, to be holden at Cape May Court House, in and for said County of Cape May, when notified to appear to answer unto a certain charge for violation of the Prohibition Enforcement Act, P.L. 1921, and shall not depart the Court without leave, this recognizance to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Taken before me this 15th day of July, A. D. 1921.
George C. Loeffler [L. S.]
William G. Loeffler [L. S.]
Abraham Konowitch [L. S.]
Misses. P. B. B. B.
Sheriff of the County of Cape May.

The Loffler Brothers' Bond

Cape May County
NEW JERSEY

Crime does not pay...

CAPE MAY QUARTER SESSIONS

THE STATE

vs.

George C. Loeffler
and
William G. Loeffler

Sur

charge

for
violation of
Prohibition
Enforcement
Act, P.L. 1921

RECOGNIZANCE

OF

George C. Loeffler and
William G. Loeffler

Defendants.

and

Abraham Konowitch

Surety.

Filed July 16th, 1921.

H. A. Liddeth, Clerk.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, } ss.
COUNTY OF CAPE MAY, }

Abraham Konowitch of full age, being duly sworn according to law,
upon his oath says that he is worth the sum of One thousand and - - - - -
- - - - - 00/100 - Dollars in real estate in said county over and
above all his debts and liabilities.

Sworn and subscribed before me this

15th day of July

A. D. 1921.

A. A. Cooper
Notary Public.

Abraham Konowitch

Cape May County
NEW JERSEY

Questions ?

Email us:

coclerk@co.cape-may.nj.us

or

Call us: 609-465-1020