



# Historical Society Hamilton

## Newsletter

June/July 2025



### For 2025 EVENTS

remember to check out  
our website at  
[Hamiltonhistorical.org](http://Hamiltonhistorical.org)

Museum is open every  
Saturday, 9:00-12

Call us: 609-909-0272

We love our volunteers,  
think of joining!

### Next presentation:

July 23 at 7:30 PM

Fellowship Hall.

*Women's Experiences*

*During Revolutionary*

*War Speaker: JuliaRose*

*Violente*

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Coffee & History

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00am at the  
museum.

["Captain Hudson"](#)

## The Old Mills, Ship Building and George May

A summary article from the data files demonstrates the connection between the natural resources, the people who continually tried settling, and the passing on or settlement of estates. The article states the abundant supply of timber for ship building was the prerequisite to the industry of the saw mill, namely Badcock's Creek, later called Babcock's Creek. The 1740 survey to Edmund Iliff identified the saw mill located on the North branch and the grist mill was located on the East branch of the creek. The site of the saw mill was first called Peterson's Mill Pond. No survey was found in this area to anyone named Peterson so it is believed Peterson leased the mill from Iliff. The saw mill was probably the first to be erected. In a deed to George May dated August 3, 1749, these mills were called Iliff's old mills.

After Iliff's death in 1747, much of his property was sold by the Sheriff to satisfy judgments obtained vs. Joseph Scattergood who had been appointed Administrator of Iliff's estate. On August 3, 1749, Samuel Harrison, Sheriff, seized and sold 123 acres including the two mills to George May for a consideration of 20 pounds. 20 pounds of proclamation money would be less than \$100.00 today. After Iliff's death in 1747, the mills had probably been idle and this accounted for May acquiring this large tract plus two mills for a nominal consideration. May operated the mills 20 years and on June 4, 1769, Samuel Clement of Haddonfield conveyed five tracts of land to James Caruthers. How Samuel Clement obtained title to this ground is not disclosed by public records. A very ancient map of a re-survey of the West Jersey Society tract shows James Carter's mill on the creek. As Carter's deed from Clements also included the mill property on the South or East Branch of the creek, he succeeded Iliff and May as owner of the saw and grist mills by virtue of his deed from Clements in 1769.

Iliff's old mills were to pass on to many subsequent owners in the next 100 years and on April 6, 1776, just as the Revolutionary War was a year old, Caruthers sold the mills to William and Constantine Smith. They in turn sold the property to Richard Mason on August 30, 1777.

Large land ownership changed hands and next month, we will describe how Richard Mason published in the Pennsylvania Packet in 1779 the advertised description for the existing Village of Mays Landing. Next month: description of Village packet....