

As one emerges from the woods that cover Mt. Lucas, just north of Princeton and looks to the northward, his eyes fall upon a scene of rare beauty. He looks out over a wide basin flanked on every side by a ridge of mountains over which there always hovers a blue haze, part of the "Blue" mountains. He feels that the village of Blawenburg is rightly named when he considers its setting. The village is located on a rise in the center of this basin. But, tradition tells us the name originated, not from the blue hills, but from one of the early Eighteenth Century settlers in this fertile valley. His name was John Blaw. Tradition also tells us that there were two sisters of the same name, Blaw, who lived in Blawenburg. Little is known of him except that he died in April, 1777, and is buried in a lonesome little valley in the foothills of the Sourland mountains, off of the pass to the mountain top known as the "Hollow", in the old days known as "Goose Hollow" and the road therein known as the original "Featherbed Lane". This little valley is just south of the ruins of the old Major Garrison Homestead, and the homestead later of the Joseph A. Skillman family.

This land was probably first settled by Michael Blew and the hill to the east of the road leading northward and near the old stone schoolhouse is still known as "Blew Hill". There were three Michael Blews, I, II and III, and each of them married a Stout, as did the last one's son, Samuel, who married Rebecca Stout, and all were married by Rev. Peter Stout. William Garrison bought the

lands from the heirs of Michael II in 1805, 1807, and Joseph A. Skillman bought the property some quarter century later. At the time he bought it a store was kept in the basement. William Garrison probably built most, if not all, of the stone house, and building as the Blew Homestead is thought to be still standing south of this property.

The Blew family all removed to Michigan finally. William Garrison moved to Lambertville and then back to Hopewell, where he died. Joseph A. Skillman built on the eastward section of the farm in the early 1860's. Was four years building on one hundred foot barn, all hand hewn timbers, since destroyed by fire. The Garrison homestead was bought by his son Stephen Skillman and the "new" farm by his son Thomas. Joseph Skillman died on the farm. The Stephen Skillman farm was sold too, and is still owned by the Astbury farm of Trenton. (NOW THE BEAGLE CLUB)

Frederick Thomas Skillman.

March, 1934

1976

Thomas A. Skillman
B 10/20/1911

MARKINGS ON GRAVESTONE - DERRIS ROAD

OF John Blaw

OFF HOLLOW RD

Stillman
N.S.

Her Lys

BODY of Joh

n BLAW How

DePaRDeD

This LiF APRIL

The 08 1777

Age 84 YeR

Thomas D. Stillman
● B-10/20/1911

1976