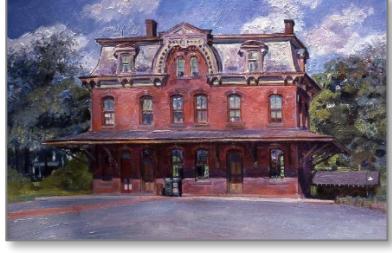
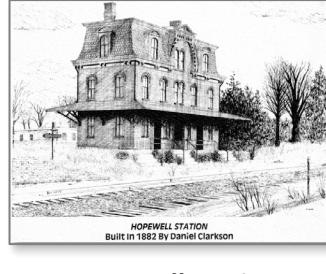


Hopewell Train Station Art Collections

Rev. 6/21/23 - D. Dixon - Add Harry McCandless; 3/10/23 - Fred Schuster; 11/20/2021 - Jerry Cable

Artwork of the Hopewell and Pennington train stations and other local scenes, with artist information.

		
Railroad Station Hopewell Ranulph Bye (1969?)	Hopewell, New Jersey Ranulph Bye (pre 1973)	Hopewell Ticket Office Ranulph Bye (pre 1973)
		
Pennington, New Jersey Ranulph Bye (pre 1973)	Hopewell Train Station "Davis Gray" (1970s)	Hopewell Railroad Station "Davis Gray" (1970s)
		
Hopewell Rail Station Ken McIndoe (1979)	Railway Station, Hopewell George Stave (1979)	Pennington RR Station Ann Gross (1980s)
		
Train Station, Pennington William Hankinson (1983)	Stationary Survivor (Hopewell) Jerry Cable (2001)	Hopewell Station FINAN

Introduction

Examples of artwork of the Hopewell and Pennington train stations and other local scenes of historical interest, along with information on the associated artists. The focus is on artwork of the local train stations and other scenes that provide information about the time period. Formats include paintings, prints, and note cards.

The Hopewell and Pennington train stations not only are historic National Register-listed properties, but also are iconic symbols of our communities and favorite subjects for artists and photographers. They are architecturally interesting due to the finely detailed, second Empire design - brick in Hopewell and stone in Pennington.

We welcome more information these and other art and artists, especially local artists.

See the Art and Photography albums in the History Project Image Gallery -

<https://image.hopewell-history.org/>

More on the local train stations (History Briefs, artwork, photos, and presentation video):

- <https://hopewellhistoryproject.org/2021/12/04/hopewell-train-stations-history-and-art-references/>

More Information: See the Document Archives at HopewellHistoryProject.org

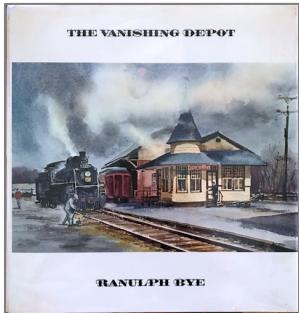
- Natl Register Nomination – Pennington RR Station (1974)
- Natl Register – NJ Transit RR Station Survey: Hopewell (1981)
- Hopewell RR Station Preservation Plan (1996)

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Ranulph Bye - The Vanishing Depot (1960s)

Ranulph Bye (1916 - 2003) was a Bucks County artist who painted more than 3,000 images. His subjects address rural and suburban landscape scenes in the manner of the Pennsylvania Impressionists. Bye was considered one of the foremost watercolorists of his time, and his watercolors are in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution and the Boston Museum of Fine Art.



Bye published several books, including *Victorian Sketchbook* and *The Vanishing Depot* (1973) focusing on train stations, and several instructional books on painting in watercolor including *Painting Buildings in Watercolor* (1994) and *Ranulph Bye's Bucks County* (1997).

The Vanishing Depot is a journey into the golden age of railroading, with paintings of stations from Maryland to New England. Bye worked on railroad station paintings for twelve years, but had difficulty in finding a publisher, and later reissued and then updated the book:

- Original edition 1973, Livingston Pub. Co. - 113 pages - 60 paintings in color and 26 in black and white
- Reissue 1983, Haverford House publishing
- Updated edition 1994, Indian Valley Printing - 12 new paintings, 112 total

Ranulph de Bayeux Bye (1916 - 2003)

Ranulph Bye was an artist, teacher, and writer. He was born in Princeton, N. J., in 1916. He studied art at what is now known as the Philadelphia College of Art (previously the Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art). He also studied at the Art Students League in New York City, where he studied under Frank Vincent Dumond and William Charles Palmer. Later, he taught art for more than 30 years at the Moore College of Art and Design. Bye died on November 19, 2003 in Doylestown, Pa.

Bye was very successful both as a teacher and an artist, and it has been estimated that he painted more than 3,000 images. He was a member of the National Academy of Design, the American Watercolor Society, and Allied Arts. Today, Bye's watercolors are in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, the Boston Museum of Fine Art and many other smaller, less-well-known repositories of fine art.

His realistic watercolor renderings of the landscape and architecture of his Bucks County home address both rural and suburban milieus, rendered in the style of the Pennsylvania Impressionists. Featuring delicate, washy layers and closely studied sense of realism, Bye's works are celebrated examples of 20th-century observational painting. He also authored several books which he illustrated, notably including *Ranulph Bye's Bucks County* (1997).

Bye also painted landscapes of California, Maine, New York, Georgia, New Jersey and, overseas, Italy. Bye is associated with painting farm and other pastoral scenes, plus paintings of houses, barns, fire stations and railroad stations.

- Ranulph Bye Oral History, Solebury Township Historic Society
<https://soleburyhistory.org/ranulph-bye/>

The Vanishing Depot (1973)

The Vanishing Depot includes a two-page spread on the Hopewell station, followed by a page on the Pennington station. The paintings are in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution.



"**Hopewell, New Jersey**" (p. 70)

Facing east, with still-existing freight house
and Feed & Seed in the background



"**Pennington, New Jersey**" (p. 72)

*"Railroad Station Hopewell" - Watercolor (1969?)*

Bye also painted a watercolor of the Hopewell station, facing east along the tracks.



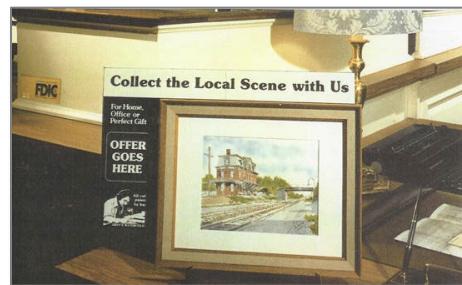
"Railroad Station Hopewell"

Available as a framed watercolor reproduction
litho print with a matted burlap look.
Print image 12 x 18 in., in frame 19 x 25 in.

Gray's Watercolors - Wertsdale (1965 - 1980s)

Gray's Watercolors, aka The College Watercolor Group, was a local studio based in Wertsdale and run by Paul and Wilda McConaughy. Gray's used production line techniques to produce large numbers of hand-painted but affordable watercolor reproductions of familiar scenes from 1965 through the mid 1980's.

In the Hopewell Valley, Gray's Watercolors produced 14 different scenes of Hopewell Borough (some unpublished), including five different views of the train station, and seven scenes of Pennington Borough, including one of the train station.



Gray's promotion in Hopewell bank

Gray's Watercolors Business

Founded by Paul McConaughy (1934 - 2013), the company originally focused on prints of college and university buildings, and then expanded into historic prints of towns and cities with the 1976 Bicentennial. The company produced over 4,000 different scenes and sold over one million prints.

Gray's was originally housed at the corner of Wertsdale and Lindbergh Roads in Ringoes. At its peak, it was the largest employer in East Amwell Township, working two and three shifts with over 75 people.



The Gray's production technique was described as being "individually rendered in sparkling Grumbacher Academy watercolors over lithographed penline." In other words, they would make a pen and ink drawing, have it reproduced on watercolor paper as a lithograph, and then have a production line of artists color paint each picture.

Originally artists would sit around a large lazy susan table that would spin as each artist added one color to a print. Later, Gray's used a pochoir process, described as "in the tradition of Currier & Ives." This was a form of stenciling, with colorists using a series of stencils for each color, later with some hand detailing to give a sense of "original" to each painting.

After McConaughy's death, the company moved to Mississippi, and sold laser prints over the web until around 2018.

- Gray's Watercolor Studio - East Amwell Historical Society

<https://www.eastamwellhistory.org/greys-watercolor-studio-part-1/>

<https://www.eastamwellhistory.org/greys-watercolor-studio-part-2/>

Gray's - E. B Walden

The Gray's name came from artist E. B. Walden, who began signing his pictures "Gray," based on the watercolor hue "Davy's Gray." Soon, each artist began using the Gray surname, but with different first names. Walden became "Davis Gray," and over a dozen other artists used the same last name (Peter, Allan, Wilson, James, Foster, Hart, etc.).

From this play on names, the business became known as "Gray's Watercolors."

E. B. (Ernest) Walden (1929 - 1995) was the most prolific of the Gray's artists, producing hundreds of original paintings. An Army veteran of the Korean War, he worked as a graphic artist and draftsman and also produced book jackets and illustrations.



E. B. Walden
("Davis Gray"), 1969

Gray's - Salvatore Asaro

Salvatore Asaro (c1933 - 2016) was professional artist and illustrator who was a resident of Hopewell for many years, and painted many of the Hopewell Borough scenes for Gray's watercolors.

Asaro was a U.S. Navy veteran, and was an active member of the Hopewell community, serving as a councilman and as an EMT with the Hopewell Volunteer Emergency Medical Unit and the Hopewell Volunteer Fire Department.



Sal Asaro - Self portrait



Old School Baptist Church
- Sal Asaro (oil)

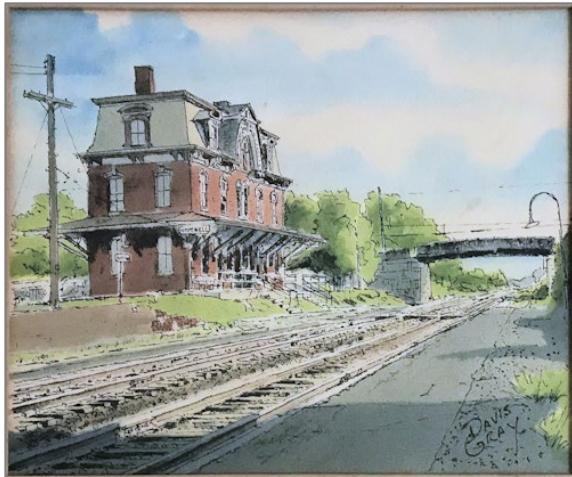
Asaro was employed as an illustrator with RCA and General Electric, was a courtroom artist with CBS News in Philadelphia, and produced publicity artwork for the 1987 Broadway musical, *The Wiz*.

Among his many works, his portrait of Winston Churchill is displayed at Blenheim Castle in Oxford, England, and a tribute piece entitled "Forty Years of the U.S. Air Force" is part of the permanent collection at the Pentagon.

- Sal Asaro - <https://www.salasaro.com/>

Gray's Watercolors Images of Hopewell Train Station (1970s)

There are four known Gray's Watercolors images of the Hopewell Train Station. These two are looking along the tracks to the west and to the east, and were created around the 1970s, based on the format of the signature.



Hopewell Train Station scene
Gray's Watercolors / signed Davis Gray
Facing west, towards the
Greenwood Avenue bridge



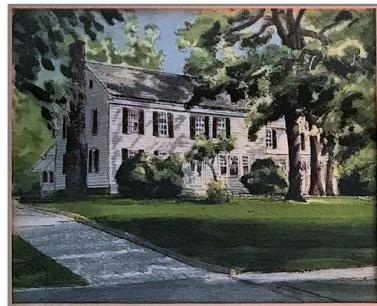
"Hopewell Railroad Station"
Gray's Watercolors / signed Davis Gray
Facing east, with the freight shed
and signal bridge in the background

The Gray's Catalog (c1991) lists 20 titles in Hopewell and Pennington, five of which were never reproduced. There also is an additional unlisted image of St. Alphonsus Church, and only four of the five listed Hopewell Station images have been identified, so there are currently 20 known Gray's scenes, two of which are alternate works of the same view.

There are 13 known Gray's scenes of Hopewell: Old School Baptist Church, Hopewell Presbyterian Church, John Hart House (2), Holcomb House / Hart [Hopewell] Academy, Hopewell Museum (2), Hopewell Railroad Station (5), Route 518 & Carter Road, and St. Alphonsus Catholic Church.



Old School Baptist Church



Hopewell Academy



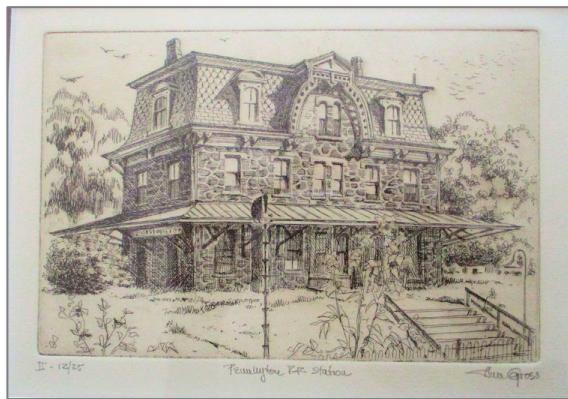
Hart House

There are seven known Gray's scenes of Pennington: Stony Brook Bridge, Toll Gate House, First Presbyterian Church [Wall], Pennington Prep Duck Pond, Railroad Station, Pennington Prep [Old Main], and Toll Gate School [now HVRSD].

Ann Gross - Pennington (1970s - 1990s)

Born in Schenectady New York, and a graduate of Smith College and Pratt institute, Ann Gross studied graphics at the New School in New York City and was a commercial artist in New York for 10 years. She lived in Pennington and created local prints from around the 1960s through the 1990s.

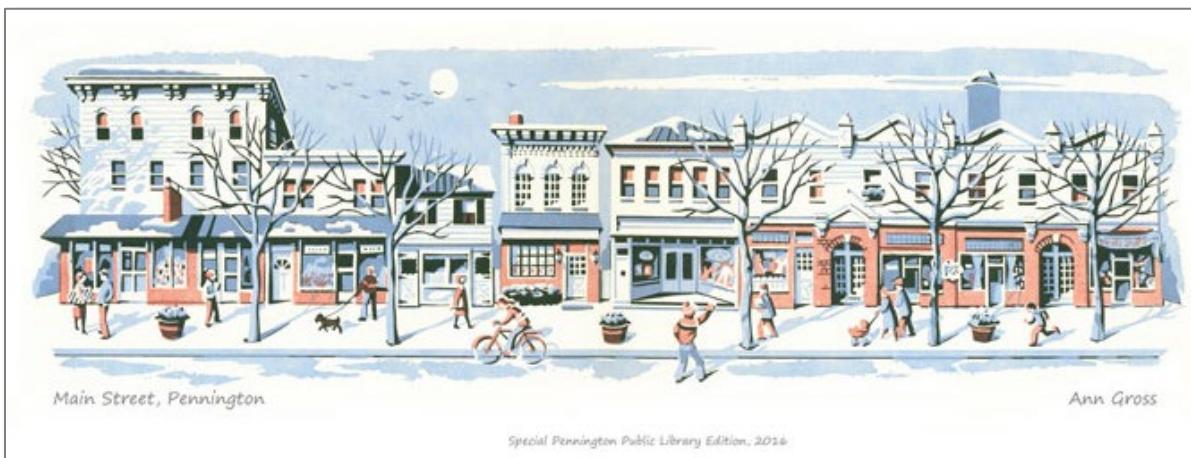
"Artist Ann Gross was a beloved and involved Pennington resident for many years. She supported the community wholeheartedly with her time and talents! Ann was a master printmaker; the original artwork used for this Pennington Public Library edition was a handpulled silkscreen print that required two separate screens. The first edition consisted of only fifty handmade prints and sold out almost immediately." [Friends of the Pennington Library, print of old North Main Street]



"Pennington RR Station" (1980s)



"Pennington"



"Main Street, Pennington" (2016 edition)

William Hankinson - Pennington (1970s & 80s)



"Train Station, Pennington, N.J."

- William Hankinson (Print #33, 1983)

William Joseph "Hank" Hankinson (c1922 - 1996) was a prominent professional artist who lived in Pennington for a time in the 1970s and 1980s.

He was versatile in oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, and pen and ink. He was well known as a muralist, especially for his Venetian murals for a New York City ballroom.

His Pennington train station painting distorts the station for visual interest (by making it wider).

George Stave - Cranbury (1970s - 2000s)

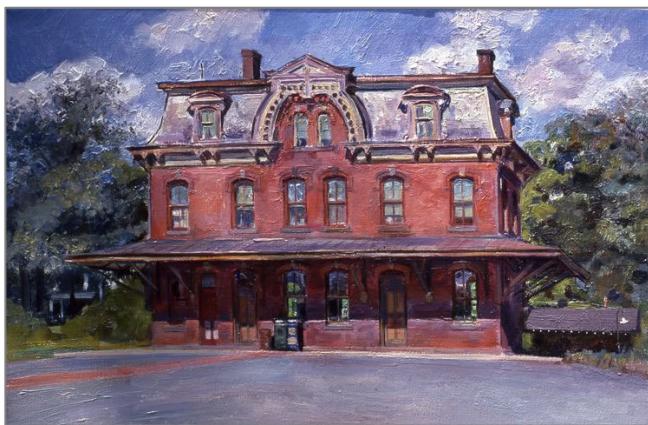
George Stave (1923-2011) moved with his family to Cranbury, N. J., in 1958. For most of his career, he worked as a set painter for NBC Studios and, later, Lincoln Scenic Studios, both in New York City.

At the same time, easel painting remained Stave's deepest passion, and in the 1970s he was able to build a garret studio in his Cranbury home. By the 1980s his work regularly appeared in galleries and museums in New York City and New Jersey.

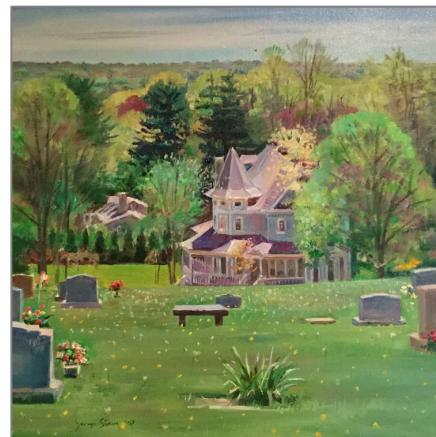
Stave explored the back roads and small towns of New Jersey and Pennsylvania in search of visually interesting subjects, and he was repeatedly drawn to nineteenth-century houses and farms, glimpses of a fading past. He also returned over and over again to the Jersey shore.

- The Paintings of George Stave - Reflections on Close Observation

<https://www.george-stave-paintings.net/>



"Railway Station, Hopewell" (1979)
o/l, 14x22" (1979.19)

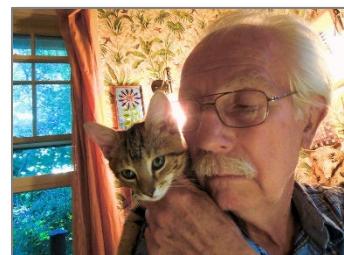


"Hilltop View of Hopewell" (2007)
12x12 (2007.06)

Ken McIndoe - Hopewell (1970s -)

Ken McIndoe is a landscape painter who has lived in Hopewell since 1974 with his wife, potter Connie Bracci-McIndoe.

McIndoe was born in London, and lived in Liberia and England before moving to the United States in 1957. He served for two years in the U. S. Army, and studied painting at the Art Students League in New York City, where he later was professor of landscape painting for 36 years.



- **Railway line looking east (1975)** - Oil on canvas, 30" x 40"- "Painting of the railway line to the east of Hopewell. Nothing in this painting exists now except the rail bed and Reggio's fields to the left ... Standing about opposite the yellow shed."
- **"Hopewell Rail Station Looking West" (1975)** - Oil on canvas - "Includes the small shelter on the right - burnt down later - and the tops of commuter cars waiting for their owners to return."
- **Hopewell Rail Station Looking East (1979)** - Oil on canvas, 22" x 28" - "Shows the shed, two signal structures, the house that the rail line rented out, a pair of rail lines, and some other structure down the line. There was a signal tower but it was made of brick and so was reddish. I don't see that in the painting. The third line to the right was the siding to bring in lumber and probably coal. When we first came to Hopewell, Van Doren stored some of his lumber in the open space between the station and the shed."



- **Hopewell train station (1996)**
"Before the station was redone"

Jerry Cable (1995 -)

Jerry Cable is a Bucks County, Pennsylvania artist, teacher, and lecturer. He draws inspiration from the New Hope Impressionist School in PA, and Old Lyme Academy in CT, and paints local landscapes of Pennsylvania and New Jersey as well as the Maine Coast and Monhegan Island.

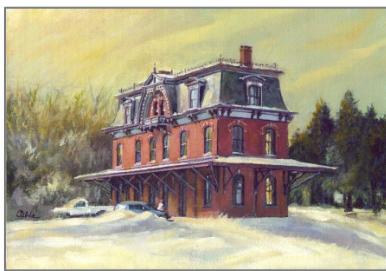
His subjects include farms, animal husbandry, boats, vintage toy still lifes and portraits. His formal art training includes a BFA from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY.

Three of his works were exhibited at a solo art exhibit at the Hopewell train station in the fall of 2001 - The first public event at the newly restored train station.

- Jerry Cable Studio - <https://www.jerrycablestudio.com>



- **"Spring of 38" (2001)** - Oil on canvas - Hopewell station front, with vintage cars
"The car with the trunk open is a 36 chevy and the pickup truck is a 35 chevy both owned and restored by my father who is also pictured in the painting with the suitcase."
- **"Christmas Sled" (2001)** - Oil on canvas - Hopewell station across tracks with boy on sled
2001 Christmas card: "Glistening red paint and the sound of crunching foot steps end the day as a brand new Christmas sled makes its maiden voyage past the station in Hopewell, New Jersey"
- **"Stationary Survivor" (2001)** - Oil on canvas - Hopewell station side, looking west



- **"Christmas at the Station" (2012)** - Oil on canvas - Hopewell station with horse and sleigh
"Based on Stationary Survivor (2001), with the addition of the horse and sleigh from the Howell Farm in Lambertville NJ." Used for the 2012 Christmas card:
"A Christmas wreath, a horse drawn sleigh, the sound of jingle bells all the way."
- **"Hopewell Train Station" study #4 (2005)** - Oil on mounted canvas, 6.75" x 10" -
Sold at a benefit art show for the Hunterdon county Land Trust.

Harry McCandless (1950s-2000s)

Harry Edwin McCandless (1926 - 2021) was an American visual artist from the Hopewell area. After serving in the Army from 1944 to 1946, he joined the RCA David Sarnoff Research Center in Princeton, and also earned a degree in chemical engineering from Rutgers University. At RCA, he was manager of the Vacuum Technology group. In 1979 the family moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania where he joined the RCA Technology Transfer Laboratory, and was manager of the Electron Gun Group until retiring in 1986.

McCandless was a talented artist in oil and watercolor. He was a member of the Princeton Art Association and the Garden State Watercolor Society and won several awards in Princeton, Trenton and New Hope, PA art shows. His art training included courses at the School of Industrial Arts in Trenton and the Pennsylvania School of Art and Design.



- "**Houses of Hopewell**" (1996) was issued as a limited edition print. The painting depicts twelve historic houses from Hopewell, New Jersey. The associated guide provides the addresses, approximate year built, original owners, and then-current owners of each property, which range from 1877 to 1907. The 1877 house (#6) is the Randolph Stout house, now the Hopewell Museum.



- "**Hopewell County Store**" (1972) depicts the grocery store at 17 Seminary Avenue in Hopewell, which was operated there by Paul and Rita Ehrlich from 1964 to 1978.

Additional Scenes and Artists

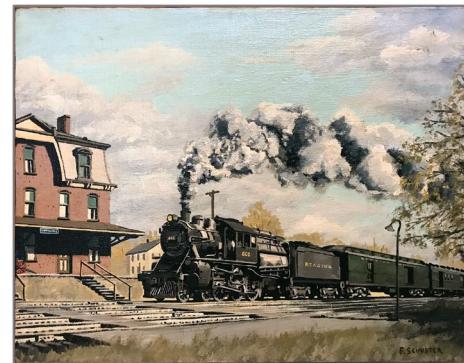
Additional intriguing works for which we need more information - identifying the artists, learning more about them, and finding additional examples of their work in the Hopewell area.

Fred Schuster

This painting by Fred Schuster shows the Reading Railroad #602 steam engine travelling past the Hopewell train station. The work was likely painted around the 1970s, based on details of the canvas, the attached business card for Fred Schuster Studios in Willow Grove, PA, and the pictured railbed having only three tracks.

Schuster took some artistic license in rendering the scene, imagining the old steam locomotive (which operated from 1905 to 1948) in the c1970s scene, and also simplifying the train station architecture and the background buildings.

There is very little information available on Manfred ("Fred") Hans Schuster (1944 – 2022), and less on him as an artist. He is described in his brief obituary: "Fred was the only child of Anna and Hans Schuster, living his entire life in Willow Grove, Pa. He was a skilled machinist for over 25 years at Reimel Machine, Inc. He was a talented artist, both in oils and metal stamping – his passion was locomotives."



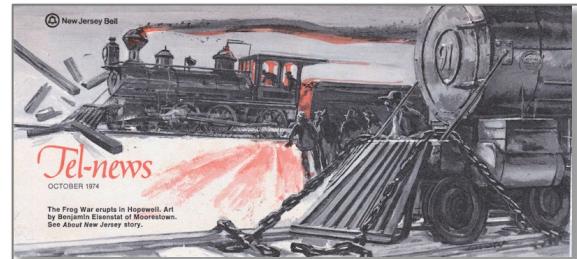
"RDG #602, Hopewell, N. J."
- Fred Schuster

Benjamin Eisenstat

Benjamin Eisenstat (1915 - 2001) had a fifty-five year career in art, and taught at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (now University of the Arts) for forty years.

He was known for expressionistic landscapes, illustrations, cartoons, and graphics. He lived in Pennsylvania and also in Moorestown, N. J.

- <https://www.societyillustrators.org/ben-eisenstat>



"Frog War" - Benjamin Eisenstat
(N. J. Bell Tel-news mailer, 10/1974)

Warren M. Creely

Reading Pacific (steam) train number 120 passing through the Hopewell station.

The Hopewell Frame Shop and Art Gallery had an exhibition of Creely's work in 1985, describing him as "known for his railroad art and for his paintings of area buildings."



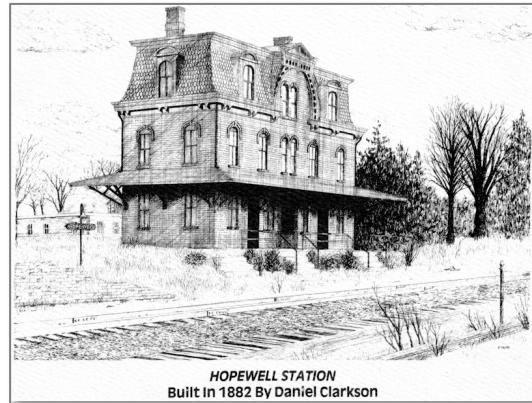
"Christmas Special"
- Warren M. Creely (note card)

FINAN - "Hopewell Station"

"**Hopewell Station**" is a black & white print of the Hopewell train station. The view is looking south west, diagonally across the tracks to the station, and beyond to buildings near the start of Railroad Avenue off of North Greenwood Avenue.

The print is labelled at the bottom as "HOPEWELL STATION / Built in 1882 By Daniel Clarkson," with the signature "FINAN" in the bottom right corner.

The artist is unknown. One possibility was Canadian artist Barry Finan, who did a series of Ontario train stations, but his family reports that the work is not his.



Other uses of this image that have been found locally are on a note card (without any additional identification), and as an illustration for the 1996 Hopewell Railroad Station Preservation Plan.

The print explicitly lists the station's construction date as 1882 and the builder as Daniel Clarkson. However, the date is incorrect - Both the Hopewell and Pennington stations were built in the Centennial year of 1876 by McPherson and Clarkson. (This ongoing confusion may come from the National Register nomination for the Pennington station, which uses the date of 1882. The Pennington station is built of stone, rather than the brick used in Hopewell.)

Hopewell train station in the snow**Hopewell train station in the snow
with Christmas star (note card)**

(Unknown signature?
Card from the 1990's?)



Acknowledgements

Thanks for information and images to:

- Erika Neary for the FINAN print
- George Hall for the Ranulph Bye print
- Dick Sudlow for sharing the Creely, Eisenstat, FINAN, and Christmas train artwork
- Dick Sudlow and Robert Witkowski for information on Gray's Watercolors and examples of their work
- Wilda McConaughy for information on and images of the Gray's Watercolors
- Emily Walden Beaston for information on E. B. Walden and images of local Gray's Watercolors
- Meg & Beth Asaro for information on Salvatore Asaro and images of his work
- Bill Metcalf for the image of the William Hankinson print
- Robert Warznak and Dan Pace for Ann Gross images
- Roberta Mayer for information on and images of the George Stave paintings
- Ken McIndoe for images of his paintings
- Jack Koeppel especially for information on Ann Gross
- Jerry Cable for images of his paintings
- Carol Kehoe for the Fred Schuster painting
- Jeff McCandless and family for the Harry McCandless artwork