

FAMILY HISTORY  
OF

JOHN HIGHT,  
FOUNDER OF HIGHTSTOWN.

ALSO

VALUABLE HISTORICAL REMINISCENCES  
From Early Settlement to Present Time.

MRS. IDA MARTIN PULLEN,  
HIGHTSTOWN,  
NEW JERSEY

**CRANBURY, N. J.:**  
**GEORGE W. BURROUGHS, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.**

---

1896

FAMILY HISTORY OF

John Hight,

Founder of Hightstown





COL. JOSEPH HAIGHT,

Born 1739; died 1798.



# INTRODUCTION.

---

**I**N FULFILLING a task so difficult and so important as that of writing the history of a family and of a town, which said family founded, I could not at first but shrink from a labor for which I felt the amplest leisure would be insufficient and powers greater than my own would be inadequate. But the considerations that were urged upon me came with additional force from my connection with the family and my interest in its early history.

Hence in weakness I have tried to weave a complete chain of facts concerning the life and interests of the two sons of John and Mary Hight, following the descendants of the family with accuracy to the present generation, seven in all, of whom the author is one. With this family history is associated the origin and birth of the present borough of Hightstown, N. J. The present site was a part of a large tract of land formerly owned by John Hight.

In tracing the history of the town I have included a sketch of each of the churches, together with other interesting facts of its early days and its present advancement.

The following pages give all the writer has been able to gather together, which will be of especial interest to the citizens of Hightstown, whether it be the place of their birth or residence.

In the preparation of this work many authorities have been consulted and as many original documents as possible examined.

My most sincere thanks are due to the friends to whose ready aid and sympathy I owe so much, and who have surrounded with happy memories and obligations the completion of my work.

And now I send these pages forth, not knowing what may befall them, but trusting they may fulfill the purpose for which they were written.

MRS. WILLARD C. PULLEN,  
*Hightstown, N. J.*





# THE FAMILY HISTORY

—OF—

## JOHN AND MARY HIGHT.

---

JOHN HIGHT, the founder of Hightstown, N. J., and one of the organizers of the Baptist church here, was born in England. The date of his birth and of his coming to America is unknown. He owned three thousand acres of land (as recorded in the history of Mercer county). Tradition affirms that he bought it of the Crown. The purchase was made sometime during the latter part of the administration of Governor Hunter. On part of the above named tract Hightstown is located. In 1721 the first house was erected by John and Mary Hight (his bride). It was a log house, and stood somewhere between where Lantz's hotel now stands and the running stream, Rocky Brook. The latter was named after a Frenchman—Laroc—who built the Fulling Mill at Perrineville, N. J. The three thousand acres heretofore mentioned joined the land of William Penn, northwesterly. John Hight sold six hundred acres of his land, for which he was paid in Continental currency, which was depreciated.

William Penn owned several thousand acres of land (Princeton is a part), most of which he obtained in the year 1693. On October 20th, 1701, he conveyed five thousand five hundred acres to Richard Stockton, this tract being "in the county of Middlesex." The original Penn-Stockton deed is in possession of the Stockton family. The Stockton family frequently drove from Princeton, their home, to Hightstown, via Stockton street. Hightstown residents were justly proud of the visitors, thus the street derived its name.

The following deed shows another Penn tract from "William Penn's sons to John Covenhoven and Garret Schenck, dated August 14th, 1737," conveying sixty-five hundred (6,500) acres of land, bounded southwest by Assanpink creek, west by the line of partition, northwest by the lands of Thomas Warnes, north by Stony brook, and east by Millstone river.

Garret Schenck was the ancestor of the Schiencks of Monmouth and Mercer counties, and was the fourth great-grandfather of Mr. Samuel M. Schenck, a very able lawyer of Hightstown. He was also the ancestor of the late General Robert C. Schenck, of Ohio, who was prominent in national affairs during and after the late war.

In addition to said tract of land owned by John Hight, we find two old deeds recorded in the State House, at Trenton, the following is a fac-simile of the same: "John Bebout to John Hight, dated May 1st, 1747, recorded in Book B 3, p. 24, conveying eighty acres in New Winson, between Millstone River and Rocky Brook."

The second: "Vincent Dye to John Height, releasing his right to a certain tract of land near Rocky Brook; the number of acres not mentioned."

John and Mary Hight were blessed with two or more sons. The writer has only been able to procure the names and history of two, John and Joseph. There is a tradition that there were two sons born prior to John Jr., who died in infancy. John Hight the elder was born in the year 1731, exact date unknown, Joseph the younger was born April 27th, 1739. John, the first born, was married to Hannah L. Richards, in 1758. Their children were Joseph, born 1760, (died in infancy); Daniel, born 1761; Catharine, born 1769; Jacob, born 1775; Hannah, born 1777; and Benjamin, born 1779. Daniel and Ann, his wife, lived on a farm near what is now called Locust Corner, about sixty years ago. He died forty years ago at the age of ninety-four, leaving an only child, a son, John by name. Catharine Hight married William Cavert, of Albany, N. Y. They had six children, William, Joseph, James, Nancy, Margaret, and Elizabeth.

Jacob Hight married Martha, daughter of Dr. Isaiah Hannlin, they had two children, Nathan and William. Benjamin Hight, M. D. married Mary, a daughter of Andrew Mason. They were blessed with five children, Mary, Ruleph, Joseph, Ruth, and Isabel.

Hannah Hight married Alexander Clark, who served in the war of 1812. Their married life did not extend over many years, for they both died in the prime of life; leaving five small children, whose names were, Bersheba, born May 7th, 1804; John, born Aug. 26th, 1806; Margaret A., born Aug. 3rd, 1808; William, born Oct. 27th, 1810, and Hannah M., born Dec. 13th, 1812.

Alexander Clark was a relative of Thomas Clark, into whose house General Mercer was carried, after he was wounded in the battle of Princeton, on Jan. 3rd, 1777, and taken care of by Sarah Clark, assisted by a colored woman, until the 12th, when he expired.

Bersheba Clark married Richard Reid, and they had children as follows: Sarah, Catherine, Vanhise, Lydia, Hannah, Margaret and Emiline. Vanhise, son of the above named Bersheba and Richard Reid, married Adeline V. P. Wood. They had nine children, whose names were: Charles Augustus, Aletta W., Mary G., who died early in life, Emma N., Anna R., deceased, Edgar P., Evelyn A., deceased, Margaret C., deceased, and Ida M.

Charles A., present Secretary and Treasurer of city water works, Trenton, N. J., married Miriam W. Lanning. They have one child, Joseph Y. L. Reid. Aletta married John N. Stryker. Emma married Charles H. Potter, and Edgar married Ida Anclien.

John Clark, son of Alexander Clark, before mentioned, married for his first wife Margaret Williams, and for his second wife, Delila Cook. There were no children. He died in 1861, a monument marks the spot where he lies in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hightstown, N. J.

In 1827, Margaret Clark married William Reid, born 1805. They lived for fifty years, or the greater part of their married life on a farm, on the road to New Brunswick. Their children were, Garrett, born 1831; Martha, born 1832; Sarah, born 1833; Catherine, born 1835; Margaret, born 1836; Charlotte, born 1837; James, born 1839; William Harrison, born 1841; John C., born 1843; Bersheba, born 1845; David, born 1846; Henry, born 1847; Richard, born 1848; and William, born 1852.

Garret and his wife Eliza had three children. Richard and Harrison died in infancy.

David, general foreman of the P. R. R., of Atlantic City, married Virginia Davis, of Morristown, and had three children, Emma, who died early in life, Frederick and Luther.

Henry married Mary Hill, and had children. Linwood, deceased, Sarah and Charles.

John C. Reid married Mary E. Webber, of Maryland. They have one child, a son William, known as one of the firm of Seville & Reid, marble and granite works, Hopewell, N. J. He married Jennie Blackwell, to whom one child was born, Ethel by name.

Bersheba Reid married A. G. Fetter, of the firm of Finney & Fetter, Proprietors of the steam, saw and grist mill, Hopewell. Eleven children were born to them: Emma, Ella, John H., Herbert, Anna, Cora, Clara, George, Addie and Ida (twins), and Florence.

Emma, a graduate from Hopewell Female Seminary in 1881, married William, a son of Rev. Thomas Grenelle, of Glenwood, N. J., to whom two children were born, Miriam Bersheba and Florence Fetter.

Ella died in infancy; John H., a recorder of deeds in County Clerk's office, Trenton, N. J., married Laura Skillman, and they have one child, Laura by name; Herbert, engaged with the Trenton Banking Co., married May Thatcher, and they have one child, Harold; Anna, a student in 1889, at the State Normal school, Trenton; Cora and Clara, students in 1891, at Model School, Trenton; Dr. George, graduated from the National College, Washington, D. C., in 1895; Addie and Ida died in infancy.

James Reid and his wife Abbie, had one child, John by name.

Catharine Reid married Richard Runyon Martin, a merchant, of Pennington, N. J. They were blessed with one child, George. She was his second wife, his first wife being Margaret Chatten, of Pennington. Three years after the death of his second wife, he married her sister, Martha A.

Richard R. Martin was a son of Moses Martin, born in 1760. Moses was an aid in the Revolutionary war. He was sent from New Brunswick to Perth Amboy, by Washington to warn those stationed there, of an intended raid of the British then in rank on Staten Island. He was captured near Amboy by the enemy and his horse taken from him. He was then incarcerated in the old sugar house at Perth Amboy, and kept there six weeks. He was also colonel in the war of 1812. In 1816, he married Isabel S. Runyon, of New Market, N. J. This union was blessed with three children: Hamilton, who married in 1843, Jane Davis, of Piscataway, N. J., and soon after settled in California; Richard

Runyon, born in 1818; and Catherine, who married John Gillman Martin, son of Ellis Martin and nephew of James Gillman, a major in the war of 1812.

The children of the above-named Richard and Martha his wife were: Isabel, William Clark, Mattie May, Charles A. Haight and Ida E. Isabel died in infancy; Rev. William Clark Martin, of Noank, Conn., a graduate of Peddie Institute, in 1884, and Crozer, 1891, married Etta Wilcox, of Westerly, R. I., to whom two children were born: Nita (died in infancy) and Marvel.

Mattie M., married Theodore M., son of Rev. Thomas Grenelle, of Glenwood, N. J.; Charles A. Haight married Elizabeth Frace, of Newton, N. J. Their children are, Harold, Martha and Nellie.

Ida E. married Willard C., son of Chester E. Pullen, of Hightstown, N. J. They have two children, Rita Ethel and Milton W.

William, son of Hannah and Alexander Clark, spent the larger part of his life in Cranbury, N. J. He died unmarried, May 8th, 1886. His sister Hannah M. Clark married William Dey. For nearly fifty years, or all of their married life they lived on a farm, on the road to Freehold, N. J. Their children were: Martha, who died early in life; Matilda, Mary, who died in infancy; Edmund and Helen.

Matilda married D. McLean Voorhees, to whom were born six children, William Clark, Harvey McLean, Sarah Ellen, Evva May, who died in infancy; Martha, who died in infancy; and Edmund Dey, who is now clerk in the First National Bank of Hightstown, N. J. Helen married a Mr. Snedeker. They had two children.

Edmund, son of Hannah Dey, married Eleanor Gorden. They have one daughter, Laura, by name. They live on a farm along the "Old York road," one-half mile from Allentown, N. J.

Hannah, the only living great-grand child of John and Mary Hight, of the branch of the elder son John, resides with her only son, Edmund Dey, in her 84th year, and is an amiable old lady.

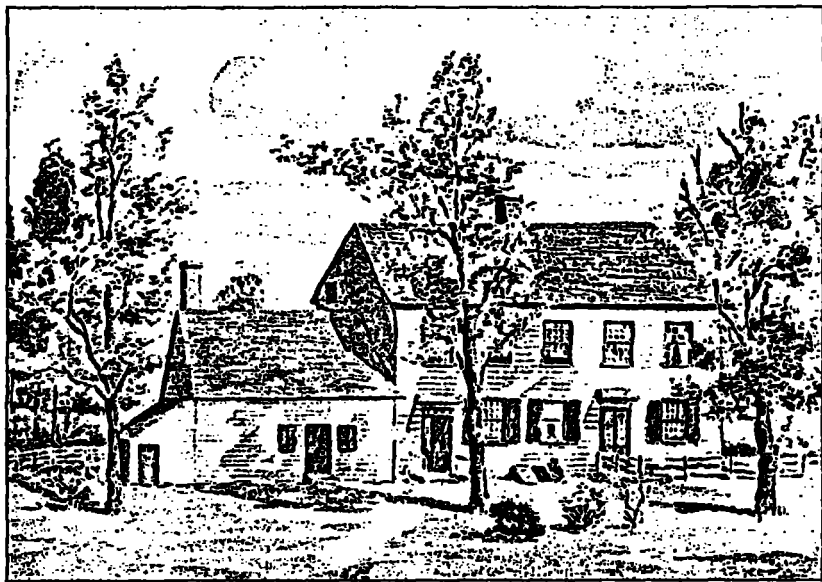


**T**RADITION affirms that Colonel Joseph Haight, the younger son of John and Mary Hight, settled in Maryland before the Revolution, and that he was a warm supporter of the Episcopal Church of that day. He is reputed to have remained loyal to the Crown, and also supposed to have served in the French and Indian war.

There was a Colonel Joseph Haight with Morgam, at Chumar's Mills, on the day of the Battle of Monmouth. He was stationed there to watch for Cornwallis, whose whereabouts were uncertain. This is stated in Barber's "Historical Collections of New Jersey," but whether it refers to the Colonel Haight who is the subject of this sketch, is doubtful.

Joseph Haight married, on June 4th, 1761, Rebecca Griffith, of Philadelphia. She was born Jan. 18th, 1738, and died in 1777. It is also certain that he owned the farm near Colts Neck, N. J., known as the Morrisdon farm, which the late General Charles Haight, of Freehold, N. J., owned in 1884. The vault on this farm was built by Joseph Haight, to satisfy a prejudice of his first wife, who had a horror of being buried in the ground. Col. Joseph and his first wife, Rebecca were blessed with several children: William, Thomas Griffith, Charles, Benjamin, Cornelius, Sarah and Henry. William was born Oct. 6th, 1762, died April 1837, married Sarah Rogers, of Bordentown, who was born Aug. 5th, 1767, and died Aug. 1st, 1799. Thomas Griffith, born March 21st, 1764, died April 17th, 1788, was a physician and is buried at Christ Church, Shrewsbury. Charles, was born July 31st, 1768, died 1849, and is buried in the Morrisdon vault. Benjamin was born Oct. 5th, 1770; Cornelius was born Dec. 23rd, 1772. The only daughter, Sarah was born Dec. 17th, 1774. She married a Mr. Hermance, and died while living in the state of New York, and Henry was born Sept. 5th, 1777. Col. Joseph died April 4th, 1795.

William Haight and wife had a family of three children, Thomas Griffith, Joseph and Marianna. Thomas Griffith was born November 10th, 1790. He was a prominent Democratic politician, and was favorably mentioned as a candidate for Governor. He married Eliza Ann Van Marter March 8th, 1824, and lived in the house of Huddy, the patriot martyr, where he died September 8th, 1847.



**THE CAPT. HUDDY HOUSE, COLT'S NECK, N. J.**

Owned in 1852 by Thomas G. Haight.





In September, 1780, Colonel Tye, with about sixty of his band of refugees, ascending the Navesink river and one of its tributaries to Colt's Neck, attacked the home of Captain Huddy. He, in a house built almost like that of Joseph Murry, alone with a woman servant and little girl, defended himself until the burning of the house. Huddy, finding the flames fast increasing, agreed to surrender, provided they would extinguish the fire. All know the story of this brave defense and how he was hung two years later. To realize the warfare carried on by the patriots and refugees of Monmouth, we must imagine the present cultivated fields and hillsides covered with deep dark forests of ancient oaks, hickories and pines, and meadows through which encircling brooks and narrow sedge-fringed rivers flowed. These water courses were highways for canoe, batteau and skiff, while the dark forests gave hidden places for the treacherous refugees. Only a truly brave man could, in such times of hardship and despair, be a patriot, for when he espoused the American cause he knew he must fight alone many a battle, and at any hour expect an attack. It was the unselfish patriotism of such men as Captain Huddy and Joseph Murry and many others that gave us the victory in the war of the Revolution and makes each page of its history brilliant with inspiring deeds of heroism.

The children of Thomas G. Haight and his wife Eliza A., were William, Trevonion (first), John Tyler (first), Sarah (first), Annie, Charles, Trevonion (second), John Tyler (second), Elizabeth, and Sarah (second).

William was born February 28th, 1825, a graduate of Princeton in 1847. He was a prominent lawyer. He married Mary Van Brunt, of Fort Hamilton, N. Y. Trevonion, John and Sarah (first) all died early in life.

Annie married T. Forman Taylor, of Colt's Neck. This union was blessed with four children, viz., Edward, who died young; Lidie Van Marter, who married Mr. Hull McLean, of Red Bank, N. J., to whom were born three children, viz., Annie Chapin, Forman Taylor and Annie; Edward (second), and Sarah Haight Taylor.

Charles, son of Thomas G. Haight, was born January 4th, 1837. He was a very able lawyer, and a member of Congress, and Prosecutor of the Pleas of the county of Monmouth. He married Mary B., daughter of the late Dr. John L. Taylor, of

Trenton, N. J. He died August 1st, 1891, leaving one child, Annie Bellville, who married Frederick William Hunter, of New York.

Trevonion (second) was born December 27th, 1838, and became a prominent physician; married, January 7th, 1865, Josephine Gould, of Newark. He died in 1888. Their children were Eloise, Eliza, Josephine, Grace, and Thomas Griffith who died in infancy.

John Tyler Haight, was born October 18th, 1841, married Mary L. Drummond, of Shrewsbury, unto whom were born four children, viz., Thomas G., who died in infancy; Thomas G. (second), Rebecca and John Tyler. He, John Tyler Haight, died in December, 1892, while holding the office of County Clerk of the county of Monmouth.

Elizabeth Haight was born May 30th, 1843; died January 28th, 1858; and Sarah Haight married James Eugene Cooper, M. D. This union was blessed with four children, Thomas G., Eugene, Annie and Rebecca.

Joseph, the second son of William Haight and his wife Sarah, was born April 1st, 1792; died in the year 1803, in New York.

Marianna, daughter of William Haight, was born February 20th, 1794; died January 16th, 1872. She married John E. Conover in 1815, who died April 16th, 1833. The names of their two children were William and Charles Haight. William married Mary Otterson. Their children were William, Henry, James, Clarence (now Law Judge of Monmouth county), Julia, and Dr. Charles, of Philadelphia.

Charles Haight Conover married Marianna, a daughter of Judge Bruen, of Freehold, N. J. This very amiable woman is the only one of the generation now living connected by marriage. Their children were Ellen Wyckoff, Eliza Bruen, John E., Marianna Haight, Matilda Hamill and Frank Bruen. Ellen Wyckoff married L. F. S. Schenck, to whom was born one child, a son, Charles De Lafayette. Eliza Bruen married a Mr. Fisher, and now lives at San Diego, Cal. They had two children, Charles Lyle and Marianna Conover. John E. and Marianna H. deceased. Matilda Hamill married John P. Walker. This union was blessed with one child. Frank Bruen Conover, of Asbury Park, married Blanche, a daughter of General Peter Sullivan, of Cincinnati, Ohio. They have one child, a little daughter,

Dorothy M. Charles, son of William Haight, was born April 1st, 1796 ; died July 12th, 1811.

The very estimable Mrs. T. Forman Taylor, of Colt's Neck, and Mrs. Dr. Eugene Cooper, of Shrewsbury, are the only living children of Thomas Griffith Haight and his wife, who was Eliza Ann Van Marter.

Tradition is that the death of Mary Hight occurred before that of her husband; John Hight, who lived to be a very old man.

A question has arisen as to how the name was spelled originally. An old deed, dated 1747, in the possession of Mrs. J. Maxwell, in John and Mary Hight's own handwriting, spells it H-I-G-H-T. Two old deeds in the possession of R. M. J. Smith, with John Hight's signature, spell it H-I-G-H-T. In the old church record book of the Baptist church, dated 1745, the name is spelled H-I-G-H-T. It is so spelled in the deed referred to now on file in the State House, Trenton, N. J., and also in the "History of Mercer County."

To the observation of the writer, in one instance only was the name spelled differently by John Hight, Sr., which was in an old deed, now in the possession of Mr. Stephen Johnes, dated 1747, given to "Godfree Peters from Freegift Stout, in the presence of John Height, John Chamberlin, Henry Chamberlin."

Hannah, daughter of John, Junior, spelled it on one occasion with the e, and Daniel in one instance spelled it with the a.

Again, a signature in Colonel Joseph's own handwriting, now on file in Monmouth county, spelled it with the a. The descendants of that branch retained the a. It is evidently true that the original was spelled H-I-G-H-T.

"Gordon's Gazetteer of New Jersey," published in January, 1834, spells Hightstown "Hights Town."

An old day book kept by T. D. Appleget, dated 1841, spelled it "Hights Town."



## THE EARLY HISTORY OF NEW JERSEY.

---

ON March 20th, 1664, Charles, the English king, made an extensive grant of territory to his brother James, the Duke of York, who conveyed a portion of the territory to Sir George Carteret and Lord Berkeley, on the 23rd of June, of the same year. This tract of land was to be called hereafter "Nova Cesarea, or New Jersey." Philip Carteret was appointed governor, who made, in 1665, Elizabethtown the government seat. At this date, the town contained only four houses, which were built of log. The province was divided in 1676. Lord Berkeley became dissatisfied, and offered his portion for sale, which was purchased by Edward Byllinge and John Fenwick. This tract was then called West New Jersey. The Byllinge tract also passed into the hands of others.

Sir George Carteret was sole proprietor of East Jersey, in which Hightstown was situated. In the year 1679 he died, and his will ordered his province to be sold to pay his debts, which was done, in 1681-82, to Wm. Penn, Thomas Rudyard, Thomas Hart, Robert West, Richard Mew, Samuel Groome, Thomas Cooper, Thomas Wilcox, Clement Plumsted, Hugh Hartshorne, Ambrose Rigg, John Haywood. These were called "the twelve proprietors." They held the province only a short time, when twelve more proprietors were added as partners.

The sparse population of New Jersey is indicated by the following approximate census of the various settlements in the State, in 1680: Province of West Jersey: New Salem, population 60 families; Burlington, 140. Province of East Jersey: Bergen, 70; Newark, 90; Elizabeth, 80; Shrewsbury, 70; Perth Amboy, 60.

New York, which was settled in 1609, had, after a growth of 70 years, become the most important seaport in America. Philadelphia was not settled until 73 years after (1682).

The following was the value of produce in 1668:

Winter wheat, a bus., 5s.	Summer wheat, a bus., 4s. 6d:
Barley, a bus., 4s.	Rye, a bus., 4s.
Indian flour, a bus., 3s.	Beef, a lb., 2s.
Pork, a lb., 3½d.	

During the lifetime of John Hight many important events and remarkable occurrences took place, in what is now called New Jersey. The year 1701 was a memorable era. Owing to the disturbances that violently agitated the minds of the people, each province had many and different proprietors, who were divided into factions. One party in favor with the governor advocated special schemes, which the opposite party opposed. All attempts to restore peace, union, and friendliness between the factions were unsuccessful.

The causes of dissension in the Eastern province, so impressed the minds of the people, that they readily listened to any proposition made for a surrender of government. A large part of the Western province for similar causes was disposed to make a full surrender.

Finally both provinces became weary of the continual struggle between proprietors, and the proprietors and the people. They drew up an article of agreement, whereby they conveyed their right of government to the Crown, and it was accepted by Queen Ann, on the 17th of April, 1702. As soon as the government was transferred, Queen Ann reunited the Eastern and Western provinces, and intrusted the government of the province together with New York to Lord Cornbury, grandson of the Chancellor, Earl of Clarendon. This commission formed the constitution and government of the province, until the Declaration of Independence.

Including the governor, the Crown nominated twelve councilors. These, together with an assembly (elected for an indefinite length of time by the people), comprised the new government. The sessions were held, alternately at Perth Amboy and Burlington, until permanently located at Trenton. The first general assembly met in the year 1668, at Elizabethtown (named for Lady Elizabeth wife of Sir George Carteret), and up to 1686, when it met for the first time in Perth Amboy. The site of the latter place was reserved for the proprietors, by Gov. Carteret, in 1669, and named "Perth," in honor of the "Earl of Perth." In speaking of the location, the Indian word "Ambo," was used. Subsequently the name of the place became Perth Amboy. This town was the residence of Gov. Franklin, whom the "Rebels" made a prisoner.

Lord Cornbury was succeeded by John Lord Lovelace, in 1708; and by Governor Hunter, in 1710, who held the office until 1720.

In the month of May, 1715, a multitude of locusts came out of the ground in various places, covered with a shell, from which they crept and flew to the trees. Owing to the large number throughout the country, their song in the evening was so loud that the "cow-bells could scarcely be heard in the woods." The swine and poultry fed on them. "They were also eaten by the Indians, which makes it probable that they were the same kind eaten by John the Baptist."

Smith's History of New Jersey states the following: "The 7th of Dec., 1737, at night, was a large shock of an earthquake, accompanied with a remarkable rumbling noise; people waked in their beds, the doors flew open, bricks fell from the chimneys; the consternation was serious; but happily no great damage ensued."

In the summer of 1749, three natives of Greenland, dressed in seal skins, passed through the state. They made friends with Indians, near Cranbury. Having been converted by the Moravian missionaries, to the christian religion, they had left Greenland in a Moravian ship.

"On July 20th, 1764, in the evening, at twenty minutes of eight, a ball of fire was seen in the northeast, about fifty degrees above the horizon; it took its course northwesterly; its diameter seemed larger than the sun; it appeared like sheets of fire inclining together; the sound of which resembled that of a great fire, urged by a strong wind. A small cloud in the north seemed to attract it; mounting higher till it reached an edge of the cloud, it seemingly shattered into innumerable pieces."

In the year 1751, little had been done to improve the common roads. Governor Franklin, in an address to the Assembly, in 1768, said: "Even those roads which lie between the two principal trading cities in North America are seldom passable without danger and difficulty." An all-stage route was established from Philadelphia, via Trenton, to Elizabethtown, previous to the Revolution. The stages, called flying machines, carried passengers "through in two days in summer and three in winter, at three pence per mile."

It will be remembered that the British army held possession of New York, during a greater part of the Revolution. The Continental army having control of Philadelphia. Business of all kinds between these two great cities, during these years, was practically

suspended, the country lying between New York and Philadelphia being a continuous battlefield.

In the year 1697, Cranbury was settled by Josiah Prickett, a butcher. The year following he sold out to John Harrison. It is one of the oldest places in this part of the State. On August 8th, 1744, David Brainerd, a pious missionary, preached in the vicinity to the Indians, numbering about sixty. He discoursed from Luke xiv: 16-23. He continued his labors in the field for a time, meeting with success. The common cry to God with the Indians with whom Mr. Brainerd labored was "Guttummaukalumme, guttummaukalumme," meaning "Have mercy upon me, have mercy upon me."

The original township of Windsor was organized March 9th, 1750, by grant of George III. A division into East Windsor and West Windsor was effected by the Legislature in 1797. Average length of East Windsor, 10 miles; width, 5 miles; bounded northeast by South Brunswick and Monroe, Middlesex county; northwest by West Windsor; south-southeast by Upper Freehold, Monmouth county, and southwest by Hamilton.

Mercer county was organized from Burlington, Hunterdon and Middlesex counties February, 1838, and named in honor of General Mercer, who fell at the battle of Princeton. The average length is 20 miles; width, 12 miles; bounded northeast by Somerset and Middlesex counties; northwest by Hunterdon county; southeast by Monmouth and Burlington counties, and southwest by Delaware river. The Capital of the State and her most important literary institutions are located within the limits of this county. The battles of Trenton and Princeton, memorable for turning the tide of the American Revolution, were also fought here. The population of the county in 1840 was 21,075. This county is proud to know that among her sons in the Revolution there were three who signed the Declaration of Independence—Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon and Richard Stockton, of Princeton, and John Hart, of Hopewell. The two others who, as representatives of New Jersey, signed the Declaration of Independence were Francis Hopkinson, of Bordentown, and Abraham Clark, of Rahway. The latter was a descendant of the first settlers of Newark and Elizabeth, with which family Rev. G. W. Clark, D. D., a highly esteemed citizen of Hightstown, is connected.

Rev. John Witherspoon, D. D., came from Scotland in 1768

and settled in Princeton, where he was elected president of the college. Together with the presidency of the college, he assumed the pastorate of the Presbyterian church of that place, sustaining the relation of pastor to this church for about twenty-five years, and up to one year previous to his death, which occurred on November 15th, 1794, at Tusculum, his county seat. He rendered services in the Revolutionary War with distinguished ability. He was the first moderator of the general Presbyterian Assembly, organized about the date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Possessed of fine genius and of eminent and active piety, his merits as a minister and as a scholar stand above the reach of flattery. Having long edified the church by his talents and example, he fell asleep full of faith.

Richard Stockton was born near Princeton, October 1st, 1730; graduated from Princeton College in 1748. His attention was given to the study of law, and he soon rose to eminence. He visited Great Britain and rendered, during his stay, valuable services to the college of New Jersey.

"On the opening of the Revolution, he adopted, with ardor, his country's cause and rendered her important services in various stations. On the 30th of November, 1776, he and his friend, Mr. Covenhoven (at whose house he was staying), were captured by a party of refugee royalists. He was dragged from his bed at night, carried to New York, thrown into the common jail, and treated with such barbarity as to lay the foundation of the disease which terminated in his death February 28th, 1781."—*Barber's Hist. Col. New Jersey*.

Mr. Stockton's fortune was greatly diminished by the depreciation of the Continental currency. He was a devout christian and closed a life of honor and usefulness.

John Hart, Esq., was a native of Hopewell. In the Provincial Congress of 1775, he was a Representative from Hunterdon county, and one year later he was a member of the Continental Congress.

"While Washington's army was dwindling down to a mere handful, this old man was carrying his gray hairs and infirmities about from cottage to cottage, while his farm was pillaged, his family afflicted and dispersed; at one time, being greatly in need of a good night's lodging, and being among strangers, he was



obliged to share the accommodations of a dog. He died in 1780, leaving a bright example of devotion to his country."

Francis Hopkinson was born in Pennsylvania in 1738. In the beginning of the Revolution he resided at Bordentown. Afterward he was appointed a Judge of the District Court of the United States. For wit and vivacity he was very distinguished. His death occurred May 8th, 1791.

Abraham Clark, only child of Thomas Clark, one of the Aldermen of Elizabethtown, was born one and a half miles from Rahway. He held the offices of high sheriff successively, clerk of the Colonial Assembly and commissioner for settling undivided lands. He held a seat in Congress during the continuance of the old Confederation, and was elected a member of the House of Representatives of the United States after the adoption of the Federal Constitution. A monument in Rahway grave-yard bears the following inscription :

"In memory of Abraham Clark, Esq., who died September 15th, 1794, in the 69th year of his age. Firm and decided as a patriot, zealous and faithful as a public worker, he loved his country and adhered to her cause in the darkest hours of her struggle against oppression."

### HIGHTSTOWN IN ITS INFANCY.

THE first building erected in what is now called Hightstown was in the year 1721, which, as before mentioned, was the log house of John and Mary Hight. In the year 1749 Hightstown consisted of this log cabin, a blacksmith shop and a mill (on Rocky Brook), together with two or more other buildings built by John Hight. In 1751, Godfree Peters bought said mill, which he kept two years, as shown by the following clause from an old will, bearing date March 31st, 1753: "Godfree Peters, in his last will, desires that the grist mill in Hightstown be sold to pay his debts." The mill came again into possession of John Hight. In 1786 the mill burned, and was rebuilt in same year by Captain William Smith, grandfather of the late R. M. Smith, State Treasurer of New Jersey.

Two more houses were erected in 1750-51 by others. The first store was established in 1783 by Captain William Smith. At this

date Captain Smith owned several acres of land on the eastern side of Main street, beginning somewhere near Etra Corner (South Main street) and extending to the mill (Norton's). In addition to this, he owned a large tract of land "East of the Duke of York road."

In the year 1800 the following persons carried on the local mercantile business in Hightstown: Betsey Moore, Enoch Baldwin and Robert Purdy. A tannery stood near the residence of Mr. Richard Norton, carried on by James Cook in the year 1806, and in 1812 by Robert Purdy. In 1840 R. R. Forman entered as a partner in the business, retiring in 1846. He was succeeded by Joseph Rue. Two years later it was known as the firm of Coward & Ely, when three years afterward the establishment was torn down.

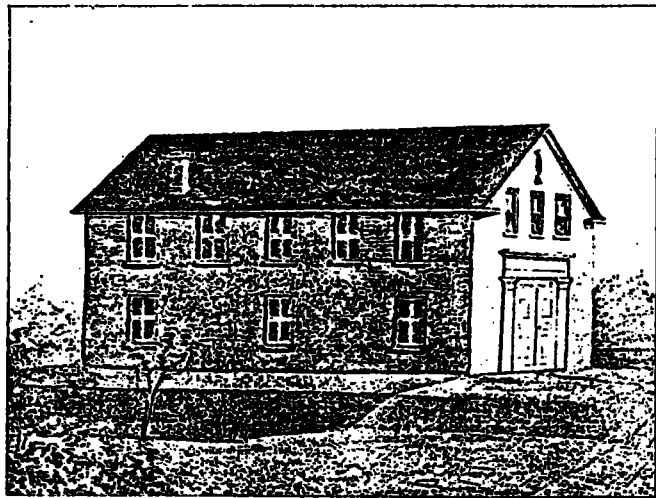
The earliest resident physicians of whom the writer has been able to obtain any knowledge were Drs. Enoch Wilson and George McRoy. These men, so tradition affirms, were here prior to 1800. They frequently walked from four to eight miles to visit a patient.

The mails were carried from place to place on horseback until the year 1694, when Colonel John Hammliton, son of Governor Andrew Hammliton, of New Jersey, devised the scheme by which the post office was established, obtaining a patent for it, selling afterward his right to the Crown. New Jersey had only six offices in the year 1791—Trenton, Princeton, Elizabeth, Newark, Rahway and Brunswick.

The first post office established in Hightstown was on February 24th, 1819, in a store kept by Daniel Mount, who was the first postmaster. Daniel Mount was an uncle to the very estimable Mrs. Abigail Smith, of Hightstown. Those who succeeded Mr. Mount in the post office department were Robert Purdy, Dr. McChesney, Dr. C. C. Blauvelt, I. Smith, Thomas Appleget, Joseph Perrine, Charles Keeler, Samuel Holcombe, Mrs. Holcombe, Charles Keeler, J. Mount Smith, Thomas Scroggy and J. Mount Smith, the present postmaster.

General Lafayette passed through our town about the middle of July, 1825. A reception was given him at Trenton, Saturday, July-16th, of the above-named year. From there he went to Bordentown.

Hightstown, a village on the turnpike road from Bordentown to Cranbury (turnpike chartered February 16th, 1816), is 183 miles



FIRST MEETING HOUSE, HIGHTSTOWN.



from Washington, D. C. ; 41 miles from Philadelphia ; 48 from New York ; nineteen from Trenton ; thirteen from Bordentown ; eighteen from Freehold, and twenty-two from Princeton, by rail, and nine miles by wagon road.

---

### BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Baptist Church at Middletown was formed in 1688. As early as 1706, there was Baptist preaching in the farm houses in this vicinity. Persecution in other States sent many Baptists into this State. The church was founded Nov. 1st, 1745. There were seventeen charter members whose names were as follows: James Carmen, William Cheeseman, William Cheeseman, Jr., Samuel Cheeseman, John Dye, Thomas Morford, Moses Hull, John Hight, Malakia Bonham, Martha Cheeseman, Catherine Cheeseman, Mary Dye, Abigail Morford, Mary Hight, Margaret Carmen, Catharine Morris, Joanna Flavel. At that time there were not over forty Baptist churches in this country with a membership of two thousand.

The meeting house was built in 1747, at Cranbury. The first pastor, James Carmen, was ordained Nov. 3rd, 1745. Having served eleven years, he was buried in the old graveyard. For a time the church prospered, and then, during the Revolution came dark days. The church dwindled from seventy-six members to twenty-four. A few good men kept the fire from going out. In 1782 Peter Wilson, a native of this township, became pastor. At once new life came to the church. He preached everywhere in this part of the state.

In 1784 a frame house was built at Hightstown, on a lot obtained of Captain Wm. Smith. Edward's History of the Baptists, written in 1789, states that "the land was purchased of William Smith," but there is a tradition among his descendants and others, that it was donated by him. The latter statement is undoubtedly correct. The church stood where the Baptist brick Sunday school chapel now stands, for the purpose of a Baptist meeting house. The church then moved to Hightstown and held its first meeting on Nov. 11th, 1785. Back of the church was the graveyard, the oldest tombstone in which, bears the date July 4th, 1790. This building was used until 1834, when it was sold to

Dr. McChesney, and was used as a church by the Universalists on the present site for several years. The church had preaching stations at Trenton, Manasquan, Hamilton Square, Princeton, Washington and many other places. At six of these stations churches were organized. After a pastorate of thirty-five years, in which he baptized 952 persons, Peter Wilson rested quietly from public labors until his death. He was a man of mark in his day. The brick house of worship was erected in 1835. The present house of worship was erected in 1859. The church has had, in all, eleven pastors, including the present. Following Peter Wilson came John Segar for nineteen years, C. W. Mulford, George Young, J. B. Saxton, E. M. Barker, Lewis Smith, Isaac Butterfield, Lyman Chase, and the present pastor, Rev. O. P. Eaches, D. D., now in the twenty-sixth year of his pastorate. He has been influential in educational matters especially in connection with Peddie Institute, and as Secretary of the Baptist Education Society of the State. He has also won a wide reputation as a contributor to periodical literature. Through the untiring labors of this very efficient pastor, the church has greatly prospered. It has raised in the last twenty-five years about one hundred thousand dollars for all purposes. Twenty ministers have gone out from the church, who are as follows: Peter Wilson, Malakiah Bonham, Alexander McGowan, Peter Groom, John Cooper, Joshua E. Rue, Charles Cox, John Harvey, Arthur W. Stockwin, Levi H. Copeland, John B. L'Hommedieu, Charles A. Schlupf, John Schlupf, William C. Martin, W. W. Wakeman, Joseph Schlupf and Theodore Baumgardner.

The church at Jamesburg was organized in 1894, of members dismissed from this church. The old record books, from the first, are still preserved. The Bible and communion set, used more than a century ago are preserved. Two years ago the church purchased a property to be used for caring for the aged members of the church. It is called the Livingston Home. More than a hundred years ago, before the days of the Sunday school, the children were catechized publicly on Sunday. It has a prosperous Endeavor Society, organized in 1886, and also a Junior Endeavor. It has also a Woman's Foreign and Home Mission Society, a Young Woman's and a Young Men's Mission Society, Bands of Little Helpers, and a class for Christian Culture. The church has an invested fund of ten thousand dollars.

Of the former pastors only one is now living. Dr. J. B. Saxton. When the church was organized allegiance was due to England. It has witnessed the rise and growth of the country. It has witnessed great discoveries and the rise of great moral agencies. It has seen the progress of the principles for which it contended at the first. The association of which it was a member petitioned the Continental Congress for the right of everyone to worship God unmolested by the law. It has seen the growth of Baptist principles so that there are now 4,000,000 Baptists in our country. During its history 2,030 have been baptized. Large numbers have gone to other churches, enriching them thereby. The present membership is about 580. The church celebrated June 1st, 1895, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the present pastorate, and on the following November 1st the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the church. The proceedings, together with a history of the church, have been published in book form.

---

### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Early Methodism in New Jersey consisted of two immense circuits, each covering about one-half of our State. To each of these circuits were appointed a Senior and Junior Preacher, who itinerated from one extreme of their "appointment" to the other in regular stated intervals. The dividing line of the East and West Jersey Circuits crossed in our vicinity, just beyond Milford (or Etra). Hightstown was in the East Jersey Circuit. The first preaching services of the Methodist Itinerant of which we can find any record were held in the year 1785, Adam Cloud being Senior and Matthew Greentree Junior Preachers. Strange to relate—but to show the courage and tact of the fathers—the preaching services were held in a tavern owned by Adam Shaw. The Methodists did not, however, receive much encouragement, and in the next year Ezekial Cooper and John McClaskey took their places. These brethren did not like tavern appointments, and it is affirmed that Cooper refused to preach at all amid such surroundings. McClaskey, however, willing to improve every opportunity, preached two or three times, and at one service said he would not preach any more unless better accommodations were provided. Robert Hutchinson, then a young man of twenty-one

years of age, who afterward became a Methodist preacher (and his three brothers, Ezekial, Sylvester and Aaron), besought him to give at least two or three more sermons.

In the meantime, Hutchinson persuaded his uncle Joseph Hutchinson to hear the itinerant. Joseph Hutchinson was pleased and asked the preacher to preach at his residence. The invitation was gladly accepted. Thus early in the year 1786, the services were transferred from Hightstown to Milford, N. J., and Joseph Hutchinson became the leader and supporter of the Methodists. Almost entirely at his own expense, a chapel was built at Milford, in which regular Methodist services were held until the year 1835, when the congregation moved to the new brick building, which had been erected in Hightstown, on the corner of Stockton and Church streets. The property now owned by Mr. Joseph Chamberlin, and occupied as an apartment house. While the church was in Milford a flourishing class was maintained in Hightstown, and it was on account of the influential members of this class that the place of regular service was transferred to our town. The following persons were among the charter members: Charles C. Johnson, father of Mr. Pittman Johnson, a Hightstown business man; Israel Pearce, father of Mrs. T. C. Pearce (maiden name also Pearce), of Hightstown, and Mrs. John Dey, of Ocean Grove; James Cook, Gilbert Dey and Joel Jemison.

In the year 1857, during the pastorate of Rev. Enoch Green, the present church edifice on Church street was built. The church has had many different pastors (a methodist custom), all of whom were noble-hearted men.

In the spring of 1895 Rev. James L. Howard, the present pastor, was called to the pastorate. Through the instrumentality of this very earnest and competent leader the church has had a grand revival. About two hundred souls have been brought to know a Saviour's love. He and his people are united in doing a grand work.

The congregation, recognizing the need of a more spacious and eligible location, purchased recently the large and commanding site owned by Mr. James Marlatt, on Stockton, running through to Morrison street, together with the adjoining property of Mr. Taylor Brown, corner of Stockton and Church streets. Upon this lot a new church building will be erected, and the Marlatt homestead, after being thoroughly remodelled, will be the parsonage.



The property at Milford has gone into decay. The other properties are still in a good state of preservation and in actual use, and it is hoped soon the new church will be completed and dedicated to the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

List of pastors serving the Hightstown M. E. Church from 1860 to present date :

ISAAC WINNER, 1860-1.	HENRY M. BROWN, 1862.
SAMUEL E. POST, 1863-4-5.	PHILIP CLINE, 1866-7.
GEORGE HUGHES, 1868-9.	JOHN S. PHELPS, 1870-1-2.
WILLIAM WALTON, 1873-4.	JEFFERSON LEWIS, 1875-6.
J. L. ROE, 1877-8.	CALVIN C. EASTLACK, 1879.
W. S. McCOWAN, 1880-1-2.	ROBERT J. ANDREWS, 1883-4.
JOSEPH H. MICKLE, 1885-6 7.	WM. PITTENGER, 1888.
L. O. MANCHESTER, 1889-90-1.	W. S. BARNART, 1892-3-4.
J. L. HOWARD, the present pastor, 1895.	

Since writing the above, Rev. Joseph H. Mickle, who in the Spring of 1896 settled in Freehold, N. J. (his new field of labor), has passed from this life into "that beautiful home, where everlasting Spring abides and never-withering flowers." He was an able, faithful and beloved minister of Jesus Christ.

Zealous for the glory of God, fervent and active in the discharge of all public and private duties, the labors of a short life have ended in a large reward.

### UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.

There is evidence that the distinctive doctrine of the Universalist Church was somewhat prevalent in Hightstown at least a half-century prior to the organization of the local parish. So far as is known to the writer, the earliest evidence of its existence in this vicinity was in the year 1788.

In the list of subscribers, for the year 1793, to the *Free Universal Magazine*, a Universalist periodical, there appear the names of Capt. William Barton, of "Hidestown," and Daniel Jones, of Middlesex. The Daniel Jones referred to was doubtless Daniel Johnes, of Hightstown. The misspelling of the name is probably due to a printer's error.

There is still in existence a curious and interesting relic of the early days of Universalism in Hightstown. It is a copy of Siegvolk's "Everlasting Gospel" (Philadelphia, 1807), in which are

two autographs of Daniel Johnes, who was the original owner of the book, written in a bold, clear hand with his own blood. One of these autographs is dated May 20, 1813, the other 1819, Mr. Johnes being at the latter date in the seventy-eighth year of his age. Numerous marginal references and comments throughout the volume clearly attest to the intensity of his belief in the doctrine of universal salvation. Mr. Johnes was the earliest avowed Universalist in Hightstown of whose efforts to advance the cause there is any definite record, and to him, undoubtedly, as the fountain-head, may be traced the local stream of Universalism, which, though never large, has increased steadily in volume and influence to the present day. So enthusiastic a believer could not fail to influence others who came in contact with him, and in due time several of his neighbors became zealous defenders and exponents of the same doctrine.

Among these converts was Richard Norton, a Friend, whose large mental powers, pure Christian character and manly courage well fitted him to become a prominent representative of the new and unpopular movement. Daniel Norton, a younger brother of Richard Norton, who is still living at the advanced age of eighty-four years, also became a Universalist in early life.

The Universalist sentiment gradually spread throughout the neighborhood, but it was not until 1830 that the little band of believers was accorded the privilege of listening to a minister of their own faith. The first sermon was preached by a Rev. Mr. Hawley, at the house of Col. Samuel C. Johnes, in the early part of August of the year above mentioned. From that time until 1835, occasional services were held in private homes and the open fields by such preachers as could be obtained, among them being Revs. T. J. Sawyer, S. W. Fuller, T. Fiske (editor of the *Gospel Herald*), C. F. Le Fevre, Abel C. Thomas, and others less prominent in the annals of the denomination. A meeting of the Philadelphia Association of Universalists was held in Hightstown, October 3 and 4, 1832. In 1834 the Baptists, wishing to erect a larger building, sold their church, which soon passed into the hands of the Universalists and was fitted up by them for their own use. Rev. C. F. Le Fevre preached the rededication sermon August 10, 1835. Rev. J. H. Gihon was the first settled pastor of the society, beginning his labors February 7, 1838, and closing them in the latter part of 1839. It was during his adminis-

tration (April 6, 1839) that the parish was regularly organized. Following Mr. Gihon's departure, the parish had the usual changes of pastors, numbering among its ministers several whose names are well-known to nearly all Universalists. Abel C. Thomas, whose pastorate began in April, 1863, and closed in the early part of 1865, came to Hightstown for the benefit of his health. His services were freely given, without pecuniary remuneration. In 1867, Isaac Pullen, who had been a member of the society many years, died, leaving a bequest of one thousand dollars as the nucleus of a fund for the erection of a new church. The gift was accepted, and in 1869 the old building was torn down and the laying of the corner-stone of a new edifice occurred soon after. This latter temple of worship, which is of brick and cost nearly thirteen thousand dollars, was designed by James Norton. The largest individual subscription to the building fund was one thousand dollars, given by John C. Ward. The dedication took place February 21, 1871. Rev. E. H. Chapin, D.D., the noted pulpit orator, preached the dedicatory sermon, and Rev. A. C. Thomas assisted in the service. P. T. Barnum and Horace Greeley, both of whom had assisted in raising funds for the church, were present. At about the same time a seminary building, afterward remodeled into the present parsonage, was erected at a cost of twelve hundred dollars. The limits of this sketch will not allow other than a very brief mention of the work which has been done during the twenty-four years which have elapsed since 1871.

Rev. E. Hathaway took pastoral charge of the society June 21, 1871, and remained with the parish until February, 1876. In 1887 a small piece of land at the rear of the church was purchased, and an addition to the main auditorium, designed to accommodate a new pipe organ, was placed thereon. The new organ was opened January, 1888. The entire cost for organ, land, etc., was twenty-five hundred dollars.

Rev. Edward G. Mason, the present very competent pastor, was called in June, 1894, and began his pastorate on the 1st of July following. His labors have been abundantly blessed. During the months of August and September, 1894, the interior of the church was altered and improved at a cost of one thousand dollars. The edifice was reconsecrated October 17, 1894, Rev. E. C. Sweetser, D.D., of Philadelphia, preaching the dedicatory sermon. The service was held in connection with the semi-

centennial session of the New Jersey Convention, which met at Hightstown October 17, 18 and 19. Until 1867 there was merely a parish organization. January 18 of that year a church of twenty-three members was organized, and at the end of the year the membership had increased to thirty-three. The present membership is one hundred and six.

Of the subordinate branches of church work, the sunday-school was instituted in 1840. One of the superintendents, Mr. Edward C. Taylor, held that position continuously from 1868 to 1882, thus making for himself the remarkable record of eighteen years continuous service. He was intensely devoted to the work, and freely gave to it his energy, time and means, reaping his reward in the success which attended his self-sacrificing efforts. Mr. Charles C. Blauvelt, the present efficient superintendent, took charge in 1883. His administration has been especially marked by the large number of scholars who have taken upon themselves the obligations of church membership. An independent society of Christian Endeavor was organized in 1888, but on December 9, 1894, it became a branch of the Y. P. C. U. of the Universalist Church, dropping its former name. A Junior Y. P. C. U. was formed April 26, 1895.

Although never large in numbers, the Universalist Church has met with a good degree of prosperity. It now has a property valued at nineteen thousand dollars, upon which there are no incumbrances, and is stronger numerically than ever before. There are always to be found on its membership rolls the names of men and women of high standing and large influence in the community. Though located in a section of the country where organized Universalism is very weak, and therefore isolated from the large centres of denominational activity, the Hightstown Church has kept in close touch with the general body, adhering firmly to the fundamental doctrines of the denomination, and contributing loyally to all missionary enterprises, both home and foreign. One of the members, Miss Mary Norton, was very active and successful in the canvass for funds with which to build the Potter Memorial Church at Good Luck, N. J. At several sessions of the general convention members of the parish have, as lay delegates, represented the State organization.

The church was never in better condition than at present, and the outlook for a useful and prosperous future is most encourag-

ing. The following is a list of the pastors since the dedication of the new church in 1871, together with the dates of their respective pastorates : Rev. E. Hathaway, June 25, 1871,–February, 1876 ; S. P. Smith, June 4, 1876,–Autumn of 1878 ; O. L. Ashenfelter, 1878–September, 1880 ; W. E. Copeland, May, 1881,–July, 1883 (the date of his death) ; F. W. Bailey, May 1, 1884,–November 14, 1885 ; E. Morris, November, 1885,–April, 1891 ; J. H. Amies, April, 1891,–March 1, 1893 ; J. M. Bartholomew, September, 1893,–February, 1894 ; E. G. Mason, July 1st, 1894. The last named efficient pastor is still in charge. A very interesting chapter on " Universalism in Hightstown," in Rev. Abel C. Thomas' book, *Century of Universalism* (Philadelphia, 1872), gives a complete list of the pastors of the church prior to 1871.



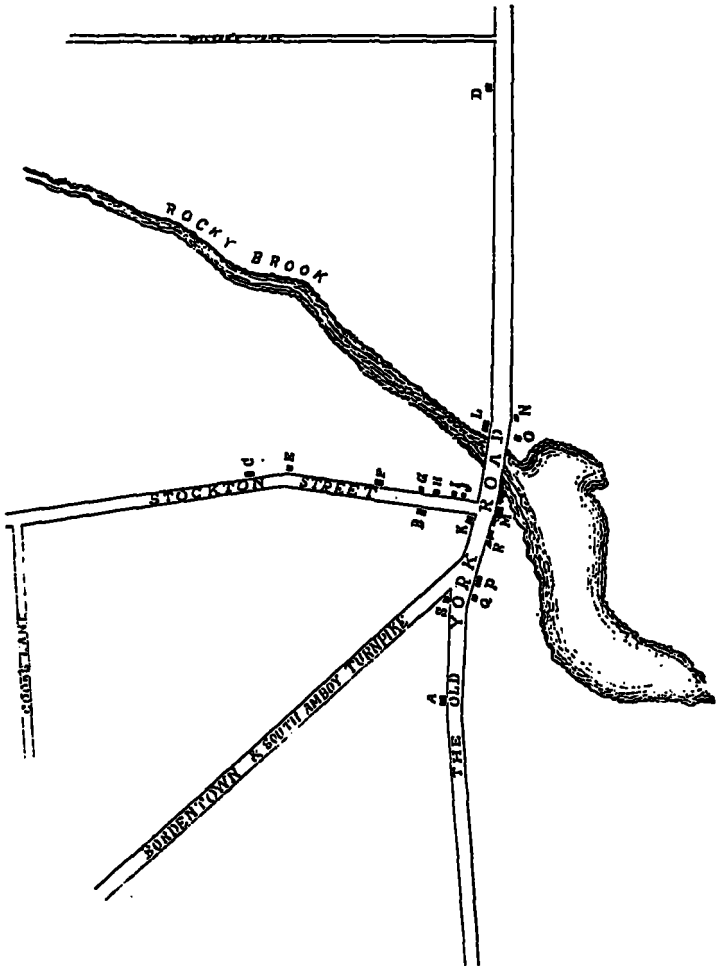


DIAGRAM OF HIGHTSTOWN IN 1830 (Borough Limits).

# DIAGRAM OF HIGHTSTOWN IN 1830 (BOROUGH LIMITS).

## *References.*

*A*—Residence of Rev. J. Seger; the home of Mr. Wm. T. Smock now stands on the plot.

*B*—Dwelling-house and store, combined, of Robert Purdy, where the residence of Mrs. Abigail Smith is now located.

*C*—Home of Dr. Enoch Wilson. The same house (remodeled) is at this date occupied by Mr. John Clevenger.

*D*—Residence of Mr. Ezekiel Wilson, now owned by Mr. Addison Chamberlin.

*E*—House owned by Mr. Ezekiel Wilson. The home of Mr. A. J. Ashton now stands on the plot.

*F*—House owned and occupied by Mr. David Stults; now occupied by Messrs. John Conard and Mount Storer.

*G*—Small house owned by Mr. Aaron Coward; located where the residence of Dr. C. J. Hazard now stands.

*H*—House owned by Robert Purdy, where the house now owned by Mr. Wm. T. Smock, and occupied by Mr. Wm. Stewart, stands.

*I*—Small house located where the residence of Mr. Wm. D. Wear stands.

*J*—Small house owned by Robert Purdy. The home of Mr. Richard Norton is now on the spot.

*K*—Hotel kept by Isaac Britton, where the drugstore of Mr. D. H. Cunningham is at this date located.

*L*—Hotel (on the present site).

*M*—Hotel kept by David Ferrine. It is now occupied by Mr. J. G. Sheible.

*N*—House owned by Mr. Rosteen Walton, where the house now occupied by Mr. Hart Bodine stands.

*O*—Small house occupied by Mr. Wm. Colter, proprietor of the fulling mill (near the grist mill, then kept by Redford Job), near the house now occupied by Mr. J. West.

*P*—Old Baptist Church, where the old brick chapel stands.

*Q*—House (birthplace of Mrs. T. C. Pearce) on the present site of the Baptist Church.

*R*—Store of Mr. R. M. Smith.

*S*—Blacksmith shop kept by Abraham Voorhees. Present site of Dawes' Hall.





### LOCOMOTIVE "JOHN BULL" AND TRAIN.

There appeared a remarkable pamphlet in the year 1812, written by a remarkable man, to whose foresight, coupled with the genius of his sons, the State of New Jersey owes much of its greatness—Colonel John Stevens, of Hoboken, and his sons, Robert, Edwin and John, the projectors and constructors of the Camden and Amboy Railroad. Few men have left such a record of usefulness as is inscribed beneath the medallion portrait of John Stevens, which hangs in the Section of Transportation and Engineering in the United States National Museum at Washington, which reads as follows :

" John Stevens, of Hoboken, New Jersey. Born in New York, of English lineage, 1749 ; died in Hoboken, N. J., March 6th, 1838. Graduate of King's College (now Columbia), A. M. 1768 ; admitted to the New York bar 1771 ; Treasurer of New Jersey during the active period of the Revolutionary War, and in the succeeding sixty years resided in New York and on his estate in Hoboken.

" Throughout this long period he labored continuously for the introduction and application of steam to navigation and to railroad locomotion. It was on his petition that the patent law of April 10th, 1790—the foundation of the American patent law—was framed. In 1792 he took out patents for propelling vessels by steam-pumps, modified from the original steam-pumps of Savary (Gorden's Gazette of N. J., 1834). He made the first practical application of steam to the screw propeller in 1804 ; he patented the multi-tubular boiler in the United States in 1803 ; in England, 1805 ; established the first steam ferry in the world, between New York and Hoboken, October 11th, 1811, with the 'Juliana.'



" In 1812 he addressed a memoir to the New York State Commission, urging the immediate construction of a railroad. At the date of this memoir, although railroads for carrying coal had been in use in England for upwards of two hundred years, there was not a steam locomotive or passenger car in use in the world.

" In 1826, in the seventy-eighth year of his age, to give an ocular demonstration, he built the first locomotive that ran on a railroad in America. It had a multi-tubular boiler, and carried half a dozen people at a speed of over twelve miles an hour."

Truly a wonderful record of the life work of one man.

The first regulations adopted regarding the location of wagon roads was in 1675, by the council, whose functions were similar to to the present New Jersey Senate. In 1682 (the year Philadelphia was settled) two roads were opened across the State according to law—one of which is known as the " Old York Road "—which afterward became routes between New York and Philadelphia.

The first meeting of citizens interested in a railroad construction from Camden to South Amboy, was held January 14th, 1828, in the Old Court-House at Mount Holly. During 1828 and 1829, meetings were held at Burlington, Bordentown, Princeton, Trenton and other portions of the State, in favor of the movement.

The meeting of the stockholders at which the first organization of the Camden and Amboy Railroad was effected, was held at the residence of Isaiah Toy, Camden, N. J., April 28th, 1830. The following persons were chosen the first officers and directors of the company : Robert L. Stevens, of Hoboken, President ; Edwin A. Stevens, of Hoboken, Treasurer ; Jeremiah H. Sloan, of Camden, Secretary, together with Abraham Brown, of Mount Holly, William McKnight, of Bordentown, William I. Watson, of Philadelphia, Benjamin Fisk, of Trenton, were chosen Directors. Robert L. Stevens was also appointed Chief Engineer.

The early surveys of the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company were made under the direction of Major John Wilson. They were begun in the Spring of 1830 and completed on October 2d of that year. Robert L. Stevens sailed for England in October, 1830, with instructions to order a locomotive and rails for said road. The use of all-iron rails was advocated in preference to those made of wood, then in use on a short American railroad. The first shipment of rails, having arrived in America, was trans-

ported to Bordentown, where the first piece of track was laid. A monument marks the spot, bearing the following inscription :

" First movement by steam on a railroad in the State of New Jersey. Nov. 12th, 1831. By the original locomotive 'John Bull,' now deposited in the United States National Museum at Washington. The first piece of railroad track in New Jersey was laid by the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company between this point and the stone, thirty-five hundred feet eastward, in 1831."

The Camden and Amboy Company laid its first track upon stone blocks two feet square and ten to thirteen inches deep. These blocks were purchased from the prison authorities at Sing Sing, N. Y. The original "John Bull" arrived in Philadelphia from Liverpool, August, 1831, where it was transferred to Bordentown. The engine weighed about ten tons. The boiler was thirteen feet long and three feet six inches in diameter. The cylinders were nine inches by twenty inches. There were four driving-wheels, four feet six inches in diameter, made with cast iron hubs and wooden (locust) spokes and felloes. As no tender came with the locomotive, one was improvised from a four-wheel flat-car that had been used on construction work. This was soon equipped to carry water and wood. The water-tank consisted of a large whiskey cask, which was procured from a Bordentown storekeeper, and this was securely fastened on the center of the four-wheeled car. A hole was bored up through the car into the barrel, and into it a piece of two-inch tin pipe was fitted, projecting below the platform of the car.

Four sections of hose, each two feet long, made of shoe leather, were attached to these pipes, fastened by bands of waxen thread. The cask was filled with water, a supply of wood for fuel was obtained, and engine and tender were ready for work.

---

### FIRST CARS.

Two coaches, built so that they might be drawn by horses, were attached to the locomotive. These coaches were of the English pattern. They had four wheels and resembled three carriage bodies joined together, with seats in each facing each other. There were three doors at each side. These cars were made by a Hoboken firm of carriage manufacturers, and were thought to be

very handsome. The road from Bordentown to Hightstown was completed by September, 1832, and from Hightstown to South Amboy the December following.

The first cars were put on the Camden and Amboy Railroad September 19th, 1832. They were drawn by two horses. They took the directors and a few friends from Bordentown to Hightstown and back. On December 17th, 1832, the first passengers were taken from Bordentown through to South Amboy, numbering about fifty persons. It was a rainy day. The first freight cars were put on the railroad January 24th, 1833. There were three cars, drawn by one horse each, with six or seven thousand pounds of freight on each car; freight came from New York by steamboat to South Amboy. Benjamin Fish drove the first car, John Twine drove the second car, and Edmund Page the third one. They went to the Sand Hills (near Bordentown) by railroad, there loaded the goods on wagons (it was Winter and the river was frozen over), arriving in Philadelphia by sunrise next morning. The goods left New York at 12 o'clock, noon. This was done by the old firm of Fish, Hill & Abbe. Immediately after, the road from Bordentown to South Amboy was completed, and as late as the Summer of 1833, passengers from Philadelphia were brought by steamboat to the wharf at White Hill, and from there were rapidly driven to Amboy. To each car were hitched two horses, and as they were driven on the run continuously, three changes of horses were required. The finest horses obtainable were purchased. In crossing the State (thirty-four miles), the time consumed was from two to three hours.

Early in September, 1833, the locomotive "John Bull" was put to the train, leaving Bordentown about 7 o'clock in the morning and leaving South Amboy, for the return trip, at 4 P. M. Isaac Dripps acted as engineer, Benjamin Higgins as fireman, and R. L. Stevens as conductor. This was the first passenger train regularly run by steam on the route between New York and Philadelphia.

A small depot, with two convenient waiting-rooms, stood on the present site. This building was erected in the year 1785 by George Bergen, or "Barrigan," as then called, and occupied by him for about thirty years as a dwelling-house. Benjamin Reed had it for a harness-making establishment; T. Pearce kept store in the room next to the railroad. C. I. Coward kept store in the

shoemaking line. A schoolmaster and his wife at one time domiciled in the west end of the building. Abraham Eldrige kept a bakery, and then Chas. Tindall and Jacob Tash. Bayard Taylor, in his "Views A-Foot," mentions procuring food at this bakery (Eldregi's). Andrew Johnson, at one time, had a tailor shop there. The present depot was erected in 1867.

The railroad, as originally constructed, consisted of a single-track railway from Camden to South Amboy—sixty-one miles. The first woman who rode on a train hauled by a steam locomotive in the State (which was said train), was Madame Murat, wife of Prince Murat, a nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, who was then living in Bordentown.

---

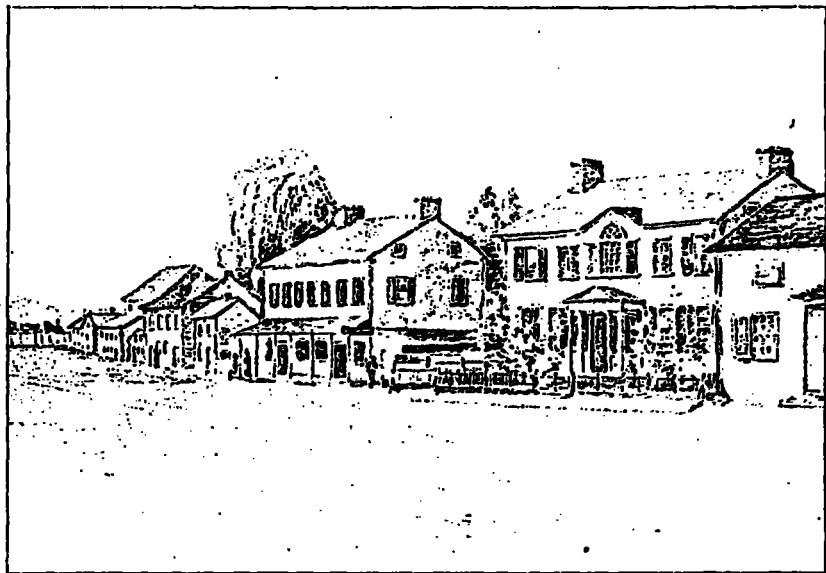
### HIGHTSTOWN IN 1834.

This is a pencil sketch of the eastern side of Main street in 1834, made by Mrs. Eliza P. McChesney, wife of the late Dr. Charles G. McChesney, ex-Secretary of the State of New Jersey. It was found among her effects after her decease. No. 1 is the store of the late R. M. Smith. No. 2 is the residence of Mrs. McChesney—property of Dr. Enoch Wilson (grandfather of the late Forman Job). Both of these buildings were destroyed by fire in 1838. No. 3 is the hotel then kept by David Perrine, the grandfather of H. M. Perrine. No. 4 is the "Auntie Purdy" house, where she sold "home-made" cakes, candies and root-beer. No. 5 is the Andrew Segar house, next to which, No. 6, was his tinshop, which afterward became a residence. No. 7 is the fulling-mill, which adjoined the grist-mill, the roof of which can be seen in the rear. No. 8 is the miller's house. The residence at the mill was back of the mill, in fact, the house where R. M. Norton now resides.

---

### THE FIRST FIRE-ENGINE.

In the year 1835, Mr. Benjamin Reed, an interested citizen of Hightstown, procured at his own expense from Princeton a small hand-engine (bought in Philadelphia), in exchange for a mule. But the old engine, that had served its time, was found to be of little use.



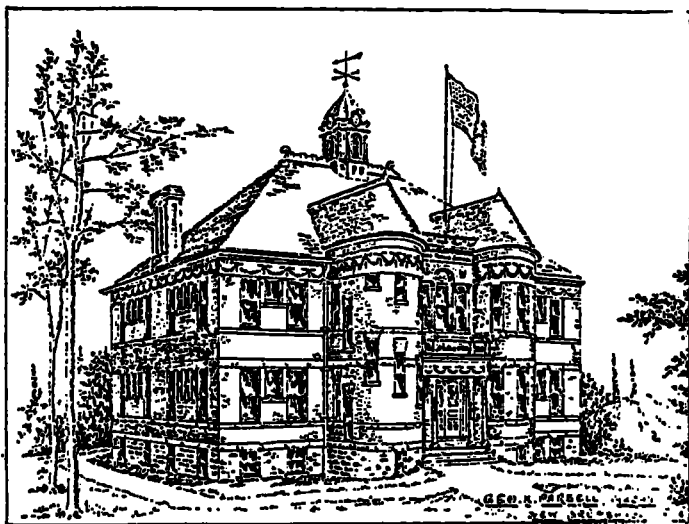
HIGHTSTOWN IN 1834.



In 1851, several young men of the town, realizing the need of fire protection, organized themselves into a fire company. The old hand-engine was again brought out for trial, but the ancient apparatus refused further service.

The newly-organized company, headed by a fife and drum corps, escorted the old engine through the principal streets of the town, after which a halt was made and an interesting speech delivered by Mr. Wm. Sterling Yard, showing the necessity of a new fire-engine.

The following were some of the charter members of the fire company: Messrs. Wm. S. Yard, Chas. H. Stults, A. J. Smith, Wm. Smith, James Forman, Joseph Blauvelt, John M. Johnson, Jonathan Smith, Geo. Van Marter, T. Segar, Story Reed, Chas. M. Giberson, Wm. Pearce.



**PUBLIC SCHOOL.**

The public school building, that had served its generation, stood not far from the present residence of Rev. E. G. Mason. Like most schools of that time, it was a "part pay" school. Public funds or "free money" (as it was then called) were variously appropriated for the benefit of the pupils, keeping the school

open for all ; or in many cases it being proportioned to the several terms. Another school-house was situated near the present residence of Mrs. A. F. Job, then called Buzzards' Corner. This school was taught by Dr. Wilson for a long time.

The old school-house which stood on the present site was built by Robert Embly. An old subscription list, dated March 8th, 1841, is evidence that about this date the building (which was removed in the Summer of 1894) was erected. The lot was donated by the late J. C. Ward. The school-house was a two-story frame house, with one room on each floor. In the year 1842 Peter Bilyeu, by public subscription, donated the large bell which hung in its tower. Its first principal was O. K. Willis. In 1849 Mr. Carmichael was principal. W. W. Swett entered as principal December, 1856, remaining for several years. The higher department enrolled, during the term ending March 11th, 1857, fifty-one pupils, mostly boys, some of whom were : J. W. Early, Howard Ashton, Elwood Silvers, R. M. J. Smith, Henry J. Ely, G. W. Conover, John Ford, Luther Groves, Asher Applegate, G. W. Eldrige, R. M. Early, W. O. Ogborn, J. R. Shangle, C. C. McMichael, Cyrus Tindall, Alexander Pullen, T. M. Scroggy, C. M. Allen, G. Y. Wood, Charles Smock.

In the year 1859 wings were added to the building. The higher department thereafter occupied the one large upper room and the primary was divided, the two divisions occupying the lower rooms. In 1867 Benjamin Yocum was principal and Miss Mary F. Wood entered as teacher in the intermediate department. Some of the other principals were Messrs. Sturtevant, McNeal, Cone, Cothrein, Kelsey, Morgan, Barker, Bates, Wyckoff, Sanford, and later W. W. Swett was again principal for several years. The following are some of the persons who taught in the intermediate department of the old building : Misses Annie Miller, Ella J. Pullen, Lydie Lawrence, Sadie A. Pembroke, Mattie M. Martin, Helen D. Grover, Sara Shinn, Cora Harden, Sarah Harden, Estella Fryer, Lizzie D. Pembroke, Maggie Donnel. In 1889 the graduating system was introduced by Principal Theodore Green. In the Spring of 1894 money was appropriated for a new school building. The corner-stone was laid August 3d, 1894, and it was completed December, 1894, and occupied by the pupils January 7th, 1895. The building, which is built of brick and stone, is 72 x 50 feet. There are eight school-rooms, each 27 x 23 ; also



library, principal's office, laboratory and committee room, each 11 x 12, all heated by steam. The old bell is in the tower. The present instructors are : Theodore Green, principal ; Misses Helen D. Grover, Carrie McCurdy, Ada V. Hutchinson, Laura Camp and Mamie Bressnahan. The present Board of Education are : Dr. G. H. Franklin, Pres. ; Dr. J. P. Johnson, Sec. ; Messrs. Charles Keeler, W. F. Lott, E. E. Anderson, Henry Applegate, C. H. Davison, W. P. Forman and Ezekiel Gorden.

### AN OLD STORE.

Since the era of the iron-horse the merchants of the village have been so numerous and so constantly coming and going as to defy enumeration. An old Day Book, dated July 1, 1841, shows that T. H. D. Appleget kept a store at said date. Some of his stock sold at the following prices : Calicoes, 25 and 31 cts. per yd. ; Broadcloth, \$4.25 per yd. ; Coffees, 12½, 13 and 14c. per lb. ; Tea, \$1 per lb. ; Sugar, 9 and 10c. per lb. ; Butter, 34c. per lb. ; Muslin, 10 and 12½c. per yd. ; Eggs, 5c. per doz. ; Palm Hats, 25 and 31c. each ; Potatoes, 75c. per bush. ; Wheat Flour, \$1 per ¼ ; Boots, \$5 per pair ; Cassimere, \$2.18, 2.25 and \$2.80 per yd.

The following were some of the patrons of this store : Dr. C. C. Blauvelt, Hiram Pullen, J. J. Ely, James Allen, Benjamin Marlatt, Benjamin Reid, Jones Ogborn, Anthony Applegate, Lewis Riggs, Adam Smith, Peter Wilson, Abraham Voorhees, Gabriel Allen, Isaiah Rogers, Randolph Dye, Luke Schenck, Daniel Brown, Benjamin Mount, Solomon Dye, Aaron Hutchinson, John Carman, Jasper Smith, Clark Silvers, Ruleph Dye, Israel C. Pearce, Dr. McChesney, Mr. Mulfred.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

In the year 1847, the Rev. Wm. Passmore, then rector of Christ Church, Allentown, N. J., was appointed missionary to Hightstown, and held Episcopal services in a room over a workshop. His efforts were quite successful until his health failed, and the work was abandoned.

Among the children baptized here by him was Wm. Dafter, now Rev. Wm. Dafter, D.D., of — —, Wisconsin, a clergyman of great usefulness. In the year 1858, Rev. Dr. Foggo, of Allentown, officiated on alternate Sunday afternoons, creating much interest in the church, and organizing Trinity Parish. His

labors were interrupted by a call to Christ Church, Philadelphia, of which he became rector. In 1860, Rev. Thomas Lyle, rector of St. Peter's Church, Spottswood, assumed charge, but he also was called to another field. Rev. Wilbur F. Nields, of St. Peter's, Freehold, N. J., succeeded him, but death closed a career of great promise.

Rev. Joseph Smith, of Brooklyn, came for a short period, and Rev. F. M. Bird, rector of St. Peter's, Spottswood, held week night services, which were well attended. In the year 1874 a substantial brick building, known as Central Bank, was purchased and neatly and appropriately fitted up as Trinity Chapel, where the congregation still worships, and where it has had successively (though with long intervals of closed doors) the ministrations of Rev. M. Bolmar, Rev. F. M. Bird, Rev. Dr. Clerc, Rev. Mortimer Hyde, Rev. J. B. Trevett and Rev. H. L. Phillips, the present very able minister in charge. As lay readers, Messrs. Bennington Gill, W. Howell and Professor Budlong rendered efficient service, and Rev. Dr. Baker, of Princeton, evinced practical interest in the mission, not only by officiating himself, but in sending lay readers. Bishop Odenheimer made several visitations at Hightstown, administering the right of confirmation; and his successor, Bishop Scarborough, has been a firm friend of the mission, always in his visitations upholding and encouraging the little band of church people in darkest hours of depression. The New Brunswick Convocation has given generous financial aid and no debt rests upon the building. Of the families who have been represented in the church as members and supporters, all cannot be recalled, but the following may be named: Morrison, Scattergood, Swett, Schenck, Howell, Smith, Hazard, Johnes, Davison, Budlong, Grandy, Henry, Chambers, Lott, Harris, Taylor, Jamison and Tatem.

---

#### WINDSOR LODGE, No. 59, I. O. O. F.

This lodge was organized February 4th, 1847, in the old school-house at Buzzards' Point. The charter members were John Butcher, Isaac Pullen, R. M. Smith, Thomas Butcher, Dr. Charles C. Blauvelt and Hiram Pullen. Soon after, the society moved to a room on Main street. The lodge-room, with its contents, was destroyed by fire March 5th, 1866. On the 22d of November following the lodge was reorganized.

## FIRST NEWSPAPER IN HIGHTSTOWN.

The *New Jersey Gazette* was the first newspaper printed in New Jersey, the publication of which began December 5th, 1777. Editor, Isaac Collins; imprint, Burlington.

The first newspaper ever printed in Hightstown was established by James S. Yard and Jacob Stults. Mr. Yard was a journeyman printer, a native of Trenton, where he learned the art of printing in the office of the *True American*. Mr. Stults was a native of Hightstown, and was then employed as a merchant's clerk in Trenton. The idea of starting a newspaper in Hightstown originated with him.

They invested a few hundred dollars in newspaper type, a printing press, and some job printing materials, and launched the new enterprise. Both were young, hopeful and energetic, and determined "to make it go." The first number of the new paper was dated on the 30th of June, 1849.

Newspapers were not so common in that day as they are now. It is needless to say that the new journal created a profound sensation in Hightstown and its immediate neighborhood, and that the process of producing a newspaper with the imprint of the town upon it was a marvel little short of witchcraft or magic to most of the population at that period.

The new paper was called the *Village Record*. It was a neat looking sheet and was neatly printed, as the files still in existence will bear testimony. It was as modest and quiet in its appearance as its unpretentious title. It looked solid and business-like. It was printed on a sheet 22 x 32 inches, four pages, of six columns to a page. As an indication of the general character of the paper, we note that the first page of the first number was made up of a column of poetical articles and short miscellaneous items, a story filling a little over four columns, and half-a-column of humorous items. The fourth page had a column devoted to agriculture and another to general miscellany; the rest of the page was filled with advertisements. The inside pages contained editorials, news and advertisements, the general custom in that day as now. In the make-up of the average country newspaper, there has been little change in the last half-century. The motto of the *Village Record*, carried prominently under the title, was "Independent of Party or Sect," and right loyally did its publishers live up to this motto. The paper pursued the even tenor of its way,

grew in popular favor, and gave evidence of permanence, when in the Fall of the year the senior partner of the firm was taken ill and forced to relinquish the enterprise. He was succeeded by Edward C. Taylor, a young farmer of the neighborhood, and the firm was known as Stults & Taylor. Subsequently Stults withdrew and Taylor became sole owner. Shortly after this he sold out to Dr. B. H. Peterson, who changed the title of the paper to that of *Hightstown Gazette*. The establishment was soon advertised for sale. Mr. Yard was then in New York State, and hearing this fact, he lost no time in getting to Hightstown to secure it. In the meantime, however, the publication of the paper had been discontinued. Mr. Yard succeeded in purchasing the plant, practically at his own price and upon his own terms. He at once resumed the publication of the paper under its original title, infused new life into it, and carried it on successfully for a period of about eighteen months; demonstrating that, with fair management, the business could be made to more than pay its way. During the Fall of 1853 Mr. Yard had an opportunity offered him of purchasing the *Monmouth Democrat*, at Freehold, N. J. He sold out the *Record*, giving possession on January 18th, 1854, to Morgan F. Mount and Mr. Stults, his former partner, and removed to Freehold. Later, Mr. C. M. Norton became proprietor, and was succeeded by Daniel Taggart, a journeyman printer; soon after Charles W. Mount was at the helm. In the year 1870 the business was under the management of Mr. Stults and Mr. Thomas B. Applegate, joint proprietors, who changed the title again to that of *Hightstown Gazette*. In 1871 Mr. Applegate became sole owner. In 1891 he admitted his son, Frederick B., to partnership in the enterprise, and they are the present managers of the paper. *Hightstown Gazette*, by which name it has been known since 1870, has been successfully continued down to the present day, and is one of the leading papers of the State. All the former editors are living, with the exception of Mr. E. C. Taylor and Mr. Morgan Mount.

Mr. Yard resides in Freehold, where he still publishes the *Democrat*. Mr. Stults is a resident of Long Branch, and editor of the *Long Branch Times*, both of these enterprising papers having a wide circulation. When these two gentlemen started the *Record*, the senior (Yard) was but 23 years of age, and the junior (Stults) 19. At that time the population of Hightstown was less than 800.

## CLIPPINGS FROM THE VILLAGE RECORD.

*"July 7, 1849.*

## OUR VILLAGE.

We may venture the assertion, from personal observation, that in no place of its size in this State is the spirit of enterprise so strongly marked as in our thriving village at the present time. To see its busy streets; to hear the rattling of the numerous vehicles that crowd the business thoroughfare; to recognize the cheerful hum of improving and increasing trade, and to be almost stunned by the shrill whistle of the railroad cars, or the thunder of the rapid rolling wheels, as they carry from city to city the produce of the land and the traveling populace, and to witness the handsome dwellings and brisk appearance of the business mart, all conspire to give one the idea of the busy city and to impress the mind of the observer with the opinion that Hightstown is destined soon to rank high among the growing, prosperous and beautiful cities of our State. We rambled out on Saturday last, and must confess our surprise and pleasure at seeing the indications of such extensive trade.

Our village presents many inducements to business men, as well as to men of leisure seeking an agreeable country, to make their residence here. It is situated on the line of the Camden and Amboy railroad, about half-way between New York and Philadelphia, in the very heart and centre of a rich country, with pleasant and easy access to the cities just mentioned, to Trenton, New Brunswick, Freehold and surrounding country. A number of fine stores carry on an excellent business here, some of which will be found advertised in our columns. The different mechanical pursuits are in lively motion, and give constant employment to numbers of our citizens. There are three hotels, a Methodist church, a Baptist church and a Universalist, and at the distance of little more than two miles a Presbyterian church, and we should not overlook the excellent schools for which our village is so distinguished."

*"March 29th, 1850.*

Redford M. Job, esq., one of the first settlers of this village, died on Saturday night last, aged 70 years and 6 months.

He has held many offices of honor in this township, and was universally beloved and respected by all who knew him. He has gone to receive the reward of a well spent life."

*"Nov. 1st, 1850.*

We are pleased to see that our old friend, Dr. C. C. Blauvelt, of Hightstown, has been nominated for the State Senate by the Whigs of Mercer. The Doctor is a popular man in his neighborhood, and will be elected by a handsome majority. We heartily wish him success in whatever station in life he may be called upon to fill."

*"July 25th, 1851.*

We were informed yesterday that several small particles of shining metal, supposed to be gold, had been discovered near Point Island, about twelve miles from this village. We understand that the "dust" looked very much like the genuine California gold, and it is supposed that the yield will be large."

*"Feb. 7th, 1851.*

STATE TREASURER.

We are pleased to see that our townsman, Maj. R. M. Smith, was nominated by the caucus to the above-named office. We know of no more honest, upright, intelligent, or trustworthy individual to whom the treasure of the State could be confided."

*"Feb. 28th, 1851.*

STATE TREASURER.

Our townsman, Maj. R. M. Smith, is duly and properly elected to this important and responsible office, and will next week enter upon the duties. We are constrained in duty, honesty and personal regard to say that we are highly gratified with this appointment. There is no individual upon whom it could have been more worthily conferred."

*"Feb. 27th, 1864.*

The ladies of the Aid Association desire to return thanks to the following individuals, whose liberal contributions enabled them to send five boxes of good things to our brave soldiers: Mrs. J. S. Reed, Mrs. William Johnston, Mrs. Mary Mount, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. John Dey, Mrs. W. Smock, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Smock, Mrs. Robert Purdy, Mrs. Dr. Curry, Mrs. Jacob Stults, Mrs. R. M. Smith, Mrs. T. J. Pullen and Mrs. Thomas Wilson."

*"March 7th, 1867.*

MR. EDITOR :—Do your readers know why that portion of country lying southwesterly of Hightstown was called 'Margrillar?' A very communicative old gentleman of that place, Jesse Brown (who does not remember Jesse Brown, the Seventh-Day Baptist, strong in the faith, and willing to communicate?), told me, and I have been told the same by others, that in the days of yore, a rickety, dilapidated, old, creaky wagon (loaded with fish if I remember rightly), came along the road, wanting the article of grease, and the wheels at every revolution doled out 'Margrre-lar, Margree-lar,' and the section of country the wagon passed over that day was called 'Margrillar;' where the fish wagon put up that night was the end of the 'Margrillar' country.

This reminds me of the origin of the name of a brook on the road from my place to Clarksburg. They called it, in the old titles and maps, and now call it, 'Empty-Box Brook.' How do you suppose that name arose? Among the early land surveyors of our section of the country was a Mr. Lawrence, a great snuff-taker. Running a long line, and coming out with his box to take a pinch, and found it empty. He then said, 'We'll name this brook Empty-Box Brook.' The 'Empty-Box' is the southern boundary line of the original Giberson tract, which was forfeited in the Revolutionary war because the owners adhered to the cause of Great Britain. The Giberson tract is now owned by Abijah Chamberlin, William Holman and Lawrence Tilton. The 'Empty-Box' empties in the Assaupink Brook.

JOSEPH J. ELY."

*"March 28th, 1867.*

#### THE OLD PEOPLE AT MILFORD, N. J.

MR. EDITOR :—In looking over the old burial ground at Milford, where, in the language of the Poet Gray,

'Each in his narrow cell forever laid  
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.'

I was forcibly struck with the unwelcome but wholesome reflection that after a few days we shall all go the way whence we shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death, as Job calls it; and the place which now knows us will know us no more forever.

'Stoop down, my soul, that used to rise,  
Converse awhile with death.'

Reading the inscriptions on some old tombstones, I find one in memory of Rev. Aaron Hutchinson, who departed this life June 30th, 1791, in the 24th year of his age. The following lines are on his tombstone :

'Four years I labored in the Lord,  
I bore the cross, I preached the word ;  
My body now lies in the ground,  
Till the last trump of God shall sound.'

Aaron Hutchinson was one of four brothers, Methodist preachers of the last century. He was the son of William and Catherine Hutchinson. In the brief space of time which he was permitted to live after he attached himself to the ministry, he gained a wide reputation. He left a widow and an only child named Richard Hutchinson, now living in the city of New York. His wife was a Miss Jaques, of the family of that name in the county of Mercer. The minutes of the Methodist conference, speaking of the man, say :

"He was a man of clear understanding, Gospel simplicity, blameless in his life, acceptable as a preacher, fruitful in his labors, which ended in the short space of a few years. He was patient, resigned and confident in his last moments."

It is said he preached his first sermon at the house of Joseph Hutchinson, the old brick house, part of which is still standing near the dwelling-house of Wm. R. Hutchinson. About 1787 he preached in the State of Delaware, and in 1790 he was appointed to Trenton, where he ended his labors. His first sermon was heard by my grandfather, Richard Ely, who was a brother-in-law of Joseph Hutchinson, and, like him, well pleased with the doctrines preached by the Methodists. The Methodists preached at my said grandfather's for several years before his death, and before the church was erected at Milford. Aaron Hutchinson and his wife, two children, and his mother-in-law, Sarah Lee, within two weeks, all died in one house on a farm where young Richard Ely now lives in the township of Millstone. J. J. ELY."

" 1867.

#### THE VILLAGE OF MILFORD.

MR. EDITOR :—I shall proceed to notice the old settlers of Mil-



ford and their associations. The oldest grist and saw-mill stood for nearly, if not quite, a century, and has within the memory of 'the oldest inhabitant' been called Ivins' mill, Stout's mill, Daniel Dey's mill, Abraham Bergen's mill, John Wyckoff's mill, and now Keeler's mill, all of which several owners (except the last) are gone 'to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.' I have often looked at the large flat-board water-wheel of the old mill as it faithfully revolved on its axis forty years ago. The motive power demanding its large supply of water to propel the machinery within and furnish bread stuff for the mouths of a generation, of whom it now can only generally be said, 'they have been,' but the old mill is gone and a new and splendid one is erected on the site by the present enterprising owner.

Next, I will briefly notice the weaver-shop. The weaver, a Mr. Pitman, and his family I recollect frequently to have seen. The currier, tanner and shoemaker, Rufus Bergen, who carried on at one time a quite extensive business. I well recollect helping my father unload bark in the bark-house, and I vividly recollect, though young then, that I was not very fond of the job, and was glad to see the bottom boards of the wagon. Let us call attention to the hatter of Milford, or Scrabbletown (I should have remarked before, the place forty years ago was generally called Scrabbletown). The hatter was an old gentleman by the name of David Chambers. He did quite a business there; that is to say, David Chambers, hatter, made and sold hats; and I have worn hats of his making and selling. I can fancy e'en now I can see the old man with his leather breeches and large knee buckles. He was for several years a Justice of the Peace of the County of Middlesex, and reputed to be quite an intelligent man. I have seen his docket containing trials held more than fifty years ago. They usually called him Colonel Chambers. He might have been a colonel in the Revolutionary war; probably he was. There has always been blacksmithing carried on in Milford since I can remember, and doubtless long before. Among the blacksmiths whom I might name I will mention Francis Labaw, Samuel C. Johns, and for many years Nathaniel Cox, who removed to the neighborhood of Bergen's Mills and died there.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH J. BLV."

*"June 20th, 1867.*

#### TEMPERANCE.

Mr. Peter Bilyeu delivered an address on this subject in the Baptist church in this place on Wednesday evening last. The attendance was large, and the lecture is spoken of as being an earnest and able address. The speaker showed with great force and clearness that the only method to arrest the monster evil is for Christians and all good citizens to identify themselves with the temperance movement and thereby correct public opinion which favors the drinking usages of society ; and that the total abstinence principle is the only safe principle, as a basis, upon which to organize associations. The lecture was listened to with attention throughout. Rev. Mr. Chase followed with some excellent remarks. There being so much interest manifested, another meeting was appointed for Wednesday evening, June 9th, at the same hour and place."

*"Jan. 14th, 1869.*

On Christmas day, Mr. Jacob Early gave a half ton of coal to every widow lady in town not overstocked with this world's goods. It is needless to state that in every case the liberality of Mr. Early was highly appreciated. A man who has the courage to be so generous in these money-grabbing, money-hoarding and money-worshipping days deserves much praise. It certainly gives us great pleasure to record so good a day's work."

*"May 6th, 1869.*

Mr. Joseph McMurren has broken ground for a new house on Summit St., opposite Rev. E. Morrison's, and intends to erect a fine residence for his own use. He has sold the portion of his farm on which he now resides to his brother, Mr. John McMurren, of St. Johns, N. B., who will remove to this place in the fall. We can congratulate Hightstown on the advent of such citizens as Mr. McMurren, who will bring with him not only wealth, but a well established reputation for unimpeached morality and zealous piety."

*"For the Gazette, Hightstown, Jan. 17th, 1870.*

MR. EDITOR :—You have taken so deep an interest in the Y. M. C. A. that we take the liberty of asking you to publish a few more words of encouragement and instruction in behalf of the

association recently formed in Hightstown. The object of the Y. M. C. A. is to do all the good that it can, by way of improving the mental and spiritual condition of our young men. We desire to make our association rooms pleasant and attractive, and when we meet together we recognize each other as Christians, and Christ as the Head of the Church. We do not set ourselves as equal to the church, but as an assistant to promote the welfare of fallen humanity and rescue the young. The young men have a claim on the people for their hearty co-operation in aiding them forward in their work of faith and labor of love. We feel confident that the people of Hightstown will not be less disposed than the noble-hearted people of Freehold, who, by their acts on the past Sabbath, declared that their young men shall be supported as soon as they form a Y. M. C. A. Several gentlemen proffered their aid and influence, some offering to give \$50 a year in support of the organization. On the Sabbath in question over 800 persons assembled in the Presbyterian Church, the different clergymen of the town taking an active part in the meeting and declaring unanimously in favor of the movement, and that they would give it a hearty support. We hope under the blessing of God that the young men here, under the direction of their efficient officers, and prompted by pure Christian motives, will be the means of accomplishing much good.

Yours truly,

JOHN McMURRAN."

### THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

In the year 1851, the late Dr. Charles C. Blauvelt proposed to Mr. Jacob Stults, one day in the early Fall, that they go together to Cranbury to invite Dr. Symmes Henry, then pastor of the First Church there, to hold religious services on the following Sabbath afternoon in Dawes' Hall. Said he: "There are a number of Presbyterian people here, and I have been thinking that out of a series of services conducted by pastors of churches in neighboring places, a church may be eventually established in Hightstown. The following Saturday they visited Dr. Henry, and the next Sunday afternoon there was, for the first time in many years—if not the first time in Hightstown—a genuine Presbyterian service. These two gentlemen improvised a choir, resolved themselves into a committee of the whole and took charge

of the collections. They always had enough in the treasury to meet current expenses and pay visiting clergymen. These services were continued until a society was organized. Others probably made the suggestion that such services would be appreciated by the adherents of the Presbyterian Church then residing in and near Hightstown, but great credit is due Dr. Blauvelt and Mr. Stults, whose earnest labors have been so abundantly blessed in the construction of a beautiful edifice whose present efficient pastor, Rev. Thomas Tyack, D.D., and an earnest people, still rest in the favor of our Heavenly Father.

Dr. Charles C. Blauvelt married Ann, daughter of the late Barnes Smock, of Holmdel, N. J., and was the grandfather of Mr. Charles C. Blauvelt, one of Hightstown's most enterprising business men. Mr. Stults married Martha J., daughter of the late Rev. Robert E. Morrison, and is the brother of Mrs. W. W. Swett, Mrs. R. A. Outcalt, Mrs. E. C. Taylor and Miss H. Stults, of Hightstown, Mrs. Anna Tibbs, Long Island, and Mr. Chas. H. Stults, Forked River.

Presbyterianism in this region antedates by many years the organization of the Hightstown church. As early as 1685, the Covenanters from Scotland came to our Jersey coast and established both their homes and their religion. The old Tenment Church was organized about 1700; Cranbury in 1738, and Allentown in 1739. These two latter churches were for a time united in one pastoral charge. Thus the people of Hightstown were supplied with Presbyterian oversight.

In 1857 two petitions were sent to the New Brunswick Presbytery asking for a church organization in Hightstown. For several years prior to that date, the pastor of the First Church, Cranbury, aided in religious services (as mentioned) and maintained a Sunday-school here. On May 6th, 1857, a Committee of Presbytery met and organized a church. Its charter members were: Mary S. C. Wyckoff, Spafford W. Mount, Alice Mount, Mary A. Smock, Elias Riggs, Rachel Riggs, William S. Riggs, Cornelia A. Riggs, Charles Tindall, Mary Tindall, Sering Shangle, Rachel Shangle, H. P. Bilyeu, Mrs. Bilyeu. To the original fourteen members seven hundred and nine names have since been added; the removals and deaths leaving the present membership, April, 1896, 280. The corner-stone of the church edifice was laid August 31st, 1857, and the dedicatory services held June 17th, 1858, when

Rev. Dr. McGill, of Princeton, preached. The Board of Trustees, as originally constituted, consisted of Samuel Sloan, D. B. Dey, Benjamin Reid, William S. Riggs, Charles Robbins, John Butcher and Thomas Appleget; of these, the first five named gentlemen were appointed the Building Committee, Mr. W. S. Riggs taking the most active part in directing the work of church construction. This enterprise was so wisely planned and economically managed that the small congregation of those days were able to bear their financial burdens without assistance from other churches.

The building of Grecian architecture, then erected on a lot of land donated by Benjamin Reed, Esq., who also made a liberal contribution to the building fund, still stands as substantially as ever, with not a single weak timber in any of its parts. Benjamin Reed was the father of the late Olmsted and Mr. Story Reed, of Hightstown.

Much enterprise has been displayed by this church since the day of its organization, as shown in the construction of a neat and commodious chapel in the year 1871, the purchase of the parsonage and grounds in the year 1881, and in 1890-91 the re-modeling of the interior of the church edifice, with a rear addition for a pipe-organ, pastor's study and boiler-room for the steam heating apparatus. The church building was further beautified in 1894 by the addition of twelve stained-glass windows. Six of these are memorials of deceased members, officers or pastors. The present Board of Trustees are: Messrs. J. D. Whittick, W. T. Smock, J. V. Davison, F. H. Gordon, Thomas Mason, A. B. Wyckoff and J. R. Shangle. When the church was organized Messrs. Sering Shangle and Elias Riggs were chosen ruling elders. Since that time thirteen other persons have been called to this office, viz.: David Silvers, A. B. Karner, Joshua Campbell, M. R. Laird, John Beckman, Gilbert Seaman, Thomas McDonald, Levi C. Updike, A. B. Wyckoff, J. V. D. Beckman, W. T. Smock, A. S. Voorhees and J. V. Davison. The first named and the last six of these gentlemen are still holding their offices.

The church has had four pastors: Rev. Rufus Taylor, D.D., who was installed December 27th, 1857, and released April 16th, 1862; Rev. Samuel S. Shriver, who was installed October 31st, 1862, and released July 1st, 1869; Rev. J. B. Davis, D.D., who was installed Nov. 10th, 1869, and released Nov. 10th, 1887; Rev. Thomas Tyack, D.D., the present minister in charge, who

was called to the pastorate March 1st, 1888, and installed June 6th of the same year. Through the labors of this very earnest pastor the church has greatly prospered, and to-day presents a bright and beautiful future. The history of the church is marked by the steadiness in the increase of its membership, its loyalty to historic Presbyterianism, its interpretation of New Testament teaching, and its liberality in the support of benevolent enterprises. For many years past it has contributed several hundred dollars annually to the advancement of Christ's Kingdom throughout all the earth.

---

### **CEDAR HILL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.**

This association was organized under an Act of Legislature passed March 14th, 1851. A meeting was held for the purpose of incorporation, the proceedings of which were officially recorded May 1st, 1854. The following trustees were chosen at said meeting: Asher Hankinson, James R. Laird, Joseph McMurrin, Jacob Stults, John C. Johnson, John M. Bilxson, David Carhart and Morgan F. Mount. James R. Laird was chosen president of the association, Jacob Stults secretary, and Morgan F. Mount treasurer. This cemetery, containing an area of six acres, is located on Mercer street.

---

### **BANKS.**

Several years ago there were two banking institutions in Hightstown, the Central National Bank and the First National Bank, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars each. The Central National Bank was established in 1852 as a State bank, and organized December 30th, 1869, as a national bank. It did a fine business until the First National Bank was opened, which immediately came into public favor and in time outstripped its competitor. In 1879 the former went into liquidation and consolidated with the latter, the First National Bank increasing its capital to \$150,000. The last named bank was organized September 12th, 1870. Its first board of directors were: N. S. Rue, Richard Wall, James S. Giberson, Colin B. Miers, E. T. R. Applegate, Samuel M. Schenck, A. J. Smith, D. Applegate and Matthew Perrine. N. S. Rue was elected the first president September 14th, 1870, and William H. Howell the first cashier.

## CIVIL HISTORY.

The borough of Hightstown was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature approved March 5th, 1853, which reads as follows :

*" Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, that all that part of the township of East Windsor, known as the village of Hightstown, lying and being in the county of Mercer, beginning at a point on Stockton street, on the corner of land between Gen. Wm. Cook and Abraham Pordun ; thence south along the line between said Cook and R. E. Morrison to the Camden and Amboy Railroad ; thence southwest along said railroad to the line between John Butcher's land and the Hightstown Cemetery ; thence along said line to the Bordentown and South Amboy turnpike ; thence along the west side of said turnpike to a stone near the corner of William Oghorn's lot ; thence southeast to the corner of William V. Ely's lot on the York Road ; thence east to the mouth of Timber Run to the line between R. M. Jobs and Kenneth Appiegate ; thence along said line to the old Freehold Road ; thence west along the south side of said road to the turnpike ; thence west to the place of beginning ; and all the freemen, citizens of this State, residing within the limits aforesaid, be and they are hereby ordained, constituted and declared to be from time to time, and forever hereafter, one body corporate and politic, in fact and in name, by the name of 'The Borough of Hightstown.' "*

The first election of borough officers was held on the second Tuesday of the above-named month. The following were the principal officers of the borough from 1853 to the present date, 1896 :

## MAYORS.

C. C. Blauvelt, 1853-54.  
John Butcher, 1855-56-57.  
John B. Mount, 1858.  
Joseph S. Blauvelt, 1859-60.  
James C. Norris, 1861.  
Gilbert Seamon, 1862-63-64-65.  
Sering Shangle, 1866.  
Clayton I. Coward, 1867.  
Sering Shangle, 1868.  
J. R. C. Johnson, 1869-70.  
James C. Norris, 1871.  
J. M. Cubberly, 1872.  
T. C. Pearce, 1873.  
Elston Hunt, 1874-75.

S. M. Schenck, 1876.  
Thomas Mason, 1877-78.  
Sering Shangle, 1879.  
Aaron Dawes, 1880-1.  
S. M. Schenck, 1882.  
Sering Shangle, 1883.  
Thomas McDonald, 1884.  
William H. Carr, 1885-6.  
J. A. Chamberlin, 1887.  
Aaron Dawes, 1888 9.  
George B. Miller, 1890.  
H. M. Perrine, 1891.  
Elmer E. Anderson, 1892-93.  
I. Norton, 1894-95 96.

## COUNCILMEN.

- Benjamin Reed, 1853.  
 Aaron Dawes, 1853.  
 Robert H. Morrison, 1853.  
 James R. Laird, 1853.  
 Alfred Perrine, 1853.  
 Asher Hankerson, 1853-54.  
 C. H. Silvers, 1854-56 58 65.  
 R. M. Job, 1854-56.  
 Hiram Pullen, 1854.  
 John T. Hutchinson, 1855.  
 Charles Carson, 1855 58-59.  
 Thos. C. Pearce, 1855-66-67-88-9.  
 Jacob Early, 1855.  
 Wyckoff Norton, 1856-57.  
 Augustus Walling, 1857.  
 E. C. Taylor, 1857.  
 Enoch Dey, 1858-60-64-65-68-69.  
 Jas. C. Norris, 1858-60-66-67-73 76.  
 John H. Ford, 1858 59-62-63.  
 Joseph McMurrin, 1858-59.  
 Marshall Allen, 1861-68-69-76.  
 D. V. Fisk, 1861-63-87.  
 Sering Shangle, 1863-64-72 84.  
 John Wooley, 1863-65.  
 David Carhart, 1864.  
 A. J. Ashton, 1864-65.  
 J. C. Norton, 1864-71-76-82.  
 E. Hammel, 1865-72-73.  
 James Paxton, 1865.  
 Morgan F. Mount, 1866-67.  
 O. H. Reed, 1866-67.  
 W. T. Brown, 1866-67-74-75-77-78-79.  
 Geo. E. Pierson, 1868-69-70-71-82-5-6.  
 James M. Cubberly, 1868-69-71.  
 J. H. Silvers, 1870.  
 D. Slack, 1872.  
 G. Y. Wood, 1873.  
 Henry Dey, 1874-75.  
 A. B. Wyckoff, 1874-75.  
 J. V. D. Beekman, 1875-79.  
 J. C. Ward, 1876.  
 W. H. Carr, 1876-80-1-2-92-93-94.  
 C. M. Norton, 1877-78-83-4.  
 W. T. Smock, 1877-78.  
 E. M. Bastow, 1870-71.  
 Daniel P. Hutchinson, 1870-72.  
 David Wasserman, 1871-73.  
 Elston Hunt, 1872-73.  
 Howard Ashton, 1873.  
 Gilbert Seamon, 1874-75.  
 A. B. Wyckoff, 1874-75-83-6-7.  
 John C. Johnson, 1874.  
 Joseph H. Jemison, 1876.  
 Ezekial Chamberlin, 1876-80-1-2-5.  
 I. H. Goldy, 1877-78.  
 D. W. Morton, 1877-78-79.  
 John H. Ford, 1877-78-83.  
 Thomas McDonald, 1879-83.  
 J. H. Smith, 1879.  
 Geo. W. Eldridge, 1879.  
 John C. Fisher, 1880-1-2.  
 Wm. H. Dillen, 1880-1-2-5-8 9-90-92.  
 Joseph Wood, 1880-1.  
 Wm. J. Cole, 1880.  
 Thomas Mason, 1883-4.  
 Benjamin Gorden, 1883-4.  
 Ira Yager, 1884.  
 Howard I. Burtis, 1884.  
 Chas. F. Hunt, 1885 6.  
 Henry Weller, 1885.  
 Jas. F. Donnell, 1885.  
 J. A. Chamberlin, 1886.  
 Samuel Fryer, 1886-92-93-94-95-96.  
 Isaac Wolcott, 1886-7.  
 Wm. P. Morris, 1887.  
 Wm. R. Norton, 1887.  
 David A. Appleget, 1887.  
 Geo. B. Miller, 1888-9.  
 W. J. Burr, 1888.  
 Chas. Manlove, 1888-9-90-91.  
 David Cole, 1888-9-90-91.  
 Edgar Embly, 1889.  
 Jeremiah Brandt, 1890-91.  
 H. M. Perrine, 1890.  
 Enos Jemison, 1890-91.  
 Richard Thomas, 1891.  
 F. J. Shoen, 1891.



- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| E. T. R. Appleget, 1866.              | D. H. Cunningham, 1892-93-94. |
| John M. Dey, 1867.                    | W. I. Norton, 1892-93.        |
| Elwood Richardson, 1868-69.           | Symmes Dey, 1892-93-94-95-96. |
| Edward Combs, 1868-69-70-71-72-74-75. | Wm. F. Lott, 1893-94-95-96.   |
| C. E. Woodward, 1870.                 | D. A. Van Doren, 1894-95-96.  |
|                                       | Dr. Geo. E. Titus, 1895-96.   |
| G. W. F. Bennett, 1895-96.            |                               |

## CLERKS.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Stephen C. Johns, 1853.                              | T. W. Pullen, 1876-80-1-2-5-8-9-90-91-92. |
| Jacob Stults, 1854-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65. | Symms H. Miller, 1877-78-83-4.            |
| Samuel Holcomb, 1866-67.                             | Spafford G. Forman, 1886-7.               |
| Augustus Walling, 1868-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-79-83.   | Fred B. Appleget, 1893-94-95-96.          |

## ASSESSORS.

- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| C. S. Hutchinson, '53-54-55.          | W. J. Butcher, '76.      |
| Wm. Tindall, '56-57-58.               | De Wayne Pullen, '77-78. |
| Sering Shangle, '59.                  | S. H. Miller, '79-80.    |
| J. P. Lansing, '60.                   | Wm. Eldridge, '81-2.     |
| Enoch Dey, '61, 62, 63.               | R. M. Early, '83-4.      |
| Augustus Walling, '64-65.             | R. S. Keeler, '85.       |
| David V. Fisk, '66-67-68-69.          | T. W. Pullen, '86.       |
| Charles H. Smock, '70-71-72.          | L. W. Grover, '87.       |
| C. F. Perrine, '73-91-92-93-94-95-96. | D. H. Cunningham, '88-9. |
| J. R. Shangle, '74-75.                | W. J. Burr, '90.         |

## COLLECTORS.

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| James C. Norris, '53-54-76.         | Joseph Perrine, '77-8-9-80-1-2-3-4. |
| Chas. Keeler, '55.                  | Wm. D. Wear, '85-6.                 |
| Isaac Goldy, '56-70-71 72-73-74-75. | S. H. Miller, '87.                  |
| Jacob Stults, 57-58-59-60-61 62-63. | L. W. Pullen, '88-9-90-91.          |
| Richard A. Outcalt, '64-65-66-67.   | E. T. Cunningham, '92-93-94-95.     |
| Geo. R. Moore, '68-69.              | Chas. E. Stults, 96.                |

## TREASURERS.

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| R. R. Forman, '53-54.         | Chas. Keeler, '72.                        |
| R. E. Morrison, '55-56-57-58. | A. S. Voorhees, '73-74-75-78-93-94-95-96. |
| Jacob Early, '59-60-61-62-63. | T. C. Pearce, '76-80-1-2.                 |
| C. M. Robbins, '64.           | Richard A. Outcalt, '77-78-79.            |
| Morgan Mount, '65.            | D. H. Cunningham, '83-4-5-6-7.            |
| Jacob Stults, '66-67.         | Wm. Wyckoff, '88-9.                       |
| A. J. Ashton, '68-69.         | Edgar Embly, '90-91.                      |
| Geo. R. Moore, '70-71.        | H. A. Norton, '92.                        |

## MARSHALS.

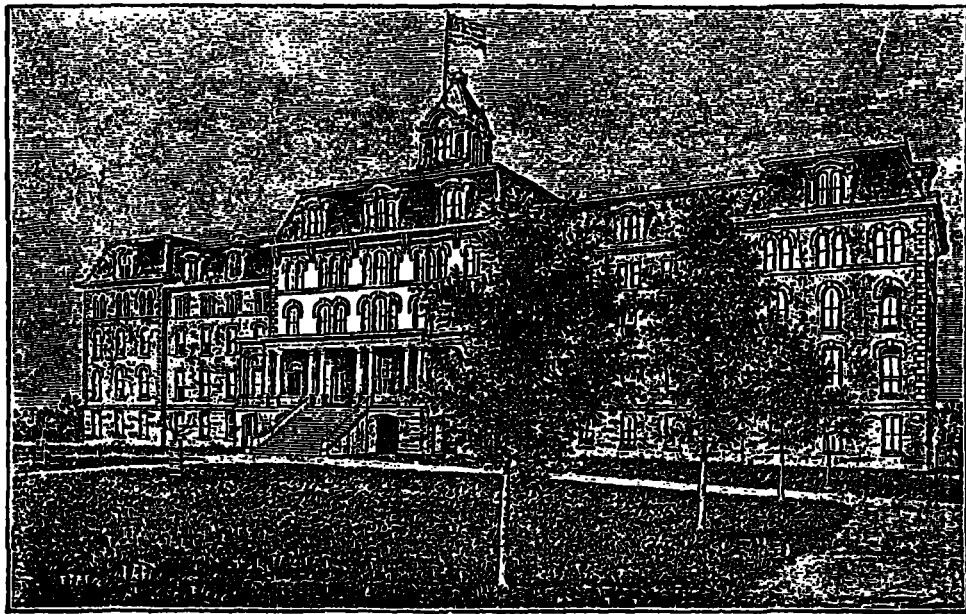
Charles Carson, '53.	B. Montgomery, '66.
Jonathan Smith, '54.	Isaac Anderson, '67-68-69-70 71-73.
Charles Tindall, '55-56.	John Ewart, '74-75.
Court Voorhees, '57.	Edward McCue, '76-83-92.
George B. Perrine, '58.	T. C. Sanford, '77-80.
Wm. Johnson, '59.	Chas. C. McMichael, '78.
James Ayers, '60.	John H. Brandt, '79-81-2-4-5 6.
S. B. Scattergood, '61.	C. G. Idding, '87.
Joseph Lawrence, '62.	John Conard, '88-9-90-91.
J. Rogers, '63-64.	Wm. H. Tabler, '93-94-95.
Jacob Gerns, '65-72.	Jeremiah Brandt, 96.

## MASONIC LODGE, No. 41.

This lodge was organized in the Odd Fellows' Hall, on Wednesday, March 19th, 1856, by D. G. M. Theodore R. Varick and other grand officers. The charter members were: Edward C. Taylor, James S. Yard, Jacob Stults, William D. Davis, Charles Bennett, Jehu Patterson, Rev. F. S. Wolfe, Charles Keeler, Ira Smock, Thomas Appleget and others.

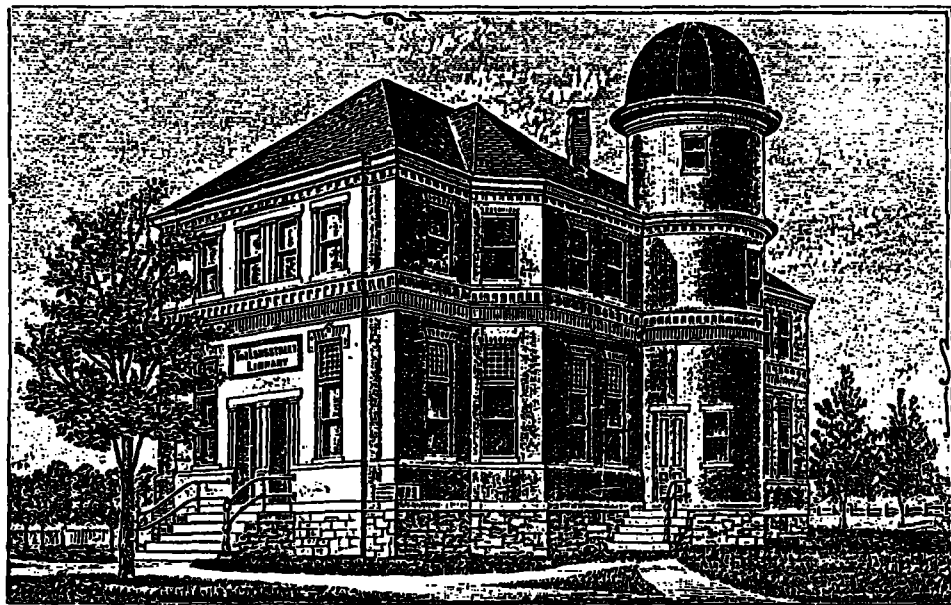
## PEDDIE INSTITUTE.

It came into the minds of some far-sighted men in Hightstown to establish a school that might, in some way, be a help to the Baptist churches in the State. The pastor, Rev. I. Butterfield, Rev. J. E. Rue and others, opened a school in the lecture-room of the Baptist Church, under the charge of Miss Gurr. At the State Convention in 1863 and 1864 the project received the sanction of the Baptist brotherhood. The school was incorporated under the name of The New Jersey Classical and Scientific Institute. In 1864 Edgar and Edwin Haas took charge of the school, remaining in charge until the completion of the present building. The corner-stone of the building was laid June 14th, 1866. It was not ready for occupancy until the Fall of 1869. At the dedication of the building addresses were made by President Anderson, of Rochester, and President McCosh, of Princeton. In consideration of the payment of twenty-five thousand dollars by Thomas B. Peddie, of Newark, September 11th, 1871, the name of the school was changed to Peddie Institute.



PEDDIE INSTITUTE: MAIN BUILDING.





THE LONGSTREET LIBRARY AND SCIENCE BUILDING.



Among the many gifts from the living have been the following : Mrs. Peddie gave the Peddie Park, of eleven acres, to the school. Jonathan Longstreet and his sister, Miss Mary Longstreet, of Holmdel, built at their own expense the Longstreet Library and Scientific Building, with the Observatory, at a cost of fourteen thousand dollars. Rev. Alfred Free, of Toms River, presented a valuable collection of minerals, having an estimated worth of four thousand dollars. Dr. F. R. Morse, of New York, presented the telescope, costing six hundred dollars. Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, lately gave to the school the property adjoining the campus, the Octagon house. Many other gifts of smaller amounts have been given.

By bequests, the school received forty thousand dollars from the estate of the president of the board, Thomas B. Peddie, of Newark. By the bequest of his wife, who was also a member of the board, the school received one hundred thousand dollars. Dr. H. F. Smith, of Mount Holly, left about two thousand volumes to the Peddie Library. Mr. Jonathan Longstreet left a sum of money for the supply of books for the library. Among those who are now dead, the school found choice friends in W. H. Paruly, D. D., S. S., Sergeant, Enoch Allen, Rev. J. E. Rue, Dr. Thomas Swain, H. C. Fish, D. M. Wilson, Hiram Deats, S. Van Wickle, H. M. Baldwin, T. B. Peddie, Mrs. T. B. Peddie and Jonathan Longstreet. Among those now living who have been for years conspicuous helpers are : Rev. O. P. Eatches, D.D., a member of the board almost from the first, and Rev. W. V. Wilson, who took upon himself, without expense to the board, the raising of money for the saving of the school. The school now has a productive endowment of one hundred and seventy thousand dollars. It has a library of five thousand volumes. It has a complete scientific outfit. It has beautiful grounds, artesian water for use in the school, and a new dining-hall costing thirty thousand dollars.

God and good men have watched over its past. It is prayerfully hoped that the future will be, under the guiding hand of God, more richly blessed. The following have served as principals :

Edgar and Edwin Haas, A.M., 1865-69.

H. A. Pratt, A.M., 1869-74.

La Roy F. Griffin, 1874-75.

Rev. E. P. Bond, 1875-76.

Rev. E. J. Avery, A.M., 1876-82.

Rev. John Green, Ph.D., 1882-89.

Herbert E. Slaughter, A.M., 1889-92.

Rev. Joseph E. Perry, Ph.D., 1892, the present competent principal.

The present board of officers are :

Hon James Buchanan, President, Trenton ; Rev. O. P. Eaches, D.D., 1st Vice-President, Hightstown ; Rev. T. S. Griffiths, 2d Vice-President, Princeton Junction ; H E Deats, Secretary, Flemington ; Rev. W. V. Wilson, Treasurer, New Monmouth ; Thomas Burrowes, Keyport ; Asa Suydam, Flemington ; J. C. Buchanan, D.D., Pemberton ; Rev. W. W. Case, West Hoboken ; Hon. Jos. H. Gaskill, Mount Holly ; Rev. G. W. Clark, D.D., Hightstown ; John W. Mount, Red Bank ; Richard A. Leonard, Atlantic Highlands ; R. F. West, Hamilton Square ; J. R. Manning, D.D., Red Bank ; Hon. Geo. G. Smith, Lakewood ; John E. Allen, Hightstown ; Joseph D. Chamberlin, Hightstown ; Stephen H. Plum, Newark ; S. V. Hulse, Newark ; Miss Elsie D. Peddie, Newark ; Rev. Charles H. Dodd, Newark ; Henry U. Coleman, Trenton ; R. M. Luther, D.D., Newark ; Gilbert A. Rue, Dutch Neck ; Duncan D. Parmlly, Middletown.

### THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

On the 30th of March, 1866, the Common Council of the borough of Hightstown appointed Messrs. Charles Keeler, A. J. Smith, Jacob Stults, C. W. Mount and T. C. Pearce a committee to devise means for the erection of a monument to the soldiers who had gone from this township, and had died. The first meeting of the committee was held on April 12th, 1866, at the *Gazette* office. Another meeting was held on the 18th of the same month, when the following persons were added to the committee : Misses Maggie Morrison, Mary Norton, Mary E. Smith, Mrs. O. H. Reed, Mrs. Charles Keeler, Mrs. Dr. Curry, Mrs. J. S. Reed and Mr. Clark H. Silvers. The places made vacant by death were filled by Misses Lizzie Morrison and Elmira Silvers.

Means to raise a monument fund were adopted. Mayor Shangle issued a proclamation in behalf of the cause ; Rev. J. G. Symmes, of Cranbury, delivered the oration, and the committee netted a handsome sum. By various festivals and in other ways the sum of one thousand dollars was raised.



The monument, which is of the finest Italian marble, was erected at the junction of Stockton and Morrison streets, and unveiled on July 5th, 1875, with appropriate ceremonies. It is about twenty-three feet from apex to foundation, and rests upon a base of American granite nearly five feet square and two feet high. On a moulding one foot high rests the first die, a cube of three feet, on the faces of which are inscribed the names of the dead soldiers of East Windsor township, thirty-five in all. The second die is two feet and a-half square. On this die is a cap moulding eight inches in height, upon which rests the shaft, nine and a-half feet high. A carving in full relief of a Springfield rifle, a standard and a sword, all full size, are on the front of the shaft. Major T. B. Appleget, of the Ninth New Jersey Volunteers, carried the sword, and Mr. Thomas M. Scroggy, of the Tenth New Jersey Volunteers, carried the rifle used as a model in this work.

The shaft is surmounted by a cap, on which rests a ball, and on this is perched a life-sized eagle.

---

#### THE SECOND FIRE ENGINE.

In the year 1866 the Common Council appointed a committee of five to ascertain the cost of a fire engine. Committee: Messrs. A. J. Smith, J. C. Norris, Charles Keeler, S. Holcombe, E. R. Cole. Committee reported, and the purchase was made in Newark, consisting of a hand-engine, hose-carriage and 500 feet of hose, at a cost of \$1,250. The apparatus arrived on Saturday night, May 19th, of the above-named year, and was safely housed, awaiting a trial of its merits. On the Monday following it was brought out and prepared for action. The following were some of the charter members of the fire company organized about this date: S. Holcombe, A. J. Smith, Charles Keeler, J. C. Norris, E. R. Cole, T. C. Pearce, Edward Taylor, William R. Norton, T. M. Scroggy, Jacob Stults.

---

#### ST. JAMES A. M. E. CHURCH.

St. James A. M. E. Church was founded in 1868 by Rev. W. W. Grimes, together with Messrs. George Martin, Stephen Branaugh and James Augustus. A few earnest persons banded themselves together near Cranbury in the year 1852, led by Mr.

George Martin, Mr. Robbins and Rachel Ivins, who, with others, met at different houses for a long time with increasing numbers. During this time they had no pastor. The first pastor was Rev. W. D. Schurman, who labored with them for a long time. Following him were Revs. Cato, Sawyer and Osbin. Finding an increasing interest in the Master's work, they decided to build a church. In the year 1868 a church forty feet by forty was erected, at a cost of thirteen hundred and sixty dollars, on a lot donated by Mrs. Robert E. Morrison, located on Summit street. It was at this time that Rev. W. W. Grimes was sent to them by the A. M. E. Conference. Those who were most energetic in the building of the church and its various branches of work were Mr. George Martin, Mr. and Mrs. D. Wyoles, Mary Harris, together with a few others. The following pastors have served: Revs. J. V. Pierce, E. Laws, A. C. Crippen, C. C. Green, J. H. Wittaker, Gilbert Waters, J. H. Pierce, 1880-81; M. M. Dent, 1881-84; F. T. Webster, 1884-86; Wilson Peterson, 1886-87; David S. Bayard, 1887-90; W. H. Burrell, 1890-93, and Rev. G. R. Hubbard, the present very able pastor, whose pastorate began in the year 1893. Dr. Charles C. Blauvelt, at his own expense, presented the church with their first Bible. The church for a long time was assisted by two other churches, but now it is independent and in a prosperous condition. It maintains a Sabbath-school, Christian Endeavor Society, Missionary Society and Helping Hand Band. Its present membership is thirty. Its officers are Rev. G. R. Hubbard, pastor; trustees and stewards, Jessie Fraizer, Samuel Conover, William Commander, Jeremiah Coffman, George W. Wooley and Alfred Rock; stewardesses, Elizabeth Betts, Eliza Morris, Vergie Frazer, Harriet Rock, Lizzie Hubbard, Joanna Woolley and Ellen Conover.

---

#### HIGHTSTOWN LODGE, NO. 27, I. O. of G. T.

This Lodge was organized in the old Baptist brick chapel, March 25th, 1868, with the following charter members: Rev. Lyman Chase, Mrs. Dell S. Chase, W. H. Chase, Miss Addie Silvers, Miss Almira Silvers, Miss Laura Silvers, Mrs. O. H. Reed, Mrs. J. C. Norris, John Woolley, John C. Johnson, Joseph R. C. Johnson, Charles W. Mount, George Allshouse and Miss Maggie Paxton. In the Fall of 1878 this Lodge suspended.

### MERCER LODGE, NO. 22, K. of P.

Mercer Lodge was established June 4th, 1869, with nineteen charter members, viz.: Frederick J. Kinsler, Joseph Smith, Robert M. Early, E. C. Richardson, Charles E. Woodward, I. P. Goldy, Burtiss Magill, Charles H. Pembroke, A. R. Ogborn, James Exton, John M. Dey, George E. Pierson, George W. Eldridge, Samuel L. Wright, C. C. McMichael, William H. Carr, Francis P. Carr, George M. Kinsler and Howard Ashton.

---

### ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH.

The Roman Catholic congregation at Hightstown was first organized in 1874, by Frederick Kivelitz, rector of the Roman Catholic church at Freehold, N. J. Instructions in Christian doctrine were given at least once a week to the young. Mass was celebrated only about five or six times a year. The congregation being very limited in number, not exceeding twenty-five persons, no thought of building a church was entertained. All services were held in the dwelling-house of the late James Dullard. Rt. Rev. B. Carey took charge of the parish of Perrineville October 27th, 1884, and at the same date he had the administration of Englishtown and Hightstown. Services were continued at the Dullard residence up to said date; then, wishing to be more central, services were held in a frame building in the center of town (now law office of Mr. S. M. Schenck, Esq.), till the completion of the new edifice of St. Anthony of Padua. In 1885 Rev. B. Carey purchased of W. J. Cole three lots for the sum of \$425. The corner stone of said church was laid October 26th, 1886, by Rev. Anthony Smith, V. G. The church was built and completed June 8th, 1887, by the late George Miller, at the additional expense of \$2,620. In the year 1891 the administration was given to the Franciscan Fathers, of Trenton, N. J. At this date services are conducted every second Sunday by Rev. Aloys M. Fish, Ph. D., (priest in charge), of Trenton, N. J.

---

### HIGHTSTOWN INDEPENDENT.

The *Hightstown Independent* was established in June, 1876, having for its first editor W. G. Hambly, of Crosswicks. After four issues the editorship was turned over to R. M. J. Smith,

Esq., who has ever since occupied that position, with the exception of one year, when Mr. John P. Dullard, now city editor of the *Trenton Times*, had charge of the same. The motto of the paper has always been "A medium of public expression—the best interests of this community is its aim." It is, in politics, independent in expression and local in its news, endeavoring to give the home items of interest in this and the various localities in this section. The editor, Mr. R. M. J. Smith, is widely known as a prominent lawyer. He is a son of the late R. M. Smith, and great-grandson of Capt. William Smith (mentioned).

---

## SECOND SUN, HOT MOON, G. S. D. 3033.

COMMON ERA, June 2d, 1884.

Pawnee Tribe, No. 70. Imp'd O. R. M. was instituted at Hightstown by the following Great Chiefs of New Jersey: Great prophet, Daniel M. Stevens; great sachem, Reuben L. Bowen; great senior sagamore, Clark Cole; great junior sagamore, Samuel L. Durand; great chief of records, John Davis. With the following charter members:

A. S. Hand, W. Irving Norton, J. V. D. Beekman, E. T. Cunningham, B. P. Stout, Harry H. Crispin, Isaac I. Wolcott, Joseph A. Shinn, E. M. Norris, Job S. Rogers, Dr. George E. Titus, Syncellus Mount, S. G. Forman, James Martin, Joseph H. Smith, Charles W. Sutphin, R. R. Thomas, D. W. Measuroll, Charles H. Pembroke, John R. Shangle. The following were duly elected officers:

Prophet, A. S. Hand; sachem, W. I. Norton; senior sagamore, H. H. Crispin; junior sagamore, Dr. George E. Titus; chief of records, Isaac I. Wolcott; keeper of wampum, John V. D. Beekman. The following appointed chiefs:

First sannap, E. T. Cunningham; second sannap, Charles H. Pembroke; first warrior, S. G. Forman; second warrior, D. W. Measuroll; third warrior, Syncellus Mount; fourth warrior, B. P. Stout; first brave, Joseph H. Smith; second brave, Joseph A. Shinn; third brave, John R. Shangle; fourth brave, Charles W. Sutphin; guard of wigwam, R. R. Thomas; guard of forest, Job S. Rogers.

### THE THIRD FIRE ENGINE.

In 1887 an apparatus consisting of a "Button" steam fire engine, No. 195, two hose carriages, and 1,000 feet of hose, were purchased at Waterford, N. Y., at a cost of \$3,500. Purchasing committee, W. H. Carr, D. H. Cunningham and Chas. J. Hazard.

Five hundred feet hose, extra, bought in 1894.

The fire company was organized February 3rd, 1887, with the following charter members :

President, Chas. J. Hazard ; Vice President, E. E. Anderson ; Secretary, Frank T. Magown ; Treasurer, J. V. D. Beekman. Auditing Committee, J. A. Taylor, W. D. Wear, E. T. Cunningham ; Steward, Aaron Savidge ; Forman, C. J. Hazard ; First Assistant, Jeremiah Brandt ; Second Assistant, L. W. Grover ; Engineer, I. I. Wolcott ; First Assistant, Aaron Savidge ; Second Assistant, Thomas Ryan. James Doran, E. H. Reed, Voorhees Pullen, E. J. Dillen, E. H. Goldy, R. B. Lanning, Geo. C. Norris, W. J. Burr, Chas. Manlove, Jr., Adolphus Messlor, C. E. Stults, D. H. Cunningham, W. H. Van Marter, Frank Reamer, D. A. Van Doren, Frank Kelly, Herbert Carr, Peter Hamler, Jos. Warwick, Thos. McLaughlin., Melville Pullen, S. G. Forman, T. F. Pearce.

A Hook and Ladder Truck was purchased in Trenton, in 1889, for \$85.00.

---

### WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK POST, NO. 107, G. A. R.

This lodge was instituted in Hightstown, August 1st, 1889, with the following charter members :

W. T. Ackerson, A. S. Appleget, Geo. Van Marter, E. Rhodes, Chas. H. Perrine, Edgar Embley, J. W. Hamler, Solomon Sickle, John E. Ford, Leonard Conover, Samuel Webster, W. F. Lott, Rev. O. P. Eaches, Henry A. Rogers, Stephen McChesney, Matthew Lanning, Chas. H. Pembroke, A. C. Doyle, Thomas Coward, J. P. Johnson, Chester E. Pullen, John G. Hampton, Milton J. Ives and Henry Disbrow.

First officers were : Commander, W. T. Ackerson ; S. V. Commander, W. F. Lott ; J. V. Commander, Solomon Sickle ; Officer of the Day, A. S. Appleget ; Quarter Master, Edgar Embley ; Quarter M. Sergeant, Chester E. Pullen ; Chaplain, Rev. O. P.

Eaches : Officer of Guard, J. P. Hamler : Sergeant Major, John E. Ford : Surgeon, Dr. J. P. Johnson : Adjutant, Chas. H. Pembrook.

---

### **HIGHTSTOWN COUNCIL, No. 70, JUNIOR ORDER OF UNITED AMERICAN MECHANICS.**

Instituted September 25th, 1890, in Dawes' Hall. Original charter list : Councilor, D. A. Van Doren ; Vice Councilor, C. Boud Cole ; Recording Secretary, William P. Morris, Assistant Recording Secretary, C. P. Pullen ; Financial Secretary, Willard C. Pullen ; Treasurer, David Cole ; Conductor, F. Y. Bodine ; Warden, A. N. Johnson ; Inside Sentinel, M. P. Sutphin ; Outside Sentinel, G. W. Henry ; Jr. Past Councilor, L. W. Pullen ; Trustees, J. Laird, F. Pullen, Thos. McColgon ; Representatives to State Council, D. A. Van Doren, L. W. Pullen ; Representative to Funeral Benefit Association, D. A. Van Doren.

---

### **ORIENTAL LODGE, No. 180, SEXENNIAL LEAGUE.**

This lodge was organized September 30th, 1890. The charter members were : Charles E Cole, John W. Early, Spafford G. Porman, Charles H. Pembrook, William L. Wilbur, M. D., Edward T. Wright, W. S. Jemison, William T. Mount, Omar Palmer, Elwood Eldridge, Charles Keeler, Ira Yager, G. H. Franklin, M. D., George Van Marter and George W. Conover. The lodge meets on the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month, in the rooms of the Grand Army Post.

---

### **HIGHTSTOWN COUNCIL, No. 46, DAUGHTERS OF LIBERTY.**

Instituted July 23d, 1895, in Red Men's Lodge-room, with the following officers : Councilor, Mrs. Gertrude Donnell ; Associate Councilors, Mrs. Lizzie Sutphin, Mrs. Lizzie Laird ; Vice Councilor, Mrs. Mary Van Marter ; Junior ex-Past Councilor, Mr. L. W. Pullen ; Junior ex-Associate Councilor, Mr. D. B. Messlor ; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Mary A. Pullen ; Associate Secretary, Miss Lizzie Kirby ; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Clara Messlor ;

Treasurer, Mrs. Lizzie Ely ; Guide, Mary E. A. Gorden ; Inside Protector, Mrs. Cora Compton ; Outside Protector, Mrs. Maggie Wilson ; Trustees, Messrs L. W. Pullen, W. H. Van Marter and Miss Jennie Cole ; Representatives to State Council, L. W. Pullen, D. B. Messlor.

---

#### WASHINGTON CAMP, No. 37. P. O. S. of A.

This order was instituted in Hightstown, January 8th, 1896, with the following officers : President, Samuel Fryer ; Vice-President, C. Edward Lucas ; Past Vice-President, Joel W. McDaniel ; Master of Forms and Ceremonies, Clarence M. Waddy ; Recording Secretary, Marsena Van Doren ; Financial Secretary, David B. Messlor ; Inspector, Anthony N. Johnson ; Outside Guard, John Lewis ; Conductor, James Taylor ; Right Sentinel, Geo. R. Anderson ; Left Sentinel, Wm. B. Craig ; Chaplain, Wm. H. Van Marter ; Treasurer, Wm. E. Dewis ; Trustees, Wm. H. Van Marter, M. Waddy, C. E. Lucas.

---

#### HIGHTSTOWN IN 1896.

The casual observer of Hightstown to-day would be impressed by its unique geographical position, its exceptional healthfulness, its conservatism and its religious undercurrent. Hightstown is a beautiful village of about 2,000 inhabitants, situated in the midst of a rich farming community, and is nearly the centre of a triangle whose angles are Trenton, Princeton and Monmouth, the famous battlefields of Revolutionary times. It is nearly equi-distant from New York and Philadelphia, being situated between the two cities, with a good train service, over the old Camden and Amboy railroad, daily. Hightstown has, as mentioned, two enterprising weekly papers, the *Gazette*, Thos. B. Appleget, publisher, Fred B. Appleget, editor ; and the *Independent*, R. M. J. Smith, editor and proprietor. There are seven churches as follows : Baptist Rev. O. P. Raches, D. D., pastor ; Presbyterian, Rev. Thos. Tyack, D. D., pastor ; Universalist, Rev. E. G. Mason, pastor Methodist Episcopal, Rev. J. L. Howard, pastor ; Episcopal, Rev. H. L. Phillips, pastor ; St. James A. M. E., Rev. G. R. Hubbard pastor ; and the Catholic, with at present date, no settled minister. Rev. Aloys M. Fish, Ph. D., Trenton, N. J., Priest in charge. They are all in a very prosperous condition and are constantly

adding to their membership. To the pastors of the various churches, much of the prosperity and morality of the town is due, for they take a lively interest in all that concerns the temporal well-being of the community, as well as in that which concerns its spiritual growth. They are in intellect, vigorous and discriminating; in integrity, pure and incorruptible; in manners, affable, dignified and polished; in morals, spotless. They crown the virtues of the man by the pure piety and sincere religion of the devout and humble christian. They have won, in an eminent degree, the respect, love and confidence of their fellow-citizens.

Hightstown is justly proud of her educational facilities.

The Peddie Institute, one of the largest preparatory schools in the State, has long since taken rank among the leading institutions of its kind in the country. Its president is Rev. Joseph E. Perry, Ph. D., who is supported by a most excellent faculty. A beautiful and commodious Public School building has recently been built at a cost of \$12,000. Its principal is Theo. Green, who is ably assisted by a competent body of teachers, some of whom were pupils of the very efficient instructor, W. W. Swett, a former principal. Besides the above, there are several excellent private schools, and a Kindergarten.

One National Bank does the financial business of the town and vicinity. It is in a very prosperous condition, and is managed by a careful corps of assistants, headed by Joseph H. Johnes, cashier. The post office department is carefully managed by J. Mount Smith, the courteous postmaster. Five eminent physicians look after the health of the community: Dr. Lloyd Wilbur, Hon. W. L. Wilbur, M. D., Dr. G. H. Franklin, Dr. J. P. Johnson, and Dr. Geo. E. Titus, together with three skilled dentists, Dr. C. J. Hazard, Drs. Aaron and Tracy Dawes.

Hightstown is also proud of her Assemblyman, Hon. William L. Wilbur, M. D., whose large mental powers, and the high esteem in which he is held, well fitted him to become the prominent representative. The Doctor is a son of Dr. Lloyd Wilbur, ex-County Superintendent, and a brother of Dr. Frank Wilbur, a prominent physician of Asbury Park.

The community is honored with the very estimable Mrs. Robert E. Morrison as her oldest inhabitant, who is 98 years old. This amiable Christian woman still retains to a remarkable degree her bodily and mental vigor, and continues to take an active interest



every-day events. Mrs. Morrison belongs to the Swift families, Pennsylvania, and was born in the same house in which Robert Fulton first saw the light. The old farm house is still standing in Lancaster county, Pa., and is known as "The Fulton Home." She is the mother of Misses Maggie and Lizzie Morrison, of Hightstown, and Mrs. Jacob Stults, of Long Branch.

There are three able lawyers—S. M. Schenck, R. M. J. Smith and A. S. Appleget.

Within the past year a system of water works has been established, which is the most notable advance and improvement the town has ever known. From a chain of four artesian wells, each 225 feet deep, the water is pumped into a massive steel stand-pipe, 100 feet high, from which it is distributed through miles of iron mains to all parts of the town. A competent analytical chemist pronounces the water pure and healthful.

The town has most excellent protection from fire by means of hydrants within 100 feet of every building in the borough and an efficient fire department, with a powerful steam engine and a ladder truck in constant readiness. A long distance telephone has recently been put in operation, connecting the town with all parts of the country. All the leading societies have large and prosperous organizations here—Free and Accepted Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Red Men, American Mechanics, &c.

The borough government is as follows: Mayor, W. I. Norton; Councilmen, William F. Lott, S. H. Dey, D. A. Van Doren, S. Fryer, G. W. F. Bennett, Dr. George E. Titus; Clerk, Fred B. Appleget; Assessor, C. Fuller Perrine; Collector, Charles E. Stults; Treasurer, A. S. Voorhees; Marshal, Jeremiah Brandt; Borough Solicitor, R. M. J. Smith. Board of Health—W. I. Norton (president), E. J. Rogers, Charles E. Stults, David Cole, John G. Scheible, Fred B. Appleget (inspector), Dr. William L. Wilbur (medical director). Water Commissioners—A. S. Voorhees, W. I. Norton, E. M. Norris.

Few towns can boast of better general healthfulness, less debt, better churches, purer water, less suffering from poverty, better stores, better fire protection, better schools, better boarding accommodations, better location, better homes, or more enterprise than the borough of Hightstown.

