

# Some Hunterdon Place Names

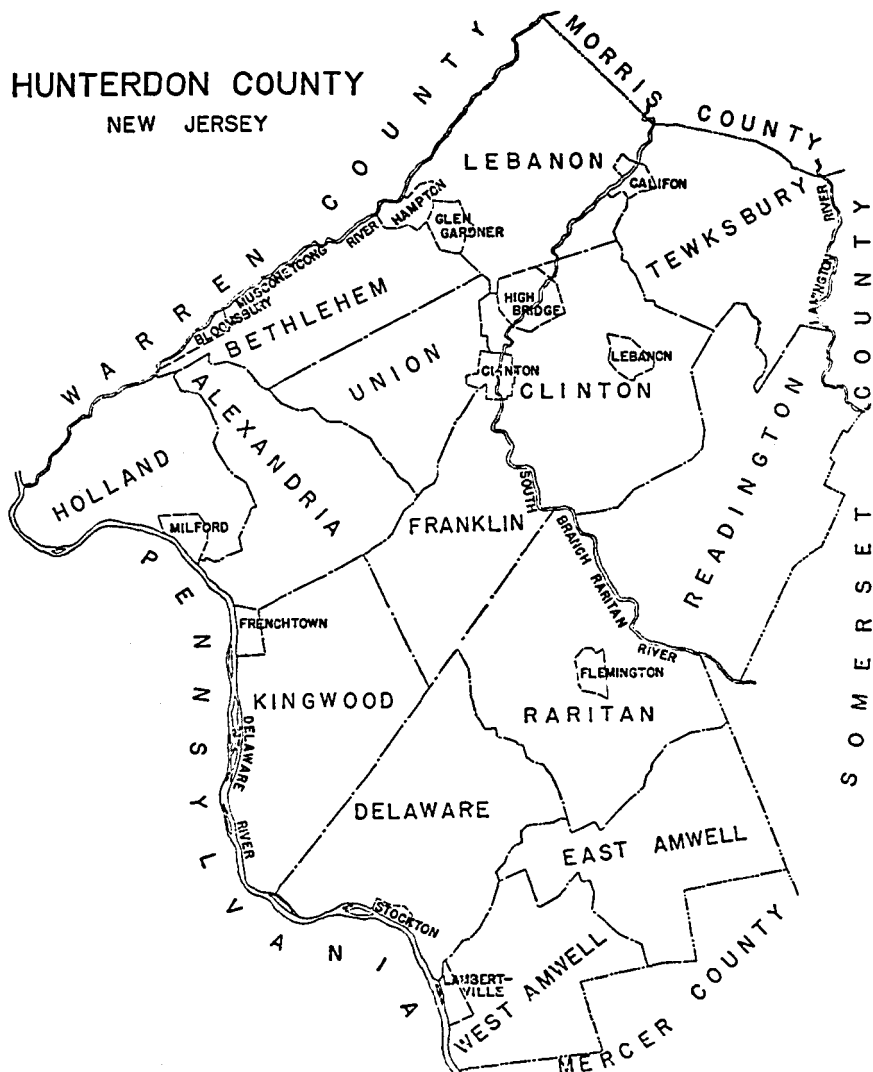


*Hubert G. Schmidt*



# HUNTERDON COUNTY

NEW JERSEY





# Some Hunterdon Place Names

Historical Sketches about  
Communities and Localities in  
Hunterdon County, New Jersey

By

*Hubert G. Schmidt*

*Professor of History*

*Rutgers University*

*Author of "Rural Hunterdon"*  
*and other Historical Works*

D. H. MOREAU, *Publisher*  
Flemington, N. J.



## Foreword

How did Hunterdon County's towns, villages and crossroads settlements, past and present, get their names?

Dr. Schmidt was asked this question so often after he started delving into Hunterdon's history while doing research for his book "Rural Hunterdon" (Rutgers University Press, 1946) that he decided to collect data on the subject. From time to time as he accumulated the material, he would devote one of his weekly historical columns in the Hunterdon County Democrat to place names. Often he would get reactions from readers to indicate an interest in the subject or to offer information on localities not already covered. It was agreed that the accumulated articles should be reprinted in a more permanent form, and this pamphlet is the result.

Dr. Schmidt has given his rights in this pamphlet to the Hunterdon County Historical Society, of which he is a member. The title, "SOME HUNTERDON PLACE NAMES," applies to this booklet because the record is not by any means complete. It is to be hoped that in the future Dr. Schmidt or some other historian will add to this study and that another pamphlet can be published by the Society.

This pamphlet should fill a need in the Schools of Hunterdon County for background on the towns and villages of our county.

The author has asked me to express his thanks to the many people who gave him help, and especially to H. E. Deats, Donald Sinclair, Norman C. Wittwer, H. Hart Case, Mrs. Carrie Jameson Hoffman and Harvey Cooley.

D. H. MOREAU  
*Publisher*

Flemington, N. J.  
March 1, 1959





**ALEXAUKEN.** A very old story has it that Alex (or Ellis or Elias) Hawkins (or Sauken or Hocking) was a pioneer hunter and trapper along the creek in southern Hunterdon which bears his name. A variation of the story says that the name came from the expression "alias Socken," which was indeed used in an early deed for land bordering the stream. The William Faden map of 1777 spelled the name "Aliabhocking," and since "hahiken" meant "plantation" or "village" in the Lenni Lenape tongue, the present writer guesses that the name was of Indian origin. A contributor to Snell's History in 1881 wrote, "The Creek has almost as many various spellings as it has windings." The spelling "Alexsauken" was most common at that time.

**ALLERTON.** An early name for Croton, which see. Today applied to a hamlet of Clinton Township.

**AMSTERDAM.** A hamlet in Holland Township. Though the name, like that of the township, would seem to have some connection with Dutch settlers, there are no indications that this is the case. The Cornell Map of 1852 shows the store of Sinclair and Stryker and a half dozen dwellings. In 1881, the village had a sawmill, a shoemaker's shop, and a carpenter shop.

**AMWELL.** There is an old story that the names of Amwell and Hopewell came from the greetings exchanged each morning by two neighbors, one of whom lived on one side of the line which now divides Hunterdon and Mercer Counties and the other on the opposite side. The one is supposed to have said to the other, "I hope that you are well," and the other to have replied, "I am well." When the line between their farms became the division between two townships, the neighbors are supposed to have remembered the above ritual between the two men and to have coined the names of Hopewell and Amwell. The story, of course, has no element of truth, and it seems probable that it was made up by some gagster after the names had been applied. Both names came from England.

When John Reading, one of the proprietors of West Jersey, settled near present-day Stockton about 1709, he called his homestead Mount Amwell after his native village in the County of Hertfordshire in England. The name was given at approximately the same time, perhaps the year previous, to the new township which was constituted as a part of Burlington County. When Hunterdon was set off from Burlington in 1713, Amwell Township retained its name and its extensive boundaries. From time to time it was cut down in size, as other townships were created on the north and east, and in 1838 the State of New Jersey, evidently on the petition of the inhabitants, divided the remainder into East and West Amwell along the line retained to this day.

**AMWELL, Village of.** A small settlement along Mill Brook or Clearwater Rill, east of Ringoes, which has long since dis-

appeared. According to Dr. Cornelius W. Larison, in his little book, "The Ancient Village Amwell," there were two grist mills, a sawmill, a rye and corn distillery, an oil mill, and a cider mill and applejack distillery, all using the water of the brook for power. In addition, there were a store, a tavern, a shoemaker's shop, and perhaps other shops. The old village, for reasons not known, began to decline after the Revolution. Larison, as a boy about 1850, wandered through the ruins of Hunterdon's first ghost town.

**ANNANDALE.** When the New Jersey Central Railroad bypassed Clinton in 1852, a village known as Clinton Station grew up at the nearest point. Three farms were gradually cut up into lots, and homes, shops, and stores were built. Growth was slow, but by 1873 the people felt the desire for a new name for their town. A committee went to see John T. Johnson, President of the New Jersey Central, who suggested the name of Annandale, after a village in his native Scotland. By 1880, there were 380 people, and Annandale was a busy place, with eighteen passenger trains stopping each day, and numerous coal and freight trains. Nearby kilns produced two hundred cars of calcined lime per year.

**ANTHONY.** A village of Lebanon Township. The name was derived from David and Philip Anthony, farmers who settled on Spruce Run about 1825. There was no postoffice here in 1850, but the Cornell Map of 1852 shows an "Anthonytown P.O." It is probable that Jacob Beatty, who established a store here, was the first postmaster. G. W. Beatty, probably a son, held the job in 1881. At that time, there were in the village a Methodist Church, a school, a store, two sawmills, a blacksmith shop, a wheelwright shop, and a few houses.

**BAPTISTOWN.** By tradition, this village east of Frenchtown is very old. The first settlers, in the 1720's, were Baptists, among them the families of Isaac Wolverton and Isaac Fowler. The first church was built about 1738. A century later, secession of "missionary Baptists" from the congregation led to a new church group, who built a second church in 1839. The growth of the hamlet had been slow, since most of the people were farmers. Barber and Howe in 1844 describe Baptistown as having "a store, a tavern, and several mechanics, two Baptist churches, and about a dozen dwellings." Snell's History in 1881 had this to say: "The place has increased in population and business interests until there are at present two churches, a school-house, blacksmith and wagon shop, tavern, two stores, and about thirty dwellings."

**BARBERTOWN.** A village in Kingwood Township, near Lockatong Creek. Tradition says that it is named after an early settler, but no facts are known as to this. Apparently it was only a cluster of houses on an early "King's Highway" which ran north and south across the township. The Cornell Map of 1852 shows the houses of Dr. W. Hand, R. Updyke, C. Hudnet, J. Burket, J. Baley,

and W. S. Sutton. It shows also a barber shop and a tanyard. The Beers, Comstock, and Kline Atlas of 21 years later shows a store and houses of C. A. Larue, H. Rittenhouse, T. W. Sutton, C. A. Butterfoss, P. Taylor, J. Bellis, and Mrs. E. Burket. Snell's history of 1881 says that the village had "two stores, a blacksmith shop, half a dozen dwellings, and 90 inhabitants," the latter listing probably a mistake. The hamlet never secured a postoffice.

**BEDBUG POINT.** An old name for the corner made by the first road turning off Route 12 west of Point Breeze. The name, which people of the area are understandably not very keen about, is probably a century or more old. H. Hart Case, a local resident, remembers its use for 70 years. Both he and I presume that the name was given because someone long ago had difficulties with certain "little critters."

**BLOOMSBURY.** A village on the Musconetcong, mostly in Bethlehem Township of Hunterdon County, but partly in Greenwich Township of Warren; the only place with this name in the nation. It was known in Colonial days as Johnson's Iron Works from the charcoal iron works of Robert Johnson on the Warren side of the river. Johnson carried his ore by wagon from a mine in the Musconetcong Mountain on the Hunterdon side. A traditional story says that the name originated from the "blooms" of iron created in the iron works, or "bloomery," but a contributor to Snell's History in 1881 stated positively that the name came from the Bloom family, who were originally German immigrants by the name of Blom. On the other hand, Mrs. Carrie Jamison Hoffman of Bloomsbury, who wrote a very interesting history of the village in 1948, is almost certain that the old tradition gave the correct story.

Barber and Howe's "Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey" in 1844 spoke thus: "Bloomsbury is a thriving village in the delightful valley of the Musconetcong River. There are here two stores, one tavern, several mechanic shops, an oil mill, weaving shop, a large merchant mill, a cotton factory, a Methodist church, and 35 dwellings. The annexed view (a woodcut) shows the principal part of the village. The large building seen on the left, near the stone bridge, is the merchant mill of Green and Runkles, and on the right is the cotton factory belonging to that firm. The building with a cupola, in the background, is the Methodist Church, and at the distance of a mile the Musconetcong Mountains are seen, rising to a height of several hundred feet."

Most of the growth had come since 1832, for in that year there were but five houses on the Hunterdon side, one of them a log cabin. The growth indicated in the above quotation continued after the coming of the Jersey Central Railroad in the 1850's and the Lehigh Valley in 1875. In 1880, the town had two churches, two depots, a bank, a postoffice, a lodge, a marble yard, a hotel, a mill, two sawmills (one water and one steam), five stores, and a dozen shops. Later there were a sash and blind factory, a peach basket factory, a cannery, and even a piano factory. Other industrial developments have come in the twentieth century to replace those which did not survive.

**BOAR'S HEAD.** Inn or tavern on the "Princeton Road" south of Croton, time of establishment not known. Moses Lake, mentioned as a trustee of the Summit school in 1876, was proprietor for many years, and is still remembered by some of the local residents.

**BONETOWN.** Old nickname for a neighborhood on the road paralleling Route 12, just south of Croton. Tradition, relayed to me by H. Hart Case, says that a chicken-stealing family once lived here, and that when they finally were forced to leave the country great piles of chicken bones and feathers were found. The name is quite old, and like some of the others in the neighborhood, is what Mr. Case aptly calls a "pip."

**BONETOWN ROAD.** Ridge road leading off Route 12 to the left a mile east of Croton and nearly paralleling that route until it runs into the Trenton Road. It takes its name from the old neighborhood nickname, Bonetown, which see.

**BONNELL'S TAVERN.** Original name for Clinton, which see.

**BRAY'S HILL.** See Lebanon.

**BUNGTOWN.** An early nickname for Lambertville, which see.

**BURNT MILLS.** An early name for Milford, which see.

**CALIFON.** Califon, a village of northern Hunterdon, was originally called California, and both names were in current use in 1880. At that time it was generally believed that the name had been coined during the gold rush days in California. According to the story, Jacob Neighbor, who operated the mill on the South Branch of the Raritan at this point was making a "gold mine" out of his operations by adulterating his cattle feed with ground corncobs and oats chaff. The tale may be a tall one, but Neighbor's Mill and the few houses clustered about it became California, then gradually Califon.

Snell's History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties in 1881 stated that the village was mostly of recent growth. At that time, it had two stores, a hotel, two grist mills, two sawmills, two blacksmith shops, two wheelright shops, two shoe shops, a harness shop, a distillery, a depot on the High Bridge Railroad, and 31 dwelling houses. The village was on both sides of the stream, so that part of it was in Tewksbury and part in High Bridge Township. The postoffice had been established in 1878.

**CALIFORNIA.** An early name for Califon, which see.

**CALVIN'S FERRY.** An early name for Frenchtown, which see.

**CAPOOLONG.** A creek which flows into the South Branch of the Raritan River from the west about a mile below Clinton. The name is of Indian origin, but no one knows what it meant. It has not varied greatly from pioneer days, when it was spelled Capooaulong in a land survey of 1711. The Cornell map of 1832 called the stream the Cakpoulen, and Beer's Atlas of 1873 varied it to Cakepoulin. Dr. Henry Race, a local contributor to Snell's History of 1881 gave the spelling Capolon, while Egbert T. Bush, another contributor spelled it Capoolon. Both seem to have been common at that time. The present spelling came in as the result of an effort to get back to original spellings on the part of mapmakers.

**CHERRYVILLE.** A village of Franklin Township. No one knows from whence came its original nickname of Dogtown, but one may guess that one of the early residents loved dogs and that some of them were noisy. The name of Cherryville was in use by 1839, derived from a prominent local family. A post office was established under that name in 1850, with William Large as the first postmaster. A book of a few years before spoke of Cherryville as a "small, flourishing settlement," but the village had only a slow growth. In 1881, it had a Baptist Church, established in 1850, a store, a wheelwright shop, a blacksmith shop, and about a dozen dwelling houses.

**CLARKSVILLE.** An early name for Glen Gardner, which see.

**CLINTON.** There was no village here in Colonial days, but a tavern on the old road leading from New Brunswick to Easton was probably established early. It was called Bonnell's Tavern during the Revolution, and was widely known as a gathering place for patriots. The tavern name for the neighborhood was soon replaced by that of Hunt's Mills, from the gristmill, sawmill and oil mill built at the mouth of Spruce Run by Daniel Hunt. In 1812, his son, Ralph Hunt, established a woolen mill, but after the war it was unable to compete with English goods and failed. The building became another grist mill.

Another founder of Clinton was Gen. James W. Hope, who had a shop for making spinning wheels, kilns for burning lime, and horse pens for trading horses. Others were the Dunham families, who had farms nearby. The village was given a boost by the chartering of the New Jersey Turnpike from New Brunswick to Easton in 1812. The road was surfaced with gravel, and became a post and coach road. Gen. Hope established a line of coaches, and his son, William, was a well-known "whip." By 1818, there was enough demand that a post office was established at Hunt's Mills, with Ishe Hunt as the first postmaster. Mail was delivered once a week by sulky express from Trenton.

In 1818, the hamlet had three houses, but by 1828 it had grown enough to feel the need of a new name. A famous man at this time was DeWitt Clinton, Governor of New York and sponsor of the recently-completed Erie Canal, and it was decided to use his name when a full-fledged post office was es-

established in that year. By 1850, the village had three stores, three taverns, a linseed oil mill, a brickyard, a limestone quarry, fifteen artisan's shops, three churches, sixty-two dwellings, and 520 inhabitants. It was incorporated as a village in 1865. Its people were disappointed when Clinton was by-passed by both the New Jersey Central Railroad in the 1850's and the Lehigh Valley in the 1870's, but the latter gave them a spur in 1881.

**CLINTON STATION.** The original name for Annandale, which see.

**CLINTON TOWNSHIP.** Clinton Township was established in 1841 from a part of Lebanon Township, and received its name from nearby Clinton village, which remained a part of it until 1865. The township was somewhat enlarged by act of the legislature in 1871. In 1880, the township had 170 farms and a population of 2133. Most of the early settlers of the area of the township were Germans, who began coming in the 1720's and were numerous by 1750. Most of the "native" names of the township are still German, although they have been Anglicized beyond instant recognition in most cases.

**CLOVER HILL.** Originally Koughstown or Cuxtown, this village became known as Clover Hill early in the nineteenth century, evidently from the Clover family or some member of it. It lies on the county line with Somerset County, and part of the village is in Raritan Township of Hunterdon and part within Hillsborough Township of Somerset. Although a very old place, it had in the 1840's only a half dozen dwellings besides the Dutch Reformed Church, a store, a tavern, and a few artisans' shops. Sometime before 1850, it was given a postoffice, George W. Nevius being the postmaster at the mid-century. Snell's "History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties" in 1881 described the village as having a hotel, a church, a store, a blacksmith shop, a postoffice, and fifteen homes.

**COATES' FERRY.** An early name for Lambertville, which see.

**COKESBURG.** Alternate name for Cokesbury, which see.

**COKESBURY.** A village of Tewksbury Township. The name was compounded from the surnames of Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury, two Methodist leaders who became the first bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, which was established after the Revolution. The name was actually applied first to the Cokesbury Methodist Church. The church body organized in 1810 and in 1814 was incorporated as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Cokesbury. The same name was applied to the hamlet which grew up. The tradition that an iron furnace there had this name as early as 1754 is evidently mistaken. Through a mistake at Washington, the post office given to the village in the early nineteenth century was called Cokesburg, a name adopted

by the village for a time, but not by the church. In the twentieth century the old spelling has gradually been restored. In 1881, the place boasted a hotel, a store, two churches, two shops, and fourteen dwellings.

**COPPER HILL.** A hamlet of Raritan Township, which derived its name from the old copper mine, traditionally worked before the Revolution. A stock promotion for a mine there failed in 1817, but the Neshanic Mining Company, founded in 1836, actually opened the old shaft. In 1848, its successor, the Central Mining Company, took out small quantities of excellent ore. This concern sold out to the Acorn Copper Company, which in turn gave way to the Hunterdon Mining Company, a stock-peddling outfit which swindled many investors. The hamlet, which developed largely as a farming village, received a post office about 1860.

**CORYELL'S FERRY.** An early name for Lambertville, which see.

**CROSSKEYS TAVERN.** See Rosemont.

**CROTON.** A hamlet three miles west of Flemington, in what was formerly known as "the Swamp" or "the Great Swamp." It received the name of Croton in 1845 when a postoffice was located here. A popular tradition, which sounds logical enough, was that the name came from Croton Dam in New York State. Prior to that the place was known as Allerton, from the numerous representatives of the Aller family who lived here or nearby. Barber and Howe's Historical Collections of New Jersey in 1844 described it as containing a "Baptist Church, one steam saw-mill, a store, a chair factory, and a few dwellings." In 1881, according to Snell's History, there were the church, the store, a mill, a tavern, a blacksmith shop, a wheelwright shop, a sawmill, and the same few dwellings.

**CUSHETUNK.** Cushetunk Mountain, the horseshoe formation of traprock in Clinton Township, gets its name from an Indian word which supposedly meant "Place of Hogs." The name was spelled Coshanton in the survey of 1711, but "unk" as an ending comes closer to the Lenni Lenape grunting sound which meant "place where." The Indian name for the white man's hog was probably nearer to "gosch" than "cush." The name of Hog Mountain was used as an alternate name as late as 1844, when it was given in Barber and Howe's Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey.

In the late Colonial period, the higher part of the mountain was commonly called Pickle's Mountain, a name derived from Baltus Pickle, the most prominent of the German settlers of the region and owner of land near and on the mountain. By 1881, this name was sometimes used for the whole of Cushetunk, as on the map in the front of Snell's History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties. However, George S. Mott, the historian of Clinton Township in that book, was careful to distinguish between Pickle's

and Cushetunk mountains. Both names are sometimes used even today, but the name Cushetunk has won out for the whole ridge so far as the mapmakers are concerned.

**CUXTOWN.** An early name for Clover Hill, which see.

**DELAWARE.** The Delaware River has many earlier names. Various Indian groups called it the Zunikoway, the Lemasepose, the Poutaxat, the Mariskitton, and the Whittuck. The meanings of these various terms are not known, but still another one, Gicht-hanne, is said to have meant "the principal stream of the region." The early Swedish settlers on its lower reaches called the river "the New Sweden Stream," to give a liberal translation. The Dutch, to contrast it with the North or Hudson River, called it at first the Zuydt or South River, but changed the name to Fishkill later. An English surveyor in 1710 mentioned "the South River or Fish Creek."

The name Delaware had an early origin. In 1610, Sir Samuel Argall from Virginia, returning from Cape Cod with a load of fish for the starving Jamestown settlers, sailed by the promontory near the river's mouth and called it Cape Delaware, after the Governor of Virginia, Baron De la Warre, usually called Lord Delaware. Later explorers and map-makers extended the name first to Delaware Bay, then to the Delaware River, and even to the Lenni Lenape Indians. Settlers in South Jersey adopted the name from the beginning, and carried it northward up the stream with them.

Delaware Township in Hunterdon County was created in 1838 by cutting off the northwest corner of Amwell Township.

**DOGTOWN.** Early nickname for Cherryville, which see.

**DREAHOOK.** (Formerly spelled Drea Hook, evidently from "Driehoek," the Dutch word for "triangle.") The Rev. John B. Thompson, who lived here as a boy in the 1840's, has explained the name as being due to "a peculiarity of the roads in that vicinity" in Colonial days. A hamlet in Readington Township about a mile southwest of Whitehouse Station. Many since have explained the name as meaning "three corners," and there was even a Three Corners School nearby for many years. In 1881, Dreehook had "a schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop, and a dozen houses," according to Snell's History. The map in the same book calls the place Scrabbletown, a name also used on the Cornell map of 1851. Evidently this name was never used locally to any great extent.

**EAST WHITEHOUSE.** See Whitehouse.

**EVELAND'S TAVERN.** An early name for Glen Gardner, which see.

**EVERITTSTOWN.** A village on the Nishasakawick Creek in southern Alexandria Township. It is quite old, and took its name from either Samuel or William Everitt, one or both of whom were millers. The name Everitt's Mill was mentioned in a road



survey as early as 1759. This road led from the mill to Calvin's Ferry, known later as Frenchtown. The Everitt brothers also owned a large farm southwest of the village, which they bought from Charles Parker some time previous to 1766. In that year, the only buildings besides those of the farm were the mill and a blacksmith shop. The Everitt family held onto their property until after 1800. The next owner added a tavern, and a small village gradually grew up. By 1840, a store, several mechanics' shops, and some fifteen dwellings had been built. In 1881, according to Snell's history, there were a mill, a tavern, a postoffice, a school, two stores, a smithy, a tailor shop, and 25 houses. The postmaster in 1850 was Baltis Pickel, grandson of a German pioneer.

**FAIRMOUNT.** A village on Fox Hill, which see. Barber and Howe's "Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey" in 1844 did not consider the hamlet as worth mentioning, but Snell's "History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties" in 1881 gave an elaborate description: "Fairmount has two stores, a blacksmith shop, shoe shop, gristmill, sawmill, tannery, distillery, schoolhouse, and twenty-three scattered dwellings. There are two churches a mile or more above. The waterpowers on the branch of the Rockaway give it importance. The tannery of Oliver Vescelius is the largest in the county."

**FAIRPLAIN.** See Fox Hill.

**FAIRVIEW.** An early name for Quakertown, which see.

**FAIRVILLE.** An alternate name for Whitehouse, which see.

**FEATHERBED LANE.** An old name for the road leading from old Route 12 at Hardscrabble Hill to the Flemington-Cherryville Road at Klinesville. According to H. Hart Case, a local resident, this name was used when he was a boy in the 1890's, and he believes that it was used in derision because the road was so rough and stony. Today it is locally called Summit Hill Road, a name derived from the country school which once stood at the top of the hill at the junction of the two roads.

**FISHER'S PEAK.** A part of Sourland Mountain near Lambertville. In 1881, Dr. Cornelius W. Larison found its height to be 335 feet above sea level.

**FLEMINGTON.** The county seat of Hunterdon County since 1791. The name came from Samuel Fleming, a landowner of Irish or Scotch-Irish blood, who settled here in 1756. His dwelling, which he also used as a tavern, is still standing. Restored and preserved by the Daughters of the American Revolution, it is now known as Fleming Castle. The hamlet which grew up nearby was called simply Fleming's or Flemings, but by the time of the Revolution was being called Flemingtown or Flemington. The village was made the seat of county government in 1791,

and was given the first postoffice within the present county limits in 1794.

Most of the town's growth came in the nineteenth century. Barber and Howe's "Historical Collections of New Jersey" in 1844 described it thus: "Flemington is principally built on a single street, on which are many handsome dwellings. There are here two newspaper printing offices, several stores and mechanic shops, four hotels, the county buildings, one Methodist, one Baptist, one Presbyterian, and one Episcopal Church, about seventy dwellings, and about six hundred inhabitants."

The village was given new importance by the building of the Flemington Railroad to Lambertville in 1854 and by that of the South Branch Railroad, later part of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, in 1862. In the early 1870's came the connection with the Easton and Amboy Railroad, later the Lehigh Valley. By 1870, the population was 1,412; by 1880, it was 1,748, and villagers were already talking about having a borough form of government. A writer of that year wrote concerning Flemington, "The beauty of its situation none can dispute, while its fine churches, good school, and business enterprise, with its healthful climate and ample supply of gas and water, combine with the high moral tone, intellectual culture, and law-abiding character of its people to give it an enviable name among the villages of the State."

**FOX HILL.** A name formerly applied to a plateau lying partly in Tewksbury Township and partly in Washington Township, Morris County. The region thus designated was originally called North Rockaway after the stream that drained it and distinguishing it from Rockaway which was the name applied to the region around present-day Potterstown. A store account book, under the date 1740, mentions "Peter Fox at North Rockaway alias Fox Hill" and again in 1741 "John Peter Fox of Fox Hill, formerly North Rockaway." The name "Rockaway" derives from the Indian and is written phonetically as Rahawaick on a map of 1745. A possible translation of this might be Rocka- or Raha- (woskus - grey fox) -way or -waick (wikh - to build a house) meaning "where the fox builds his house" or "home of foxes." This was literally true, the region abounding in foxes even to the present day.

With such a coincidence of names, it is quite probable that it will never be known from which the name was derived or whether it was the logical combination of both. However, it does appear that the early settlers in writing or using the name had in mind the settler, John Peter Fox (originally Fuchs), rather than his four-legged namesake. By tradition, Fox brought in or developed a variety of winter wheat so superior that farmers for miles around came to him to purchase seed wheat.

An early log church, built in the 1740's, and called the Fuchsenberg Church, was apparently used by the Lutheran and by the Reformed congregations, either in that order or concurrently. The Reformed group became sole owner in 1749 or 1750 when the Lutherans merged with the congregations of Rockaway (Potterstown) and Leslysland (Whitehouse) and built the church at Oldwick.

By 1760 the Reformed congregation had outgrown the log church and had built a larger, shingled, wooden structure, this time on the location of the present church. During the first twenty years of its existence the church had no regular minister and enjoyed only occasional services by traveling Reformed ministers and some conducted by Rev. William Graff of the New Germantown (Oldwick) Lutheran Church. In 1768 the Fox Hill church was united under one pastorate with Rockaway (Lebanon) German Valley and Alexandria. Frederick Dalliker served this charge until 1782, being succeeded in that year by Rev. Caspar Wack. In 1813 the congregation became Presbyterian upon the granting of their application for admission to the Presbytery of New Brunswick. In 1817 the body was incorporated as the First Presbyterian Church in Parker's Village on Fox Hill. In 1837 the Methodist Episcopal Church of Parkersville was organized.

By the year 1830 the name Fairplain had begun to be applied to lower Fairmount and was the name on the cornerstone of the school erected in that year. With the establishment of a post office in 1850 the name was changed to Fairmount. By 1869 both churches had adopted the name, Fairmount, and ever since then the name has applied to the entire locality.

**FRENCHTOWN.** At an early date, but how early we don't know, there was established at present Frenchtown a ferry across the Delaware, simply a flatboat propelled by poles. Whether Calvin was the original proprietor is not known, but in the later Colonial period the ferry was known as Calvin's Ferry. There was an attempt for a time, also, to call the place Sunbeam, but the name did not stick. The ferry came first into national news when the British and Hessian prisoners from the battle of Saratoga in 1777 were taken across. The ferry remained in use until 1844, when a toll bridge was built across the river for \$20,000.

About 1776, nearly a thousand acres here came into the hands of Thomas Lowrey, an Irish immigrant, who received the nickname of "Old Quicksilver" from his money-making abilities. About 1785, he built a gristmill and sawmill at the mouth of the Nishisakawick Creek, which empties into the Delaware at this point. But in 1794 he sold his whole property for nearly 8,000 pounds to Paul Henri Mallet-Prevost, a French Revolutionary army officer who had lost favor in France and had fled the guillotine, first to Germany and then to the United States. With him came other French families named Defresnoye and Laroche. It is not surprising that the hamlet which sprang up should be called Frenchtown. The Prevosts became the leaders in the community, and promoted the growth of a village. Louis M. Prevost, son of the immigrant, was proprietor of the "Big Gun," one of the most important general stores of the county for many years. A postoffice was established at his store in 1839.

In 1840, the village had a gristmill, a sawmill, two stores, three taverns, several shops, and twenty-five dwellings. During the next years, it benefitted from a bridge in 1844 and a railroad in 1853. Soon a factory for making spokes and tool handles and a distillery for applejack were added. In 1878, a fire broke

out and, due to the failure of the hand operated fire engine, gutted the town. A rapid recovery was made however. In 1881, the following items were made in Frenchtown: spokes, furniture, telegraph pins, brooms, fanning mills, chairs, carpets, cigars, and window sashes and blinds.

**FUCHSENBURG.** See Fox Hill and Fairmount.

**GEORGETOWN.** An early name for Lambertville, which see.

**GLEN GARDNER.** A borough of northern Hunterdon. The earliest known name of this locality was "Eveland's Tavern." John Eveland opened a tavern here about 1760, and he and his son and grandson operated it for over a century. Possibly because of some local wickedness, someone applied the name of Sodom to the little settlement which developed up and down the glen along Spruce Run. This name stuck until 1820, when a postoffice was secured and named after Mr. Clark, the local merchant. Although a turnpike from Belvidere to Burlington was constructed through Sodom soon after 1800, it was never a very good one.

In 1844, Barber and Howe in their "Historical Collections of New Jersey" wrote, "Clarksville is in a romantic and picturesque dell among the mountains, and contains a store, tavern, a few mechanics' shops, a saw and grist mill and several dwellings." The coming of the Central Railroad of New Jersey in 1852 gave the sleepy hamlet a shot in the arm, resulting in an increase in both commercial activity and population. In 1864, the Gardner brothers constructed a chair and frame factory, and became the leading citizens of the place. In their honor, in February, 1871, the name of the village and postoffice was officially changed to Glen Gardner, although the name Clarksville was often used for more than a decade. In 1880 the village had a population of over 700, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches, two grist mills, four stores, a coal and lumber yard, the depot, the factory, and several shops.

**GOAT HILL.** Goat Hill is one of several hills rising above the general height of Sourland Mountain, of which it is a part. It is located near the Delaware River just south of Lambertville. Dr. Cornelius W. Larison in 1881 gave its height as 491 feet above sea level, or about 460 feet above the level of the river where it leaves Hunterdon County. Larison wrote, "Its soil is gritty, and mainly covered with low cedars, scattered forest trees, brambles, and the like." He gave the height of nearby North Goat Hill as 370 feet and that of Fisher's Peak as 335.

The name Goat Hill is very old, and its first use and origin are unknown. In Delaware Feeder Canal days, the hill was important for its quarries of trap rock and granite, used for construction and monuments. In the period after the Civil War, much stone was exported to Belgium and other European countries to use as paving blocks. In modern times, the quarries have been extensively used as a source of crushed stone for highway construction.

**GRANDIN.** A village on the boundary between Union and Franklin Townships. The New Jersey Public Library Commission pamphlet, "Origin of New Jersey Place Names," states that it was named after a French Huguenot family of that name. Two brothers, John and Philip Grandin, bought about one thousand acres of land in the vicinity about 1760. The Grandin family was a prominent one in the neighborhood until recently, and the Grandin farmstead passed into other hands only a few years ago.

**GRAVEL HILL.** A hill in Holland Township near Amsterdam. The name, from the nature of the soil, is an old one. Near the summit on the southern slope there were for a long time three fields which tradition said had been Indian corn fields. Another story has it that Moses Totamy, a Lenni Lenape chief after whom the Totamy Falls above Phillipsburg were named, lived here as a boy.

**GRAY'S HILL.** See Hardscrabble Hill. This name presumably came from an early family in the neighborhood. An Arthur Gray was a trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Flemington in 1892.

**HAKIHOHAKE.** A creek tributary to the Delaware River between Milford and Frenchtown. Early surveys seem to have agreed on the spelling of Hakeahowka. Cornell's map of 1852 spelled the name as it is spelled today, but applied it to the Quequacommissicong. As to the Hakihoake, it was labeled the Cakeahocake. The Hughes map of 1860 used the spelling Kakeahawcake, and several maps, including one as late as 1917, have called it the Harihokake. The present spelling was adopted in an attempt to get as near to the Indian pronunciation as possible. The latter part of the name is a variation of "bahiken," which meant "plantation" or "village."

**HAMPTON.** Hampton, now a boro between Lebanon and Bethlehem Townships, was originally located partly in each. Comparatively speaking, it is a fairly new town. The first dwelling of which we have a record was a tavern built by Joseph Bonnell in 1852, at about the time of the coming thru of the Central Railroad of New Jersey. At first, the village seems to have been called Hampton Junction, because of the nearby hamlet of New Hampton and the fact that it would be at the junction of the Central and the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad.

As soon as it was known that the railroads would come together at this point, real estate promoters set to work at once. Various plots from the farms of John Bowlby, M. D. Wells, Nathan Terreberry, and A. Skillman were surveyed, a building and loan association was formed, and construction began. By 1857, when the Lackawanna finally arrived, there was already a thriving village, now known by the shortened name of Junction. A postoffice under that name was established in 1865.

In that same year, the Central built machine and repair shops here, and the Lackawanna did the same a little later. Junction became a busy place. In one day in 1870, between

seven and eight hundred cars were shifted from one railroad to the other. The town had a mushroom growth, but its prosperity was tied up very closely with its railroads. It was almost a mortal blow when the shops were removed in 1889.

The first postmaster was M. D. Wells, and he served for many years. A physician by the name of Philip G. Creveling settled in Junction in 1866, and was soon known far and wide. Since the first railroad workers to settle in the village were largely Irish, the first church, established in 1860, was Roman Catholic. In 1881, there were ten stores, a blacksmith shop, a tailor shop, a shoemaker, three hotels, a school, and three cigar manufactories. The present writer does not know when Junction had its name changed to Hampton.

**HAMPTON JUNCTION.** An early name for Hampton, which see.

**HARDSCRABBLE HILL.** Ancient name for the hill just west of Flemington on the old road to Frenchtown, which parallels modern Route 12. The origin of the name is unknown, but possibly came from the fact that a team pulling a wagon to the top had to "scrabble," that is, scratch around with their feet for a footing. The name, hardscrabble, is used in many parts of the United States for rough and stony ground. Another name for the hill, possibly just as old, is "Gray's Hill." It is called that in Barber and Howe's "Historical Collections of New Jersey" in 1844, in which the old tradition that a detachment of Washington's troops once camped here briefly is repeated. The name Hardscrabble Hill is used today for both the hill and the road.

**HARDSCRABBLE HILL ROAD.** Old road up Hardscrabble Hill just west of Flemington.

**HEADQUARTERS.** A village of Delaware Township. The first settler here was John Opdyke, who built a mill on a small stream about 1738. The hamlet which grew up about the mill was known as Opdyke's Mills during the Colonial period, and the name was used as an alternate long after. Local tradition said that General Washington, in his retreat across New Jersey in 1777, used the Holcombe Store, a stone building, as his headquarters for two or three days, and the name of Headquarters came gradually into use during the very patriotic early nineteenth century.

In 1844, Barber and Howe's Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey made this statement: "Head Quarters, six miles from Flemington, contains a store, two gristmills, and eight dwellings." Snell's History in 1881 stated, "A store, steam, saw, and gristmill, shoe shop, blacksmith and wagon shop of Manuel Green, and about a dozen dwellings are located here. The principal part of the property, including old Headquarters, is now owned by John A. Carroll."

**THE HICKORY.** One of the best known hostelrys in early Hunterdon was the Hickory Tavern on the "King's Highway" between Pittstown and Bloomsbury. On March 7, 1767, John Em-

ley, acting in behalf of James Parker, the agent for the English owner, Sir Robert Barker, rented a tract of 150 acres to one John Farnsworth. The lease was to run for seven years, and the rental was only nominal, five shillings per year, even though there was 50 acres of cleared land. Instead of paying a rental, Farnsworth was to construct a "good log house," 28 feet by 22, with a good stone-lined cellar underneath, an outdoor kitchen, and a log barn and stables.

Two years later, Farnsworth sold the remaining five years of his lease to Spencer Carter of Lebanon Township for 81 pounds. In the contract, the tavern was called the "New Hickory," which probably indicates that there had been an earlier Hickory Tavern on the spot. A manuscript of this same year, 1769, refers to the inn as "this noted Tavern." It described it as a log house of double thickness, while the barn was frame. Soon after this time, the farm and tavern were purchased by the Van Sickle family. About 1800, Peter Van Sickle replaced the log building with a large frame tavern, which he operated until his death in 1830. Later tavernkeepers were John Kephart, Isaac Bennet, Matthias Fishbaugh, and John Bunn. The tavern was discontinued soon after the Civil War.

Hickory Tavern during its long life was a regular stopping place for stage coaches, and provided lodging, food, and drink for travelers of all kinds. From it, the road from Pittstown to Bloomsbury came to be known as the Hickory Road. The region about still has many traditions about the "Old Hickory," and the name "The Hickory" has persisted as a community name till this day, even being shown on the latest road map of the county.

**HICKORY ROAD.** See The Hickory.

**HIGH BRIDGE.** This village in northern Hunterdon received its start from a Colonial iron works, started in the 1740's by Allen and Turner, merchants in Philadelphia. Actually, the furnace was on Spruce Run, a distance from the present village. During the Revolution, the furnace was rechristened Union Furnace by Robert Taylor, the manager, who later bought it from the heirs of Allen and Turner. During the Revolution, the furnace made cannon balls and other supplies for the American army, and after the war made nail rods and other iron for the local market. Probably because of the shortage of charcoal, the furnace stopped operations by 1800. An 1844 description states that the old mines were known to contain much ore. A revival came with the use of the hot blast and anthracite coal.

High Bridge, as a village, really got its start with the small bloomery forge and manufactory for wagon axles started by Lewis H. Taylor after the coming of the New Jersey Central Railroad. About the time of the Civil War, his company turned to the making of railroad equipment, using as power water from Lake Solitude, which they created. By 1881, the company hired 185 men. The village which grew up took its name from the railway bridge over the South Branch, later replaced for most of its length by a fill.

**HOFF'S MILLS.** An early name for Pittstown, which see.

**HOG MOUNTAIN.** An early name for Cushetunk, which see.

**HOLLAND TOWNSHIP.** Holland Township was set off from Alexandria in 1874, but given back in early 1876. However, an act of the state legislature in 1879 again set up the new township, this time to stay. The name was taken from that of a country school, District No. 20 at the time of the incorporation of the township. Tradition said that the first school at this place, built of logs, was called Holland School, but does not explain why.

**HOLLAND SCHOOL.** See Holland Township.

**HOLLANDS BROOK.** A stream in Readington Township. The name was spelled both Hollands and Hollants in early deeds. In the nineteenth century, because of a tradition that the stream had been named after a man or a family named Holland, it was more common to spell the name with an apostrophe. In the twentieth, the old spelling of Hollands was revived and is now in general use. It is probable that its origin was Dutch, and that settlers here named it in honor of the province of Holland in the Netherlands. However, it is quite possible that the tradition was correct.

**HUNTERDON COUNTY.** Created in 1714 by being cut off from Burlington County. Until Mercer County was formed in 1838, Hunterdon's southern boundary was the Assinpink Creek, and Trenton was in Hunterdon County. The county was named after Robert Hunter, the royal governor at the time of formation.

**HUNT'S MILLS.** An early name for Clinton, which see.

**JACKSONVILLE.** An early name for Lebanon, which see.

**JOHNSON'S TAVERN.** An early name for Kingwood, which see.

**JUGTOWN.** An early nickname for West Portal. See Musconetcong.

**JUNCTION.** An early name for Hampton, which see.

**KING'S HIGHWAY.** See Kingwood.

**KINGWOOD.** A township and village of Hunterdon. The name was probably originally intended in the same sense as that of the King's Highway, one of the early roads of the area. Entries in the records of the Hopewell Baptist Church in the early 1720's mentioned members who were living in "Kingwood," and when Amwell Township was subdivided in 1728 the name was used for one of the new townships. In 1845, that township was divided



into Kingwood and Franklin Townships as constituted today. In 1840, the township contained eight stores, six grist mills, four sawmills, six schools with 157 pupils, and a population of 2,947.

The hamlet of Kingwood was not even mentioned in a description of the township in 1844, although nearby Milltown was. However, the store at Kingwood crossroads had a postoffice under that name before 1850, for Bowen's Postoffice Guide of that year gives Francis Tomlinson as postmaster. According to tradition, an older name of the immediate neighborhood was Johnson's Tavern. The Tomlinson family is said to have also owned a sawmill here. The population in 1880 was reported as 92.

**KOUGHSTOWN or CUXTOWN.** An early name for Clover Hill, derived from Barney Kough, a blacksmith at that place, who died in 1764. The new name was probably derived from some member of the Clover family or because that family was so numerous thereabouts. Just when it came into use is not known, but Barber and Howe's "Historical Collections of New Jersey" in 1844 used that name. Dr. John Blane, in his "Medical History of Hunterdon County" in 1872 spoke of "Clover Hill, formerly called Cuxtown."

**LAMBERTVILLE.** No place in Hunterdon County has had more designations than has Lambertville. The earliest known name was Coates' Ferry, after Samuel Coates or his son, John, who owned land and operated a ferry here at an early date. The name, Wells' Ferry, from John Wells, a ferryman who operated from the Pennsylvania shore after 1719, was sometimes applied to the Lambertville region, but more properly to the New Hope area on the other side of the river. In 1733, Coates' Ferry was acquired by John Emmanuel Coryell, a French immigrant. He and his sons also operated a tavern here, and a few houses sprang up. The hamlet which grew up was known as Coryell's Ferry.

The Coryells later purchased a farm or "lot" north of present Church Street. The probate papers settling the estate of John Emmanuel in 1760 referred to this latter area as "Bungtown Lot," thus showing an early origin for the nickname of Bungtown, sometimes applied to Lambertville to this day. Tradition says that the name was originally applied because of the habit which tavern customers had of indulging in fisticuffs. But the lot was not very near to the tavern, and it is entirely possible that there is some more dignified explanation of the name, now forgotten. After the Revolution, the name of Georgetown came into common use, taken from the name of George Coryell, son of John Emmanuel and a captain either in Washington's army or the state militia.

But the name which eventually won out came from another family, the Lamberts. Connecticut Yankees who had arrived about 1735 and had bought land north of the ferry. John Lambert, born here in 1746, became a successful politician, serving in the New Jersey legislature and both houses of Congress. In 1814, as a Senator, he secured a postoffice for his birthplace and the job of postmaster for his nephew and namesake. Whether the

name of Lambertville given to the postoffice came from Senator Lambert or Postmaster Lambert no one can say. At any rate, it soon replaced all others.

**LAMINGTON.** A river on Hunterdon's northeastern boundary, also an early Presbyterian church and a hamlet in Bedminster Township, Somerset. Despite other explanations, the name is undoubtedly of Indian origin, one of the earliest spellings in English being Alametunk in 1709. The name thus had the typical Lenni-Lenape grunting sound at the end to indicate "place where." There have been several translations of the name. Norman Wittwer of Oldwick, who has done considerable research on the subject, leans toward that of "the place where the river comes out of the hill." This seems logical enough, and agrees with the language of the 1709 description, which reads, "A place called Alametunk, where a small river has a considerable fall between two hills." The region described was that around present-day Pottersville, which in its early days as a hamlet was known as Lamington Falls.

White men gave various spellings to the name, including Allamutink, Ellamatunk, and Allamatunk. The latter persisted for a century or more, and was used on Gordon's map as late as 1828. Several other translations than the above have been given. The United States Bureau of Ethnology hazards two guesses as to meaning, "Place of Clay," and "Place of Mulberry Trees." A manuscript entitled "Indian Names of Rivers and Creeks in New Jersey," written more than a century ago by M. S. Henry, stated that the name should be Wallamink, meaning "Paint Creek." A writer in the Somerset County Historical Quarterly in 1916 translated Allamatunk to mean "the river over yonder" or "the place over yonder," but this does not sound very likely.

The twisting of the name toward its present form began early. A large landowner in Somerset County, Andrew Johnson, in his journal in 1743 called the stream the Allamaton River. Records of the New Jersey Presbytery in its meeting at the Amwell Presbyterian Church in 1739 mention "a petition from Lamentunk." The king's patent which created Bridgewater Township in 1749 spelled the name Laomatong. Other spellings and pronunciations through the years were Lamerton, Allamaton, Lammonton, Lambertton, Lomertan, and Lamaton.

There is a suggestion that the final form of the name, Lamington, was influenced by Scotch or English Presbyterians who were acquainted with the village of that name in Lanarkshire, Scotland, or that in Somersetshire, England. By 1780, the Presbyterian Church of Lamington was using the present spelling, and during the following decades that spelling and pronunciation gradually won out against the others.

**LAMINGTON FALLS.** Early name for Pottersville, which see.

**LEBANON.** The name of Mount Lebanon was applied quite early in Colonial days to the ridge near Anthony, 1073 feet above sea level, one of the two highest points in Hunterdon County.

The name may have been taken from the Bible, as were several names in the area, or it may have been brought over by English settlers, although most of the early settlers were Germans. A log school here in the 1790's was also called Mount Lebanon, and the name was still in use for School District No. 1 of the township more than a century later.

Apparently the name of the township was derived from either the mountain or the school. Its date of incorporation is not known, but it was in existence in 1791, although reincorporated again by the state legislature in 1798. At that time it included present Clinton Township, which was cut off by act of the legislature in 1841.

The village of Lebanon does not apparently go back to Colonial days. A postoffice of this name on Bray's Hill was in existence as early as 1820, but in 1827 the Easton and New Brunswick Turnpike was straightened so as to leave it isolated. The new storekeeper and postmaster moved his establishment over to the pike, and a cluster of houses grew up there. However, even in 1844, the hamlet was not deemed worthy of mention by Barber and Howe in their "Historical Collections of New Jersey." In the 1830's, there was a local battle over whether to call it Lebanon or Jacksonville, after the president Andrew Jackson. The name Lebanon eventually won out, perhaps because it was also the name of the township. But when the New Jersey Central Railroad came through in 1852 and avoided the village, there was another migration. By 1880, a population of 314 lived here.

The Lebanon Dutch Reformed Church, one of the old churches of the area, was originally the German Reformed Church of Rockaway. It apparently changed its name to correspond with that of the nearby village, and perhaps some reader can tell me when.

**LESLYSLAND or LESLY'S LAND.** Name originally given to an indefinite area in Whitehouse area. George Leslie or Lesly, an Englishman, was the proprietor or owner and the name was probably given by the first English settlers. It fell into disuse as the English settlers were engulfed by a wave of Palatine German settlers in the 1730's.

**LITTLE EASTON.** A nickname for a neighborhood west of Flemington, on the first crossroad to the left off Route 12 west of Flemington. According to tradition, sometime in the early nineteenth century a tavern or family there had a bad reputation, and neighbors in derision applied the name Easton, which was at that time known far and wide as a place of sin.

**LITTLE EASTON ROAD.** First road left off Route 12 west of Flemington. For origin of the name, see Little Easton.

**LOCKATONG.** A tributary of the Delaware, arising in Franklin Township, flowing north to south through the center of Kingwood, and emptying into the Delaware below Raven Rock in Delaware Township. The name is of Indian origin, and so far as is known its spelling has come down unchanged from pioneer days. A pamphlet of the New Jersey Public Library Commission gives as a translation, "Place of Sand Hills."

**LOCKTOWN.** A village of the northwest border of Delaware Township. Although there is said to have been a church here in 1745, settlement was slow. In the early nineteenth century there was little here except a crossroads store and a tavern, and Barber and Howe's Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey in 1844 did not even mention the place. The thing which put the hamlet on the map was the granting of a postoffice in 1856, with John Bellis as the first postmaster.

A strong local tradition going back many generations gives the explanation that the name comes from a church quarrel in the early nineteenth century. According to the story, the congregation of the Baptist Church split into two camps, and one locked the other out of the church. An alternate explanation, and one which seems to be the more likely, is that the name came from the Lockatong Creek, on which the village is located. In 1881, Locktown had a population of 29 souls, a store, a blacksmith shop, a Baptist Church, and a Christian Church.

**LOWREYTOWN.** An early name for Milford, which see.

**MECHANICSVILLE.** See Whitehouse.

**MILFORD.** A village on the Delaware in Holland Township. The manuscript field notes of Elisha Emley, a surveyor, in 1757, mentioned a sawmill three chains above the mouth of the Wisahawken Creek. A grist mill on piles was later added, but after a few years was burned, giving the area the name of Burnt Mills. In the 1790's, Thomas Lowrey, a land speculator, bought land here, and himself moved from Flemington. He used the terms Burnt Mills Farm and Burnt Mills Creek in a deed of 1805, but liked to have the village which developed called Lowreytown. Lowrey built a house, tavern, mill, sawmill, and store here, and it seems fitting that the place should have been named after him.

But even though most of his property was acquired by his son-in-law, Jacob Housel, the name of Milford was coming into use by the time of Lowrey's death in 1810. Because of its position on the Delaware, the village became a center of the lumber trade and for trade in farm products sent down-river by Durham boat. By 1840, it had three stores, three taverns, a dozen mechanic shops, a store, two sawmills, a Presbyterian church, a Christian church, and 45 dwelling houses. The arrival of the Belvidere and Delaware Railroad in 1853 brought new life and a larger population.

**MOUNT LEBANON.** See Lebanon.

**MULLEN HILL.** An elevation west of Flemington, apparently named after Henry Mullen, owner of a small tract of land in that locality from 1748 to 1756.

**MUSCONETCONG.** The name Musconetcong is of Lenni Lenape Indian origin, and is said to have meant "clear running stream," "rapid running stream," or "stream running along the base of a mountain." Since the ending "cong," or "cunk," which

was a sort of Indian grunt, meant "place where," it seems probable that the name was applied to both the stream and its vicinity. In any case, the whites soon applied it to the range of hills on the Hunterdon side of the creek or river, and particularly to the highest hill of the group, still known as Musconetcong Mountain. This hill was, and is, still often called Jugtown Mountain from an early name of the village renamed West Portal after the construction of the Musconetcong Tunnel by the Lackawanna Railroad. We can only guess as to where the name Jugtown came from.

The log of a surveyor named Daniel Leeds in 1710 spoke of the stream as the "Maghaghtmeck Creek," that of Edward Kempe in 1714 spelled the name as "Musconetcunk," and that of a third surveyor in 1722 used exactly the same spelling as is common today. Since their day, the spelling has not varied greatly, though sometimes a mapmaker or a writer began the name with a "Mos" and ended it with a "cunk."

Beer's Atlases for Hunterdon and Warren counties in 1873 showed a postoffice named Musconetcong near the village of Mount Joy in Holland Township, and apparently the cluster of houses around it had the same designation, although a publication of 1851 does not mention it. How long such a postoffice remained in existence is not known.

**NEIGHBOR'S MILL.** Name for Califon, which see.

**NEW BROMLEY.** An early settlement near Whitehouse, which see.

**NEW GERMANTOWN.** Original name for Oldwick, which see.

**NEW HAMPTON.** New Hampton, situated on the Musconetcong in the northwest corner of Lebanon Township, is a much older place than Hampton. A tavern, kept there by Elisha Matlock in 1812, was still standing in 1881, though no longer in use. The village in 1844 had two stores, two taverns, several artisans' shops, and eighteen dwelling houses. In 1881, it was credited with a store, a hotel, a cabinet manufactory, a blacksmith and wheelwright shop, a grist mill, a school, and about 25 dwellings. A pamphlet by the New Jersey Library Commission says that the village name comes from "Jonathan Hampton, donor of church land." If so, one wonders why it was called "New" Hampton. The postmaster in 1850 was William P. Sanno, in 1881 George Apgar.

The Beers, Comstock and Kline Atlas of 1873 shows a store and the dwellings of C. A. Larue, H. Rittenhouse, T. W. Sutton, C. A. Butterfoss, P. Taylor, J. Bellis, and Mrs. E. Burket. A listing in 1881 mentioned two stores, a blacksmith shop, half a dozen dwellings, and 90 inhabitants. Since 90 people could hardly live in six houses, this must be a mistake. So far as is known, the village never had a postoffice.

**NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE.** See Clinton.

**NISHISAKAWICK.** The Nishisakawick Creek enters the Delaware at Frenchtown. The name is of Lenni Lenape origin, but was spelled Reshasackaway by surveyors in 1711 and Neshasackawick by a later surveyor. The Faden Map of 1777 spelled it Neschackaway, and it was often called Sockaway by local inhabitants. The Cornell Map of 1852 called the stream the Nississackaway, and the Beers Atlas of 1873 gave it the name of Nichisakawick. The present spelling was first used in an early eighteenth century map by a man named Cook. Dr. Henry Race in his history of Alexandria Township in the Snell History of 1881 called the creek the Nississackaway, but gave the hamlet at Wilson's Mill, one mile east of Everittstown the spelling of Nishisackaway. A local historian, George O. Vanderbilt, in 1912 used the spelling Neshasackaway, which probably indicated the usual pronunciation. Map-makers of the present century returned to the spelling of the Cook map as being the closest to the Indian name.

**NORTH GOAT HILL.** A part of Sourland Mountain near Lambertville. In 1881, Dr. Cornelius W. Larison found its height to be 370 feet above sea level.

**NORTH ROCKAWAY.** See Whitehouse.

**OLDWICK.** This Tewksbury village had its origin in New Germantown, an early German settlement, called by this name from about 1750 despite the efforts of Ralph Smith, an English landowner, to have it called Smithfield. A Lutheran congregation here absorbed smaller ones at Leslysland, Fox Hill, and Rockaway. New Germantown became a quiet, but active, country village. Barber and Howe in 1844 wrote as follows concerning it: "The village is on a slight acclivity descending to the north. It is built on several streets, at right angles to each other. The surrounding country is hilly and very productive of wheat and corn. Much lime is burnt and used in the vicinity; and agriculture has in consequence much improved in the last 15 years. It contains 4 stores, a tannery, a wheelwright, a cabinet maker, two blacksmiths, two saddlers, 3 shoemakers, one cooper, two tailors, an academy, a Methodist and Lutheran Church, and 55 dwellings." It was no larger in 1881. The name was changed to Oldwick during the first World War. The one person voting to keep the old name was very unpopular for a time.

**OLD HICKORY.** Alternate name for the Hickory, which see.

**OPDYKE'S MILL.** Early name for Headquarters, which see. Also, an early name for Wilson's Mill, which see.

**PALMYRA.** This hamlet, one mile east of Everittstown, has a name evidently taken from the Bible. Tradition has it that a man name Samuel Powers built a log tavern here several decades before the Revolution, and that this was later replaced by one of stone. Powers was supposedly a blacksmith as well as a tavernkeeper.

**PARKER'S VILLAGE.** See Fox Hill and Fairmount.

**PARKERSVILLE.** See Fox Hill and Fairmount.

**PERRYVILLE.** Situated in Union Township at the junction of the Jutland-Norton road and U.S. 22, Perryville is hardly more than a crossroads where stands a dignified hotel called the "Brick Tavern." This building was nearing completion in September 1813 when a courier brought the news of Commodore Perry's victory on Lake Erie. Workmen who were placing the last pair of rafters on the roof decided unanimously the place would be called "Perryville" and it has since carried that designation. It was long a stopping place for travelers on the New Brunswick-Easton turnpike.

**PICKLE'S MOUNTAIN.** See Cushetunk.

**PITTSTOWN.** A village of Franklin Township, near the center of Hunterdon County. Its original site was determined by a dam and mill on the Capoolong Creek. Charles Hoff, an early miller here, also owned a store and an iron forge, the pig iron for which was hauled by wagon from Bloomsbury. He leased his land from Allen and Turner, large absentee landowners, and some time prior to 1761, according to a memorandum in the manuscript papers of John Emley, a land agent, was one of the joint purchasers of 500 acres surrounding his mill.

As was natural, the first name for the hamlet which grew up was "Hoff's Mills." But about 1760, during the French and Indian War, someone gave it the present name, in honor of William Pitt, the English prime minister who snatched victory from defeat at the hands of the French. Emley referred to it as "Pitt's Town" in 1764. The village secured a postoffice in 1821, but it had only about a dozen dwellings. The establishment by Hiram Deats of a foundry and machine shop for the manufacture of plows, other farm equipment, stoves, etc., in the 1840's brought prosperity and new growth.

**POINT BREEZE.** A turn in the old road from Flemington to Frenchtown, now Route 38, but bypassed by the newer Route 12, in Kingwood Township, but near the Franklin Township line. A Herrick Act road from Locktown makes a junction with Route 38 here. No early histories mention this point, and the present writer would be grateful if readers would give him information concerning it.

**POTTER'S MILLS.** Early name for Pottersville, which see.

**POTTERSVILLE.** The hamlet which grew up here at the extreme northeast corner of the county in Colonial days was generally known as Lamington Falls from the waterfall in the Lamington River. But in the nineteenth century this name was gradually supplanted by that of Potter's Mills, after a proprietor of the grist and fulling mills at the falls. This name was used

in 1840, when a postoffice was established, but the spelling was changed to Pottersville. At that time there were eight or ten dwellings besides the mill, a store, and a small iron foundry.

**QUAKERTOWN.** This village, now in Franklin Township in Hunterdon, was for a time in the mid-nineteenth century called Fairview, but the name did not stick. The present name came from the old Quaker meeting house which is still there. This church, established about 1720, was known in early records as "the Quaker Meeting in Kingwood." A deed of 1794 spoke of "the road leading from the Quaker meeting-house." It is thought that the name Quakertown came into first use soon after 1800. In 1844 it was described as containing, besides the Friends' Church, a tavern, a store, a new Methodist church, and twenty houses. The postoffice had been established in 1828. An 1881 description added two stores, two blacksmith shops, and ten more dwellings.

**QUEQUACOMMISSICONG.** A creek tributary to the Delaware River at Milford. The name is of Indian origin and unknown meaning, unless credence can be given to the old local story that it means "stream along which wild ducks waddle." Actually, the name has had many variations. In a survey by Edward Kempe in 1714, it was referred to as the Waochehocking. The survey return of Robert Emley in 1747 called it the Wickahawkin, the Allen and Turner survey of 1749 referred to it as the Weschaking, and Maden's map of 1777 gave it the name of Whitchaken. But today's spelling of Quequacommissicong has been found in manuscripts of the 1770's, and it was adopted in the Hughes map of 1860 and the Beers, Kline, and Comstock Atlas of 1873.

The names given to this creek and to its chief tributary have often been confused with one another and with that of another tributary of the Delaware which flows into that stream between Milford and Frenchtown, now known as the Hakihoake Creek. The Quequacommissicong is called the Hakihoake in Cornell's map of 1852, and the tributary is given that name in the Beer's Atlas of 1873. Recent road maps of Hunterdon County have designated correctly the Hakihoake, but have conveniently left out the Quequacommissicong.

**RARITAN.** The name of the Raritan River was derived from the tribal name of the Raritang or Raritan sub-tribe of the Lenni Lenape Indians of the New Brunswick area. Various meanings have been suggested for this name, and the one most commonly accepted has been "Forked River," but in actuality no one can be sure. The present spelling goes back to Colonial days. Raritan Township in Hunterdon was formed with its present boundaries in 1838.

**RARITAN TOWNSHIP.** See Raritan.

**READINGTON.** The easternmost township of Hunterdon County; also a village of that township. The name is derived from the numerous Reading family, and probably more specifically



from John Reading the younger, son of the original Proprietor of West Jersey of the same name. The younger John Reading lived at present-day Flemington Junction but had land in what became Readington Township. The township is supposed to have been set off in 1730, and the Hunterdon County Court records of 1732 mention the "Town of Reading," using the term town in the old sense of township. The name of Reading Town was gradually shortened in practice to Readington, and that name was likewise applied to the hamlet which grew up around the Dutch Reformed Church, tavern, mill, and store near the eastern edge of the township.

Readington Township in 1840 had 2,373 people, of whom 360 were pupils in eleven schools. There were nine stores, six grist mills, two sawmills, and a flaxseed oil mill. The village of Readington then had only eight dwellings, beside the church, tavern, store, and mill. During the next forty years it was to gain twelve dwellings and some artisans' shops, but would lose its tavern as a result of the temperance movement. The Dutch from John Reading the younger, son of the original proprietor Reformed Church, originally built here in 1738, officially took the name of Readington in 1835.

**RINGOES.** This village derives its name from the Ringo family, and particularly from John Ringo, whom folklore says settled at a point where two Indian paths crossed about 1720. Tradition has it that he, his son, and his grandson kept a public tavern at this spot for nearly three-quarters of a century. In any case, "Ringo's Old Tavern" was a famous place from pioneer days till after the Revolution. Many people have tried to find the "Ringo's treasure," supposedly buried by one of the family during the Revolution when the British were close by and never recovered. After the war, the various Ringo families moved to a Jersey settlement in Kentucky. It is said that there are hundreds of Ringos in that region today, but there are none in New Jersey.

Although Ringoes was a trading center for a considerable area in old Amwell, it did not grow rapidly. There were a few artisans' shops, best known of which was the saddlery shop of Henry Landis, established in 1737. Just when the first postoffice was established is not known, but we know that William L. Skillman was postmaster in 1838. The town benefited for many decades from being a stagecoach stop on the Old York Road. A description in 1880 states that it had a Presbyterian church, a Baptist church, a district school, a seminary, an "Academy of Science and Art" (run by the famous Dr. Cornelius W. Larison), a tavern, two country stores, two blacksmith shops, two wheelwright shops, a harness shop, a shoemaker's shop, and a post-office. There is supposedly no other place with this name in the world. The best known house in the village is the house, formerly owned by Henry Landis, in which Lafayette convalesced during the Revolution.

**RITTENHOUSE.** An early name for Rosemont, which see.

**ROCKAWAY.** A creek in the northeastern part of the county. Its South Branch rises near Lebanon and its North Branch near Potterstown, and the two join at Whitehouse. The creek flows into the Lamington River just before the latter empties into the North Branch of the Raritan River. The name Rockaway is thought to be the Anglicized form of an Indian name, which was spelled two ways by early surveyors, "Reckawackes" and "Ackeweh," and which has been translated two ways, "bushy" and "hard to cross." For another possible translation, see Fox Hill.

The Rockaway valley was settled for the most part by Palatine Germans, and one of their Lutheran churches, built in 1731 at Potterstown, was called the Rockaway Church, although the community was more often called Lesly's Land or Lesly'sland, after George Leslie, the proprietor of the tract on which the pioneers here settled. The church was abandoned in 1748 or 1749, which the congregation joined with that of New Germantown, now Oldwick.

The name was also applied to the Rockaway Valley Railroad, which became the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Railroad, built from White House Junction to Morristown between 1888 and 1900 and torn up for scrap during the First World War. An obvious pun was the explanation that the railroad was called the Rockaway because of the roughness of its roadbed. Some called it the "Rockaby Baby" Railroad.

**ROSEMONT.** Known in the 1870's and 1880's as Rosemont Village, this hamlet north of Stockton originated from the stone house of William Rittenhouse, built in 1754 and called by him Crosskeys Tavern. Later settlers changed the name of the area to Rittenhouse, but someone with a good imagination and little respect for old names changed it to "Rosemont" sometime prior to 1880. Perhaps someone had a nice rosebush.

**SERGEANTSVILLE.** This village in what is now Delaware Township of Hunterdon probably takes its name from the cross-roads store of Joseph, John, and Charles Sergeant, established about 1825. An early nickname of Skunktown, after a certain small animal, may be even older. At any rate, the name of Sergeantsville became official in 1827 when a postoffice was established at the store. A description in Barber and Howe in 1844, reads as follows: "It contains a store, tavern, and a few mechanics; a neat Methodist Church, lately erected, of stone, and stuccoed, and about a dozen dwellings." An 1881 description called it "a pleasant village located in School District No. 95, close to the center of the township." It had 139 people at that time.

**SIDNEY.** A hamlet in northeastern Franklin Township. It was given a place on the Faden map of 1777 and is said to have been on a map of 1769. Judge Samuel Johnson's plantation was called Sidney, and this was undoubtedly the origin of the name of the village, although we cannot be sure that it was located on Johnson land. The name was adopted for the postoffice, which was established in 1832. In 1881, there were five houses, a store, and a mill at Sidney.

**SKUNKTOWN.** An early nickname for Sergeantsville, which see..

**SMITHFIELD.** See Oldwick.

**SODOM.** An early name or nickname for Glen Gardner, which see.

**SOURLAND.** A mountain ridge at the southern edge of Hunterdon County. The name was originally Sauerland, that is, infertile or poor land, and was given by German settlers prior to the Revolution, according to a German traveler just after the Revolution, Dr. J. D. Schoepf, "Travels in the Confederation, 1783-1784." The ridge, which extends into adjoining counties, has gained fame as the scene of the Lindbergh kidnapping.

**STOCKTON.** First known as "Reading's Ferry", this settlement subsequently became "Howell's Ferry" after Howell purchased the ferry rights and property from Reading. Upon the advent of the Belvidere Railroad the name was changed to "Center Bridge Station", which corresponded to the hamlet and post office on the Pennsylvania side at the opposite end of the turnpike bridge. When a post office became necessary in 1851 the name "Stockton" was applied and Jeremiah Smith was named the first postmaster. Asher Johnson built the present "Stockton Inn" in 1832. In 1881 the main industries were a spoke works, a paper mill and a steam sawmill. There were also several stone quarries. Stockton acquired Boro status early in the present century when it was separated from Delaware Township.

**SUMMIT HILL ROAD.** See Featherbed Lane. The road took its newer name from the Summit School.

**SUMMIT SCHOOL.** A country school formerly at the top of Hardscrabble Hill. The first school was built there about 1850, a frame building 20 feet by 22 feet. In 1853, the school district was given the number 90. In 1872, the building was replaced by a new one, also of wood, and measured 26 by 30. The trustees in 1876 were Moses Lake, Jeremiah Everitt, and Samuel F. Case, and the teacher was Clara Bonham. Statistics for the year 1879 have been preserved, and show that 74 students attended at one time or another during the year, but that the average daily attendance during the ten-month session was only 24. There were "comfortable" seats for 40, the document says. The teacher at this time was a man, name not given. The total cost of the year's operation of the school was \$322.75.

**SUNBEAM.** An early name for Frenchtown, which see.

**THE SWAMP.** The tableland west of Flemington is known to geographers as the Hunterdon Plateau, but from Colonial times was known as "the Swamp" or sometimes as "the Great

Swamp." The silt loam soil, generally gray in color, has been made by the decomposition of argillite, known locally as "blue jingler," a stone once esteemed highly by the Indians for tools and weapons. The subsoil under this so-called Croton soil is a compact clay. Since the bedrock is in most places only three or four feet under the surface, stream channels are shallow and drainage imperfect.

Because of this situation, a large area was swampy, and most of it was uncleared as late as 1800. Villagers in Flemington had woodlots there from which they carted wood for their fireplaces. As the land was cleared in the nineteenth century to make lumber, farms were established. The general area is still known by its old name, but its boundaries always seem to be further down the road.

**THE GREAT SWAMP.** Alternate name for the Swamp, which see.

**THREE CORNERS SCHOOL.** See Dreahook.

**TOTAMY FALLS.** See Gravel Hill.

**UNION TOWNSHIP.** This township was formed by the state legislature in 1853 in answer to the petitions of residents objecting to application of the school law by Bethlehem Township officials. It took its name from the old Union Furnace, which had been located in its northeastern part. That name, in turn, had probably resulted from its owners, Allen and Turner of Philadelphia, hoping to show their patriotism during the Revolution and thus avoiding the accusation that they were Tories. An alternate suggestion for a name was Rockhill, after the Rockhill family, which had resided in the south part of the area since 1731, when Edward Rockhill settled there. His great-grandsons, Robeson and Edward A. Rockhill, were leading citizens in 1853, so it would have been entirely fitting to call the township Rockhill Township.

**VANDERBILT'S MILL.** Early name for Wilson's Mill, which see.

**WELL'S FERRY.** Early name for New Hope, sometimes applied to Lambertville, which see.

**WEST PORTAL.** See Musconetcong.

**WHISKEY LANE.** Old nickname for the road to the left off Route 12 a mile west of Croton and just east of Point Breeze. It is a name so old that its origins are lost in the mists of time. In Colonial days, apple brandy or applejack was usually called "apple whiskey." It may be that orchards along the road were a source of cider, or that a farmer or tavern-keeper was famous for his wares, which were often sold illegally.

**WHITEHOUSE.** A landmark dating back to Revolutionary times, if not earlier, was the Whitehouse Tavern located near the point where the great road from New Brunswick to Easton crossed the South Branch of the Rockaway River. The distinguishing feature of the tavern was its white exterior, since most buildings in early days, if painted at all, were either red or yellow.

A village apparently began to form a short distance northerly of the tavern following the erection in 1760 of a "set of mills" by Andrew Leake of Burnt Mills, then called Bromley. The new mills, and hence the infant village, were called New Bromley. In addition to the mills and a few dwellings, there were at least one "large" store and also a law office opened in 1769 by William Patterson who was later to become governor of the state.

Whatever promise the future had held for New Bromley as a center of importance received a blow when the New Jersey Turnpike (chartered in 1806) passed one-quarter mile to the south. The future growth of Whitehouse and neighboring Mechanicsville were along the new turnpike.

There appears to have been an attempt to name the village Fairville, that being the name under which the first school was incorporated in 1808. This met with no success, however, and soon the village, as well as the tavern, became known as Whitehouse. In 1844 the hamlet is described as having "two taverns, two stores, a grist mill, &c., an academy, a Reformed Dutch Church, and 11 dwellings." At the same time Mechanicsville, a mile to the east on the pike had "a tavern, a store, a number of mechanics' shops, and 15 dwellings." By 1881 the two, with some thirty dwellings each, had nearly grown together. Today Mechanicsville and that part of Whitehouse north of the highway are known as East Whitehouse.

**WHITEHOUSE STATION.** This village grew up after 1851, as the nearest point on the New Jersey Central for Whitehouse and Mechanicsville. It had in 1881 a postoffice, three stores, a portable steam sawmill, a hay press, a lumber and coal yard, a hotel, a wheelwright shop, a blacksmith shop, two or three shoe-maker's shops, and forty houses.

**WILSON'S MILL.** Originally Opdyke's Mill, one mile east of Evertittstown on a branch of the Nishisakawick Creek, where Luther Opdyke established a sawmill in 1798 and a gristmill in 1799. It was known as Vanderbilt's Mill for a time in the 1840's, after Wholston Vanderbilt, who rebuilt the gristmill. But by 1880 it was commonly called Wilson's Mill after John W. Wilson, who had purchased it and the surrounding buildings. An attempt was made to call the hamlet Nishisackaway, and that name was used by Dr. Henry Race, the historian of Alexandria Township in the Snell History of 1881. With the decline of the mills, the various names seem to have fallen into disuse.

500 Copies Printed by  
**THE DEMOCRAT PRESS**  
Flemington, N. J.  
April, 1959